



VYTIS

•1976•

The Knights
of Lithuania



Announcing the Arrival of Spring!

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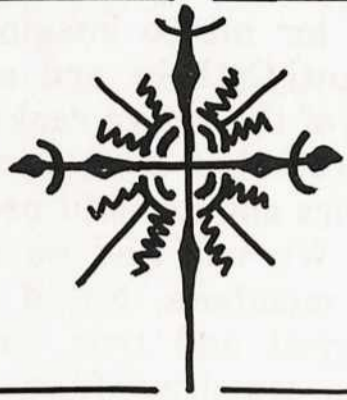
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ONCE A CATHOLIC... A LITHUANIAN... A KNIGHT OF LITHUANIA



ONCE A CATHOLIC, ALWAYS A CATHOLIC

The confusing age in which we are living has produced many defections from the Faith. Many Catholics have just stopped practising their Faith. Year by year they seem to get more and more numerous. Sometimes such Catholics do join another church: a mixed marriage, a more religiously influential friend or neighbor may lead an individual to join another church. In view of this, a question arises: Can a Catholic stop being a Catholic? Can a Catholic change and become a Moslem, a Jew, a Protestant or whatever?

The obvious answer is - yes. We know of, or hear of, people who were once Catholic, but who are now registered members of another religious group, go to another church, worship in a non-Catholic way.

When we look more deeply at this problem, we find that there is a basic obstacle that prevents a person from really and truly leaving the Catholic Church for any other. That obstacle is Baptism, the Sacrament of Initiation into the Church of Christ. This Sacrament, as the Church teaches, imprints an indelible mark on the soul that makes the recipient a child of God, a member of Christ's Body, and confers rights and privileges of Christian-Catholic worship and participation in the other sacraments of Catholic Living. There is no way that a person can efface, or rub off, that indelible mark; there is no way to "unbaptize" a child of God. Consequently, a person who "exchanges religious affiliations", in effect, does not remove, but add something to his baptized condition. Such a person becomes a "baptized Catholic-Moslem" or a "baptized Catholic-Jew" and so on.

From this we can see what is meant by: "Once a Catholic, always a Catholic".

For the present, I shall not go into a discussion of whether it is right or wrong to "stop" being a Catholic.

ONCE A LITHUANIAN, ALWAYS A LITHUANIAN

During the past year or two in the United States we have been hearing a great deal about ETHNIC ORIGINS, ETHNIC HERITAGE AND CULTURE, about ETHNICITY. Various studies and surveys have been made, funded by both private and public monies to determine the substance and value of the

various national cultures that helped make America great.

What an about-face from the thinking of thirty or forty years ago, when the prevalent idea was "the melting pot theory", when it was believed that a great America would come about by casting all the diverse cultural elements into one cauldron. Do you recall the years when it was a disgrace, almost a crime, to be considered a "hyphenated American", that is, a Lithuanian-American, or an Italian-American?



Photo - R. Kisielius

Nowadays, ethnicity is being reevaluated, more highly esteemed and appreciated. The various ethnic cultural groups are being urged and stimulated to maintain their language and traditions, to be proud of their heritage, to refurbish their national self-identity. All this new thinking is based upon an inescapable truth, namely, once an ethnic, always an ethnic, or (in translation) once a Lithuanian, always a Lithuanian.

We may forget our national language, we may abandon our traditions, we may change our names, but we cannot deny our heritage. Nothing we can do will obliterate the fact that our ethnic, cultural source is BRANGI LIETUVA.

ONCE A KNIGHT OF LITHUANIA, ALWAYS A KNIGHT OF LITHUANIA

As I discuss our Catholicity and our Lithuanianism in the preceding two points of this article, I do not foresee too much opposition or argument. As I begin this third point, however, I can visualize and almost hear voices in disagreement. "Once a Knight, always a Knight" is simply not true. The K of L is an organization that is freely joined and can be voluntarily left. There is no compelling reason for anyone to be a dues-paying member for life.

This reminds me of a story of the two ancient Greeks who were arguing over the color of a shield. "This shield is gold", said one. "Not so", said the second. "It is silver". "It's gold". "It's silver". "Gold". "Silver". For all we know they are still having it out with each other.

The fact of the matter was that each was right, but both were wrong. What each saw was right. One saw only the gold side and the other saw only the silver side of a shield that was gold on one side and silver on the other. Both were wrong in their conclusion.

Returning now to our statement - "Once a Knight of Lithuania, always a Knight". This will be false, if we are speaking of someone who was once a member, but now is inactive, does not pay dues, is no longer interested in the organization. From another point of view, however, ideally speaking, that same statement has the ring of absolute truth.

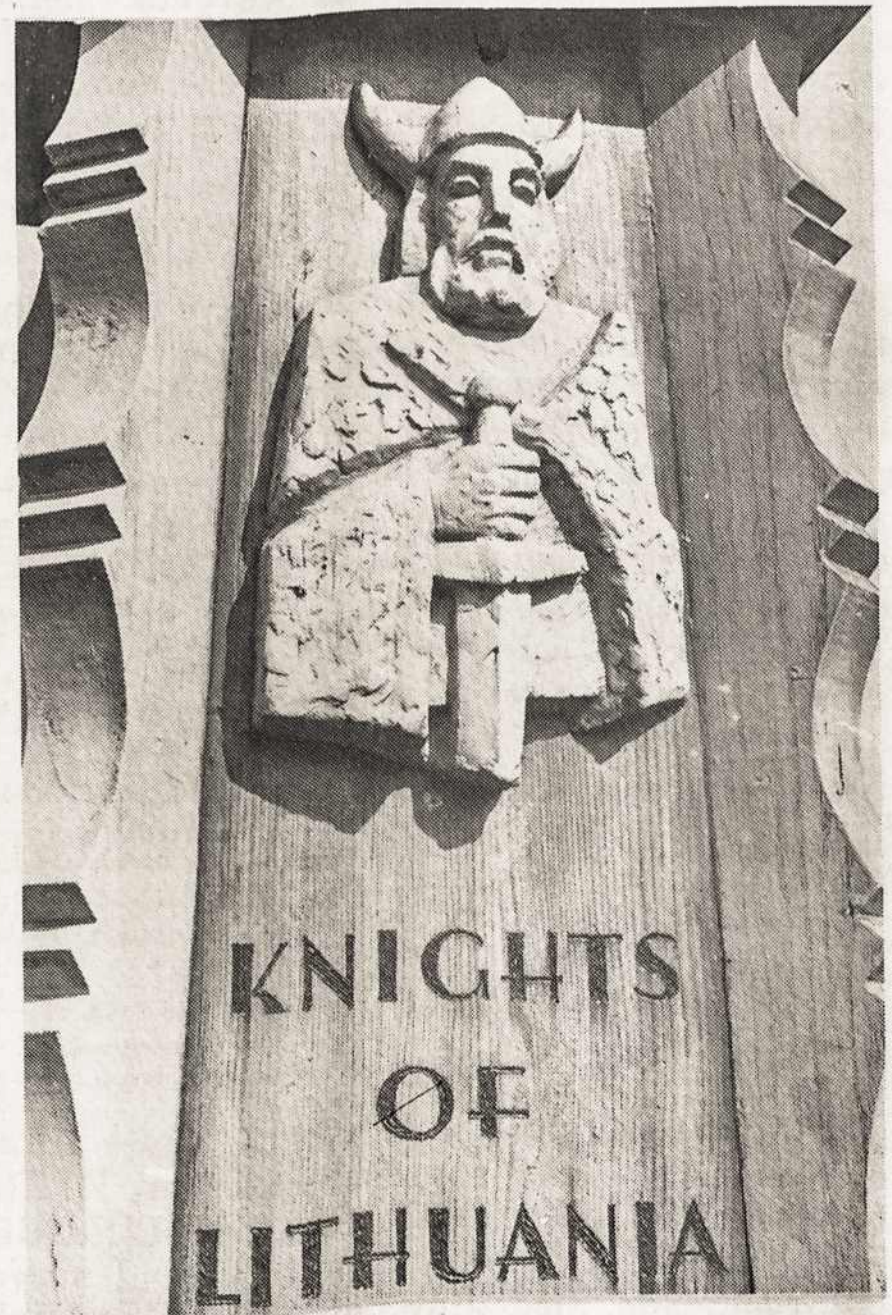
Just as we can say - "Once a Catholic, always so", or "Once a Lithuanian, always so", - we can defend the position holding that "Once a Knight of Lithuania, always a Knight of Lithuania".

The ideals and goals of the K of L - FOR GOD AND COUNTRY - are such that they can and do embrace the rightful concerns of all American Lithuanian Catholics, including former members and even, non-members. If you are Catholic and your ethnic source is Lithuania and you live in the United States, you cannot help but be concerned with God and the well-being of the Church of God in this country and in Lithuania. If you are of Lithuanian descent, you cannot avoid being influenced, somehow, by Lithuanian traditions and culture.

Furthermore, it is difficult for me to imagine a former K of L'er becoming anti-Catholic and anti-Lithuanian after dropping out of the active ranks of the organization. I am convinced that most former members are still good Catholics and are still proud of their Lithuanian heritage. We will find no real "traitors" among ex-K of L members. So, if the reasons given above are logical and true, what follows? What conclusions can we draw from the facts?

First, from an overall and basic perspective, ideally speaking, it is true to say that "Once a Knight, always a Knight". Secondly, many, if not most of our former members are closer to our ideals than we suppose. Thirdly, our organization wants the help of all right-minded Catholic Lithuanians in the United States to accomplish our lofty goals for "God and Country". There is strength in numbers. And finally, reaching the main point of this entire discussion, we can see a bit more clearly, perhaps, how important it is to renew contacts and maintain them with our former members. We must always keep in mind that they are men and women of good will, that deep down they are one in mind and heart with us, and that, who knows, they may be waiting for a cordial invitation from us to become active again.

Fr. Anthony A. Jurgelaitis, O.P.



Šv. Kazimiero malda



Photo - R. Kisielius

Naktis iš ilgesio ir pasakų supinta
Besprogstančių verbų kvape.
Girdi, kaip rasos nuo lapelių krinta
Kalbėdamos su šakele šlapia.

Eini su troškuliu alpingu,
Nemiršančia širdim ir troškuliu didžiu
Ir taip labai graudu ir ilgu —
Ir driekias miglos nuo žvaigždžių.

Namų langai — kaip akys užmiegotos,
Palydi nuotrupas dienos . . .
Užgesęs spindulys ant rūmų grotos —
Tik žymės šviečia ant vartelių rankenos.

Ties Katedros aikšte aušrinė suliepsnoja,
Virš Gedimino kalno plyšta vortinklis,
Ir raiteliai, kaip debesėliai balzgani, išjoja
Šaukliais į miegančias šalis.

Skaistus šešėlis tiesiasi bažnyčios šonu,
Nušviesdamas nišas. Malda tylia
Prie durų klūpo karalaitis apsiaustu raudonu . . .
Ir nejučiomis suklumpi šalia.

Kad Dievo karalystė mums ateitų . . .
Jo valią skelbtų kloniai ir kalnai . . .
Kad neužgultų debesys tėvynės vartų,
Iš dulkių keltųsi naujieji milžinai.

Iš ašarų vainiko perlai krenta . . .
Užlieja miestą rimtimi vėsos, banga.
Kazimiero karūnoj naujas rytas švinta,
Mes einam pasitikti jo su sprogstančia verba.

J. AUGUSTAITYTĖ - VAIČIŪNIENĖ

Lithuanians in The News



*L to R
Rev. Casimir Pugevicius, Baltimore, Md. Chairman
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HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Recently, one of the newest K of L councils, C-141 of Bridgeport, joined with other religious and community organizations in sponsoring a program entitled "On Trial: The Denial of Basic Human Liberties in the Soviet Union". Over 600 people gathered for the observance.

Rev. Casimir Pugevicius of Baltimore, Chairman of the K of L Lithuanian Affairs Committee, told of the Soviets' systematic effort to extinguish the Roman Catholic Church in Lithuania. In 1940, he stated, Lithuania was about 85 percent Catholic. At least 100 young men would enter the seminary each year. Today, although many more apply, only 10 are allowed to enter. He further urged all to become familiar with all publications available documenting the problems of the underground church.

Rabbi Leon Waldman of the Congregation of Beth El, Fairfield, Conn., stated that despite harassment, loss of jobs and deportation to Siberia, many Jews have applied for exit visas.

Andrew Bowman, an attorney in Bridgeport, Connecticut, who was chairman of the planning and organizing of this committee, called upon the community to "...raise the curtain of silence to aid the crisis which is so relevant to the principals on which this nation is dedicated".

The first Lithuanian-American admiral in the United States Navy is Admiral FRED E. BAKUTIS, born in Brockton, Mass. He was recently appointed commandant of the 5th Naval District, stationed in Hawaii. During World War II, Admiral Bakutis, as a Navy pilot, shot down 12 Japanese planes. Later, he himself was shot down near the Philippines, and after 7 days in a lifeboat, was rescued by an American submarine.

ROMUALDAS KISIELIUS, who frequently contributes photographs to Vytis, won first prize with his photo "Stone Face", at an exhibit in the Morristown, N.J. Armory.

On December 26, 1975, Lithuanian-born tenor, MISCHA RAITZIN, made a successful debut in the Metropolitan Opera of New York, as King Gustav, in Verdi's "The Masked Ball".

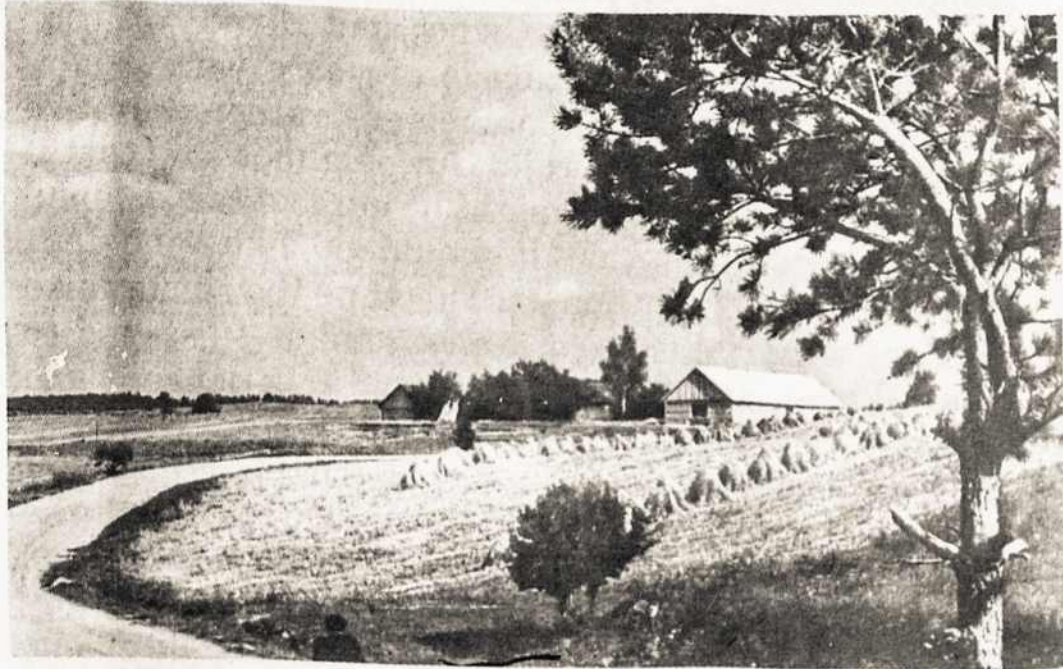
Hollywood actor, KAZ GARAS, was born in 1940, in Kaunas, and spent his youth in a German displaced persons camp. He has appeared in over 100 television shows and Hollywood film productions. His father, Pranas Gaizutis, lives in Watertown, Conn., and is an architect. Kaz Garas hopes to produce and release his own film in the future.

The "Clearwater Sun" news in Florida recently reported of a Largo Key resident, Lithuanian PIUS VAIČAITIS, formerly of South Boston, who has become a specialist in fruit tree cultivation. One of his papayas bore 250 fruits. The paper also reports that at the Pinnellas County Fair, Vaičaitis won first prize for his own Lithuanian "Kankles", and that his wife has won 19 prizes for her Lithuanian weavings.

The New York Times, in its January 20th, 1976 issue, printed an interesting article by Thomas Rogers, about Lithuanian-American BILL JANKUNIS, whose father was born in Elizabeth, N.J. Bill is one of the premier high jumpers in the world and has as his immediate goal a gold medal in the Olympic Games at Montreal this summer. Jankunis, the only athlete in a family that includes six children, lives in Staten Island, N.Y.

LAND HERE AND BY THE SEA

By Žalia Rūta



There were the years when every day I waited for my father to come in from the fields. It was always just before the light left between the trees that he walked in, and when he did I forgot all the little things I had done during the day, and even the rumors about the Russians. I forgot about feeding the chickens and pigs, about bringing water from the well, and holding the newly spun wool over my hands hour after hour while my mother rolled it into balls. I would take his sweat-rimmed cap, and he would say to me, "How's my Thomas today?" Then I watched the water trickle down his arms and off his elbows as he washed up for supper. Sometimes, when the light from the candle glimmered on his wet face, it brought out the small narrow scar on his cheekbone. But his eyes were bright and soft and told me to look at them instead.

After supper I sat with him by the fireplace and listened to him tell me stories and poems, not about the times of the scar, but about the wisdom of Biblical kings or of our own ancient Lithuanian kings. And always he told me how much land he had plowed that day or how many trees he had cut down. He told me of his fishing, of his hunting in the fields and forest waiting for me to come with him. Sometimes he met gypsies who told him of other parts of our country - those parts by the sea, of glittering amber washed up on the beaches and a place of dunes where ancient villages are buried and unburied with the wind-shifting sand.

As he talked to me, his hands would always be working. He whittled spoons out of pieces of pine or shaped beeswax into candles, and once he made me a drum from the hide of one of our dogs that had died. Or there was the fiddle his father had left him - sometimes it needed new strings, so he'd slit them out of the gut of a goose he had killed that day, then

stretch them out to dry. He would spend some time teaching me how to play it, or he would play and sing a song with one of his stories while I beat on the drum, and my mother would sit in her rocking chair, laughing softly. At such times we forgot the rumors - those rumors that the Russians were planning against us - until, in time, they seemed to die away.

My day began at sunset and ended about ten, when we all went to bed, and I wouldn't see my father again until the next sunset. But the time came when every day I awoke to hear the vibrating hum of all the birds in the woods, when the light was just outlining the trees. Each morning I milked our cow, for my father had shown me how to do it; then we had milk for breakfast with our eggs and bread and honey. After breakfast we went to the pasture to get our two horses, which the other farmers' sons had been guarding, along with their fathers' horses, against the wolves during the night. They watched our horses, too, because my father thought I wasn't ready yet to watch for wolves with older boys and guns and the night.

We would take our horses and go out to the fields. He taught me the hold that kept the plow steady and the turn of the wrist and feel of the fingers in planting. He taught me how much sun and how much rain were good and bad; he trained my eye to know when the green was right and when it was wrong and where to look for the insects; at the streams he showed me the favorite places of the fish. All these - until I became one with him, and with the sun and rain and the land. And for the rest periods in the hot summer afternoons and at every sunset, we came in from the fields together.



It was during a growing season like this that I again began hearing the rumors about Russia. The rumors came from neighboring farmers who stopped by to talk with my father - Russia was accusing us of making secret military compacts against her and now was planning certainly to take us over. Other farmers, though, and my father, said we had treaties with Russia saying she would never come again. At first I would always think about my father's scar, but soon I would get to planting or hoeing or playing with the dogs as this talk went on, for treaties and military compacts sounded dull and far away. Besides, the news was only a rumor.

There were times for growing; there were times for killing. When I could club a pig or a lamb without having to close my eyes, when I could slice a goose's neck without turning away and letting the blood my mother wanted for soup run onto the ground instead of into the pan, when I learned that bullets were not to be wasted, my father said I was ready to hunt and to guard the horses at night with the other boys.

Most of them were boys just like me. We sat around the fire and talked about our farms. But there was one boy named Michael who talked of other things. How excited he was when he read us letters from his brother in America, especially the time his brother wrote that he would soon have enough money saved to bring him over! Michael read to us about tall buildings and gardens on rooftops, streamlined trains and automobiles, fast airplanes, all the smooth highways. Everyone was amazed when he read us the letter about a World's Fair, where his brother saw television and glasswalled houses, even a rocket ship that one day would go to the moon. I was amazed, too, but somehow it was the same as when I read in school of the Taj Mahal or the Pyramids - they were there, wonderful and beautiful, yet they did not matter because they were so far away and I did not need them or feel close to them. Many nights during my watches against the wolves there would be a lot of stars out, and I could see the soft dark forms of the trees and the horses. I listened to the horses moving about, to an owl's mellow moaning. I would think about the letters Michael read us, but always the forest, alive and still, would come back to me, and thoughts of the work there was to do when I would meet my father in the morning.

And so we worked on, my father and I, gathering what we had grown. He taught me how to pull the flax; how to cut the hemp and to scythe the wheat and bundle it with the rope we had made from the hemp. He showed me how to dig out the potatoes deep enough and how to place the cucumbers and cabbages in the wagon gently. I learned that there were kind ways and cruel ways to take honey from the bees.

Some of these things we took to the market in the village, and with the litas we got for them we bought our salt and pepper, soap, nails, matches, boots. We

always made sure, too, that there were some litas left to save for the tractor we could buy from the city salesman in just another year or so, and made sure there were some to give to the church.

Then came the autumn fair, where we heard more rumors of Russia's plans against us. One of our neighbors had even heard from a friend in the city that the Scandinavians who had lived on our northern shores for hundreds of years were beginning to go back to their homelands rather than live under another Russian rule. Our neighbor said that if the Russians came, this might be our last fair. I found myself imagining what it would be like - no fair, people leaving their homes. This time the rumors like a silent waterfall stayed in my mind as I listened to the calliope, as I clapped with the folk-dancers and watched small children waving on the little carousel, as I watched my mother slicing our cheese.

In the evening at the song fest - there beneath the lanterns, during a light-hearted daina in which we had to imitate bees and the wind and streams - my father and I turned to each other with a smile. Then, thinking about the rumors, I noticed the scar on his cheekbone and imagined that winter when he got it - when the Russians ruled our country before, in the days of the czars, before I was born. My father, my mother, and my brother, who was just three, were riding to church in our sleigh when a Cossack driving an official's sleigh came up behind them and wanted to pass. But the snow was high on both sides, and my father could not make enough room; so the Cossack forced his way through, lashing his whip across my parents' faces and over-turning their sleigh. My mother was thrown into the snow bank, but my father was cut by a runner, and my brother was killed underneath.

I thought about this while we sang our songs, and I felt ready for the Russians if they would come again.

As we walked to our wagon, after the songs and handshaking goodbys, our neighbor started to talk



about the Russians again. But my father patted him on the back and said he had heard rumors like that before and nothing had ever come of them. And Michael was telling me then how much bigger America's fairs must be.

Michael received the money from his brother about a week later, and soon it was time for the farewell party. All the neighbors came. There were beer and bread with honey, and my father played his fiddle as the old women in their long dresses and the old men in their baggy pants danced and sang. I watched everyone shake hands with Michael and wish him luck. The old people came over to him as if they had secrets. One asked him to write back of his relatives in America whom he hadn't heard from for a long time. He would appreciate it, he said. Others gave him gifts to take to their relatives and friends: a Rosary, a Bible, cheese - something to remind them of home. They would appreciate it. There was a solemn humility in their faces, in the eyes of Michael's father as he watched from a corner. I tightened my hand a second time on Michael's as we said goodbye.

With the colder weather the rumors disappeared again, and we had our long winter full of sleigh rides and Christmas, of stories by the fire and neighbors dropping in.

But spring brought the rumors once more. The tractor salesman came out and told us he had learned from another salesman in the capital that Russian troops were encamping close to our border; we had better buy our tractor now, for there was no telling what would happen. We didn't have enough money, though, and the salesman made me anxious for the tractor.



"Don't worry, Thomas", my father said to me. "Remember the treaties - Russia will never come again".

But in the second week of June, they came.

That Sunday, as usual, my father, mother, and I climbed into our wagon and went to the church in the village. There they were, in their shining boots, soldiers with open bayonets, strange, unbelonging, like men from another world, standing around our little square. A tank was nearby, and over the square, instead of our flag, fluttered the hammer and sickle. We rode past them slowly with the other churchgoers - our wagon wheels - the hollow rumbling on the cobblestones - nobody saying a word, but looking with confusion, hate, wonder, pride.

We hitched up beside the church. Two soldiers stood outside the door, handing out long printed sheets as we went in - decrees.

Inside the church, standing on either side of the door, were two more soldiers. We walked to a pew and knelt and prayed a while before Mass began, then read the decrees. I read the sentences over two or three times: everything now belonged to the state - all the land, the trees, the game, even the fish in the streams; anyone caught singing our national anthem or other national songs or displaying our flag would be subject to fine or punishment; Russian was now the official language; on an appointed day the following week the heads of the households were to come to the village and exchange their litas for rubles; Whitsun, Easter, and Christmas were working days...

Father Stefan came out with the altar boys to begin Mass. One of the altar boys kept looking back at the soldiers. After the Gospel we watched Father Stefan walk over to the rostrum, wondering what he would say about the decrees. He took up one of the long sheets from the rostrum, scanned it, laid it back down. He grasped both sides of the rostrum and looked at us as though he were very tired. I waited for his word as if it would be a miracle, while old women kept saying their Rosaries as if he wasn't there. He stared out over us.

"I must inform you -" he said. He sighed. "- There is rent now for the church. Each month - one thousand rubles - for the use of this church".

The people turned to each other and whispered. When they stopped, Father Stefan went on.

"Let us pray", he said, "for strength - and for the soldiers".

Everyone turned his head to look at the soldiers just before kneeling down; the soldiers stiffened up quickly, thrusting their guns a little forward.

After Mass Father Stefan came outside as always to mingle with the people, but a soldier led him back to the rectory. We stood around the square with everybody else, waiting for someone to come and speak, to explain, but no one came. My mother and father talked with some people a while and decided to

give part of their savings to keep the church, which meant subtracting from our tractor money. Soon the soldiers began breaking up the crowd. Gradually the villagers returned to their houses, and those of us who had come in wagons got in them and started back home. The creaking of our wagon as we drove along the outer road brought to my mind the quiet and privacy of the farm, making what we had left behind seem like a cardboard dream.

"Maybe they will stay in the village", my mother said.

"Maybe", my father said.

But I could tell from the way he said it and from the way he stared ahead that he was thinking as I was - "We'll just see what they can do".

In the middle of the week my father went back to the village to exchange our litas for rubles. He did not receive a fair exchange. I didn't even mention the tractor, for it seemed unimportant now. While he was there he learned that on the forest side of the village the Russians were constructing buildings for a collective farm so they would have us all together in one place.

The rest of that week passed quietly, and the next too quietly. On Sunday we went to church, but it was closed. The officials had demanded the rent, but the money everybody had given was not enough. No one knew where Father Stefan was, until a few days later someone found his body in a stream. His thumbs were cut off and thrust into his mouth. Now the sons of some families joined together at a cave in the forest. They planned raids on the collective and also worked out a secret route to Sweden for anyone who decided on trying to escape. The people called them forest brothers, and I told my father I wanted to join them.

"That is no job for you", he said to me. "Your job is to watch the horses. How will we farm, Thomas, if anything happens to the horses?"

I looked away from him, but he took my chin lightly and moved my face toward him. I was surprised to see the pleading look in his eyes.

"Thomas", he said softly, "we don't want to lose you, too". He paused. "You see, don't you?" he asked me.

"Yes", I said, "I see".

The next night, while watching for wolves, I saw smoke rising above the trees. The forest brothers had set fire to the collective. The sight of that smoke brought all us boys closer together than we had ever been before, and I felt that I could stand up to anything that might happen.

A few days later we had visitors at our farm. It was the first week of July now, and during our rest period two men came in a little truck. One was a soldier. Our two dogs ran barking up to them, and the soldier reached for his revolver. But as I chased the dogs away, he moved his hand from his holster. I was thinking that if he had tried to shoot them, I would have lunged for his gun.

"They had come to give us a crop quota that we would have to produce for the state. The other man, fat and dressed in a white shirt with short sleeves, used the soldier as an interpreter.

"According to the land registration in the village", he said, "you have twelve hectares. That means - let's see -" He looked down a table. "- At harvest time we want from you flax, five thousand kilograms".

"Five thousand!" my father exclaimed.

My mother had come out and was standing beside him.

The man didn't pay any attention to him. "Potatoes, four hundred fifty quintals", he went on. "Wheat, fourteen thousand kilograms".

"But you talk of all twelve hectares", my father said. "A good deal of my land is fallow, and it is July already".

The man closed one table and opened another. "Now for the taxes", he said. "The - a - agricultural tax will be nine hundred rubles, and seven hundred fifty for your horses". He closed the table and smiled. "But if you make your quota you will be paid enough to pay your taxes".

He got into the truck with the soldier, and they drove away toward the next farm.

My father rubbed the scar on his cheekbone. "We will make their quota", he said softly.

"But how, father?" I asked.

"We will plant what is fallow".

"But it isn't ready".

"We will use all our extra fertilizer".

"It will be double work", my mother said. "I will help".

"No, you are not strong enough", my father said. "Thomas and I will manage".

But she insisted and helped, and so it was we planted in July, and all our neighbors, for we had to show them we could do it. So we harrowed, and buried and threw out the weeds, my mother right beside us. She followed the plow when we made rows



for sowing, dropping in the split potatoes, walking on and on, forgetting the rest periods. She helped us cast out the seeds of flax and wheat. But about half-way through, it was too much for her. She fainted from a heart attack and had to rest in bed a long while. My father and I went on with the planting, then covered up the rows and dug drainage ditches. The growing started. We watched for the insects and hoed and hoed. As the summer grew late, we prayed against frost, and the days stayed warm and it looked as though we were going to make it.

The harvest began. We dug out the potatoes, picked them and put them into sacks, loaded them on the wagon. After we scythed the wheat, we sheaved it and let it out to dry and pulled the flax and dried it, then beat the grains off both these to put into bushels. It was done. We had finished in the evening and would take them to the market in the morning.

But when we woke that morning, all the satisfaction in our hard work left us in one quick second. We found that half the potatoes were gone. There were heavy tire marks a short piece down the road from us, and only the Russians had trucks. We went from one neighbor to another looking for surplus, but we could get only three sacks.

"Don't tell your mother", my father said.

We took what we had to the market. My father told the checkers that the potatoes had been stolen, but they didn't believe him. They marked what he had brought in their books.

"What will you do?" he asked them.

"That is not our concern", they answered.

He looked at me and shrugged his shoulders. "Well, maybe they will bother only about the rest of the tax. We still have rubles left from the exchange".

But that night as I left to watch the horses and told him, "Well, I will see you in the morning", he did not say anything. He just looked straight in my eyes, then at my hair, then to the side at the wall somewhere.

"Don't forget your blanket", my mother said from the bed.

I was very tired that night after the harvest, but in the field before I went to sleep I saw my father's face as it was just before I left, and remembered suddenly that his eyes were not bright and soft then, but wistful, and I had never seen them like that before.

Early that morning I waited for him as usual, but he did not come. I waited a little longer and then went to the farm with the horses. When I got to the gate I first noticed our two dogs lying dead on the ground, pools of blood at their mouths. The door of our house was open. I ran into the house. It was empty, but the bed had been slept in. My father's fiddle was lying on the shelf.

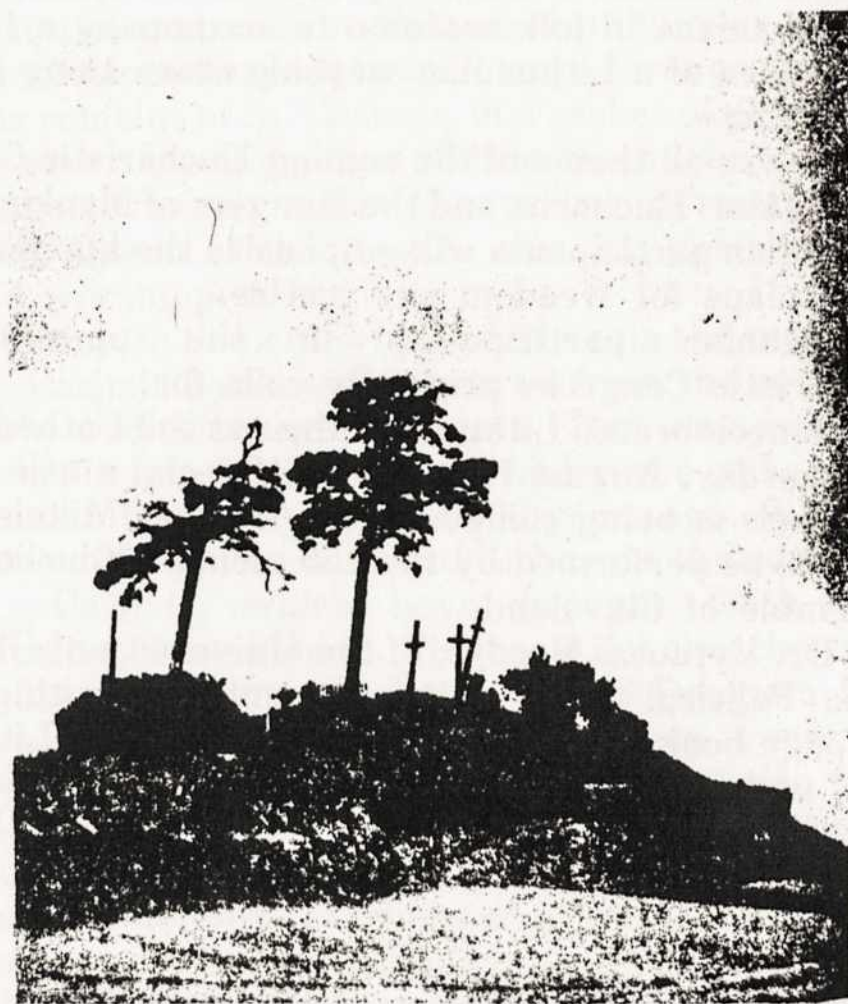
I ran out back, but there was nobody. Everything seemed so much more still and quiet than before. Then I found that the cow, the chickens, and the geese, the pigs, the sheep - all of them were gone. I

ran over the barren fields, thinking. No, no, but there was no one in the fields, so I ran to the neighbors. They were surprised - no, they had not seen my father or mother. They were afraid, I think, as I was, to say what they thought had happened.

I stopped running now and walked back to the farm. I felt like crying, but the silent waterfall in my head did not let me. I began burying the dogs. My mother - I could see her falling in the field. I could see my father's eyes, when they were bright and soft and full of everything he told me and lived with me - the czars, the forest, and fairs, the church, Christmas, and stories by the fire, neighbors dropping in, and the old people's faces - all these things together, in the land here and by the sea.

After I buried the dogs, I stood up and looked into the emptiness of the house. I walked slowly inside and got the fiddle. Outside I closed the door. Then I took the horses and closed the gate. The sun was higher now, and our house behind the fence looked like a woodcut, but the sky above it was bare without smoke coming from the chimney.

Walking into the forest toward the cave where the forest brothers lived, I held the fiddle firmly under my arm. Some day once again I would start the logs burning in our fireplace and start the fiddle playing.



ED. NOTE: This short story has won several awards for excellence in non-Lithuanian publications. Its author, who asked to remain anonymous, granted permission for it to be printed in VYTIS also. American-born of Lithuanian ancestors, he felt bound to tell this story, after learning of conditions in occupied Lithuania from many relatives and friends.

K OF L'ER JOE YANULAITIS GETS EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS DUTIES

Joe Yanulaitis, of Philadelphia's Council No. 3 has accepted chairmanship of the sub-committee for Lithuanian participation in opening ceremonies of the 41st International Eucharistic Congress.

The Eucharistic Congress is scheduled for Philadelphia, August 1 to 8, 1976. A million and a half Catholics from all over the world are expected to attend. Among them will be at least 4000 Lithuanians from various countries of the free world.

The International Eucharistic Congress is a kind of spiritual demonstration in honor of Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. International Congresses have taken place every third year since 1853. The last Congress was in Melbourne, Australia, in 1973. The last Congress in the U.S. took place in Chicago, 1926.

Opening Day ceremonies on Sunday, August 1, are scheduled to begin with a Parade of Nations from Independence Hall, past the Civic Building, to the steps of the Philadelphia Art Museum. Representatives of all nations possible are asked to participate in national costume. Tentative plans call for hundreds of Lithuanians in folk costume to accompany a full-size replica of a Lithuanian wayside cross along the entire route.

The over-all theme of the coming Eucharistic Congress is the "Eucharist and the Hungers of Mankind". Lithuanian participants will emphasize the hunger of Lithuanians for freedom and justice.

Lithuanian participation in the up-coming Eucharistic Congress presently calls for:

1. Concelebrated Lithuanian Mass at the Cathedral on Saturday, August 7, at 10 a.m. Special music for this Mass is being composed by Alfonsas Mikulskis and will be performed by the 150 member Čiurlionis Ensemble of Cleveland.

2. Dr. Vytautas Vardys, of the University of Oklahoma Political Science Department, is writing a 500-page book on the plight of the Church in Lithuania, under commission from the Lithuanian Committee for the 41st International Eucharistic Congress, to be published on the occasion.

3. A smaller brochure will be distributed free to all 1.5 million attendees of the Eucharistic Congress, to acquaint them with the persecution of the Church in Lithuania.

4. A symposium in English, in cooperation with Catholics of other Captive Nations is planned, to report on the persecution of the Church in those countries and in Lithuania.

5. Daily Mass for the Lithuanians is planned.

6. Throughout the week, there will be an exhibit of Lithuanian wood-carving and weaving.

7. There will be an Agape, or Communion Brunch.
8. The Čiurlionis Ensemble will present a program of folk music.

These are part of the plans for Lithuanian participation in the 41st International Eucharistic Congress.

Those planning to participate should apply for busing for the week RIGHT NOW. It may be impossible to get anything at the last minute. Apply for hotel rooms through your local diocese.

Any other questions about Lithuanian participation should be directed to the Lithuanian Committee for the 41st International Eucharistic Congress, c/c St. Andrew's Rectory, 1913 Wallace St., Philadelphia, PA 19130. Telephone 215 765-2322.



*Site of Lithuanian Eucharistic Congress Mass
10 A.M. Sat. Aug. 7, 1976.*

SAINT CASIMIR PATRON SAINT OF LITHUANIA



On March 4th, Lithuanians celebrate the Feast Day of Saint Casimir, the patron saint of Lithuania. This day is as dear to the hearts of Lithuanians as is February 16th - their Independence Day. March 4th is the Feast Day of the only LITHUANIAN who has been officially proclaimed a saint by the Roman Catholic Church. On this day, Lithuanians recall with reverent pride the holy person of St. Casimir and his many great ideals and great virtues that have not changed or disappeared over 500 years and are still an inspiration to Lithuanian youth.

Saint Casimir was born in 1458. He received his name from his father, Casimir, who was the son of Jogaila, Grand Duke of Lithuania and also King of Poland. Although he was born into the royal family which ruled the joint state of Lithuania and Poland, he refused the throne and dedicated his comparatively short life to the service of Christ. St. Casimir not only relinquished his rights to the throne but also rejected all riches, and refused to marry, dedicating his innocence to our Lord. He was an ascetic and constantly concerned himself with the sick and the

poor, for whom he constantly prayed. He fasted continuously, wore meager clothing, and even slept on the floor. The young prince would be frequently seen, kneeling alone, even in the bitter cold of winter, at the gates of the Cathedral of Vilnius, traditional capital of Lithuania.

He died at the young age of 25 in the year 1484. St. Casimir, Prince of Lithuania, for eternity became the inspiration for young Lithuanian hearts, and today is the patron of the Knights of Lithuania, national Lithuanian-American youth organization which has as its ideals - service to God and Country.

During the happy days when Lithuania was a free and independent nation, the Feast of St. Casimir was celebrated with much pomp and circumstance in the beautiful and ancient Cathedral of Vilnius, and the celebration always attracted large throngs of people. The remains of St. Casimir, in a casket of pure silver, lay above the main altar of the cathedral on the white wings of angels under the smiling portrait of our Lady Queen of the Angels, who St. Casimir loved, and worshipped.

Today, in Soviet-occupied Lithuania the remains of St. Casimir have been removed from the cathedral, their traditional resting place. This was done once before when Lithuania was under the yoke of the Russian Czar Alexei, over 300 years ago. When the armies of the Czar occupied Lithuania, the remains of St. Casimir, which have brought forth many miracles, were hidden. The beautiful church erected to his memory on the banks of the Dauguva River was destroyed. This was done because it was here that St. Casimir, appeared to the Lithuanian forces on a white stallion on the horizon... the symbol of independent Lithuania, and it was here that with His divine help, the Lithuanian forces defeated their enemies.

St. Casimir represents the deep religious and patriotic spirit of the Lithuanian people. In times of hardship and trial, they have always had deep faith in their patron's intercessory powers. St. Casimir appeared many times when Lithuania was in dire straits and he aided them and gave them solace. Again Lithuania - oppressed and enslaved by a cruel and godless conqueror - awaits her divine white knight to intercede in her behalf, to almighty God to grant a new hour of victory and a new era of national freedom and happiness...

OFICIALUS SKYRIUS

OFFICIAL NEWS

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS, AND COUNCIL, DISTRICT, AND SUPREME COUNCIL OFFICERS!

The Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council meeting in session on Saturday, December 6, 1975 in Newark, N.J., approved the following resolution which applies to all officers, members, Councils, and Districts:

Resolved: That no Knights of Lithuania officer or member, regardless of his or her position, has the right to grant the use of the name of the Knights of Lithuania for any non-Knights of Lithuania project or enterprise on his own authority. Only the Supreme Council and/or the National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania has the right and authority to grant permission to use the Knights of Lithuania name for any such project, regardless of the nature or merit of the project concerned.

PRANEŠIMAS VISIEMS NARIAMS IR KUOPŲ, APSKRIČIŲ BEI CENTRO VALDYBOS PAREIGŪNAMS

Lietuvos Vyčių Centro Valdyba 1975 m. gruodžio mėn. 6 d., Newarke, nutarė: joks Lietuvos Vyčių pareigūnas ar narys neturi teisės vartoti Lietuvos Vyčių vardo su vyčiais nesusijusioje veikloje. Tiksliai Lietuvos Vyčių Centro Valdyba arba Seimas turi teisę ir autoritetą leisti vyčių vardą naudoti bet kuriuose numatomuose atvejuose.

ELECTIONS

The Council Officers' Rosters reveal that several councils hold their annual elections at various times of the year. According to the K of L Constitution, all councils are to have annual elections of officers at the September or October meeting. All councils are asked to observe this rule and help to bring about more uniformity and effectiveness within the organization. All councils are also urged to send their new officers' rosters to the National Recording Secretary immediately.

RINKIMAI

Pastebėta, kad kai kurių kuopų metiniai valdybų rinkimai vyksta įvairiais mėnesiais. Lietuvos Vyčių įstatai reikalauja kuopų metinius valdybų rinkimus įvykdyti rugsėjo ar spalio mėnesiais. Prašomos kuopos laikytis įstatų, ir atsiųsti naujos valdybos narių sąrašą protokolo sekretorei.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The best news since the Convention is the formation of a new council in Washington, D.C. On behalf of the entire K of L, I most sincerely congratulate C-142 of Washington upon its establishment and welcome its entrance into our great organization.

I also congratulate and welcome the new Junior councils of Westfield, Mass., and Providence, R.I.

As the new Supreme Council resolution published under Official News undoubtedly raises questions, I will try to briefly explain the circumstances which prompted its passage.

In September it was learned that a large pilgrimage which took place in the summer 1975, listed the Knights of Lithuania as the chartering organization, and that each participant had to certify that he was and had been a Bona Fide member of the Knights of Lithuania for at least six months. In reality, few if any of the approximately 150 people involved were K of L members. The shocking point was that although the K of L was listed as the chartering organization, the Supreme Council had not even been informed of the trip, and obviously therefore, HAD NOT GRANTED PERMISSION to use the K of L name in any way.

Upon investigation by our Legal Advisor, certain facts became known. Not all the details are particularly relevant to the problem posed for the K of L. What is relevant is that three K of L officers were individually approached by the organizers and asked to grant permission to list the K of L as the chartering organization. Acting hastily, without considering the possible consequences, and without informing or consulting the Supreme Council, they assumed authority which they did not rightfully possess and granted the requested permission, thus putting the entire K of L organization on the line. Misrepresentation and misunderstanding resulted. The K of L name was used without proper authorization, and lawsuits could have resulted if an accident had occurred. The fact that the trip was successful and no harm came to the K of L does not minimize the fact that the entire matter was handled in a highly improper and dangerous manner.

Therefore, in order to protect the K of L and to prevent the recurrence of a similar situation in the future, the Supreme Council approved this resolution which will also be presented at the National Convention.

Several councils do not list a Spiritual Advisor on their Officers' Rosters. Every council should have a

Lithuanian priest as a Spiritual Advisor. All councils which have been unable to obtain a Lithuanian Spiritual Advisor are asked to contact the National Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Jurgelaitis, or me, and we will help solve the problem.

An annual inventory of K of L property must be

compiled. Therefore, to facilitate this duty of the Trustees, I sincerely request that everyone who has Supreme Council property (equipment, materials, supplies, records) in his or her possession inform our Trustees as soon as possible.

Anthony M. Miner



DIRVA PLATI - TIK VEIKIME

Mūsų eilės kasdien mažėja. Jei pažvelgsime į susirinkusius lietuvius salėse, matysime žilstančius plaukus, raukšlėtus veidus. Vidurinė ateivių dalis, kuri atkeliavo iš stovyklų, mažai kur reiškiasi. Jaunimas, čia užaugęs, slysta iš lietuviško geto. Jaunuoliai sako, ką tos lietuviškos organizacijos mums padės, mes esame gyvenamų kraštų piliečiai, mums rūpi šių dienų gyvenimas ir ateitis.

Jei LB, Altas, Vlikas, Balfas, abu Susivienijimai (SLA ir LRK), nekalbant apie klubus ir dar gyvuojančias draugijėles, neišdirbs tinkamo plano savo įpėdiniams paruošti, tai ateitis liūdna. Jei Lietuva išbus ilgiau okupuota ir naikinama, mūsų išeivijos likimas taip pat liūdnas.

Štai praėjo Alto suvažiavimas! Kalbėta daug, bankete net per daug. Galėjo pakalbėti abu ger-

biami svečiai ir būtų užtekę. Tas pats ir kituose suvažiavimuose. Kai žmogus ateini į pobūvius, tiki, kad kas skelbiama, tas ir bus, bet apsirinki. Per ilgas kalbas žmogus išalksti, pasidarai nekantrus. Kad ir būtum kultūringas, imi ir pradedi užkasti. Turime nustatyti griežtą tvarką: kas ir kiek kalbės, kiek užims visas prezidiumo pristatymas ir kita. Tada ir suvažiavimai ar kongresai nebus keikiami ir jaunimo gausiau lankomi.

Ką galėtume pasiūlyti jaunimui iš savo organizacijų? Padėti jiems veikti, mokytis, įsijungti į lietuvišką darbą. Tada jis perims mūsų veiklos barus ir darbus. Vyresnės kartos ir jaunimo bendravimas turi tęstis visą laiką. Be pretenzijų, be išdidumo eikime vienu keliu, nežūrint ideologinių skirtumų. Darbo daug, tad nepūskime arabų, bet dirbkime.

Bal. Brazdžionis



Čikagos Lietuvių veikėjai - K. Brazdžionytė, Kun. Stašys, Sen. F. Savickas, Dr. Razma, Kons. J. Daužvardienė ir kiti.



Muz. F. Strolios vad. Studentų Vienetas, Čikagos Pramonės Muziejuje.

CONVENTION CORNER

PRELIMINARY PLANS

Convention plans are now falling into place rapidly. We have secured facilities at the newest hotel in Dayton, **STOUFFERS DAYTON PLAZA HOTEL**. The dates have been published, **AUGUST 26th - 29th, 1976**, with August 25th for the early arrivals.

Wednesday evening plans for the early arrivals are being handled by Jerry and Marianne Podoyak. Thursday night will be an old-fashioned 'Pioneer Night'. This FUN night will be arranged by Charles and Sarah Petkus and their 'crew'. They are lining up a surprise menu plus refreshments and music for you. Anyone with old-fashioned clothes on hand plan to bring them for the 'Pioneer Night'. To lend an authentic atmosphere, the site will be a picnic grove on the outskirts of Dayton.

Friday night will be Cultural Night. The national cultural chairman (who happens to also be our council cultural chairman), Aldona Ryan, is making the arrangements for this part of our program. Aldona is filled with ideas and enthusiasm. Aldona is planning to have as part of the program our parish's "Vėjeliai Dancers". The dancers are in their third year of public performing so you will be in for a real treat.

The Grand Banquet/Ball will be held on the 28th with Frank and Karolyn Ambrose taking charge of this part of convention activities. They are rounding up our 'jet-set' for their committee so you are all in for an elegant evening.

Sunday's Brunch, following the 10 A.M. Mass at Holy Cross Church, will be at the Lithuanian Hall. Mary Lucas, our "Perle Mesta", is in charge of this affair. Those who are familiar with Mary's cooking know what a treat will be awaiting you!

Each of our activity chairmen will be developing his or her own sub-committees. We have 100 plus membership and we shall have 100 plus on the convention committee. For the next few editions of the 'Vytis' we will introduce our members to you via pictures and comments.

PLEASE MEET:



1. Elinor Sluzas and Walter Lastoskie, National Convention Co-Chairmen. Elinor has been a Knight for years and well known to many of you. At present she is president of the MCD and has been our parish's choir leader since her father's death in 1958. Elinor's talents are many. Her pride in her Lithuanian heritage is guaranteed to be passed on as her children, Ed and Annamarie, are active Knights.

Walter is one of our newer members. He and his family have been most active since joining. Walter is president of the Lithuanian Social Club where many of our social functions are held. Many of you are familiar with the Lithuanian Hall.



2. Stanley Vaitkus and Mary Lucas our Honorary Co-Chairmen. Since Stan and Mary are the Honorary Members of C-96, we asked them to be 'Honorary Chairmen' for the convention. Their Honorary Memberships tell of their dedication and work for the Knights.



3. Charles and Sarah Petkus, Judy Petrokas, Mary Ann and Gus Blum, Mary Lucas.

Charlie and Sarah are chairmen for the Thursday Night 'Pioneer Night'. Because of their long standing membership many of you know them. Judy Petrokas is on the Grand Banquet/Ball committee and is president of our council. Judy is ready to extend a very warm welcome to all of you! Mary Ann Blum is on our publicity and greetings committee.



members have been in the organization since their Junior days. We are 'grooming' them to take over when some of us 'retire'. They are all looking forward to meeting all the Knights and hoping to have long lasting friendships throughout the various councils like so many of us have through our years in the Knights.



4. Ada Sinkwitz, Pauline Pietrzak, Rita Ambrose, Catherine (Kitty) Prasmantas. Ada has been recording secretary for the convention committee meetings and is our council's recording secretary for 1976. Polly (Pauline) will be at the hotel taking care of chores necessary to make the meetings run smoothly for you. Rita Ambrose is on the Grand Banquet/Ball committee and known to many of you. She is also a part of our 'Jet-Set'. Kitty is in charge of our prize committee.

5. Raymond Gečas, Ed Sluzas, Michael F. Petkus, Mary A. Petkus, Laima Rastikis. Ray, Ed, Michael and Laima are part of the parish's 'Vėjeliai Dancers'. Laima has been busy with her new job on the Lithuanian Affairs Committee, and was also a recipient of the K of L Scholarship award in 1974. All five of these



6. Alice Petkus, Maria Preidis, Albina Wallis, Anthony Preidis, Albert Wallis, Michael J. Petkus.

Alice has been one of our most active Lithuanian Affairs members. Due to health she is slowing down this year but ready to do what she can to make your stay in Dayton pleasant. Maria has been doing a great job as a Lithuanian Affairs member this year. Being a new member, Maria and her husband, Tony, are looking forward to meeting those of you coming to the convention. Al and Albina, after moving from Cleveland, O., have been steady workers for the Dayton council. Mike, along with his wife, Alice, will be anxious to make your stay in Dayton pleasant.

Many of our members are "Old Friends" of yours and are anxious to see you... our new members are waiting to meet you... and become your friend!

"SNEAK UP ON CULTURE"

by Aldona Ryan

"LABAS! LABAS!" shouts my 82-year old mother at her aged Mynah bird for the hundredth time as she shakes an arthritic finger at the cage and trembles in her frustration and exasperation.

"Awk, Grandma", answers the big, black bird with one beady eye set quizzically on the quivering finger, "Don't forget me. My name is Goldie".

These two elderly females, new-found friends, are constant companions and both are too old to change their habits to any extent. My mother's attempts to teach Goldie to speak Lithuanian have failed so far even though she has constantly repeated phrases for many months. But Mom never gives up! Every once in a while, Goldie says a new word and she will speak Lithuanian yet!

How about you? Have you learned a new Lithuanian word recently?

So your new daughter-in-law shows no interest in your heritage? Give her a Lithuanian Cook Book for a birthday present. Follow this up with a slip of "rūta" for her garden in the Spring. For Christmas, spend that \$25 on an amber ring instead of a small appliance. If she talks about a "spot of red" in her living room, present her with a small weaving. At the same time, you can give your son a tape or record of lively Lithuanian music. Or how about a Lithuanian tie? So what if he does wear it with his flannel shirt a la cowboy! Some day, as he matures, he will start to think about his beginnings and the tie will take on a different meaning.

How about your home? Does it have a "spot" of Lithuania?

Every Lithuanian home should have at least one Lithuanian wood carving sitting in a prominent place. When visitors arrive and the

conversation lags, your comments on the wood carving can start a whole new field of thought and conversation patterns.

What will you talk about? Read some books and gain knowledge.

Every Lithuanian home should have a small library of Lithuanian books. A good start would be a dictionary, a book of Dainos, some history books such as "Lithuania 700 years", by Albertas Gerutis, "Awakening Lithuania" by Dr. Jack Stukas, and "The Balts" by Marija Gimbutas and a book on crafts such as "Lithuanian Folk Art" by J. Baltrušaitis. You should

also include some religious books and perhaps a book of poetry such as "The Forest of Anykščiai" by Antanas Baranauskas. Give your children (or grandchildren) a copy of "Lithuanian Folk Tales" instead of "Grimm's Fairy Tales". The publishers of our Lithuanian newspapers have these books in stock.

Add a little Lithuanian to your every day life!

If you can afford it, a Lithuanian tablecloth used on festive occasions will spark up your table most graciously. Don't be afraid to use it often. These heavy linens



Photo - R. Kisielius

wash beautifully and wear very well indeed.

So what else is new? Here is a suggestion.

For a party brew, serve cranberry punch! Your Lithuanian genes are indelibly saturated with the cranberry filled bogs that slowed down Napoleon and mired many a Russian. Add some frozen lemon juice, some 7-Up, some ice and a little Vodka to a gallon of cranberry juice and watch your party glow. Men like the slightly sour, thirst quenching taste, too. Be sure your guests know that it is "Spanguolinė".

Hmmm! Advertise that you are a Lithuanian in every way.

May I also suggest that you serve "Lithuanian Meatballs" instead of "Swedish Meatballs" at your next gathering? Try tiny meatballs simmered in mushroom soup (su grybais) for a new, delightful (and quick) snack. You can keep a supply of cooked meatballs

in your freezer for weeks.

Is that it? Nope! Here is a field often overlooked!

Maybe you don't think volleyball is culture, but it is the favorite sport in Lithuania today. The sports and games of a country are also a part of that country's culture. When you play volleyball at your picnic next summer, THINK - This is the game my cousins in Lithuania are playing at their picnic today!

Be a Lithuanian at all times! Culture isn't really some mind-boggling, bookish ordeal that you have to struggle with only at prescribed times. It also isn't always knowledge of what existed thousands of years ago. Today's Lithuanians are the "culture" of tomorrow. A poodle is not a bulldog, a tabby cat is not a tiger, and a robin is not a parrot. A Lithuanian has distinctive characteristics and habits and the makeup of his ancestry and background is his

"culture".


Why not sneak up on culture? If you already have a good start, help the rest of your family and friends along. Why are you different than a German, a Norwegian, or an Estonian? You all come from the same part of the world but you are not alike in so many ways. Isn't it time you found out why?

"What do you do for a living?" a famous astronomer was asked by a highschool student who sat next to him at a dinner.

"I study the stars", he replied.

"Is that right!" the student exclaimed. "I finished astronomy last year!"

Those who keep learning, as opposed to the superficial or the merely "learned", combine expansiveness of vision with a sense of their own limitations. When understanding, knowledge, and love are joined, the result is wisdom - the mark of a life well spent.




Where is that spring?

Where is that little spring,
Where as a youth I drank,
Where is my first love the maiden,
The one that I courted...

But now that little spring,
Is overgrown with weeds,
And now my first love the maiden
Is wed to another.

I will take the sickle,
I'll cut away the weeds,
I will cut the overgrown weeds,
That now surround the spring.

I cut away the weeds,
That grew around the spring,
But no where is my little maid,
The one that I courted...



- Liudas Gira
(from the Lithuanian)
(Kur Tas Šaltinėlis)

Antonia M. Wackell
(translation)

THREE APPROACHES TO LIFE



Have you ever been on a ship during a storm at sea? If you have, then you will probably never forget that experience. If you have not, perhaps you have seen such an episode in the movies or at least can imagine what it would be like. With the huge waves rising all around, and hitting against the ship, people become terrified, and the captain must take the right steps to be sure his vessel and its passengers get to safety.

We can compare the difficulties in our lives to such a storm at sea. Who of us does not have his storms - his worries, anxieties, troubles? Today in a world of enemy-guided missiles, mechanized living and heated financial competition, these difficulties can overpower us.

We may worry about whether Russia is going to attack us openly, or whether Communism will slowly eat away at the foundations of our freedoms? Will the H-bomb and other atomic weapons destroy us so that we will die by the very machines we have made?

Then we all have our personal problems. It may be our job, our family life, or our relations with others. Yes, we all have our difficulties and many of them. But the fact that we have these difficulties is not what counts. What counts is what we are doing about them.

There are three answers to these anxieties of life. The first is despair - it is just giving up. Its extreme is seen in the suicide of a Judas Iscariot, but more often it takes the form of falling into a listless "I don't care" attitude. It is the same as if the captain on that ship were to say: "What the heck, let her sink". This is no real answer,

for the same difficulties return or new ones arise. Any man who tries the answer of despair knows he cannot be at peace with himself.

The second answer to the difficulties of life is called escapism. It is not giving up, but rather turning away from anxieties only to bury oneself in distractions. If the captain of that ship went into his cabin and buried his head in his pillow, he would be trying to escape the responsibility that was his in that time of crisis. And a cowardly captain he would be.

In everyday life there are many manifestations of this escapism. How often people go to excesses in drink, sex and dope; or at least they try to lose themselves in trivial luxuries, but a man only kids himself if he uses these tactics, for the very things to which he turns present their own new problems. And if he turns back from his distractions, the original difficulties are still staring him in the face. Despair and escapism only make matters worse.

But a real captain faces his storm head on. He looks it in the face and then calmly takes measures to ward off its dangers. One of these measures is to set the rudder and head the ship steadily into the wind. Then the ship will not be mercilessly tossed around by the raging waves.

But what can we use to steer us into the waves of life? What is our rudder? That is the third answer to our problem - it is hope. Hope is

not giving up or running away, but facing up to the anxieties of life and trying to make the best of them. Like all hope, it must be built on faith - a belief in the fact that God has a reason for permitting all these storms in our lives and a belief that with these very trials we can make ourselves better people. With one eye hope looks straight into the heart of the problem at hand, with the other it glimpses a better future through the help of God.

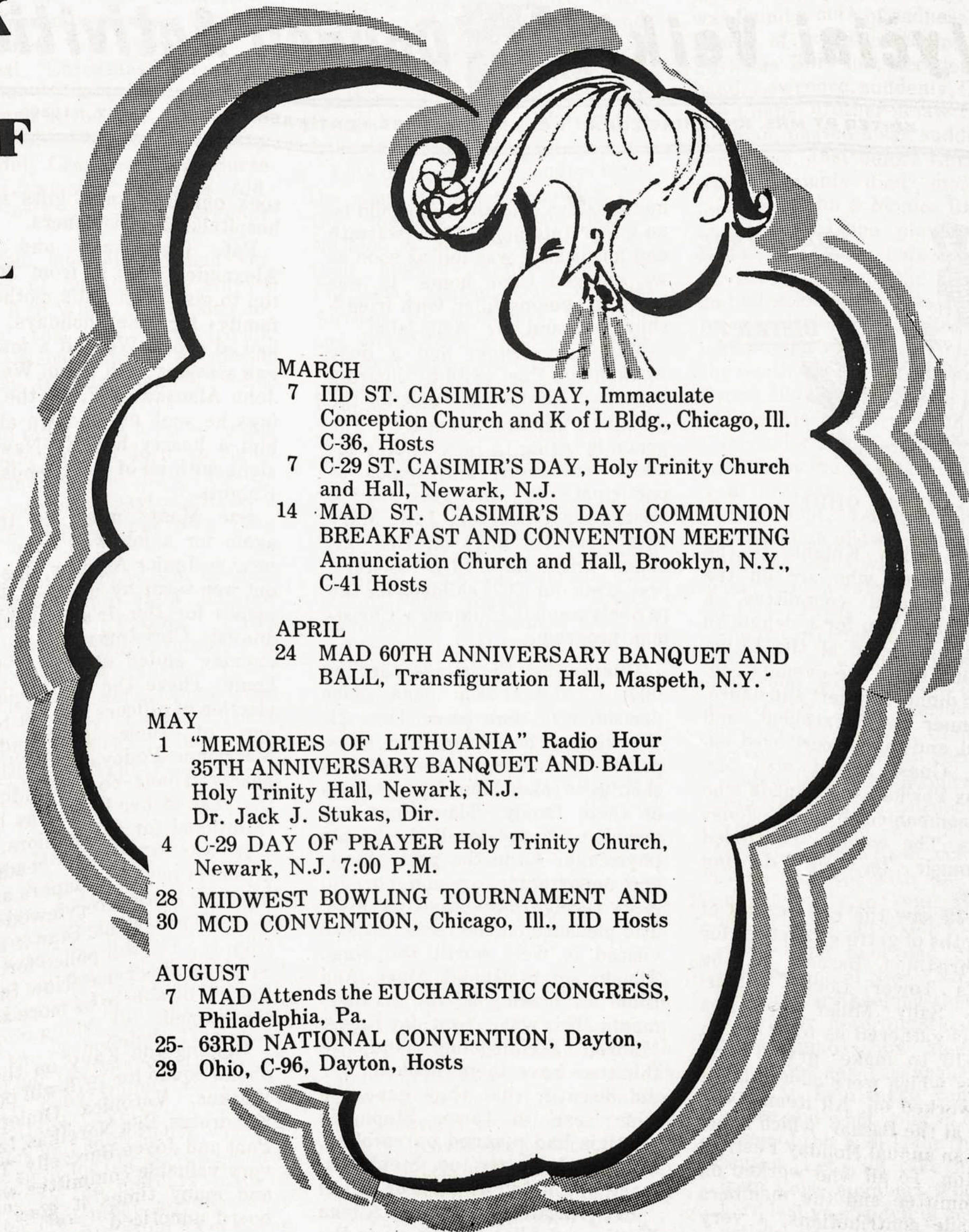
So we have our three answers to everyday life - despair, escapism and hope. You are free to pick the one you want to make your life what it will be. The sad pages of history have told us what happens when men follow the roads of despair and escapism. If, in the difficulties of life, you bravely set the rudder of hope, certainly your problems will not disappear, but you will have the strength and the courage to face them and to use them for a happier life.

"THE MARIAN"



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MARCH

- 7 IID ST. CASIMIR'S DAY, Immaculate Conception Church and K of L Bldg., Chicago, Ill. C-36, Hosts
- 7 C-29 ST. CASIMIR'S DAY, Holy Trinity Church and Hall, Newark, N.J.
- 14 MAD ST. CASIMIR'S DAY COMMUNION BREAKFAST AND CONVENTION MEETING Annunciation Church and Hall, Brooklyn, N.Y., C-41 Hosts

APRIL

- 24 MAD 60TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET AND BALL, Transfiguration Hall, Maspeth, N.Y.

MAY

- 1 "MEMORIES OF LITHUANIA" Radio Hour 35TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET AND BALL Holy Trinity Hall, Newark, N.J. Dr. Jack J. Stukas, Dir.
- 4 C-29 DAY OF PRAYER Holy Trinity Church, Newark, N.J. 7:00 P.M.
- 28 MIDWEST BOWLING TOURNAMENT AND
- 30 MCD CONVENTION, Chicago, Ill., IID Hosts

AUGUST

- 7 MAD Attends the EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS, Philadelphia, Pa.
- 25- 63RD NATIONAL CONVENTION, Dayton,
- 29 Ohio, C-96, Dayton, Hosts

Vyčiai Veikia Council Activities

EDITED BY MRS. JOSEPHINE ZUKAS, 9 CHARLES STREET, PORT WASHINGTON, L.I., N.Y. 11050



MID-CENTRAL

DISTRICT

C-96 - DAYTON, OHIO

To our fellow Knights in the Dayton council who are on the parish's cultural committee, a hearty Thank-You for a delightful evening on Dec. 6 at the Lithuanian Club Hall. The evening consisted of dinner, concert and dance. The dinner was excellent and plentiful, and the concert most enjoyable. Guest soloist was Mr. Vaclovas Verikaitis of Canada who was accompanied by Mr. Jonas Govėdas. The evening concluded with music for our dancing pleasure.

Dec. 12 saw the end results of our months of getting together for our Christmas Bazaar at the Winter's Tower Lobby. Chairpersons Sally Miller and Bea Noreikas gathered us together on Dec. 9-10 to make 'grybai' and 'ausukes' which were added to the crafts worked on. All items were for sale at the Bazaar, which is becoming an annual Holiday Festival in Dayton. To all who worked on the committee and the members who made contributions, a very large Thank-you for another successful project.

Our annual Women's Christmas Dinner was held Dec. 13 at the home of Dr. & Mrs. Edmund Drukteinis. To just say Thank-You to the doctor, Aldona and her

mother, Mrs. Gudaitienė, would be an understatement. Their warmth and hospitality was felt as soon as we entered their home. It was truly an evening filled with friendship, love and joy. Ačiū labai.

Mary Ann Blum had a busy weekend on Dec. 13-14 by chairing a most successful Bake Sale for the parish's Vėjeliai Dancers. The group is trying to raise money for added costumes, and hopes to participate in the Folk Dance Festival in Chicago in July. Mary Ann was also busy on Dec. 21, along with our CCD Sisters, preparing our CCD children for the parish's annual Children's Christmas program.

Our annual Christmas caroling visit to the shut-ins and older parishioners took place Dec. 21. We visited 17 homes, and those parishioners living further out had their gifts taken home by members of their family. Time does not permit us to get to all the homes physically. As in the past, this is one undertaking we and our Juniors receive more than we give. The pleasure on the faces of those visited is well worth the time. Thanks go to Gus & Mary Ann Blum for making all the arrangements. This was a 'first' for Ray & Mildred Steinbrunner and we think we have them 'hooked'. We did discover that they have the best 'seat' in town. Stephanie Rastikis had planned on caroling, also, but hurt her toe. Stephanie, stand up and tell us the true cause!

Fr. Katarskis, Al & Albina Wallis, and Alice Petkus made the longest caroling trip, to Oxford, O. They visited council member Margie Grushas who has been ill for some time but is in good hands with her husband, Al. Pat Alexander and Eloise Berczelly

took our Christmas gifts to two hospitalized parishioners.

Pat (Zelinskas) and Tony Alexander were in from Torrington to visit with Pat's mother and family for the holidays. They looked great! We had a few good gab sessions with them. We thank John Alanskas, C-7, for the greetings he sent us, and we all wish him a hearty healthy New Year along with all of our friends in the Knights.

Sue Mantz must be thanked again for a job well done in her year as Junior Advisor. She closed out her term by making arrangements for the Jr's to hold their annual Christmas dinner. The evening ended at Elinor Sluzas' home. There the Jr's held their election of officers and got to meet one of their new advisors, Marianne Podoyak. To Elinor, a hearty Thank-You. Winding out the year at her home has become traditional for the Juniors.

It was a delight reading an article in our local papers and seeing Stan Kavy interviewed on two local TV programs. Stan is retiring from the Dayton police force after 34 years of service. Now Stan and Ida will be able to be more active in the council.

Helping Ida Kavy on the Telephone Squad for 1976 will be Helen Vaitkus, Veronica Omlor, Ann Kondrotas, Bea Noreikas, Lauretta Pant and Joyce Berczelly. This is a very valuable committee we have, and many times it goes by the board unnoticed.

Congratulations to Ernest Omlor, Mildred Steinbrunner and Ida Kavy who received their Second Degree Ritual at the Dec. meeting. Ray Steinbrunner, Tony & Maria Preidis took the oath for their First Degrees. Fr. Walter Katars-

kis and Eloise Berczelly have been added to the Ritual Committee. With 137 members, there is much to be done!

Annual Christmas donations from our Charity Fund were distributed at the Dec. meeting to the Parish Christmas Charity Fund, Holy Cross Seminary Burse Fund, Lithuanian Religious Aid, and North East Emergency Center.

At this meeting we had the pleasure of meeting Ida Kavy's cousin, Ann Wilde. It was also announced that our dear friend, Harley Karns, made a special donation to the council. Ačiū, Harley.

If you must have a car accident you might as well do it up right! Rita Ambrose did just that by picking on one of Dayton's finest... a police sergeant our own Stan Kavy.

Congratulations to the bowlers who won on 'money night', Eleanor Mantz, Fran Petkus, Patty Dutcher, Richard Conrady (2 games) and Ed Sluzas. 'Cheer night' winners were Donna Jean Dailey, Audrey Banner, Diane Kavalauskas, Michael Blum, Mark Siekerka and Frank Ambrose.

FBP

C-79 - DETROIT, MICH.

It was a "White Day" after Christmas when we were blanketed with 7 in. of snow. However, this did not deter plans for Chairlady Maggie Smailis and her committee in going "full steam ahead" with the scheduled Dedication Dinner for the Memorial Cross on Jan. 11. Tony Dainus was really selling those tickets!

Smiles and shirt-sleeve weather was in sight for our Nov. 5 general meeting as the mercury made a rare (for November, anyway) visit into the 70's. We could have never enjoyed a better dividend, plus some new faces who haven't been around in awhile. "Dėmesio - labai gerai" and the likes were echoed when members made an effort to speak some Lithuanian during this

meeting, upon the consistent urging of Pres. M. Smailis, which resulted in an informative and interesting meeting.

Hostesses Helen Tucker and Cynthia deVine provided the Pumpkin Pie and Cake Social following the meeting.

Lots of sweets and goodies were the main attraction following the Dec. meeting. Hostesses Marge Nashlon & M. Newberry put on their holiday raiment for the Christmas season. Our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. V. Kristy, attended and joined in the social. Over 30 members were present including 3 guests - Charles Bagdon, John Yonkus and Julia Pichalski. They were most welcome, and we hope that before too long they will be part of C-79.

Lending her hand and name from time to time as chairlady of various activities is Elizabeth Paurazas who was United Lith. Relief Fund (BALF) - Detroit Campaign Chairperson of 1975. As a Director of U.L.R.F., she attended their annual convention in Chicago, Ill., and was one of the convention chairmen. She was also re-elected Nat'l Director for 3 yrs. Elizabeth also attended the annual meeting of the Am. Lith. Council in Chicago on Nov. 22 at the Pick Congress Hotel where she was again re-elected to the Nat'l Board. She attended the ACL banquet at the hotel honoring Cong. Derwinski and Newspaperman Bill Anderson.

A delightful visit was enjoyed by Pres. M. Smailis with her cousin Rev. Vito Simanskis from Argentina who is celebrating his 25th anniv. in the priesthood. It was his first trip to the U.S. Rev. Simanskis celebrated the 10:30 a.m. Mass at Div. Providence on Nov. 22, and spent 4 days with Maggie and her family before departing for Scranton, Pa. and other parts.

It's always nice to hear from members who have moved away from our city. Along with a Christmas card, a note comes from Sophia & George Leskosky now living in Winterhaven, Fla.

Although Christmas held a joyous concept for many, there was found a note of sadness in the homes of some members. Alice Savickas Burt lost her dear husband, Lawrence, suddenly, Oct. 26. Joe Chaps' brother-in-law Delbert Erdman, passed away suddenly in early Dec. Just before Christmas, Anna Banionis died, mother of members John & Monica Banionis, and the ex-Lions player, Vince Banionis. Then, a note from Ann Zilvitis expressing the friendship and affection which was a wonderful consolation received at Christmas when it was needed most upon the death of her dear husband, Dr. Bruno Zilvitis. Our council donated \$15. in his memory to the Mich. Cancer Society. May he and all the rest departed be remembered in your prayers.

Sick Dept.: Lucille Smilgis has recuperated following surgery. We hope she stays well. Ruth Grasha underwent X-rays and tests at St. Mary's Hosp. for neck and shoulder injuries resulting from an accident at a supermarket. Get well soon, Ruth. Sophie Bitner is recovering from serious knee surgery at Mayo Clinic. Our prayers for a speedy recovery.

Bill & Ona Walls acquired a new grandchild, Erin Elizabeth. Congratulations to all. Elsewhere, Marie & George Kase took off for a Christmas visit with son, Richard and his family, in Conn., along with lots of snow "greeting" them.

We hope everyone has made their perennial New Year's resolutions and are keeping them. Along with your determination to shed some pounds, how about trying something new this year? Draw up a list to help make your council better and what you can do for the cause of the K of L for the coming season. Let's all take inspiration from those members who worked hard last year, pitch in and become active - if nothing more than by attending meetings and paying your dues on time. This way we can assure that 1976 will be a Happy & Prosperous New Year for C-79.

SOFFI



**MID-ATLANTIC
DISTRICT**

C-100 - AMSTERDAM, N.Y.

Fond memories linger from the Simas Kudirka Reception & Dinner held in Amsterdam on Sept. 14 at the Tepee Restaurant, where approximately 300 people were in attendance. Master of Ceremonies was Attorney Norbert Sherbunt, who was excellent. Congressman Samuel S. Stratton was a guest speaker. When he met Mr. Kudirka in Washington, he suggested that Simas should consider Amsterdam as a place to settle down in. A large group of Ukrainians, Latvians, and Estonians participated. Mayor John P. Gomulka presented Simas with the key to the City. Many other gifts were received by Simas and Genovaite, one of which was the Bicentennial Carpet (a product of Mohasco Corp.). Matt & Nancy Kazlauskas' son, Matthew Jr., who is a physician in California, flew in for the event. Others attended from Syracuse, Utica, Schenectady, and Albany. Ed Baranauskas should be given much credit for his untiring efforts in arranging the Kudirka's visit to Amsterdam.

New officers were elected at the Nov. meeting: Pres. Anthony Radzevich, Vice Pres. Gene Gobis, Secy. Nellie Liberis, Treas. Sophie Olbie, Sgt-at-arms Walter Rusilas, Spiritual Advisor Rev. R. K. Baltch, Lithuanian Affairs Chmn. Edward Baranauskas, Cultural Chmn. Mrs. Polly Ziausys & Mrs. Regina Kot assisted by Matthew Orante, and Ritual Chmn. Miss Mary Stanionis.

At the Festival of Nations held at the Onondaga County War Mem'l. Stadium in Syracuse on Nov. 1-2, the Lithuanian ethnic group was represented with a booth by the members of the K of

L from Syracuse as well as from our Amsterdam council - Mrs. Polly Ziausys, Mrs. Regina Kot, and Jr.'s member Gerard Drenzek. Mrs. Ziausys had on display her large collection of amber, wood carvings, rare Lithuanian books, and homespun linens. A huge Christmas tree decorated with beautiful straw ornaments made by Mrs. Jonas Gylys of Syracuse, Regina Kot's "Vytis" painting, and a Lithuanian wayside shrine made by Albert Gudas, Exhibition Coordinator, were also on exhibit. Frank Petrauskas was the Performance Coordinator. The Lazdynas Dance Group from Rochester performed three Lithuanian folk dances at the Sunday evening's Concert of Nations.

Rev. Baltch attended two Conventions held at the Commodore Hotel in N.Y.C. in October, - the Lithuanian Priest's League and the Catholic Ethnic Group. He gave a short speech on their activities and showed slides at our meeting.

Our council participated at the fall Holiday Fair held Nov. 22 at the Social Center, where we had a grab-bag booth. The profit went towards the Organ Renovation Fund.

Our Christmas Banquet was held at the Tepee Restaurant on Dec. 14. Mrs. Nellie Liberis was chairlady, with Ann Love, Vera Shatas and Betty Liberis assisting. Betty made all the table decorations, which were very novel and attractive. The Syracuse Council was represented by seven members, and M.C. Nellie Liberis had Frank Petrauskas speak for the group. Also heard was Rev. Grigaitis, Rev. Baltch, and Anthony Radzevich. Grab-bag gifts were exchanged. A solo was sung by Rev. Baltch, and Christmas carols were sung by all, completing the program. The last to leave included Ida Boice, Gene Gobis, Don Holleran and Peter Hayes.

Smile & Sparkle



C-29 - NEWARK, N.J.

At our Oct. 19 meeting, the yearly elections took place with the following results: Pres. Kazys Sipaila, Vice Pres. Rose Zukauskas, Treas. Eva Sharon, Secys. Mary Stonis, Marge Brazaitis, & Ann Abromaitis. Serving as members of the Nominating Committee were Adele Urban, Frank Vaskas, and Albinas Zukauskas.

Our 60th Anniversary came off in fine fashion. A very good attendance was present, and a most enjoyable time was had by one and all. Valentinas Melinis handled the M.C. chores in very fine style. C-29 members received a warm letter of thanks from Archbishop Peter L. Gerety for their donation of \$100. to the Life Line '75 Campaign of the Newark Archdiocese.

With the coming of '76, our parish will be making plans to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the founding of Holy Trinity Parish, and our council expects to take a very active part in this memorable event.

Frank Vaskas expresses his sincere thanks to the following for their kindness and hospitality while he visited in Worcester, Mass., Bridgeport, Conn., and Boston, Mass.: Al Jaritis, Larry Svelnis, Olga Kersis, Joe Sakaitis, and Mr. & Mrs. A. Trainis.

The following recently made a trip to Bermuda, which still is a topic when they all come together: Mr. & Mrs. Walter Brazaitis, Helen Radisch, Eva Sharon, Mrs. Ann Abromaitis & daughter Ann, and also Mr. & Mrs. Felix Mockus. You should see some of their candid camera shots!

Our heartfelt condolences and sympathy go to Mrs. Ann Mensler (Barkauskas) in the recent passing of her husband Edward. A Mass will be offered. May he rest in peace.

The Wanderer

C-140 - SYRACUSE, N.Y.

Many apologies to the good people of C-140 for the absence of Council News the past six months. We'll try to make it up to you with this and future columns.

1975 was the first full year for young C-140, and it was a busy year. We sponsored the Feb. 16 Independence Party with lovely Marge Migonis as chairperson; the summer picnic with jolly Walt Salis, chairman; and the Lithuanian booth at the Festival of Nations headed by Gylys, Gudas and Petrauskas, chairpeople. Each event was a success and greatly enjoyed by all who attended.



We also participated as a council in other activities such as the Amsterdam Lithuanian Independence Party, the Captive Nations Dinner Dance and Rally, Lithuanian Day at Auriesville Shrine, the K of L Nat'l. Conv. in New York, the Simas Kudirka Dinner in Amsterdam, and the Armistice Day Parade with the Captive Nations.

Our biggest event of the year was the Festival of Nations on Nov. 1-2 with 40 nations partici-



C-140 - Christmas Tree decorated with straw ornaments made by Mrs. Jonas Gylys.

pating. The Lithuanian booth was again beautiful. We used the theme "What Lithuania has given to America". Polly Ziausys of Amsterdam exhibited her beautiful collection of amber, costumes, cloth and wood carvings. Our council is indebted to her and her assistant, Regina Kot. Our Christmas tree, decorated with the Lithuanian wheat and oat straw ornaments, brought many oohs and ahs from the people. Some Lithuanians from other cities commented that ours were the most beautiful ornaments they had seen anywhere, - a very nice compliment for which we are very grateful. Our large wayside cross was well received as in the last two years. And the Lazdynas Dance Group of Rochester performed very well before a large audience. They are a sight to behold when they do Malunas. It was a wonderful weekend, well attended with Lithuanians from Rochester, Bing-



Scenes from the Lithuanian booth at the Festival of Nations held at the Onondaga County War Memorial Stadium in Syracuse, N.Y. - November 1 - 2. Booth was sponsored by C-140.

hamton, Utica, Amsterdam, Conn., and Pa..

Our sympathy is extended to Helen Mikelonis who lost her mother, Mrs. Mary Subal, in September. Grandma Subal was a wonderful person who was loved by all.

Council officers for 1976 are as follows: Pres. Frank Petrauskas, Vice Pres. John Johnson, Secy. Marge Migonis, and Fin. Secy. & Treas. Albert Gudas.

If our progress in 1976 is as good as our 1975 progress was, we'll be in good shape. Good luck to all in '76.

Pusbrolis



NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

C-10 - ATHOL-GARDNER, MASS.

The following officers were elected for 1976: Spiritual Advisor Rev. Justinas Steponaitis, Pres. Leonard Davidonis, Vice Pres. William Wisnauskas, Rec. Secy. Charles Genaitis, Treas. Nellie Melaika, Fin. Secy. Frank Anoris, and Vytis Corresp. William Wisnauskas.

The council, as in the past, hosted the annual Christmas Party for the parish altar boys on Dec. 7. Following the party, the group enjoyed dinner at Joseph's New Englander.

The Athol High Choral Group sang at Midnight Mass at St. Francis Church. About 50 voices gave an excellent performance.

The Genaitis spent the Christmas holidays in Chicago with their daughter and family.

Our council took part in the annual Feb. 16 program held in the St. Francis parish hall. The newly formed Worcester Men's Choir performed.

Vincukas

C-103 - PROVIDENCE, R.I.

Dr. John and Biruta Cunningham sent greetings from "delightful" Hawaii, where they were attending a Medical meeting.

Three of our Juniors, Peter Grybas, Marcella & Katherine Krecioch, attended the NED - TV Mass and the Jr's party in Boston.

"Kūčios" in Providence was sponsored by Bendruomenė. Our senior members in attendance were Father Martinkus, Helen Seraichekas, Bette Ciuryla, John & Irene Walaska, Victor & Beatrice Mathieu, John & Bertha Stoskus. The three Kairys children and two Krecioch girls participated in the program and helped serve on tables. They were our Jr. representation at the affair.

Irene Landanski continues to serve the medical needs of her father.

Mildred Seraichekas has returned to work after a prolonged strike.

The Savickis sisters, Ruta Krecioch, Beatrice Mathieu, and Bertha Stoskus, did some extensive work in their mother's home as a "welcome home" gesture. Mrs. Marcella Savickis, after successful eye surgery, and an extended rest period in a nursing home, is back in her own apartment.

Grace Vaitkunas visited her family in Hartford, Conn. over the holidays.

Father Edmund Budrecki of C-103 and Father Anthony Miciunas of C-26 joined Bishop Kenneth Angell of Providence, and the Very Rev. Joseph Dambrauskas, Provincial Superior of the Lithuanian Marians in America; their Marian Confreres, and local clergy in concelebrating a Funeral Mass for Father William Fogarty, M.I.C., at St. Pius Church in Providence. Father "Bill" was chaplain at R.I. Jr. College in Warwick, R.I., attended by Reggie Krecioch of our council. Father was also Vice Pres. of the Marianapolis Alumni Association.

JONAS

C-17 SRS. - SO. BOSTON, MASS.

Lithuanian Kūčios was held Dec. 20 for the first time by our council at St. Peter's Lithuanian Church hall. About 100 people attended, braving the stormy evening. The traditional Kūčios meal was prepared by Mrs. Ona Ulevich and Mrs. Veronica Ivanauskas, assisted by Mrs. Monica Plevock, Ann & Joe White, Larry Svelnis, Al Akule, Ann Norinkavich, and Mary Mickavich.

Father Baltrashunas opened the evening with a special prayer. The person at the head of each table shared with the others at their table a piece of plotkele. It was very interesting for those born in this country to see the tradition of our parents here and in Lithuania.

A children's Christmas party was held jointly by C-17 & 17 Srs. on Dec. 27, which had been postponed from Dec. 21 due to inclement weather. Santa John Norinkavich came back from the North Pole and distributed toys to the children. A good time was had by all with gifts, games and refreshments. On the committee was Ann Norinkavich and Virginia Markuns.

Attorney Anthony Young, Longinas Svelnis and Joseph White attended the second Supreme Council meeting of the year on Dec. 6 held in Newark, N.J., at the Holy Trinity Church hall, which recently celebrated its 60th year of K of L participation. Congratulations for many years of activities.

Our sincere condolences are extended to the family of Julian Alexander who died on Dec. 15. The late Julian was Art Director for the Milton Schools for the past 20 years. Remember him in your prayers.

Get well wishes to Dr. Al Kiburis who spent the Christmas and New Year holidays in the hospital.

Anniversary greetings to Adele & Frank Judeikis who celebrated their 25th. A party was held at their daughter and son-in-law's home in Randolph.

Mrs. Roberta Seymour, while

sunning in Florida, purchased a mobile home in Bradenton, Fla.

Daniel Averka, N.E. Dist. Lithuanian Affairs Chmn., has been elected Vice Pres. of the So. Boston Lithuanian Citizen's Assoc., one of the largest, active Lithuanian organizations in this area. Larry Svelnis was elected Controller; Adam Druzdis, Fin. Secy.; and Albin Neveria, Director. Congratulations to all.

Ann Voveris

C-30 - WESTFIELD, MASS.

Sept. 28 will go down in our records as being one of the finest, most successful days possible, both in the weather, and in Conventions held.

The attendance for the N.E. Dist. Fall Conv. was tremendous, which helped set the mood for the day. Large beautiful bouquets of red, green and yellow carnations, which were a gift through the generosity of Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Minkus, adorned the altar during the Mass. Pat Barnes, guest soloist, sang like a nightingale, accompanied by organist Polly Murphy. Our council officers, Mary Minkus, Joan Laframboise, and Benny Coach had the honor of bringing the gifts to the altar.

After Mass, brunch was served. Everyone had the pleasure of making their own "grinders". It was fun, and the buffet table was a good place to make new acquaintances. It had a relaxed feeling necessary to put everyone at ease.

With brunch over, the "Holyoke Peddlers" set up displays with jewels that could have been labeled "Tiffany". Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Ruggles displayed fine stationery, greeting cards, Lithuanian books, and most unusual Lithuanian straw decorations made with real straw. Sales were brisk and the items gone in no time. Mr. & Mrs. Clement Picard had combed two continents for their gems, and they surely can be classified as jewels. Displayed on red velvet trays were the Lithuanian coins. Many of the coins were

purchased for Christmas gifts, birthdays, and some to keep as a memento, bringing to mind their Lithuanian heritage.

We commend Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Ruggles, Mr. & Mrs. Albert Laframboise, Mr. & Mrs. Clement Picard, and Nellie & Arthur Lord, who are Holyokers traveling faithfully to Westfield to attend the K of L meetings. All honors go to Albert Laframboise for his expert chauffeuring.



With the business segment over, the sliding doors opened to reveal a fabulous smorgasbord table. With foods of all kind, it was a gourmet's delight. Credit for this superb dinner goes to Chairladies Ann Sibonis and Cookie Coach, who were assisted by Louise Renaud, Helen Alexik, Jean Duda, Fran Waiwat, Marcia Rogers, Mary Minkus, Ann Krenzel, Nellie Ruggles, Joan Laframboise, Nellie Lord, and Margaret Picard.

It was truly a magnificent day. Much was accomplished at the business meeting, new friendships were made, and now we are all looking forward to the next Convention!

Margarita

C-116 - SO. WORCESTER, MASS.

Attending our December meeting was a pure delight. Mrs. Irene Tamulevich, our Lithuanian ambassador-at-large, demonstrated the art of making Christmas decorations from straw. Self-taught, Irene did a good job on the

novices. Considering she had just mastered the art the week before, it was a tremendous job. It all came about after we all witnessed her beautiful display at the Ethnic Festival. She received so many requests for a demonstration, that she readily obliged. Due to her talents, we now have many members who have become adept at making these decorations. Irene was also invited to demonstrate this art at one of the local schools and was an overwhelming success with the youngsters. We are grateful to her for introducing us to this ancient Lithuanian custom, and extend our many, many thanks.

The weather outside was blistery, but we were undaunted as we gathered at a local bistro for our annual Christmas party. It was worth braving the snowstorm, for the camaraderie was high, the food good, and we had a few laughs over the exchange and swapping of gifts. It put the right touch to the holidays. A great deal of credit goes to Mrs. Dotty March for organizing this social, on short notice, since previous plans did not materialize. Good show, Dotty.

Our bowlers ushered in the holidays at the alleys. Thanks, once again, to Dot March for the refreshments and the punch bowl. Ted Kasper was a picture to behold as he bowled in his Santa outfit. Ted donated two bottles of cheer to the man and woman who bowled the highest score above their averages. Bab Paluses and Stasia Taparauskas were the lucky winners.

Dot Sinkavitch and Tony Miner represented our council at the Dec. 14 NED T.V. Mass shown on Channel 7. Rev. Albin Janiunas gave a very stirring talk on Lithuania and the K of L. There was an overflowing crowd, which must have pleased Fr. Janiunas very much.

A very belated welcome to new member, Mrs. Martha Phillips, sister of Mrs. Antonia Wackell, who has been a member since October.

Taradaika

**DRAUGAS
4545 W. 63RD ST
CHICAGO ILL 60629**

**2524 W. 45th St.
Chicago, Ill. 60632**

**Return Requested
Address Correction Requested**



**ILLINOIS-INDIANA
DISTRICT**

ILLINOIS-INDIANA DISTRICT

The MID-WEST BOWLING TOURNAMENT will be held in Chicago the weekend of May 28-29-30. Chairpersons Irene San- kus and Vince Samaska and their committee cordially invite every- one to participate. Hosts - the Ill.-Ind. Dist.

Plans are being made for bowlers and non-bowlers with an Early Bird party the evening of the 28th, Brunch-Bowling-Dance on the 29th, and Mass-Banquet on the 30th. Marzano's Miami Bowl will be the bowling site; Chicago Mid- way House, motel accommoda- tions; and the dance and banquet

in the K of L Bldg. Additional de- tails will be sent to all council presidents in the MCD and IID Dist's. The Mid-Central Dist. is scheduled to hold their Annual Convention on the 29th and all in- formation regarding the time and place will be sent to all MCD coun- cil presidents.

C-112 - CHICAGO, ILL.

Council officers and chairmen continue to hold monthly Board meetings to formulate plans and to discuss new ideas for the council. The new Board met for their first meeting in November at the home of Board Pres. Al & Julie Zakarka, the December Christmas meeting was held at the home of Pres. Al & Gerrie Mockus, and the January meeting at the home of the Pakal- niskis Family.

Congratulations to Mike & Teresa Lawrence on their recent marriage. After honeymooning in Hawaii, they are both participating in K of L activities.

Alex Pakalniskis Jr. has taken on a major job in assembling and coordinating the council archives, and he keeps coming up with very interesting and historical items at each meeting.

Social chairladies Julie Zakarka and Gerrie Mockus, aided by Ruth Dagis, successfully planned both the council Christmas Party and New Year's Eve Party. The Christmas Party was an enjoyed dinner-party with a surprise visitor - Santa's special assistant, Al Shulicke, who distributed lovely gifts to all of the ladies. It was a pleasure to see Vyto & Prudencija Bickus, the newly-wed Mike Lawrence's, Barbara Klevinsky, and outgoing Prexy John Evans among the many in attendance.

The New Year's Eve Party held in the Zakarka Lower Level was enjoyed by all. Special perfor- mances were given by Gerrie Mockus on her guitar, and Julie Zakarka with Al Mockus in a de- lightful skit. Among the guests were Carl & Sophie Beinoras.

Condolences to Bernice Lauren- tan Kudoba on the death of her mother, and to George Jonikas and the Simonelis family on the death of their father.

Dates to Remember: Mar. 7 - IID St. Casimir's Day commemo- ration hosted by C-36, and the last week-end in May - Mid-West Bowling Tournament hosted by the IID.

**DON'T MISS THE
MIDWEST BOWLING
TOURNAMENT**

**MAY 28 - 29 - 30, 1976
CHICAGO, ILL.**

IID - HOSTS

1. Bowling at Marzano's Miami Bowl. (Mid-Central Dist. Conven- tion on May 29th).
2. Motel Accommodations at Chicago Midway House.
3. Dance & Banquet at K of L Bldg.

IN MEMORIAM

Please remember in your prayers...

**EVA ELLIS
Member C-29 Newark
died Jan. 28, 1976**

**JULIAN ALEXANDER
Member C-17 Srs., So. Boston
died Dec. 15, 1975**

**FRANCES DRZEWICKI
Member C-100 Amsterdam
died Jan. 22, 1976**