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THE TREASURES OF OUR HERITAGE

CULTURAL PANEL — 1977 NATIONAL CONVENTION

INTRODUCTION —
by Aldona Ryan, Chairman

"Kad tu nori peteliškių, tai tu turi turėti kirmėlių".

"If you want butterflies, then you must put up with worms".

That is an ancient Lithuanian saying that my mother repeated to me many times - especially when I was a little girl and wanted something badly but didn't want to work very hard for it.

How many of us look at a worm and think of it as a treasure?

On the other hand, it is easy to look at a beautiful butterfly and realize that it is a treasure.

So you see - we don't always recognize treasures - do we?

That little old amber pin that Močiutė always wore on her chest to protect herself from colds is a world's treasure. What other treasures do we have?

The study of the cultures of the peoples of the world is a new field.

What is culture?

I like to think of culture as "The instinct for survival of the species". It is the unique things that we remember - that we hang on to - that we teach our children about our people - the things that make us Lithuanians.

A scientist made an experiment with a tankful of amoebae. He electrified one corner of the tank so that when the amoebae would swim into this corner, they would receive a small electrical shock. In a short time, no amoebae would swim into the corner of this tank. The scientist took away the electrical input. Hundreds of

humans with their complicated systems also have inborn reactions?

We can call these reactions "inborn traits" or "instinct" or "the work of our genes". Let's call it Lithuanianism.

Who am I? Who are you? Think about yourself for a moment. What are your special likes and dislikes? Why are you drawn to some things and shun others? If we study the Lithuanian people, can we find some clues to our behavior?

Do you love snow? Are you an avid skier? Do you think you "have come home to the glaciers" when you see snow?

Does your body still carry extra pads of fat to protect you from the intense cold of the glaciers?

Are you a sun bather? Do you feel you must get a tan every year? Perhaps you are the descendent of a sun worshipper! When the sun comes out, you feel you should be doing something. But what? Since you don't know exactly what to do - you go out and lie in it!

Did you spend many dollars for a fire place? Do you think it might be that you feel more comfortable with a "sacred hearth" in your home?

Are you a collector of amber? Do you love wood and wood carvings? Zigzag patterns? Moonlight? Trees? Flowers? Boating? Fishing?

How about golf? Do your golf games inwardly remind you of hunting days? Did your ancestors get up every morning and go chasing across the grasses searching for small game with a stick in their hand? You feel you must go out and chase something so you follow a little ball around the grass.

Think about the Lithuanians! Who were the Lithuanians? What are some other clues?

Tropical forests 60 million years ago

A reindeer antler with human carvings 20,000 years old.

Glaciers about 10,000 years ago
Deep forests, bogs, lakes, hills, hunting tribes

The Baltic Sea, amber, fishing, travel by rivers

The Aistians who could freeze things a thousand years before knowledge of electricity

The Corded Pottery Culture
Gods and Goddesses of nature
Saulė, Mėnuo, Perkūnas, Aušra, Vakarinė, Gabija, Laukpūtis, and many others

The Face-Urn Culture

The Balts - Lithuanians, Latvians and Old Prussians

The People of the Woods

The Indo-European Language - preserved from ancient days
Ancient burials in a sleeping position - later cremation



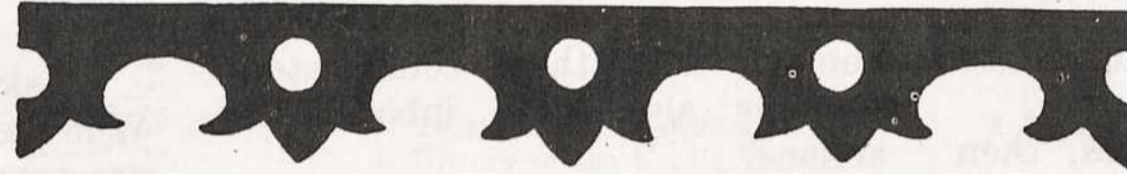
Aldona Ryan addressing Convention.

Agrarians - loved horses, domestic
animals - worked the soil
Known as democratic, hard-
working, just people
People who could not tolerate a
master among them
People who, with knowledge, have
been devoted Roman Catholics
for 600 years
Able to survive great oppression,
staunch, sturdy

Love to sing
Love to dance
Love to decorate things

These facts and others make us
what we are. Our search for the
truth and the tenacious hold we
have on what we think are right-
fully ours to claim. What are some
further clues?

Let's talk about Lithuanian cul-
ture. To go back to my beginning -
perhaps I am just the worm on this
Panel. I have with me two talented
exotic male butterflies - Lithuanian
treasures - who will discuss the
subject further. Phil Skabeikis and
Faustas Strolia. Let's give them a
warm welcome.



HISTORY OF THE K OF L CULTURAL PROGRAM

T CAPSULE SUMMARIES OF: LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, DANCE, MYTHS AND FOLK ART
by Phil Skabeikis

The National Cultural Committee of the Knights of Lithuania was created by resolution at the 1955 National Convention in Newark, New Jersey. Its first Chairman was Dr. Jack Stukas. The Committee's purpose was then, and still is, "to preserve and disseminate our rich Lithuanian cultural heritage". These guidelines were necessarily general. How was the K of L to go about achieving this noble end?

Well, it did! By setting up a communication network with the National Chairman as its head, coordinating District Chairmen who in turn coordinated Council chairmen.

In its 22 year history, the Cultural Committee has fostered formation of choruses, seen to cultural exhibits, provided articles of a cultural nature for VYTIS, sponsored publication of several books and pamphlets on cultural and religious topics, helped make available records and books to members through discount offerings, supported recordings by a K of L choir, presented Cultural panels at National Conventions, and most recently, offered grants to Districts to place printed and recorded material on Lithuania in

public and university libraries, and offered the "Amber Web" a series of short resumes on Lithuanian cultural history designed for use at Council meetings.

This is an impressive record, but has it achieved its purpose? Are there ways in which the methods should change?

If we are indeed all connected by slender strands to one great Amber Web, what is the stuff of which the web is woven?

Kunta Kinte, his daughter Kizzie, and slavery, are names and events that emerged from a shrouded past when Arthur Haley commenced the research that resulted in his book, ROOTS.

Before "searching for one's roots" became faddish, Lithuanian organizations like the K of L were interested in the questions of national origins. As Americans of Lithuanian ancestry, have we asked ourselves who we are? What are our roots? Not necessarily the names of our ancestors which is an awesome task for even the professional geneologist, but culturally, what is our Lithuanian heritage?

Culture is defined as "the concepts, habits, skills, arts, tools, instruments, institutions and language of a given people during a

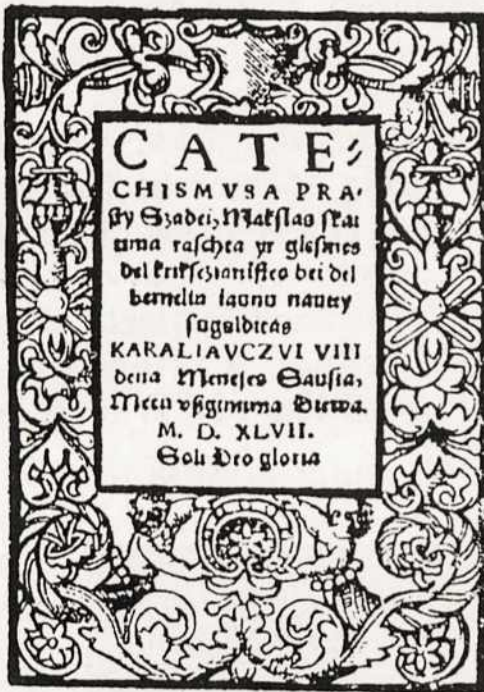
given period of civilization". This definition implies, of course, that culture is not static, but grows and evolves. The given people are, of course, US! Our ancestors and the birthright that has been passed down to us — as Lithuanians or a birthright that is shared through the union of marriage.

As with all cultures, the Lithuanian has been affected by history, geography, climate. These factors have molded his way of life, his culture. Throughout its history, the culture of the Lithuanian has proven amazingly resilient. It has survived the worst that history could throw at a people.

LANGUAGE, of course, grew out of man's need to communicate, and the Lithuanian language remains unique in all the world because in spite of the usual factors that brought radical change to many of the world's tongues, Lithuanian has changed very little. It has retained ancient grammatical structure to some degree. This makes the Lithuanian language of enormous interest to philologists who study comparative languages. Our ancestral tongue bears striking resemblance to Latin and Sanskrit, neither of which are spoken today. Lithuanian has

earned the title of "Europe's oldest living language".

LITERATURE is the mirror of every nation's traditions, its aspirations, its philosophical and creative soul. The history of Lithuanian literature accurately mirrors the nations' history of struggles and strivings to achieve against often overwhelming odds. Most of Lithuania's early history was recounted not by Lithuanians but Romans, Germans and other nationalities. But these accounts are few and far between and of questionable accuracy. When Lithuanians did write about themselves it was in Latin or Old



Church Slavic. Later, Polish influence seriously impeded the development of Lithuanians writings. Use of the Lithuanian vernacular was at first restricted to communications for the Church and the first Lithuanian texts were Catechisms published in Germany by Martynas Mažvydas.

It was only in the 18th and 19th Centuries that scholarly concern arose about developing a "pure" Lithuanian literary style. The first major work was "Metai" (the Seasons) by Kristijonas Donelaitis written between 1760-70. But these were the years of Russian and later Polish domination. Lithuanian literature was slowly emerging, as a nationalistic

awakening blinked into consciousness.

Without doubt, the darkest days in the history of Lithuanian literature were the years 1864-1904. Those 60 years brought a "Press Ban" imposed by Imperial Russia. All printing in the Latin Alphabet was strictly forbidden. Originally intended to stifle any feelings of Nationalism, the effect was quite the opposite. In Prussia where many Lithuanians lived, publication of books in Lithuanian increased. A whole army of book smugglers, "knygnešiai", sprang up to transport the forbidden material across the borders. Lithuanian literature in exile became both political and lyric at the same time. Lifting the ban in 1904 did not stem the nationalistic tide as the Russians had hoped. As literature reflects the soul of a nation, literature at the turn of the century reflected a yearning for independence. Literature became the concern of the government too! Prizes and subsidies were offered to young writers. Whole schools of writing evolved, from the "Keturi Vėjai" (4 Winds), and its futuristic outlook, to the dramatic realism of "Trečias Frontas" (the 3rd Front). Literature in Lithuania today still evolves, even under the stifling imperatives of Socialist realism. As in the past, there is once again a Lithuanian Literary movement in Exile.

The serious student of Lithuanian literature would become familiar with the names of Maironis, Kudirka, Dambrauskas, Pečkauskaitė, Brazdžionis, Putinas, Krėvė and Daukantas.

DANCE provides the means for a different form of expression, one involving not just the mind, but the entire body. Lithuanian Folk Dance, as her literature and song, also emerges from the Lithuanian's close affinity with nature, as well as his agrarian life-style. Lithuanian folk dances mirror many scenes from a Lithuanian peasants life, from the flight of birds across his pasture and the antics of forest animals, to the beauty of a loom



spinning or a grain millstone in motion, or sowing and harvesting crops.

Very little is known about the origins and development of early folk-dancing in Lithuania. The performances we enjoy today are largely stylized reconstructions from what little knowledge researchers have been able to compile.

Lithuanian dance as we know it today clearly shows evidence of foreign influence from Sweden to Bohemia. The polka became an important ingredient in most dances. Lithuanian folk dances are noted for massiveness, effective use of space and symmetry. The circle, line, square, bridge or window are the predominant figures. These dance figures, basic to most folk dances of Europe, are interchanged ornamentally to depict the idea of the particular dance. As in her folk-songs, the dances of Lithuania are gentle, and lyrical allowing their participants to revel in the simple joys of nature and the country life.

FOLKTALES are defined by Mr. Webster as "stories, often with legendary or mythical elements, created by and handed down among the common people".

As rich as her songs and dances, Lithuania's folklore is permeated with great creativity. Like folktales of other nations, Lithuania's are variations of universal story-types. It is the degree of the variation that made the Lithuanian tale unique.

Who has not, at one time or another marvelled at the story of JŪRATĖ AND KASTYTIS, in

which we have a "rational" explanation for the appearance of amber on the Baltic shore. Jūratė, the queen of the sea has an illicit, by godly standards, romance with a mere fisherman, Kastytis. She happens to live in an amber palace beneath the sea. To emphasize his displeasure at the lovemaking, Perkūnas, god of thunder sends a bolt of lightning to Shatter Jūratė's palace. It is of pieces of this demolished palace that we make the jewelry which many of you are wearing now. Nonsense you say? Maybe so, but what a story!

Another example, in the folk tale, EGLĖ, QUEEN OF THE SERPENTS, the heroine's daughter betrays the knowledge of her sister's lover's whereabouts. The betrayal results in the death of the enchanted prince, who lived near a deep lake. The betrayer's punishment is to be turned into a poplar tree on the lakeside. Even today, poplars can be found on the lakefronts in Lithuania, their leaves trembling, as if in fear, at the slightest breeze.

Lithuanian folk-tales often have some moral attached, some message, always concerning the basics of human existence, love, honesty, loyalty, charity, etc.

Many of you may have heard your first such tale at your grandmother's knee. For others, like myself, the first real exposure may have been books.

For the ancient Lithuanian, there was a spirit in all things and a story to go with it.

The last aspect of Lithuanian creative expression that I will cover is FOLKART, which first grew out of the necessities of everyday life. This type of art is usually referred to as applied art. The practical material was first wood and clay. The necessities ranged from the buildings our ancestors lived in to cooking utensils and the clothing they wore. Whether creating a house for his family or a wooden doll for his child, the Lithuanians used traditional geometrical motifs which gradually became more

intricate and elaborate. The art of whittling away at a piece of wood to create something not only useful but beautiful, became a cherished skill to be passed down from generation to generation. The eaves and windowpanes of houses were topped with fanciful wooden grillwork, their designs taken from nature.

Once the skill was acquired and a successful crop allowed some moments for idle thought, the skill could be used for decorative, more expressive purposes.

Once Christianity took firm hold on the Lithuanian, his artisan's hands went about creating some of today's most beloved examples of Lithuanian folk art, the Wayside Shrines that once dotted the countryside, the pensive Christ or "Rūpintojėlis", many Pietas and woodcuts depicting various religious scenes.

Clothing became more decorative. Even the most common piece of linen became an excuse to weave some imagery or fantasy into the fibers of flax, hemp and wool.

The approach of the 19th Cen-

tury and machine manufacture, the hand-made artifact fell from favor to some degree. But with the onset of independence and government interest in preserving all aspects of folk-life, a renaissance ensued.

Artists, although trained in modern techniques, successfully recaptured the lyrical simplistic essence of the folk art craftsman from generations past and utilized it in more modern mediums.

Folk art, whether a piece preserved from the past or one created by a Lithuanian craftsman of today is a cherished addition to a Lithuanian's home.

Lithuanian folkart, folk tales, folk dance, literature and language are worlds in themselves, waiting to be explored, to be appreciated. Indeed, one could spend a lifetime with any one subject.

My brief presentation was designed merely to hint at the possibilities and rewards awaiting the inquiring mind.

Exposure to these aspects of our ancestral heritage may answer in part the question of "Where are my roots?"



Phil Skabeikis and Faustas Strolia during the Cultural Panel Discussion.



Kingdom of Lithuania in a medieval map of Europe

KAS MUS RIŠA SU BALTIJOS PAJŪRIO GYVENTOJAIS?

CAN WE IDENTIFY WITH ANCIENT PEOPLES OF THE BALTIC SEA AREA?

Faustas Strolia

Įdomu, kiek iš mūsų pažįsta ir yra giedoję šiuos žodžius: "...nuo maro, bado, ugnies ir karo, gelbėk mus, Viešpatie! Nuo staigos ir netikėtos mirties..." Daug kas atpažinsite, kad tai "Šventas Dieve", kartais net Suplikacijomis vadinama giesmė. Juozo Naujalis Lietuviškame Bažnytiniame Giesmyne, kurį autorius 1906 m. pats savo lėšomis išleido, prie šios giesmės jis pridėjo sekančią pastabą: "Apie melodiją 'Šventas Dieve' taip rašo lenkiškas poetas Vinc. Pol savo atskajtoj apie Bažnytinį giedojimą: "Po įvedimo Krikščionybės Lietuvoje, dvasiškija negalėjo atraptinti žmonių nuo giedojimo Himno ant garbės Perkūno. Ta melodija taip labai išplatinta, visų mylima buvo, kad kunigai galutinai turėjo ją užlaikyti, permainę tik tekstą. Paskui ji greitai išsiplatino po Lenkiją ir Baltgudiją".

Ar mes tikrai norime ką nors bendro turėti su tauta, kuri taip ilgai nebuvo nei krikščioniška nei, tur būt, necivilizuota? Bet ar ji tikrai buvo tokia atsilikusi? Pagal daugelį istorikų iš mūsų artimiausių kaimynų — taip! Kunigas Jeronimas, aplankęs 1428 m. Žemaičius, pranešė popiežiui ir kitiems vyskupams, kad žemaičiai garbinę žalčius. Kartą jis įmetęs vieną į ugnį, bet žaltytys nedegęs! Jis gyrėsi nukirtęs daugelį velniui dedikuotų ąžuolų ir netgi padaręs stebuklą! (Suevicar Scrip. lib. I, p. 220). Mes neturėtume lengva širdimi priimti kiekvieną pareiškimą iš svetimų, dargi mums nedraugingų tautų.

I wonder, how many of you have ever sung the words (in Lithuanian), "...protect us, o Lord, from black death, famine, fire and war, and also from a sudden and unexpected death..." Many of you would respond correctly that this is "Šventas Dieve". In the Lithuanian Hymnal of 1906 by Juozas Naujalis, published by the author himself in Kaunas, Naujalis introduced "Šventas Dieve" with the following remark: The Polish poet Vinc. Pol makes the following statement about the melody of "Šventas Dieve": "After christianizing the Lithuanians, the clergy still had a hard time stopping people from singing their hymn in honor of Perkūnas (God of Thunder). This hymn was so wide spread and beloved by everyone, that the priests had no choice but to keep it. They changed only the text. Then this hymn spread fast to Poland and White-Russia".

Do we really want to have something in common with a nation that became Christian so late and that most likely was uncivilized? Was this nation so backward? According to the statements of many historians of Lithuanian neighbors — yes, it was! Jeronimus, a priest, after visiting the Žemaičiai in 1428 reported to the Pope and the other bishops that the Žemaičiai were worshipping snakes. When he threw one into a fire, it would not burn. He himself was chopping down oak-trees that were sacrificed to the devils. He even performed miracles! (Suevicar Scrip. lib. I, p. 220). We should not wholeheartedly

Prof. A. Benedictsen, savo knygoje "Lithuania", Kopenhaga, 1924 m. teigia, kaip nesunku esą atspėti, kodėl priešas, tykojęs Lietuvą sugniaužti, lietuvius prilygina prie žvėrių.

Senovės lietuviai turėjo tikėjimą ir su juo surištą aukštą dorovės pajautimą. Kaip mūsų pačių istorikai senovės tikėjimą apibūdina? Dr. A. Bruožis, "Mažoji Lietuva", Klaipėda, 1929 m., taip mus nuramina: "Senovės tikyba buvo pamatas lietuvių stiprybės. Su tikyba rišosi dorybė, meilė artimui ir tėvynei".

J. Venclova savo knygelėje "Senovės lietuvių tikybos bruožai", Čikaga, 1977 m., teigia: Jei senovės lietuviai savo namuose laikė ožius, rupūžes, žalčius ar kitus gyvius, tai dar nereikia, kad juos garbino. Mūsų istorijos tėvas — Simanas Daukantas savo raštuose paaikškina: "Šeimininkas gerbia juos, vienus kaip linksmybės reiškėjus (paukštelius), kitus kaip savo apgynėjus".

Kun. prof. dr. K. Gečys "Katalikiškoji Lietuva" p. 25, teigia, kad "senųjų lietuvių tikėjimo geriausi pradai neprieštaravo kilniems krikščionybės principams". Kun. T. Žiūraitis "Draugas", 1959.XI.28, tvirtina: "Pagonių lietuvių vaidilutės kūreno ugnį ne ažuolams, bet po ažuolais, kad jos dūmai kiltų Visagaliui Viešpačiui". Pagal kun. P. Gaidamavičių, lietuviui Dievas yra paslaptingas, išsiskleidžia visatoj kaip Čiurlionio Rex ir kalba jam iš žolės, iš žiedo, iš galingo medžio, iš paukščių giesmės, iš žaibo ir griaustinio, iš saulės ir žvaigždžių (Išblokštasis žmogus, 1951, p. 76).

Prof. B. Newman savo "Kelionėj po Pabaltijį" (vert. F.S.) 1939 teigia, kad Lietuvoj pagonybė išsilaukė ilgiausiai ir jis abejoja, ar ji ne gyvuojanti dar ir dabar. Nejaugi mes turėtumėm dėl to susirūpinti ar susigėsti?!

Nereikia gėdytis, o didžiūotis, nes senovės lietuviai buvo dori ir kilniadvasiai žmonės. Juk patys kryžiuočiai savo kronikose rašė: "Kęstutis buvo karingas, bet ir teisingas vyras..., jei su magistru padarydavo taiką, tai jos tvirtai laikėsi". (Scr. Rer. Pruss. III, 593), net lenkų kronininkas Dlugosh, kuris apie lietuvius nemėgdavo gerai atsiliepti, rašė: "Kęstutis, nors pagonis, buvo šaunus vyras... buvo išprusęs, žmoniškas, tiesiakalbis".

Pažiūrėkime į Gediminą, į tikrą lietuvių senojo tikėjimo atstovą, kuris popiežiaus pasiuntiniams štai ką tvirtino: "Aš nedraudžiu katalikams tarnauti Dievui savo papročiais. Leiskite ir mums garbinti Dievą savo būdu, nes mes visi garbiname VIENĄ Dievą" (plg. I. Jonynas, "Lietuvių tautos istorija", 119). Ar tai ne didžiadvasiškumas, tolerancija?

Pažvelkime į vaidilutes, vaidilas ir krivius: vaidilutės pagal daugelį šaltinių buvo tyros ir nekaltos; gi vaidilos gyvu žodžiu mokė jaunąją kartą senolių patirtos išminties, gražių papročių, dorovės, tėvynės meilės (M. Biržiška "Lietuvių tautos kelias" 1952

'accept all the statements of foreign sources. Prof. A. Benedictsen in his book "Lithuania", Copenhagen, 1924, states: "It is not difficult to guess how the enemy who only thirsted to crush the Lithuanians has described them as the beasts". How do our own historians describe the pre-Christian Lithuanians? Dr. A. Bruožis, in "Mažoji Lietuva", Klaipėda, 1929, states how the old Lithuanian belief was the foundation of their strength. Their virtues, love of their neighbor and their land — all these were the result of their religion.

J. Venclova in his book "The Characteristics of Religion of Ancient Lithuania" (transl. F.S.), Chicago 1977, says: There is no reason to believe that old Lithuanians glorified hedgehogs, toads, snakes or other creatures, even if they kept them around their homes. The father of our history, Simanas Daukantas calls the creatures "protectors of the old Lithuanians and the harbingers of spring and joy".

Rev. K. Gečys "Catholic Lithuania" (trans. F.S.) p. 25 states that the basic rule of life of old Lithuanians did not contradict in anyway the fundamentals of Christianity, and Rev. T. Žiūraitis, "Draugas" 11.28.1959, points out that the young virgins (vaidilutės) were guarding the holy fire not for the oak-trees, but under the oak-trees, so that its smoke would rise to Almighty God. According to Rev. P. Gaidamavičius, God was talking to a Lithuanian from every blade of grass, each blossom, a strong tree, a bird's song, out of thunder and lightening, from sun and stars ("Displaced Person", trans. F.S.).

Prof. B. Newman in "Baltic Roundabout" London, 1939 (73-203) states: "In Lithuania the ancient pagan beliefs survived the longest, and I am not certain that they are entirely forsaken even today". Should this bother us, make us blush?!

Instead of blushing we have enough reason to be proud. Ancient Lithuanians were people of high morals. Even the chronicles of the Teutonic Order wrote what an honest man Kęstutis was — when he made a peace treaty with their magister, he always kept his word (Scr. Rer. Pruss. III, 593). Even Dlugosh, who did not like to refer to Lithuanians positively, wrote in his chronicle: "Kęstutis, although a pagan, was a splendid man... educated, humane and honest".

Let's take a glance at Gediminas — a true representative of the old Lithuanian religion, who made a dignified statement to the Pope's delegates: "I do not forbid the Catholics to praise God according to their customs. So allow us, too, to worship God in our way, because we worship the same God (I. Jonynas, "History of Lithuanian Nation", 119, transl. F.S.). Does this not display his broadmindedness, tolerance?

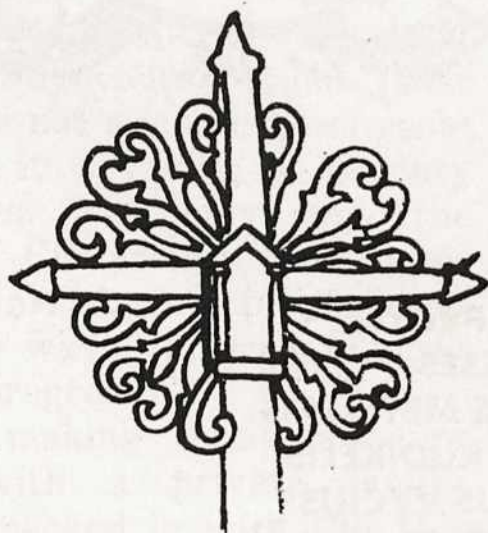
Consider the vaidilutės — the young virgins who are known to have been pure and innocent (A. Benedictsen, 7-54) and the vaidilos — the spiritual leaders who taught the young generation wisdom, beautiful

8-III). Tuo tarpu kriviais galėjo būti tik pasižymėję pavyzdingu ir doru gyvenimu asmenys ir laikytis celibato; galiausiai, kai patiriame, kad krivaitį, kuris buvo vyriausias kunigas, išrinkdavo kunigai iš savo tarpo, kuris pasižymėjo didele išmintimi, geru patyrimu ir labai aukšta morale.

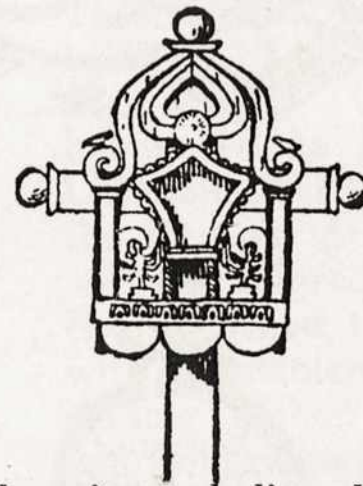
Pasidaro visai nenuostabu, jei senovės lietuviai nematė reikalo priimti krikščionybės, kuri atėjo kardu ir ugnimi. Neužmirškime, kad kryžiuočiai buvo pati stipriausia ir geriausia organizuota ginkluota pajėga, remiama viso Vakarų pasaulio, ir vis dėlto tie faktai mūsų protėvių neišgąsdino. Į lietuvius buvo žiūrima su pagarba ne vien dėl jų aukštų moralės principų. "Civilizuotieji" europiečiai pripažįsta, kad tai buvo lietuviai, kurie sulaukė mongolų hordų antplūdį ir išgelbėjo Vakarų krikščioniškąją kultūrą nuo sunaikinimo. Lietuva atlaikė per 200 metų vienuolio drabužiuose žmogžudžių nuolatinius puolimus, kol juos Vytauto Didžiojo vadovaujami lietuviai galutinai sumušė 1410 metais prie Žalgirio.

Ar dar mes vis nepatogiai jaučiamės apie savo lietuvišką kilmę? Ar tai toji atsilikusi tauta, kuri paskutinė priėmė krikščionybę iš visos Europos tautų?

O ne! Atmeskime menkavertiškumo jausmą, o pakelkime krūtines aukštyn. Vyskupas Adam Bremensis jau net 1075 m. rašė apie mus: jie esą humaniškesni žmonės (homines humanissimi)... visa kita yra bendra mūsų papročiams, o 1200 m. kunigas Helmodus teigia: "Žemaičiai pagonys yra taip didžiai dori žmonės, jog vieno jiems vardo krikščionių tetrūksta" (Chronica Slavorum, cap. I). Tai primena "Smuikininką ant stogo", kur rusas, pagyręs žydėlių Tevie, tik vieno apgaili, kodėl tas nerusas.



Typical Lithuanian Crosses, which embody both pagan and Christian motifs.



Ancient Lithuanians believed in one God, Almighty and Eternal, but they also had a line of smaller gods and goddesses and spirits. They did NOT worship idols — a statement by prof. L. Vannicelli ("The Characteristics of Religion of Ancient Lithuanians", tr. F.S., J. Venclova, p. 11). Our forefathers believed that, after death, the good people's souls go to "dausos" or heaven, where there is an eternal happiness, and the bad souls go to "pragaras" or hell to eternal damnation, and other souls come back as a tree or a bird until God's chosen time. Our ancestors were very religious. "If they were late in receiving Christianity, that was due to their bravery in defending their independence" (L. Vannicelli L'Osservatore Romano, 5.7.1958).

Senovės lietuviai tikėjo į vieną Dievą, visagalintį ir amžiną, bet šalia Jo jie turėjo ir visą eilę dievaičių, deivių ir dvasių, bet neturėjo stabų, kaip L. Vannicelli tvirtinęs (J. Venclova, "Senovės lietuvių tikybės bruožai", 11). Mūsų ainiai tikėjo į pomirtinį gyvenimą, į dangų geriesiems ir pragarą blogiesiems žmonėms ir kitų sielų įsikūnijimą į paukštį ar medį ligi Dievo jiems paskirto laiko. Jie buvo labai religingi. "Jei vėlavosi atsiversti į krikščionybę, tai dėl savo narsumo, ginant savo nepriklausomybę (L. Vannicelli - L'osservatore Romano, 1958.V. 7 d.).

Mielieji broliai Lietuvos Vyčiai, būkime ir mes religingi, Dievu pasitikintys. Ginkime ir kovokime drąsiai ir ištvermingai dėl savo tautos ir valstybės nepriklausomybės. Mylėkime ir glauskime prie savęs kiekvieną lietuvišką širdį. Juk vien kalba dar neapsprendžia tautybę. Tautybę nustato gyvenimo būdas, papročiai, tautosaka ir kitoki elementai tautinės kultūros. Pažvelkim į dvikalbę Belgiją, trikalbę Šveicariją arba net į Airiją, kurios gyventojai dar taip neseniai rodos tik angliškai kalbėję, o dabar grįžta prie savo senosios keltų kalbos. Šios mintys mus savaip įpareigoja, nes jos išrėikštos didžio vyčio prof. Kazio Pakšto (Aidai, 1950, "Keletas samprotavimų apie Lietuvos ribas").

Neleiskime žūt nei vienam lietuviui. Atveskime savo jaunimą į mūsų organizacijos gretas. Neatstumkime lietuviškai nebekalbančių, o taip pat paskutinės emigracijos lietuvių, trumpai vadinamų "dypukų". Kiekvienas lai būna mums brangus. Praeityje netekome mūsų kraujo ir būdo prūsų, jotvingių ir krivyčių, šiandien gudais vadinamų. Beveik buvome praradę ir Pensilvanijos lietuvius. Ačiū Dievui už sugražinimą Pensilvanijos lietuvių į Lietuvos Vyčių eiles. Mylėkime ir branginkime vieni kitus.

Tat galvas aukštyn, mielieji Vyčiai! Mūsų tautos šaknys sveikos ir tvirtos, jos pavasari duos naujos gyvybės atžalų, tik nenuleiskime rankų.

(Šiam straipsniui naudotasi J. Venclovos Čikagoje 1977 m. išleista knygele "Senovės lietuvių tikybos bruožai").

Dear brothers and sisters in the K of L, let us also stay religious and trusting in God. Let's defend our Lithuanian cause and endure in the fight for independence of Lithuania. Let us stick together and embrace every Lithuanian heart. Our great Vytis prof. K. Pakštas stated: "Language alone does not determine nationality. It is determined by ways of life, customs, folklore and other elements of national culture. Look at Belgium and Switzerland, and at Ireland whose inhabitants only a short time ago spoke English only, now is returning to its old Gaelic language" ("Aidai", 1950).

We cannot afford to lose any Lithuanians. Let us bring our youth into the ranks of our organization. Let's not turn away anybody who cannot speak Lithuanian, nor those of the last immigration who for short are called DPs. Everyone should be precious to us. In the far past we lost our brothers Prussians Jotvingiai and Krivyčiai, presently called the White Russians — all of Lithuanian descent and blood. We almost lost the Pennsylvania Lithuanians. Our thanks to God for returning them to the ranks of K of L. Let us love and value each other.

Let us keep our heads up, dear fellow-Knights of Lithuania! The "roots" are healthy and strong, we have no identity crisis. In spring these roots will help start a new life. Never give them up!

(Most used book for references: "Senovės lietuvių tikybos bruožai", J. Venclova, Chicago, 1977).



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**



**1978 NAUJU METU PROGA,
SVEIKINU BROLIUS IR SESES VYČIUS,
SU SAULĖTAIS, NAUJAIS METELIAIS.
TE NAUJAI UŽGIMĖS, KŪDIKĖLIS
JĖZUS, LAIMINA VISUS VYČIUS
IR JŪJŲ ŠEIMYNĖLES**

**JUOZAS SADAUSKAS
Garbės Narys**

FATHER PUGEVICIUS GOES TO BELGRADE

At the request of the Supreme Council for the Liberation of Lithuania (VLIK), Father Casimir Pugevičius, Chairman of the Knights of Lithuania Lithuanian Affairs Committee, spent the last week of October, presenting the Lithuanian case to various delegations at the Belgrade Conference.

Father Pugevičius had no official status at the Conference. His conversations with Ambassador Scherer, of the U.S., with a member of the Vatican delegation, and with members of the Irish delegation, were strictly informal.

Father Pugevičius traveled to Belgrade alone, via London and Rome. Before going to Belgrade, he stopped off in Rome for preparatory meetings with Lithuanians there.

On his arrival at Belgrade, Father Pugevičius found that there was not a single hotel room available in a radius of seventy kilometers. Not only was the Belgrade Conference to monitor the Helsinki Accord in progress, but there was a full-scale World's Fair in progress.

After making living arrangements with a private family, Father checked in with the U.S. Consulate and obtained his appointment with Ambassador Scherer.

On the basis of his affiliation with the Catholic press in this country, Father Pugevičius tried to gain admittance to the Conference itself as an observer. However, he was unsuccessful.

In his conversation with Ambassador Scherer, Father Pugevičius reminded the Ambassador of the ample documentation which had



been provided by representatives of the Lithuanian people in the U.S., during Congressional hearings preceding the Conference.

"If I had to pick one priority out of all our concerns at the present time", Father Pugevičius told the Ambassador, "I would say that alongside the basic desire for national self-determination, we are most concerned about the rights of parents in the education of their children in Lithuania. These are



Father Pugevičius chats with Lith. Charge d'Affaires A. Bačkis in Washington, D.C.

constantly being trampled upon by the Communist regime".

In his talk with the Vatican representative, Father Pugevičius expressed Lithuanian concerns that the introductory remarks of the Vatican spokesman, Bishop Silvestrini, seemed to by-pass in silence the sufferings of the Catholics of Lithuania. He reminded the Vatican delegate that the people of Lithuania have been asking the free world and especially the Vatican to speak out more forcefully for human rights in Soviet-occupied Lithuania.

The same points were brought up in conversation with the Irish delegates.

All were given printed reports, taken from the **CHRONICLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LITHUANIA**, and elsewhere, documenting the violation of human rights in Soviet-occupied Lithuania just since the signing of the Helsinki Accord.

From Belgrade, Father Pugevičius returned to Rome for talks with Lithuanian leaders there, including Bishop Paul Marcinkus, who holds a high Vatican post, and with Msgr. Audrys Bačkis, an advisor with the Vatican Department of State.

From Rome, Father Pugevičius flew to Munich, where he met with more Lithuanian leaders. He spent four days with Bishop Antanas Deksnyis, Director of the Lithuanian Apostolate in Western Europe.

After meeting with leaders of the Lithuanian community in London, England, Father Pugevičius returned to New York on November 15.

CONVENTION NEWS

EARLY HISTORY OF GREATER SYRACUSE

Upstate in '78! Since the 65th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania will be held in Syracuse on August 16 thru 20, 1978, we thought it would be a good idea to give you a little of the history and geography of Syracuse and central New York. Then when you come here in August you'll pretty much know where to go and what to see.

For 400 years, the territory encompassing the Greater Syracuse area has been a focal point for activity in New York State and the American-Canadian Northeast.

Back in 1570, the east shore of Onondaga Lake was the scene of what might be called the area's first convention — a gathering of representatives from the Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Seneca, and Onondaga Indian nations.

Under the leadership of the famed Onondaga Chief Hiawatha, the Indian nations, whose settlements in the area may have dated from the early 1400s, formed the Iroquois Confederacy which came to be recognized as the most sophisticated political and administrative organization in American Indian culture.

With the Mohawks on the East and the Senecas on the West, the influence of the Confederacy expanded to include territory from the Hudson River to Lake

Michigan and to the Mississippi. Central leadership of the six-nation tribes even today remains on the Onondaga Indian Reservation a few miles south of Syracuse.

While the Indian territorial control grew in the early 1600s, the natural water and land access routes brought the first white men, led by French explorer Samuel de Champlain, to Central New York in 1616.

It was 40 years later that the first true attempts at colonization were initiated by Jesuit missionaries from French - controlled Quebec. Among them was Father Simon LeMoyne, the man credited with discovering that the peculiar taste of local spring water was due not to evil spirits as the Indians believed, but rather to salt deposits which were destined to become the impetus for industrial development of the region.

The English were successful in settling the area because of a victory in the French and Indian Wars in 1760.

Salt became the main industry. Production and packing of salt from the springs surrounding Onondaga Lake was underway by 1800. The salt industry peaked during the Civil War before declining because of rock salt competition. (Incidentally, Syracuse has the only Salt Museum in the World

and you should make a strong effort to visit it in August).

Centrally located at the transportation hub of New York State, Syracuse became easily accessible to the East and West with the opening of the Erie Canal in the 1820s. Much of the Development in the Mid-West was due to the Erie Canal.

By the 1860s the Erie began to decline because of competition from the railroads. In 1905 the state began a massive program of reconstruction on its canal system. It became known as the New York Barge Canal and is still in use today.

The Erie Canal ran right through the center of Syracuse. The pavement of Erie Boulevard follows the route of the old canal. In downtown Syracuse today, the Weighlock Building, the only one of its kind in the country, serves as a museum of canal history. This is another must to visit come August because of the rich history inside those walls.

Footnote: The famous Lithuanian artist, Boleslaw Cybis, made a beautiful porcelain statue of Chief Hiawatha.

Next month — more on Syracuse and central New York.

UPSTATE IN '78



Center city Syracuse, looking north. Bottom is part of Syracuse University campus. Above is the hospital complex and Route 81. Next is downtown Syracuse. Hotel Syracuse is the E shaped building left of center. Top is Onondaga Lake.

Lithuanians in The

NEWS

EDITED BY MARIAN AND PHIL SKABEIKIS



His Excellency CHARLES A. SALATKA, Honorary Member of the Knights of Lithuania and former Bishop of Marquette Mich., was recently named Archbishop of Oklahoma City, Okla. As such, he became the first Lithuanian American to be named Archbishop.

Knights of Lithuania National President Anthony Miner attended Archbishop Salatka's formal installation and the related Brunch and Reception in Oklahoma City on Dec. 15, 1977. During the festivities, Mr. Miner presented the Archbishop with a gift — a replica of the painting of Our Lady of Vilnius, done in amber stones — on behalf of the Supreme Council of the Knights of Lithuania, as an expression of our esteem.

More on the installation ceremonies and Archbishop Salatka will be given in a future issue.



DR. JACK STUKAS represented New Jersey Lithuanians during a State House reception to mark the newly published book, THE NEW JERSEY ETHNIC EXPERIENCE. Published under the auspices of the New Jersey American Revolution Bicentennial Celebration Commission, the book features the history and contributions of 31 ethnic groups in N.J. Dr. Stukas is the author of the section on Lithuanians.

Pictured is Gov. Byrne signing the book for Baltic authors, l. to r., Dr. Stukas, Virve Pustrom and Prof. D. Hazners.

ADELE CHARASKA DEANGELO formerly of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, is presently conducting movement research in conjunction with the dance program at Loyola-Marymount College of Los Angeles.

Adele's son Harry of Tarzana, California, has attained his Doctorate degree and will be teaching Finance at the University of Washington this coming semester.

The combined efforts of Anthracite Council 144 and the Harrisburg Lithuanian Community, brought a bright and songful Lithuanian Heritage Day to the people of Pennsylvania's State Capital this past October 15. Over an eight hour period there were exhibits, demonstrations of folk crafts, folk songs and folk dances at the Camp Hill Capital City Mall of the Hess Brothers' Department store complex, whose manager Sue Turner, cooperated in the planning of this event. Mrs. Evelyn Prep of Frackville, chaired the program with Joseph Makalonis of New Cumberland as coordinator.



Standing: B. Mikatavage, A. Brennan, M. Zelonis, E. Vaicaitis, E. Kosmisky. Seated: Rep. Goodman and E. Prep.

ST. MARY'S ANNUNCIATION CHURCH of Kingston, Pa. commemorated its Diamond Jubilee this past October. In attendance at the commemorative Mass were Bishop J. Carroll McCormick of the Scranton Diocese, and Msgr. John F. Ball of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. who delivered the homily. St. Mary's of Kingston came to life in 1902 after fire destroyed St. Casimir's Church of Plymouth, Pa., leaving the Lithuanians without a place to worship. Most of the manpower in constructing the beautiful baroque facades and Gothic arches was provided by Lithuanian miners idled by a strike. The Founding pastor was Father Vincent Kudirka. During the devastation wrought by Hurricane Agnes some years ago, floods nearly destroyed St. Mary's, but under the guidance and determination of its Pastor, Rev. Anthony Nor-kunas, the parishioners of St. Mary's reconstructed the church and hall, attesting to their determination. Congratulations!



The October 23rd Sunday Supplement Color Magazine of the CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER featured a story on that city's Lithuanian Community entitled "Mes Esame Tauta, Kuri Atsisako Mirt" We are a Nation that refuses to die. The article presented a brief look at the artistic and political activities that have drawn the Cleveland Lithuanian Community together, but dealt primarily with the current plight of Pranas and Algirdas Brazinskas and resistance against the State Department and its attempts to deport them, which has been centered in Cleveland. Most of the information from the article was apparently derived from conversations with Raymond Kudukis, Cleveland Utilities Director and Lithuanian political activist by Staff Writer and author of the article, Joseph Wagner.

Professor ALFRED E. SENN, of the history department of the University of Wisconsin is in charge of the program for the 1978 Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, among whose 4,000 members are some 30 American Lithuanians, both academic and non-academic personalities. On the editorial staff of its monthly magazine SLAVIC STUDIES, is a Lithuanian, Birute Lanys. The Convention will be in Columbus, Ohio, in October 1978. Prof. Senn is the author of EMERGENCE OF MODERN LITHUANIA, published by Columbia University Press in 1959. His father is Swiss, his mother Lithuanian.

The story of JOHN JODWALIS, tool and die maker born in Chicago and his sister LORRAINE, a secretary in the hospital service, was recently given considerable publicity through the efforts of their sister, SISTER BERTHA JODWALIS, a nurse with the Sisters of St. Casimir in Chicago.

In 1930, Sister Bertha's mother and five of her children went to Lithuania on a visit. She and her father remained in the US. Three of the children returned home before the outbreak of WW II, while the mother and two children found themselves trapped once the War began. In 1945, the brother and sister were banished to Siberia. Though they insisted they were American citizens, they were given life sentences in the labor camps. After eleven years of hard labor, they were pardoned as part of Khrushchev's liberalization program. They were allowed to return to Lithuania, but were told that the Soviet Union looked upon them as Soviet, not American citizens. They could not return to America. Appeals by the State Department on their behalf have proven futile.

Sister Bertha visited Lithuania a few months ago to see her brother and sister and their families after many years of separation. She also tried but was denied permission to see Leonid Brezhnev on her relatives behalf. All parties concerned hope that the case will be mentioned during the Belgrade talks, and that this American family will be united once again.

K OF L LAB

The November 21, 1977 issue of PEOPLE magazine, a weekly publication with a wide circulation, included a photo story on Lithuanian seaman, SIMAS KUDIRKA. The story reviewed the sailor's November 1970 attempt to jump a Soviet trawler to a US Guard Cutter for political asylum, his subsequent return to the Russians by the Americans, his trial and sentence in Soviet Lithuania and his return to the US through the sustained efforts of Lithuanian Americans. Simas Kudirka is today, the superintendent of a 63 unit apartment building in the Bronx, N.Y., which he co-owns with another Lithuanian. The made-for-TV movie about his story will be aired in January and an autobiography entitled FOR THOSE STILL AT SEA, will be published in April.

CHESTER BOGUSHAS of Waterbury, Ct. has been elected as Governor-Elect of the New England District of Kiwanis International at the District Convention in Hartford.

Bogushas, who is expected to be chosen as Governor at the 1978 Convention, has served as district treasurer for Kiwanis in New England since 1975, and as Connecticut Lieutenant - Governor in 1972-73. He has been a Kiwanian for 14 years and served as President of the Waterbury Kiwanis Club in 1970. A native of Lithuania, he has been practising public accounting in Waterbury since 1960.

(GARSAS).

JANUARY

21 IID Choir's Annual Benefit Dinner & Dance, Pakstas Hall, Chicago, Ill.

FEBRUARY

4 C-29, Newark, ANNUAL SQUARE DANCE, Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Newark, N.J.

5 IID ANNUAL "MEMORIES OF LITHUANIA" DINNER DANCE, Martinique Grand Ballroom, Chicago, Ill.

MARCH

5 IID ST. CASIMIR DAY COMMEMORATION, 10:30 Mass - Nativity BVM Church, followed by Brunch, K of L Bldg., Chicago C-112, Hosts.

AUGUST

16-21 65TH NATIONAL K OF L CONVENTION, Syracuse, N.Y., C-140, Syracuse, Hosts.

SEPTEMBER

23 EASTERN SEABOARD "BAL TIC FESTIVAL", Garden State Art Center, Holmdel, N.J.

AUGUST, 1979

66th National K of L Convention, Chicago, Ill.

KofL KALENDAR



OFICIALUS SKYRIUS

OFFICIAL NEWS

To all Ritual Chairpersons, Council and District Inclusive:

A reminder — to be sure to send in the original of all First and Second Degree applications to the Supreme Ritual Committee. Copies may be sent to the District Ritual Chairpersons. Third Degree Applications are processed through the District Ritual Chairpersons with the Supreme Ritual Committee approval where necessary. Original copies of all Third Degree candidate applications are sent to the Supreme Ritual Committee by the District Ritual Chairpersons after the candidates have been presented with the Third Degree Medal. All Fourth Degree applications are processed through the Supreme Ritual Committee. Deadline date is July 15th in order for the applications to be approved in time for the National Convention. All applications should have the council seal. Remember this is an official document. Any Junior Knights who are awarded Degrees must be on file with the Supreme Ritual Committee.

The Supreme Ritual Committee

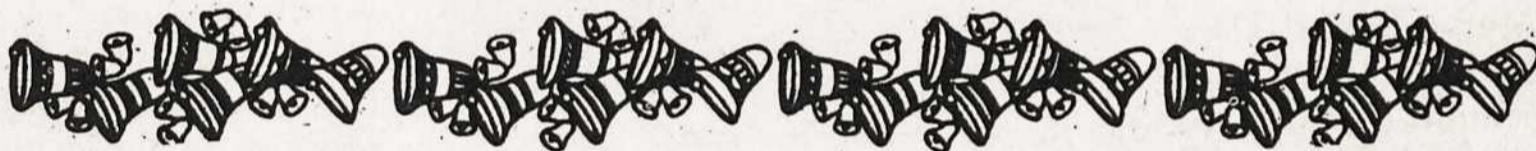
A National Cultural Committee Meeting was held on Friday morning at the 64th Convention in Providence last August. One of the points discussed at this time was the need for a compiled list of craftsmen and teachers.

It was decided that the National Cultural Committee would print such a list if the information could be attained.

If anyone in your council knows how to make straw ornaments, decorate Easter eggs, or can teach any other Lithuanian crafts such as weaving, woodcarving, etc., please let us know about them. We would be willing to include names of teachers of the Lithuanian language and speakers about Lithuanian subjects on our list. The list will be printed in April 1978.

Please mail the name, address, council number, and craft to:

Aldona Ryan
National Cultural Chairman
6591 McEwen Road
Centerville, Ohio 45459



NEŠIOKIME VYČIŲ ŽENKLĄ



Įvairios draugijos turi savo ženklus, kuriuos nariai nešioja, kad kiti galėtų atpažinti jų draugiją. Kolumbo vyčiai muvi žiedus. Masonai ir kai kurios moksleivių brolijos daro tą patį. Švento Vardo nariai švarkelio atlake nešioja savo ypatingą segtuką. Mes, Lietuvos vyčiai, neatsilikdami turėtume nešioti savo ženklą. Mes esame garbinga draugija. Mūsų šūkiai, gairės ir siekiai yra patys aukščiausi — Dievui ir Tėvynei. Mūsų rikiuotėse rimtai dirba susipratę,

išmintingi katalikai lietuviai. Mes esame Lietuvos didvyrių ainiai, paveldėję garbingą ir brangų tėvų palikimą. Nesidrovėkime viešai pasirodyti kas esame, nešiojame Vyčio ženklą!

Iki šiol dar nėra oficialiai nustatyto vyčio ženklo, tačiau yra atitinkamų segtukų, kurie žymi, jog jį dėvįs yra Lietuvos vytis.

Neseniai įvykusiame Baltijos tautų sambūryje, Washingtono, pamatęs dėvintį vyčio segtuką, galėjai drąsiai tiesti ranką ir pasi-

sveikinti vytiškai, žinodamas, kad čia ne estas ar latvis, bet tikras lietuvis.

Pašalietis, pastebėjęs vyčio ženklą, galėtų pasiteirauti, ką tas reiškia. Tai proga kitataučius supažindinti su Lietuva ir L. vyčiais. Visa tai galėtų paskatinti ir kitus įsijungti į vyčių veiklą.

Įsigykime vyčio ženklą ir garbingai jį nešiojime!

Stasys P. Vaičaitis
C-103

BALTIC HUMAN RIGHTS RALLY

Rima J. Janulevicius

Two years ago, thirty-five countries signed the Helsinki Agreement. The treaty provided for basic human rights in all nations, however, not all the signatories are implementing those rights. The most flagrant abuses are occurring in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

To protest such treatment in the U.S.S.R., a joint coalition of the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania), organized a demonstration of Baltic peoples. Approximately 4,000 people, many of them young, participated in the Baltic Human Rights Rally Saturday, Sept. 24, by the Lincoln Memorial.

Invocations at the Rally were read by Bishop Vincentas Brizgys, Father Ralph Duffy, Reverend Rudolf Troost, and Reverend Alexander Veinbergs. The White House had a representative at the Rally — Mark L. Schneider, Deputy Coordinator for Human Rights, Department of State.

Some speakers at the Rally included: U.S. Senators Pete V. Domenici (R-N.Mex.), Robert Dole (R-Kan.), Howard M. Metzenbaum (D-Ohio), Jack Schmitt (R-N.Mex.), Congressman James J. Blanchard (D-Mich.).

Russian dissidents Pavel Litvinov and Andrei A. Amalrik also spoke on the lack of human rights within the Soviet Union. Lithuanian dissidents Simas Kudirka, Kęstutis Jokubynas, and Aušra Jurašas also participated in the rally.

The Rally was timed to take place two weeks before the Belgrade Conference, which should review accomplishments/regressments since the signing of the Helsinki Agreement. With this in mind, a resolution was drawn up and accepted by rallyers. An excerpt from the resolution follows:



Simas Kudirka chats with a Committee member.

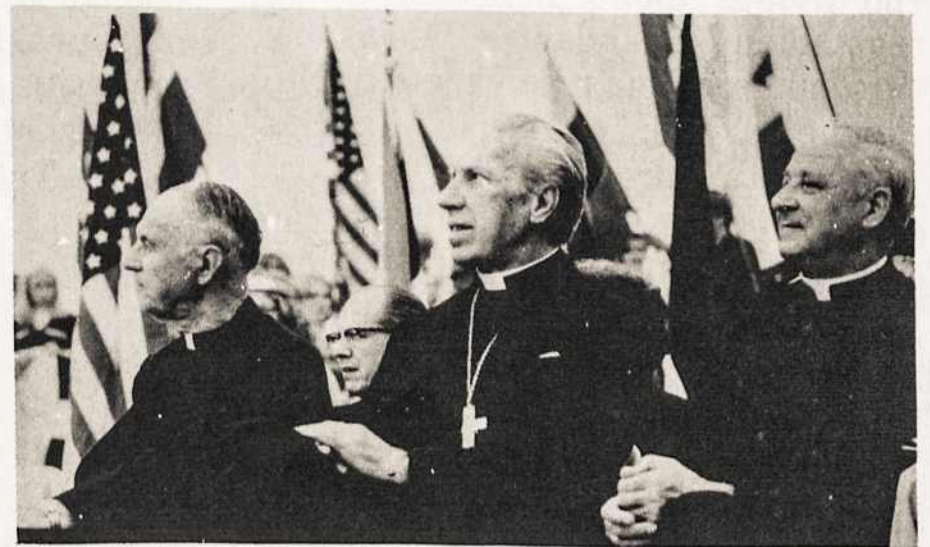
"We urge that the United States delegation (to the Belgrade Conference) demand:

1. Religious freedom in the Soviet-occupied Baltic States,
2. Reunification of all separated families,
3. Freedom for all political prisoners, and
4. Implementation of self-determination in the Baltic States by restoration of independence for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania".

As the rally officially ended at 3 p.m., the young rallyers organized march to the Soviet Embassy. About 300 people joined in chanting "Free the Baltic States now!" and "What do we want? Freedom! When do we want it? Now!"

Following a slight skirmish with the local police at Thomas Circle, the chanters settled across the street from the Soviet Embassy, singing national anthems. At one point, they burned the Soviet flag and then dispersed, hoping that the U.S. and the rest of the Western World will deem their efforts worthy and will demand the U.S.S.R. to live up to their signed promise of basic human rights in the Baltic States.





Entertainment and solemn moments at the Baltic Human Rights Rally.



Committee members and guests at Baltic Human Rights Rally Reception, Sept. 22, Rayburn House office Bldg., Washington, D.C.



ALGIRDAS KAČANAUSKAS AMŽINYBĖJE

Netikėtai pasklido žinia, kad Algirdas Kačanauskas mirė. Tai buvo graži 1977 m. gegužės mėnesio 9 diena. Dar geg. 7, šeštadienį, jis grojo vargonais Apreiškimo parapijos bažnyčioje, Brooklyne, o po dviejų dienų nebealsavo. Tą šeštadienį, aukodamas Mišias, išgirdau dejavimą prie vargonų. Nuskubėjęs ten, pamačiau kančios suspausta, drebanti bei sunkiai kvėpuojanti Algirdą. Jis prašė parvežti jį namo, bet ne į ligoninę. Ten jis paimsiąs vaistų, ir priepuolis praeisias.

Namuose gydytojas prirašė vaistų ir nereikalavo vežti į ligoninę. Sekmadienį skambino telefonu ir sakėsi jaučiasi sveikiau: "Girdi jau mano geresnį balsą... dar galėsiu gyventi". Sekmadienį visi meldėmės jo intencija. Atrodė, kad krizė praėjo. Niekas netikėjo, kad jau rytoj, pirmadienį, 5 val. p.p. Algirdas atsidurs pomirtiniame pasaulyje — amžinybėje. Iškeliaavo vienas, niekam neištaręs paskutinio žodžio ir nesugiedojęs paskutinės giesmės...

Šiuo aprašymu nekartosiu vis Algirdo gyvenimo kelio, kuris buvo plačiai ir sumaniai aprašytas redaktorės Loretos "Vytyje", minint jo 50 metų sukaktį. Aš tik pateiksiu savo keletą asmeniškų atsiminimų, ypačiai kiek mudviem teko bendradarbiauti ir bendrauti Apreiškimo parapijos ir New Yorko lietuvių veikloje.

Pirmą ir gilų išpūdį Algirdas padarė man, savo a.a. tėvo Aleksandro Kačanausko nuoširdžiu ir pagarbiu atsiminimu. Jis gerbė savo tėvo atmintį. Kai sužinojo, kad ir man teko mokytis pas profesorių Aleksandrą Kačanauską Kauno Metropolijos Kunigų Seminarijoje ir kai paminėjau jo kilumą ir gerą profesoriavimą, tai Algirdas didžiavosi savo tėvelio tokiu atsiminimu. Jis nepamiršdavo savo tėvelio, ir mirties metinėse užsa-

Kun. Stasys Raila

kydavo šv. Mišias ir prašydavo choristus bei kunigus pasimelsti už jo sielą.

Mano su Algirdu susitikimas ir bendradarbiavimas buvo gana artimas ir draugiškas. Aš aiškiai mačiau jį silpnos sveikatos, skausmų surakintą ligoninėje, ir per 6 mėnesius pavėžindamas bažnyčion, jo žaizdotos kojos neleido vaikščioti. Teko atviriau išsikalbėti



gyvenimo ir sveikatos klausimais bei sudėti įvairių įvairiausių veiklos planų. Jis pasakydavo rimtą žodį mano adresu, o aš savo ruožtu draugiškai pasisakydavau jo veiklos klausimais. Jis dėl to niekuomet neparodė savo nepasitenkinimo, o padėkodavo už patarimus. Keletą sykių mudviejų pokalbis galėjo lemti visą jo būsimą gyvenimą. O kaip nuoširdžiai išsireiškė vienu jam svarbiu rūpesčiu: "Kaip patarsi, taip ir darysiu". Ir tuo atveju išlaikė savo pažadą, nors nebuvo lengva jo taip jautriame reikale.

Prieš pat mirtį teko aptarti susidarancius sunkumus, nors iš šalies ir nebuvo tai žinoma. Nebijojau ir aš su juo giliau svarstyti savo problemų. Ne sykį viens kitam gelbėdavom patarimais ir, jei reikėdavo, konkrečiai pagelbėdami.

Tikėjimas ir pamaldumas buvo gilus jo sieloje. Tai išreikšdavo malda, o ypačiai rožinio kalbėjimu. Aš jam sakydavau, kad Tu esi laimingas, nes kasdien dalyvauji trijose ar keturiuose Mišiose, giedi, tai reiškia dvigubai meldiesi. Tau danguje vieta bus gera, nes juk ir angelai ir šventieji gieda Dievo garbei. Nusišypsodavo jis.

O kai turėdavo pusvalandį laiko bažnyčioje, tai kalbėdavo rožančių neleidamas veltui laiko, mąstydavo tikėjimo paslaptis. Atlikdavo išpažintį ir su savo choristais metinėse šventėse ir choro bendros Komunijos dieną pirmasis ateidavo priimti Eucharistijos. Pagarbiai kalbėdavo apie religiją ir naują liturginę tvarką. Niekada tuščiai nekritikuodavo Bažnyčios mokslo, bet stengdavosi suprasti. Religinis koncertas Apreiškimo parapijos bažnyčioje buvo kasmet rūpestingai rengiamas, nors toli choristams gyvenant nebūdavo lengva praktikuotis ir prisirengti. Jautrus būdavo, jei kartais ne taip sugiedodavo, kaip norėjo. Bendrai jis sudėjo savo širdies ir gabumų didžiausią dalį į bažnytinį giedojimą. Tiesa, būdamas vargonininku, turėjo progos ir pareigos, bet jis vadovavosi rimtu religinės muzikos parengimu ir išpildymu. Sumažėjus parapijiniam chorams, Algirdas ugdė ir stiprino Apreiškimo parapijos chorą. Neretai iš toliau atvykę lietuviai gėrėdavosi jo vadovaujamo choro iškilium giedojimu. Religinėse ir tautinėse šventėse jis ypatingai ir didingai pasireiškėdavo bažnyčioje ir koncertų salėse.

Ilgoką laiką, nors ir su pertrau-

komis, Algirdas sirgo ir gydėsi ligoninėse ir namuose. Cukrinė liga paveikė visą organizmą; kojos buvo dėl to žaizdotos. Tik po jo mirties sužinota, kad jo gyvybė laikėsi kaip ant siūlo; galėjo staiga nutrūkti. Taip ir įvyko. Artimieji, brolis, duktė, newyorkiečiai giliai išgyveno Algirdo staigų atsiskyrimą. Jautriai atsisveikino su Algirdu daugybė lietuvių ir ne lietuvių: Apreiškimo parapijos choras, muzikai, vyčiai, Lietuvių Bendruomenė ir Apreiškimo parapija. Velionis su visais maloniai sugyveno, visiems talkino savo talentingomis rankomis ar savo balsu bei kalba lietuviškose sueigose. Marytės Shalins laidotuvių namuose netilpo atsisveikinantių daugybė. Visi meldėsi ir sudėjo gražiausią atsiminimų vainiką. Ypačiai artimai ir gyvai atsisveikino Dr. Jokūbas Stukas, kurs ilgą laiką su juo bendradarbiavo ir pasikvietė jį amžinan gyveniman savo šeimos kapuose. Jis buvo palaidotas geg. 13, Arlington, N.J., po iškilmingų pamaldų Apreiškimo parapijos bažnyčioje ir jautraus kun. Lado Budrecko pamokslo.

Algirdas Kačanauskas buvo talentingas muzikas. Jau 12-os metų berniukas mokėsi muzikos tėvo ir patyrusių mokytojų vadovaujamas. Vėliau muzikos studijas gilino Kauno Konservatorijoje. Patekęs Vokietijon, studijavo muziką Stuttgart Aukštesnėje Muzikos Mokykloje. Kiek įdėjo sielos ir pastangu

asmeniškai tobulindamasis groti — pianinu, vargonais, smuiku, tik jis vienas galėtų pasakyti. Savo muzikos talentu daugiausiai ir pasireiškė visą gyvenimą. Jaunas mokinys grojo mokyklos orkestre. Vėliau suorganizavo vyrų kvartetą, kuriam dirigavo ir su kuriuo koncertavo visoj Lietuvoj ir per Lietuvos Radiją. Būdamas tremtyje, Vokietijoje, suorganizavo Lietuvių kultūrinį ansamblių "Sietynas", kurį sudarė choras, solistai, orkestras ir tautinių šokių grupė. Su šia menine grupe jis plačiai koncertavo lietuviams ir ne lietuviams. Jo ansamblis laimėjo medalį tarptautiniame festivalyje Heidelberge. 1951 m. atvykęs Amerikon Algirdas tuoj kibo į muzikos veiklą. Jis suorganizavo orkestrą ir vyrų kvartetą "Aitvarai", su kuriuo aplankė Amerikos ir Kanados lietuvius. Jis ilgą laiką vadovavo "Rūtos" ansambliui, N.J. Šis choras pasižymėjo savo populiarumu rytinėje Amerikoje, ypačiai savo plokštelėmis "Sing Along in Lithuanian". Jis 1952 m. puikiai surengė ir įvykdė Dainos Festivalį Harrison, N.J., ir 1964 m. vadovavo lietuvių dainų šventei Pasaulinėj Parodoje New Yorke. Taip pat surengė didingą religinės muzikos koncertą Washington 1966 m.

Apreiškimo parapijos istorijoje su choru ir savo mielu darbu jis pelnė žymią vietą. Apreiškimo parapijos choras buvo vienas stipresniųjų chorų ne tik parapijoj,



A.K. su J. Stuku kalba per radiją.

bet ir lietuvių visuomenėje. Kur tik reikėjo lietuviams atstovauti muzika, daina, Apreiškimo parapijos choras, vad. Algirdo, buvo pirmasis. Nepaisydamas savo silpnos sveikatos ir nelaukdamas jokio asmeniškio atlygio, jis skleidė lietuvių dainą ir giesmę. Planavo išleisti giesmių ir dainų plokštelių seriją. Gaila, kad staigi mirtis neleido įvykdyti to gražaus plano.

Algirdas nuoširdžiai veikė su kolegomis muzikais, vargonininkais. Jis daug savo energijos ir sielos įdėjo į Muzikos Žinių žurnalo redagavimą ir leidimą; pirmininkavo Lietuvių Vargonininkų - Muzikų Sąjungai. Lietuvių Bendruomenėje jis buvo mielu ir uoliu bendradarbiu. Nedaug lietuvių parengimų praėjo be jo puikių akompanavimų. Algirdas taip pat talentingai ir nuotaikingai vadovavo parengimuose, vaišėse, susirinkimuose. Sugebėjo pasakyti taiklų ir prasmingą žodį. Algirdas vertino Lietuvos Vyčių organizacinius siekius ir jų lietuviškumą, todėl jis buvo vytis ir noriai dalyvavo vyčių veikloje, jų parengimuose. Jis buvo kuopos 29 nariu, Newark, N.J. Dosniai jis rėmė ir Vyčių Mokslo Fondą.

Algirdo balsas ir talentas buvo girdimas radijo klausytojams, nes ilgą laiką talkino Dr. Jokūbai Stukui "Lietuvos Atsiminimų" radijo programose. Nutilo balsas. Nebėjuda Tavo, Algirdai, pirštai prie vargonų ar piano, nebediriguoji chorams, bet Tavo meilė muzikai, dainai bei giesmei ilgai skambės mūsų lietuviškose širdyse. Ilkis Viešpaties ramybėje.



N.J. Rūtos Ansamblis.

JUNIORS CORNER

(ed. by A. M. Kassel)

JRS. C-100 AMSTERDAM

At our October meeting, Miss Gene Gobis substituted for Mrs. Regina Kot, and Mrs. Sadie Mikolaitis, Michael's mother, helped her. We started the meeting by reciting the "Hail Mary" in Lithuanian and then Michael Mikolaitis gave his report on the National Convention which he attended in Providence, R.I. Gerry Drenzek and brother, Alan, who were also there added their comments.

We wish to thank our parent council for inviting us to attend the September meeting at Mr. and Mrs. Sargalis' summer home in Lake Galway. We had a wonderful time. Michael was asked to tell about his experience at the National Convention. The Sakals, Lisa, Bill, and Tim, Michael Mikolaitis, Gerry Drenzek, the Rimkunas' Mary, Stanley and Joe made the meeting.

We learned the days of the week in Lithuanian. Miss Gobis asked Alan Drenzek to tell about his



Gerry Drenzek and Chip Newberry, Detroit, Mich., renew acquaintances in Providence.

Lithuanian stamps which he was given by a friend from Dayton, Ohio.

We heard a little about the Darius and Girenas stamp. They were two American-Lithuanians who attempted to fly to Lithuania. They never reached the country as their plane crashed and they were killed.

Pictures of Kaunas were shown to us by Miss Gobis.

President Lisa Saikal asked the juniors to suggest ways of putting some money into our treasury. She asked us to come up with some ideas for our next meeting.

We sang the Happy Birthday song to Gerry Drenzek and we had cookies and soda to celebrate.

At our next meeting we will have election of officers.

The Amsterdam Juniors

JANUARY [SAUSIS] MEANS BACK TO SCHOOL [MOKYKLA] AFTER CHRISTMAS VACATION:

Good morning!
Please read
Read!
please translate
thank you very much
please write
attention, please
once more
all together
that's all
who wants to read?
he is giving his brother a book
the pencil is on the desk
I am a student (university)
my father is a teacher
my sister is a pupil (elementary)
she prepares her lessons
so long!

labas rytas
prašau skaityti
skaitykite!
prašau išversti
ačiū labai
prašau rašyti
prašau dėmesio
dar kartą
visi kartu
tai viskas
kas nori skaityti?
jis duoda broliui knygą
pieštukas yra ant stalo
aš esu studentas
mano tėvas yra mokytojas
mano sesuo yra mokinė
ji ruošia pamokas
iki pasimatymo!



**Read! —
Skaitykite!**

JRS. C-17

SO. BOSTON, MASS.

The Juniors held their meeting on Oct. 25 at their clubroom. Elections were held for the coming year. The new officers are: Pres. Adele Martus, Vice Pres. Regina Venis, Secy. Paula Keaney, Treas. Claire Yuškauskas, and Correspondent Vytas Jurgela.

Our members attended the Halloween party in Providence with C-103 Jrs. Many of our Jrs. were planning to attend the Novemberfest. They also worked hard for the success of St. Peter's Parish Christmas Bazaar.

Vytas

Vyčiai Veikia Council Activities

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



NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

C-30 - WESTFIELD, MASS.

Our council held their monthly meeting on Oct. 4 at the Church parlors. The Nominating Committee presented a new slate of officers for the coming year, with the following elections: Pres. Bernard Minkus, Vice Pres. Helen Suzor, Rec. Secy. Nellie Lord, Corresp. Secy. Marcia Rogers, Treas. Benedict Coach, Vytis Scribe Louise Renaud, Lith. Affairs - Marcia Rogers, Lith. Culture - Joan Laframboise, Ritual - Kunagunda Coach 1 yr., Nellie Lord 2 yrs., & Adeline Kwapick 3 yrs., Public Relations - Stanley Sileikis, Sgt-at-Arms Arthur Lord & Alfred Laframboise. Rev. Daniel R. Foley is our council's Spiritual Advisor.

Congratulations are in order for Mary Minkus who is now President of the New England District.

Two of our members, Ann & Joseph Sabonis, have celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Congratulations and much happiness.

Our former pastor, Rev. Vincent Puidokas, has retired to a rest home in Putnam, Conn. We wish Father good health and God's blessings. We welcome to our parish Rev. Daniel R. Foley from Holyoke, Mass.

Louise Renaud

C-135 - ANSONIA, CONN.

Congratulations to Ann Barauskas who was elected Pres. of Our Lady's Guild and also to Anthony Chepulis who is now Pres. of St. Anthony's Men's Club. Ann is our council's Secretary, and Anthony our President. Another livewire is Jack Tyson who was elected to his second term as Pres. of St. Anthony's Parish Council. If you have a top job to fill, just ask a K of L'er.

Father Ray gave a short talk on the merits of the Knights of Lithuania during church services and posted in the church bulletin this message: "Even though the K of L, strictly speaking, is not a parish organization, it has always been a big help to our parish life. It is generous in its financial contributions, whenever it is able; it plays an important part in the spiritual life, and its members are certainly very active in all the other parish activities. An S.O.S. to the K of L always results in a quick response from its members. It deserves our parish support'.

Congratulations to Millie & Walt Stachowicz on the new addition to their family, a son-in-law. Their daughter Arline exchanged wedding vows with Thomas Palmer in a 10:30 A.M. ceremony on Sept. 24 at St. Anthony's Church. Father Ray performed the ceremony. Arline and Tom are Assistant Managers for Western Airlines in Los Angeles, Cal.

At our October meeting it was voted to donate \$100 towards purchasing a tree to be planted on our church property in memory of all our deceased members.

Lil & Stan Twerian are grandparents for the second time. Their daughter-in-law, Irene, and son, Wayne, gave their son Wade a new

sister, Karen Ann, to play with. Karen was born Oct. 6.

The council held a Bingo in the church hall on Nov. 19. This was the council's first attempt and everyone was delighted with the good attendance.

We regret to report the death of council member Eva Yurevich on Nov. 11. We are very much saddened by her passing, and ask that she be remembered in your prayers.

INO

C-103 - PROVIDENCE, R.I.

Congratulations to our newly elected officers! Bertha Stoskus, our hard-working, efficient incumbent President has agreed to continue in office for another year. First V.P., in charge of Jrs., is Ruth Savickis Krecioch. Second V.P. is John Walaska, with Betty Osmanski Ciuryla as Secy., and Tony Gudcauskas serving as Treas. Elected as Trustees were Irene Landanski and Biruta Ciocys Cunningham. Lithuanian Affairs Chairman is Vito Kapiskis and Ritual Committee Chairman continues to be John Stoskus.

We are delighted that one of our Juniors, Francis Kapiskis, was awarded one of the NED Scholarships. Best wishes as you continue your studies! C-103 was well represented at the NED Fall Convention in Bridgeport, Conn. Among those attending were Bert & John Stoskus, Tony & Helen Gudcauskas, Irene & John Walaska and Betty Ciuryla. They came away with many good ideas which should prove helpful with council efforts this year.

The NED Fall Festival at Maironis Park in Worcester included a number of enthusiastic workers from Providence. With much of the

proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund, all were more than willing to contribute what they could. The Juniors featured the sale of Christmas pins, while Ruth Krecioch breathed a sigh of relief as the last of the "Lithuanian Connection" printed shirts were sold. (A number had been left over from the National Convention).

At an impressive ceremony, many of our Juniors recently received their First Degrees. They are: Rimantas Saulenas, Francis Kapiskas, Joseph Kairys, Dana Kairys, Andrew Kairys, Laurie Bader, Donna Mencunas, and Peter Grybas. Other recipients were Katherine Krecioch, Marcilla Krecioch, Anne Krecioch, Sharon Coughlin, Gaja Valiuskis and Linus Gervelis. John Stoskus, our Ritual Committee Chairman, was in charge of arrangements. A fun event for the Juniors was a Halloween party where the members came as people they would like to be. Was that Farah-Fawcett Majors, - the "Fonz?"

Father Anthony Jurgelaitis, our National Spiritual Adviser, attended a Supreme Council Meeting in October in Brooklyn, N.Y. Our council was also represented at the religious concert for the beatification cause of Archbishop George Matulaitis, MIC, held on Oct. 23 at St. Casimir's Church in Worcester, Mass.

Regina Krecioch is spending an exciting and adventurous school year in France. She is living with a French family not far from Paris, where she is continuing her college studies. "Bonne Chance, Reggie! We are all secretly envious.

Our wish for all of you - we hope '78 will be just great!

B E Double C

C-10 - ATHOL-GARDNER, MASS.

Our council elected the following slate of officers at the October meeting held in St. Francis Parish Rectory, Athol: Pres. & Vytis Corresp. William Wisnauskas, V.P. Howard Beaudette, Treas. Nellie Melaika, Fin. Sec. & council photo-

grapher Lennie Davidonis, Rec. Sec. Charles Genaitis, Telephone Chairman Blanche Genaitis, Cultural Chairman Brone Wisnauskas. Rev. Justin Steponaitis is our Spiritual Advisor. Mrs. Michelina Marsh of Gardner was admitted as a new member, joining our council through the efforts of Blanche Genaitis. Nice having you, Micky! Father Steponaitis treated the members to coffee, cider and doughnuts after the meeting, with Julia Strach serving. Thanks, Father!

Member of the Month - We introduce to Vytis readers, Mrs. Pauline Rogers, a reinstated member of two years. Pauline Tamašunas Rogers was born and raised in Athol and received her education in the Athol school system. She joined the K of L at an early age, married, brought up a daughter, and to our good fortune, rejoined the group. Pauline never refuses to give a hand in the kitchen at our various functions. She is a quiet, very gracious individual. She belongs to the St. Francis Women's Guild and the newly-formed Parish Choir. Pauline, thanks for coming back to the K of L.



Mrs. Pauline Rogers, C-10, Athol-Gardner, Mass.

Attending the National Convention in Providence from our council were Fr. Steponaitis, Margaret Senk, and Blanche & Charles Genaitis.

Stan Perekslis, owner of Stan's Super and member of our council, recently was the speaker at the Athol Rotary Club's Thursday noon dinner meeting. His topic was "The History of the Retail Food Business"

Charles Genaitis was elected 3rd Vice Pres. in charge of Srs. at the NED Fall Convention held in Bridgeport, Conn. Congratulations, Charlie..

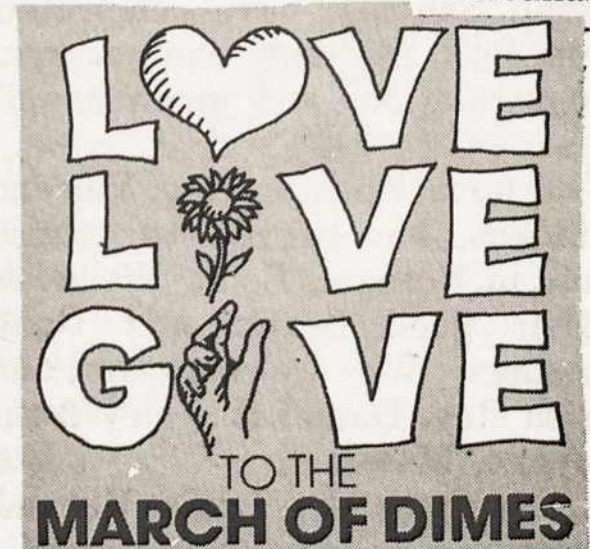
Bill Wisnauskas was recently elected Recording Secretary of the Lithuanian Country Club in Gardner.

The Gardner News carried a nice write-up on the Baltic Human Rights Rally held in Washington, D.C.

Andrew Akstin spoke on his recent trip to occupied Lithuania at our council's October meeting. From Andy's talk, the Russians have not eased up on the human rights issue and himself was forced to leave the country before his trip was scheduled to leave.

Fr. Justin Steponaitis was General Chairman of the 5th Annual Religious Concert held in St. Francis Church on Sept. 25, which featured the Pioneer Valley Brass Band, Albin Tamosiunas: flute and bassoon solo, soloist Benediktas Povilavičius and organ recital, Daniel Mazaika. A near capacity crowd enjoyed the concert and the refreshments following in the parish hall. Thanks again. Father Stepie.

Vincukas





ILLINOIS-INDIANA DISTRICT

ILLINOIS-INDIANA DISTRICT

The committee and officers of the IID have completed plans for our annual "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet to be held Feb. 5, Martinique Grand Ballroom. Everyone is most enthused and highly complimentary on our choice for the Award of Distinction recipient - Algerd Brazis, formerly of the Metropolitan Opera, for his efforts on behalf of Lithuanian culture and music. Mr. Brazis is a multi-talented gentleman who deserves recognition!

A Board Meeting was held at the K of L Bldg to introduce the committee heads selected by new Pres. Frank Zapolis and to acquaint the new officers with the IID calendar for this K of L year.

Dr. Leonas Kriaučeliūnas, newly appointed by Natl. Pres. Tony

Miner as the K of L representative on the National Board of the Lith.-American Council, was selected as one of the ALTAS Vice-Presidents.

Best wishes for a successful K of L year to the following newly-elected council presidents: C-36 Sabina Klatt; C-82 Mildred Jagiella; C-112 Albert Zakarka; and Chicago Seniors Juozas Laurinaitis.

Congratulations to the new K of L Choir officers. Reelected as President was the energetic Estelle Rogers; Vice-Pres.'s Birute Pumputis, John Auksciunas and Stanley Cepas; Secy. Loretta Grigaliunas; Treas. Juozas Juska; Trustees Al Zakarka and John Buskus; Sgts-at-Arms Veronica Bilitavicius and Peter Gagle; Music Coordinators Terry Strolia and Naste Bilitavicius; and Lith. & English Publicity, Emilija Pakalniskis and Frank Boris, resp.

Another successful Rummage Sale, under the chairmanship of Frank Svelnis and the direction of the K of L Bldg. Trustees, was held in October. The proceeds of these sales go directly to the reduction of the building debts. Everyone's assistance and donations were most appreciated. Next sale - March 1978!

The Knights of Lithuania members in the Illinois-Indiana District all expressed their grief and condolences to the family - both personal and K of L - of the late Rev. Paul Juknevičius. The funeral Mass was held at his home parish, Immaculate Conception Church and the principal Mass celebrant was His Excellency Bishop Vincentas Brizgys. Other concelebrants were Msgr. D. A. Mozeris, Canon Vaclovas Zakarauskas, Canon Ignas Urbonas, Rev. Frank Kelpas, and Rev. John Valutis. In attendance were many, many priest friends of Fr. Paul, along with John Cardinal Cody, Archbishop of Chicago, and Polish Bishop Abromovich, as well as a filled church of friends and relatives. The K of L was well represented: C-36 Pres. Sabina Klatt; C-112, Emilija Pakalniskis; Seniors, Kazimiera Petrulis; IID, Irene Sankus; K of L Choir, Faustas Strolia; along with many other K of L members. Jerome Jankus of C-36, a close personal friend of Father Paul, was one of the pallbearers. Father Paul will truly be missed by the Knights of Lithuania as he was not only the Spiritual Advisor of C-36 and a supporter of all K of L activities, but the confidant and advisor to us all.

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Pictured at the K of L Bldg. in Chicago: K of L Choir Pres. Estelle Rogers, Rev. Adolfas Stašys, Monica Kasper and Gerry Mack.



Steve Manst with Honorary Members Eleanore Laurin and Albin Manst at an IID function.

C-112 - CHICAGO, ILL.

President Al Zakarka made the following committee appointments: Membership - Estelle Rogers; Ritual - Ruth Dagus; Lith. Publicity - Emilija Pakalniskis; "Vytis" - Irene Sankus; English Publicity - Gerrie Mockus; Courtesy - Monica Kasper; Social - Julie Zakarka and Gerrie Mockus. He personally will continue to handle the chairmanship of the important Lithuanian Affairs Committee.

To John (Whity) Evans, Jr., we all extend our congratulations on chairing another most successful (both financially and socially) "Candlelight Ball". The proceeds of this dinner are for the benefit of Holy Cross Hospital.

Congratulations to Joseph & Nijole Nauseda on both the birth of their first child and on their new home in Oak Forest. Darius Nauseda arrived in October and mother, father and baby are all doing well.

Council condolences to the family of Phil Krause who was not only an active C-112 member, but also an officer and active member of Nativity B.V.M.'s Holy Name Society and Usher's Club, the Cardinal Mundelein Chapter of the Knights of Columbus, and the Darius-Girenas Post of the American Legion. Phil's death was very sudden, and we extend our sympathies to his wife.

To fellow K of L members from C-36, we extend our condolences on the death of their Spiritual leader, Canon Paul Juknevicius. We shall all miss him!

The Zakarka Rathskeller was the site of another fun party for our council members, at which we all had fun at a post-Halloween Party. As usual, Al and Julie were terrific hosts.

Our council will have the privilege of hosting the Illinois-Indiana District's St. Casimir's Day Commemoration. The event will be held on Mar. 5 with 10:30 A.M. Mass at Nativity B.V.M. Church and brunch with program following at the K of L Building. Pastor

and IID Spiritual Advisor, the Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas, expects a large attendance of the K of L and other Lithuanian organizations.

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C-36 - CHICAGO, ILL.

On Feb. 15th, 1st and 2nd Degrees were given out at the Nativity Hall after the 112 council meeting. Congratulations to our members who received the Degrees. First Degree — Peter Belionas and Stanley Gimbut... Second Degree — Henry, Sabina and Rosemarie Klatt, Irene Norushis, Rudy Stachyra.

Feb. 26th... our "Heart of My Heart" Dance was a great success. Mr. & Mrs. Richard Harding, our chairpeople, did a tremendous job. Everyone enjoyed and danced to Wally Tenclinger and the Casuals. \$350.00 was given towards the "Burning of the Mortgage" Fund. Special thanks go out to our chairpeople and all the workers who made the dance so wonderful. Our gratitude goes out to those who donated gifts and delicious cakes. We were so happy to see our members and guests. Don't forget Feb. 25th, 1978 — our second "Heart of My Heart" dance. Circle your calendar now and don't miss dancing to the music of the Monumentals at the Darius-Girenas Hall — 44th and Western. Again Richard and Marilyn Harding will be the Chairpeople.

In March, many of the members went to the St. Casimir Mass and Brunch in Gary — Council 82 hosted.

Congratulations to Tony and Kay Wallunas who received their Third Degree. Our Sgt-at-Arms, Napoleonas Sapkus died June 9th. We were saddened to have lost one of our members, who so dilligently carried the flag with honor. He participated and helped at all of our affairs. March 1976 — St. Casimir's day, he was honored with Jerome Jankus — Our Sgt-of-Arms.

Our Captive Nations Parade took place down State Street in the middle of June. A tragedy happened — John Yerkes of Council 112, who has the float and helps with the driving, was hurt in the morning and was brought to Little Company of Mary Hospital. His beautifully prepared float will have to wait until next year to be in the parade. Mrs. Kazimiera Petru-liene, Tekla Stroga and Sabina Klatt were dressed in their Lithuanian costumes and sat on the Convertible. The Dancers carried the L I T H U A N I A signs... They did such a wonderful job.

July 4th was the picnic of the Illinois-Indiana District and it turned out to be a success. It was great to see our Council 36 members working and helping out.

Mrs. Kazimiera Petru-liene, Jerome Jankus, Antanas Brokelevicius, and Sabina Klatt went to



K of L members attend reception for Chicago Alderman Kenneth Jaksy (C-112 member). Pictured: Albert Kerelis, 13th Ward Alderman John Madzurk, Irene Sankus, Alderman Jaksy, Estelle Rogers, 13th Ward Committeeman Michael Madigan, Stanley Molis, and Peter Vilekis

Kenosha, Wisc. for Captive Nations Day. Jerome carried the Vyčiu Flag. Sabina was called up to stand in for the President of the Ill. Ind. District of the Knights of Lithuania.

August was our Moonlight Picnic and it turned out to be a very enjoyable evening. Everyone loved dancing to Tony Wallunas's Concertina music. Thanks to him and to Anthony Samoska who helped also with playing that wonderful instrument.

The August Convention held in Rhode Island was attended by Ann Marie Kassel, Lucille Kilkus, Theresa Strolia and Faustas Strolia. Congratulations to the Supreme Council newly elected officers from our council. Ann Marie was re-elected as 1st Vice President, Theresa Strolia is on the Scholarship Committee and Faustas Strolia — Preservation of the Lithuanian Language Committee. We were proud that Lucille Kilkus received her 4th Degree —

Our first meeting in September after our vacation was a busy one as so many things were discussed. It was just great to even get together.

Ann Marie Kassel and Terrie Strolia went to the rally in Washington. September 8th was the Šiluva Motina Marija Procession at Nativity BVM Church... there Jerome Jankus carried the Vyčiu flag. A few of our members participated also.

At October meeting, we had election of officers — a big congratulations is in order for Sabina Klatt — President, Lucille Kilkus — Vice President, Mrs. Kazimiera Petrulis — Seniors, Ann Marie Kassel — Secretary, Vince Samoska — Treasurer, Rosemarie Klatt — Financial Secretary, Anthony and Kay Wallunas — Trustees, Bernice Pupinik — Corresponding Secretary, Theresa Strolia — Lithuanian Affairs, Helen Skudra — Ritual, Jerome Jankus — Sgt.-at-Arms...

October 29th — Our Beloved Spiritual Advisor Rev. Canon Paul Juknevicius journeyed to eternal

life. His good works will live on — he will never be forgotten. He loved the Knights of Lithuania and we surely loved him. Eternal Rest grant unto him Oh Lord and let perpetual light shine upon our never to be forgotten Spiritual Advisor.

C-82 - GARY, IND.

Our meeting of Sept. 18 was opened with a prayer for the special intention of our member, Mrs. Barbara Čiplys, who is gravely ill in a Minnesota hospital. Thereafter, a warm welcome was extended to Mr. Juozas Janušaitis who was introduced as a new member of our council. We're glad to have you with us.

A fall family dance was held, which included a buffet supper. In charge of the buffet was Mrs. Ursula Tavaras. Others of the committee included: Mrs. Alex Špokas, Mrs. Joseph Navickas, Mrs. Birutė Ruzga, Mrs. Lewis Zook, Mrs. Marie Ruzga, and Mrs. John Jagiella.

Our group also attended the Christmas Around the World - Lithuanian Day on Dec. 17 at the Museum of Science and Industry. Mr. Vladas Ruzga was chairman of the outing.

Election of officers was held, and the coming year will retain many of the same.

We lost our secretary, Linda Ruzga, to the Purdue Campus in Lafayette, Ind., and also our treasurer, Walter Primer, to the Indiana State Campus in Terre Haute. Richard Janušaitis is also unavailable to continue as financial secretary. We thank all three for a job well done in reorganizing our council and serving conscientiously.

The new officers are as follows: Secy. Miss Julie Zook, Treas. Miss Christine Tavaras, and Fin. Secy. Monica Jagiella. Repeat officers are: Pres. Mildred Jagiella, Vice Pres. Richard Mačys, Vytis Corresp. Rita Tavaras, and Draugas Corresp. Marie Ruzga.

RT



MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT

C-79 - SOUTHFIELD, MICH.

A Harvest of Happenings emerged from our meeting on Nov. 2, and to top it all, the weatherman co-operated. Indian summer was in the abundance!

Various reports of our Fall Festival were received from Joe Yakstys, Frank Zager, Tony Dainus, Bertha Janus, Sophie Zager, Violet Panavas, Helen Tucker, Ruth Grasha and last but not the least, Chairlady Maggie Smailis.

Just imagine having choice beef strips, baked ham, corned beef, salami, cheese, bagels and all homemade baked goodies! That's the "deal" we had for our Social following the meeting on Nov. 2, hosted by Vicki Chepelonis & Violet Panavas. For those who have not been attending our K of L meetings, they're missing some good socials. Many thanks to Vicki and Violet. Also, Labai Ačiū to George & Marie Kase who were our congenial hosts at the October meeting.

We welcomed a new member, Ann Kremblese. We hope to see her a great deal in the future, joining in our various activities.

It was good to see John & Julie Belickas at the Nov. meeting after months of absence due to the illness of both.

Betty & Frank Petroski have also been through a nightmare year, in and out of hospitals and secluded for long periods at their home, recuperating from surgery and other persistent illnesses.

Our Catholic Actions Chairlady, Helen Tucker, has also undergone some corrective surgery. We hope

all our sick members mend rapidly and stay well in '78.

Several members who celebrated a distinctive landmark in their birthdays in October were Julia Medinis & Vicki Chepelonis. Both look excellent. Ilgiausiu Metu!

A traveling subject for the Frank Zagers was a southern sojourn following the Dayton MCD Retreat. They toured Disney World "until their feet barked," visited Sarasota, St. Petersburg, Tampa and other Florida sights. Their trip was highlighted by a lovely visit with Sophia & George Leskosky, who are members of '79 but now making their home in sunny Winter Haven. (Unfortunately, the Zagers & the Martin-Milius clan could not get together to see them in St. Pete's due to Dana Ann leaving for a baton-twirling contest in Ocala, Fla.). Hopefully, they hope to see Dorothe and others next time around in Florida.

On the way home the Zagers stopped in Atlanta for a visit with Sophie's aunt, Mary Vincunas and family. Ms. Vincunas is also our member, but making her home in Georgia.

Sophie Bitner has done a lot of commuting recently between Dayton and Detroit. Her daughter Peggy has moved in the Ohio area where hubby was transferred in his job.

That jet-setter, Ona Walls, has returned from a delightful trip to

England where she visited a friend and took in the sights.

"Daug Sėkmės" to Elizabeth Paurazas who was re-elected on Oct. 8 as member to the American-Lithuanian Council in Chicago.

Congratulations to Alice Burt (Savickas) on becoming a great-grandma again, the 11th great-grandchild. Little Robert Murdock was born Oct. 23. We hope Alice welcomes a twelfth addition before too long.

Our condolences to Marie Kase & family upon the death of her dear sister, Vanda Valuckas, who was buried in Chicago. Amžina Ramybė tesuteikia jai Gerasis Dievulis!

Just a reminder: This columnist does not like to seem repetitious, but if you have failed to send in your dues, do so NOW. This will enable Fin. Secy. Joe Chaps to "close his books" and give our council 100% membership participation. See you at the meeting!

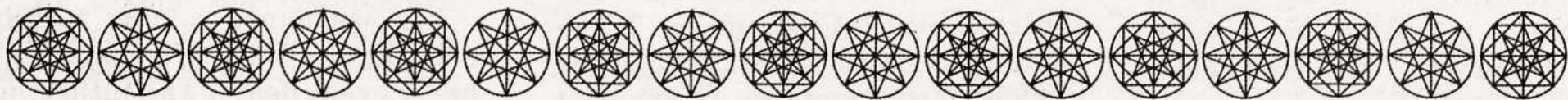
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C-96 - DAYTON, OHIO

Members attended our Annual Election Night Dinner on Oct. 29. This event, which is covered by the council treasury with a c.o.d. bar, has certainly become 'traditional' for the members. Chairman Ada Sinkwitz is heartily thanked for taking on the planning for this year's dinner. We also thank her committee consisting of Albina Wallis, Alice and Mary Petkus,

Mary Lucas, Kathy Sinkwitz and workers Mike J. Petkus, Al Wallis, Ray Steinbrunner and Kitty Prasmantas, for they lightened some of the work for Ada. The food was prepared by our own caterer, Elaine Pacovsky. Aldona Ryan helped with some of the table decorations. To all, Labai Ačiū!

Congratulations to our newly elected officers: Spiritual Adv. Rev. Walter Katarskis; Pres. Mary Ann Blum; 1st Vice Pres. Christina Mantz; 2nd Vice Pres. Elinor Sluzas; Treas. Sally Miller; Fin. Sec'y Frances Mikalauskas; Rec. Sec'y Mildred Steinbrunner; Trustees George Mikalauskas and Walter Lastoskie; Sgt-at-Arms Joseph Ryan and Joseph Mantz; Religious Comm. - Eloise Berczelly and Patrick Smiley; Lithuanian Affairs - Laima Rastikis and Alice Petkus; Cultural - Aldona Ryan; Ritual and Vytis - Fran Petkus; Bulletin Ed. - Elaine Pacovsky; Historian - Harley Karns; Social Activities - Judy Petrokas, Rita Ambrose, John & Joyce Berczelly, and Harley Karns; Ways and Means - Eleanor Mantz and Susan Smiley; Sports - Katherine Sinkwitz, Chris Mantz, Michael & Audrey Blum; Condolence - Ada Sinkwitz and Mary Lou Lastoskie; By-Laws - Joe Ryan, Stanley Kavy and Ray Steinbrunner; Telephone Squad - Helen Vaitkus; Sąryšis Rep. - Joseph Gecas and Aldona Ryan. We wish all a most successful, productive year ahead. To our out-going officers and committee



**KALĖDŲ ŠVENTĖS TEATNEŠA TYRO
DŽIAUGSMO IR NAUJIEJI METAI
STIPRYBĖS IR VILTIES**

**COUNCIL 25
CLEVELAND, OHIO**



PEACE

members, we thank you for a very busy past year.

The election of the new officers and committee persons was conducted by the very competent Stanley Vaitkus. Stan was aided by our Sgt-at-Arms Joe Ryan and Joe Mantz.

Our craft classes had been in full swing preparing for the annual Christmas Bazaar at the Winter's Tower in downtown Dayton. This year most of the work had been done in the homes of our members. Hosting the various projects were Joe & Aldona Ryan, Al & Albina Wallis, Joe & Eleanor Mantz, Arman & Venice Grantham, and Walt & Mary Lou Lastoskie. Ada Sinkwitz and Mary Lucas were co-chairmen for the bazaar.

Your Vytis correspondent, since becoming Chairman of the S.C. Ritual Committee, had the pleasure of attending my first Supreme Council Meeting. This took place in Brooklyn, N.Y. on Oct. 22. I was most impressed with the amount of business that is covered. Special thanks to Phil & Marian Skabeikis for hosting the meeting and supper that followed. A special Ačiū to Marian for 'hauling' said writer to the meeting from my sister's residence on Atlantic Ave. To longtime friends of mine from C-12, N.Y., John & Evelyn Belevich, I



During MCD Convention in Dayton, Ohio, Rev. Walter Katarskis, Pastor of Holy Cross Parish and Spir. Advisor of C-96, being presented the 4th Degree medal by SRC Chairman Fran Petkus and SRC member Sophie Zager.

thank them for 'bed and board' during my overnight stay. Another Daytonian was in the area the same time, so we flew home together. Eugenia Gečas was visiting her ill mother in Long Island and a brother.

Get well wishes are sent to Joe August and Donna Jean Dailey. Congratulations to John & Joyce Berczelly on the birth of their first child, Amy Marie. The proud grandparents, a first for them, are John & Eloise Berczelly.

Good to hear that Fran Vangas' train-car accident was no more serious than it was. Charles

Vangas had a good write-up in the Bob Batz column of the Dayton Daily News. Even though Charlie specializes in German food, he did not fail to see that his Lithuanian background was well mentioned.

Very belated items - Congratulations to Jerry Podoyak for winning a 10-day all-expenses-paid trip for two to Disney World, Fla. Jerry's award was the result of showing the largest increase in sales for McDonald's in a 3-state area. We were happy for Jerry. He has been most generous to our Jr. Knights and the council many times in the past.

Congratulations to Casimir Walusis who recently was elected to the Northwest Dayton Priority Board.

Deepest sympathy is extended to Stanley Kavy on the loss of his brother, Joseph. May his soul rest in peace.

FBP



Rev. Walter Katarskis leading MCD members in prayer at the Shrine of the Three Crosses during annual District Pilgrimage in Dayton, Ohio.



Annual visit by C-96 Dayton, Ohio members to Calvary Cemetery, praying for deceased members of their council.



MID ATLANTIC DISTRICT

C-109 - GREAT NECK, N.Y.

Stanley Simanovich and Mary & Tony Kober attended the Testimonial Dinner tendered by New York C-12 to their very loyal member Al (Monk) Monckawitch, on the occasion of his 40th anniversary of K of L membership. They report having an enjoyable evening, renewing old acquaintances, especially with the guest of honor, as well as meeting new friends. It was their pleasure meeting Vincent Mascola who is so dedicated to Our Lady of Vilna Church on Broome St., N.Y., and is working so hard to keep this beautiful landmark church Lithuanian and active. He is wished much success in all his endeavors.

Our new Financial Secretary very efficiently collected '78 dues during the October meeting. This was before the letter was received

from the Natl. Fin. Secy. advising that dues had been increased. It made for a few hurried phone calls.

Four years ago, the Zukas family won a sweepstake contest which was conducted by the Nestle Co. During Thanksgiving week, the company flew them to Disneyland, Cal. for a week's vacation, all expenses paid. It is ironic that 4 years later, to the exact day, Joe's employment assignment is with Nestle Co., and he flew to Syracuse, N.Y. on business, again at their expense. While on his way to Fulton, N.Y., Joe looked over the "Upstate in '78" site for the Natl. Convention. Looks good!

Happy birthday to Mary Kober who will be celebrating on Jan. 4, to Jo Zukas on the 14th, and Al Wesej on the 17th. Good health and a good year ahead.

Our sincere sympathy to Jeanette & Jim Kovalsky on the death of his dad, Joseph, on Oct. 25. Remember him in your prayers. Jim is the son-in-law of Charles & Millie Rogers.

We toast with champagne all our K of L friends, wishing them good health and much happiness in the New Year!

C-110 - MASPETH, N.Y.

The council opened the fall season with a Dinner-Dance in the Transfiguration Parish hall. It was chaired by John Adamenas and Lottie Ulrich. It was a great reunion of old and new members.

At our September meeting, 14 new members were enrolled. We welcome Valerie Drissel, Mr. & Mrs. Yanush, Mary Danowitz, Mr. & Mrs. Oliva, Lillian Moatvila, Mr. & Mrs. Albert Kuchinkas (Brooklyn), Kazimieras Vainius, Mr. & Mrs. Nelson, Vincent Kuchinkas, and Fr. Casimir Pugevičius. At a subsequent meeting, 3 more new members were enrolled: Mary Baltruš, Helen Jamber, Helene Zidar. We are pleased our council is growing in membership.

Results of our yearly elections are as follows: Pres. Marian Skabeikis, Vice Pres. John Adamenas, Secy. Philip Skabeikis, Treas. Nellie Skabeikis, and Fin. Secy. Mary Kulis. Chairmen for committees are: Public Relations - Ann Sidtis, Lith. Affairs - John Adamenas, Cultural - Helen Yocis, Ritual - Valerie Drissel, and Jr. Counselor - Bill Sidtis. Bill Sidtis was formally graduated from the Jr. ranks into the Regulars. It's our pleasure, Bill!

Meetings of the council will be held in the parish hall every first Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m.

The council officially opened Human Rights Week by having a prayer service at Transfiguration Church, Maspeth, on Oct. 15 at 7:30 p.m. Father John Pakalniskis presided. Father Casimir Pugevičius and the Lith. Affairs Committee coordinated the event.

Two of our members participated in the MAD Concert at Our Lady of Vilnius Church, N.Y.C.



Laimingu

Nauju Metu

COUNCIL 102
Detroit, Michigan

Daniel Skabeikis played a violin composition and his brother Phil accompanied him on the organ.

Congratulations and best wishes to Jean & Ed Kuchinskis who recently celebrated their Silver Anniversary. John Sidtis Jr. of Nesconset has been granted a Pre-Doctoral Training Fellowship from the National Institute of Mental Health. Sincere good wishes and much luck.

Philip Skabeikis was chairman for our Third Annual Kūčios which was celebrated on Dec. 18 after the 11 a.m. Mass in Transfiguration Church hall, Maspeth. Twelve traditional foods were served. After the family prayer service, the K of L Choir sang. Ann Klem was invited again and demonstrated the art of creating Christmas ornaments, Lithuanian-style. The icing on the cake was the community singing of Lithuanian and English Christmas carols led by Mary Kulis, accompanied on the piano by Philip Skabeikis.

AS

C-100 - AMSTERDAM, N.Y.

Peter & Charlotte Sargalis invited the members to their summer home at Galway Lake for our September meeting. Our Juniors were also invited.

Pres. Tony Radzevich commenced with the meeting upon the arrival of the majority of the members. Minutes were read by Secy. Nellie Liberis and reports were given by the various officers and committee chairmen.

Gene Gobis reported on the National Convention in Providence. The other delegates, Sophie Olbie, Annacetta Guzielek, Rev. Baltch, Tony & Ann Radzevich, Josephine Redding, Helen Radzevich, Isabelle McKinley, Regina Kot, and the alternates, Peter Hayes, Mildred Whelly, and Frances DiBart, all added their remarks to Gene's report. Our council once again received an award for attaining the largest percentage of new members in its category. Congratulations, gang!



C-100, Amsterdam, N.Y. members standing by Galway Lake during council's Sept. meeting at the Sargalis summer home. L. to r: Charles Karbus, Charlotte Sargalis & Jr. member Mary Margaret Rimkunas. Seated: Host Peter Sargalis & Jr. V.P. Michael Mikolaitis.



Amsterdam, N.Y. members - Mildred Whelly giving a hand to hostess Charlotte Sargalis at the Sargalis' summer home.

Annacetta Guzielek should be given acclaim for her part in receiving this award.

Jr. Vice-Pres. Michael Mikolaitis reported on the Junior Convention. Both he and Gerry Drenzek won Conventionship Awards.

The main attraction after the business sessions in Providence was Peter Hayes' suite. In fact, Pres. Frank Petrauskas and his council members from Syracuse took the suite over for one evening where they campaigned to get the delegates to vote for Syracuse for the next Natl. Convention. Shouting "Upstate in '78" was heard as the council's promotional slogan.

Frances DiBart and Sadie Karbus were appointed to the nominating committee to present a slate for the election of officers held at our October meeting.

We were reminded by Father Baltch that ten years ago in September we were fortunate to have Father Anthony Grigaitis come to Amsterdam as an assistant at St. Casimir's Church. That certain Lithuanian song, "Ilgiausiu Metu" was loudly sung to Father Grigaitis in honor of this occasion. (Father also had a birthday in September).

Bon Voyage wishes went to Father Baltch, Father Grigaitis, Betty Kuzmich and Mary Stanionis, who were making their September trip to visit Lithuania.

The food and refreshments were great, a most excellent variety. Thanks a million to our hosts Peter & Charlotte Sargalis, and also to all members who contributed to the smorgasbord.

Father Bernard Gustas united Peter Luzinas (Edna & Al's son) and Martha Kaszuba in the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony on July 2

Sadie & Charles Karbus flew Hawaii for their 25th wedding anniversary.

Tony & Ann Radzevich, Annacetta Guzielek, Mildred Whelly, Helen Dylong, Josephine Redding, Helen Radzevich, and Fran DiBart spent a few days in Cape Cod following the National Convention. Tony and his crew stopped in Brockton to see the Sisters of Jesus Crucified on the way home. Gene Gobis and Don Holleran visited the Sisters prior to the Convention.

Karen Schell and Gene Gobis will never forget Diane Schell's

bridal shower. A few of the girls went for a boat ride on the Great Sacandaga Lake, and through a most freakish accident, Karen and Gene took an unexpected dip in the water.

We wish Stanley Rimkunas a speedy recovery from his recent surgery.

Our deepest sympathies to Regina Hartvigas and family in the recent loss of her uncle, Stanley Lekutis.

Smile & Sparkle

C-143 - PITTSTON, PA.

Under the able leadership of Spiritual Advisor Peter Alisauskas and Pres. Peter Menchinsky, our council, which is less than a year old, has been making rapid strides

from infancy to adulthood. Our members are a congenial, cooperative group, proud of their heritage, and are putting forth every effort to keep the organization moving. We also have our neighboring councils, especially C-74, to thank for their moral support and guidance in easing our growing pains.

On Aug. 14, our group journeyed by bus to Lakewood Park where they were duly impressed with the 63rd Annual Pennsylvania Lithuanian Day festivities.

Regretfully, we were unable to send delegates to the National Convention in Rhode Island. We were delighted, however, that Ann Challan placed second in the membership drive, and our President, Peter Menchinsky, received a

Special Mention award. Ann was thrilled with her prize, a beautiful table-sized Wayside Shrine, which was officially presented to her by Eva Kazokas of C-74 at our Sept. 13 meeting.

After weeks of anxious preparation, our first official social event, an "Old Tyme Lithuanian Nite" held Sept. 23, was a complete success. The advance sale of tickets resulted in a capacity crowd. Despite inclement weather, our fellow Vyčiai from St. Clair, Minersville, Forest City and Scranton, attired in their colorful Lith. costumes, braved the rain and hazardous driving conditions to join with us in celebration. The specialty of the evening - delicious Lith. foods, which took days of preparation, we consumed in a matter of hours.



C-143 Pittston, Pa. "Old Tyme Lithuanian Nite" Committee Members.

1st row (l to r): Grace Kazacavage, Agnes Kishel, Jule Farrell, Jack Piragas, Helen Piragas, Rev. Peter Alisauskas, Ann Challan, Peter Menchinsky, Anne Zarzecki, Mary Timak.

2nd row: Al Chepalis, Leo Butsavage, Dorothy Banas, Marion Chepalis, Rosalie Kizis, Anna Walatkas, Marie Louck, Annamarie Sewatsky, Helen Butsavage, Alena Miskinis, Onofrio Orlando, Charles Markala.

3rd row: Joseph Tuncavage, George Burdett, Paul Patrick, Patricia Casale, Mildred Walsh, Eleanor Stiroh, John Wisnosky, Mary Makalusky, Adam Makalusky, Mary Burdett, Alberta Walsh, Mary Ann Grableski, Frances Orlando and Nellie Bayoras.

Absent when the photo was taken: Eleanor Bellanco, Genevieve Dajnowski, Agnes Kay, Frances Evans, Genevieve Bartashunas, Adele Menchinsky, Helen Wisnosky, Julia Atmonavage, Frances Kaslas, Carol Kizis, Annamarie Moniak, Casimir Kizis, Sr., Casimir Kizis, Jr., Michael Timek, Paul Lauck, Charles Dajnowski, Charles Moniak, Joseph Grableski, Anthony Casale and Prof. Bronis Kaslas.

Community singing, and dancing to the music of Bill Salus & His Smoothies, made for an evening of gaiety and good fellowship which we will long remember. Honorary Chairman Father Alisauskas, Chairlady Ann Challan, and Co-chairmen Helen & Jack Piragas and their committees deserve special kudos for the time and effort expended in preparing for this event; but most of all, we are grateful to those wonderful people who braved the elements to support us with their presence.

While a respite from activity was seemingly in order after our "big event", there was more work to be done in keeping with our aim to promote and support Lith. cultural activities, so without hesitation we agreed to sponsor a booth at the Ethnic Festival held at a nearby armory from Sept. 29 thru Oct. 1.

There was no stopping Chairlady Nellie Bayoras and her assistants until they begged, borrowed and donated enough items of amber, woven articles, books, photos and other memorabilia to fill two booths. The large Wayside Cross, loaned to us by St. Clair Council, resplendent in the center of the display, drew immediate attention to our booth. The collection of gintaras jewelry was magnificent; but the item which held most fascination was the "Raguolis" which Nellie brought home from Lithuania only a few days before. This two-foot tall cake (which most people thought to be a wax candle or ceramic Christmas tree) was hand-carried from Kaunas to the U.S. to ensure its safe arrival. Because it requires 90 eggs in its batter and takes a whole day of baking on a spit, the cake is only made for special occasions such as weddings, christenings and Feast Days. Other unique treasures Nell also brought home were baskets made of bread dough and cookies shaped like mushrooms, strawberries, hazelnuts and chestnuts. Širdingai Ačiū to Nellie and her assistants for an outstanding job!

At the festival, the combined



C-74 Scranton, Pa. member Eva Kozokas presenting a Wayside Cross to Ann Challan of C-143, Pittston, Pa. who was awarded the National prize for second largest number of new members enrolled in the 1977 membership drive. Rev. Peter Alisauskas is presenting the Special Mention award to Peter Menchinsky, Pres. of C-143.

choirs of Lith. churches in Wyoming Valley, under the direction of Prof. Vaclovas Romanas, with Nellie Bayoras as commentator, presented a lovely program of Lith. melodies which were well applauded by the large audience, many of whom hummed along and joined in the singing. Several council members participated in this group.

Joy over accomplishments in the short span of our existence was marred by sadness when death suddenly summoned two from our midst: Anthony "Chris" Bartashunas on Sept. 3, and Adam Makalusky on Sept. 24. Chris and Adam were staunch Lithuanians who participated in all parish affairs. Can't help thinking, "when the roll is called up yonder", Adam will surely give his usual response, "Čia!" "Amžina atils" to our dear departed friends, and to Jennie Bartashunas and Mary Makalusky, their widows, our deep and abiding sympathy.

One of our members, Julia

Atmonavage, recently took up residence in Maryland. We wish her well in her new location. Tegul laimė Jus seka, Jule!

Alena

C-3 - PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Members of the council have energetically and enthusiastically moved into their fall and winter schedule of activities.

We had good attendance at our September meeting held at the home of Tony & Alena Burch. From all of the stories and report of the National Convention given by Walt Svekla, Joe & Dianne Drumstas, Tony & Alena Burch and Leonora Balten, sure wish we all could have attended. Our thanks to Providence for hosting such a fine Convention.

Oct. 16 was the date of our 2nd Lithuanian Bazaar which was a great success. Because of the fine advertising job done by Dianne Drumstas, we attracted a large crowd which came and

lingered, obviously pleased with our efforts. In addition to all the Lithuanian articles, including records, a large collection of books, flags, Christmas cards, T-shirts and weavings offered last year, we added license plates, a fine selection of amber jewelry, a Christmas boutique, some homemade crafts, a plant booth, white elephant table, many home baked cakes and live accordian music. We also had a Tambola table, a cultural display and games for the youngsters. We're sure the high quality and reasonable prices at the bar and kitchen which served kielbasi, hot dogs, ausukes and bandukes pleased everyone. Alberta Weigand was the chairman for this affair and she did a good job in coordinating and expanding the bazaar. The people attending are so appreciative of being able to meet with other Lithuanians, and having the opportunity to purchase Lithuanian articles, that all of the hard work put into this endeavor seems more than worthwhile.

Agnes & John Mickunas hosted the October meeting which was well attended and enjoyed. We offer our congratulations and cooperation to the Council Officers elected at this meeting: Spiritual Advisor Rev. E. Wassel, Pres. Dianne Drumstas, Vice Pres. Joe Drumstas, Fin. Sec. Irene Ozalis, Rec. Sec. Margie Petronis, Treas. Walt Svekla, Trustees John Mickunas and Chuck Weigand, Cultural Com. - Joe Yanulaitis, Lith. Affairs - Alberta Weigand, Ritual - Lillian Greymas, Council Bulletin - Agnes Mickunas and Irene Svekla. We all got together on Nov. 12 for bowling and fun. Joe Drumstas took care of the arrangements. This could be the start of something big.

The Nov. meeting was held at the Petronis residence. Many important matters were up for consideration and a sociable evening was enjoyed by all.

All good wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!

Skumba

C-12 - NEW YORK, N.Y.

Thanks to the good people of the Mid-Atlantic District, a chamber concert preceded the Mass at Our Lady of Vilna Church on Oct. 23. Selections from Bach, Mozart and our own Čiurlionis were presented by a talented trio. Organist was Phillip Skabeikis, and Daniel Skabeikis and Ellen Grigaliunas handled the violins.

After Mass we entered the church auditorium which from this day will be known as the Rev. George Gurinkas Hall, in deep appreciation of the 35 years of faithful service to the parish and the community by our pastor emeritus.

The hall had a new look just for this occasion. There were no professional painters, just dedicated people who donated their services gratis. The Rembrandts were Joe Kscenitis, Vincent Mascola, Joe Sleder and Walter Yurkus. Distaffers with brushes were Anna Lukscha, Helen Matthews, Millie Pietz, Jovita Sleder and Helen Yurkus.

Many improvements and decorations can be seen throughout the hall. There is an impressive plaque

with the new and honored name the hall now has; stage and window curtains have been donated, courtesy of Mary York. The Liberty Lady also made an eye-popping cash contribution to the church and requested that no mention be made of her generosity. Mary and Millie Pietz were our council's delegates at the Providence Natl. Convention.

A replica of a Lithuanian way-side cross was presented to our Eucharistic Minister and C-12 member, Vincent Mascola, whose dedication to the parish is legendary.

As usual the ladies had a gourmet feast for all. K of L members of various councils shared the day with us. New Jersey was well represented, as were Amsterdam, N.Y. and even distant Chicago. We were honored and pleased to have Supreme Council officers in our midst. Spiritual Adviser Rev. Jurgelaitis attended, as did Vytis Editor Loretta Stukas and Natl. Pres. Anthony Miner.

Joseph Boley and Al Yatkauskas shared the MC duties and did an excellent job keeping everything moving along. It was truly a day to remember.

The vet



Relaxing at the Providence Nat'l Convention. (L to r): Ann Mitchell, C-52, Elizabeth, N.J.; Helen Kulber, C-41, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Mary York, C-12, New York; & Mrs. Kulber's sister, Beatrice Hoff of C-41.

C-29 - NEWARK, N.J.

At our October meeting the yearly elections took place and the following were chosen for the 1978 term: Pres. Kazys Sipaila, Vice Pres. Rose Zukauskas, Secy's Ann Abromaitis, Marge Brazaitis, and Mary Stonis, Treas. Eva Sharon, Lith. Affairs - Albinas Zukauskas, Cultural - Clement Bagdonavičius. Spiritual Director is Msgr. John J. Scharnus. The Nominating Committee consisted of Frank Vaskas, Adele Urban, and Viola Skripta.

Mary Stonis and Ann Bagdonavičius were delegated to represent Holy Trinity Parish at the meeting of parish councils in our area.

A group of our council members took off via plane for a trip to Hawaii on Nov. 8.

Chairlady Mary Stonis thanked the membership for their efforts in making our annual Dinner-Dance held in October a most enjoyable and successful event.

The Wanderer

C-140 - SYRACUSE, N.Y.

Our Sept. 16 meeting at St. Stephen's hall started the fall season off in good fashion. Much was on the agenda as we're going to be a busy council in the new year. Hosts for the meeting were Mildred & George Vaikness.

The Festival of Nations planning took the most time. The members voted to make and sell potato pancakes again, along with our famous mushroom cookies. Much time was also spent on preliminary plans for the "Upstate in 78" National Convention. The enthusiasm is beginning to build up.

Our council lost one of our charter members to Florida. Helen Mikelonis retired from General Electric, sold her house, and moved to Florida to be with her daughters. Among other things, Helen was the leader of our K of L Singers. She has a beautiful voice and is a hard worker. She will be very much missed. The members presented her with a nice gift, thanks to Agnes Salis, and we all

bid her a fond farewell. We know that Helen will be back in Syracuse in August because she's an avid golfer and will take part in the K of L Golf Tournament.

The Sutkus offspring staged a beautiful surprise birthday party for their mother, Veronica, on Oct. 8. Many members were in attendance and had a wonderful time. Veronica was well deserving of that big day as she is one fine person.

John & Veronica Sutkus were our delegates to the Mid-Atlantic Dist. Convention on Oct. 16. They reported having a fine time and noticed a lot of interest concerning "Upstate in 78".

That same evening Frank Petrauskas was Master of Ceremonies for the Captive Nation's Rally at LeMoyne College. There was a large turnout and good publicity was received from the media.

Our Oct. 21 meeting was held at St. Stephen's. Our hosts, due to a mental block of our President, were two couples - Walt & Agnes Salis and Vic & Helen Johnson. Well, at least we ate very well.

Speaking of good eating, there was plenty of it at the Lithuanian booth at the Festival of Nations on Nov. 5-6. Again, council members showed what a fine group of hard working people can accomplish. We used between 9 and 10 bushels of potatoes for our potato pancakes. That's a lot of potatoes to peel,



C-140 - Frying potato pancakes at Lithuanian booth, Syracuse, N.Y. Festival of Nations.

grate and mix up a batter. It was all done in Irene Petrauskas' kitchen. The demand was great for the pancakes. Most of the time we couldn't make them fast enough. The demand also was great for our mushroom shaped cookies. They are a good seller and each year are sold out.

The fine people who each contributed in his own way to that successful weekend were: Jack, Catherine, Steve & Mary Kay Brandt, Katherine Cravetts, Chris Czyz, Anne & Lee Guentert, John & June Johnson, Vic & Helen Johnson, Joe & Della Marcaitis, Dave & Holly Peterson, Frank & Irene Petrauskas, Walt & Agnes Salis, John, Veronica & Barbara Sutkus, George & Millie Vaikness, and Jack & Mary Zutant.

Many thanks to Dr. Peter Steponkus of Cornell University who exhibited his metal art works at our booth. Pete does a beautiful job and will have no problem selling his pieces.

Also many thanks to the Lazdynas Dancers of Rochester who performed so very well on Sunday evening.

Council members were saddened by the passing of the father of our Spiritual Advisor, Father Bernard Garstka, in September. Mr. Garstka lived in Philadelphia. May his soul rest in peace.

A warm welcome to the fold is extended to our newest members, Frank & Isabel Peterson (Petravičius) and Joan & Cecilia Petrauskas. The Petersons are former Syracuse residents now living in Connecticut. Frank, also, is a former president of Detroit, Mich. C-102.

Pusbrolis

C-144 - ST. CLAIR, PA.

September and October were busy months for the Anthracite council. The delegates that attended the National Convention in August, Bernice & Al Mikatavage, Stanley & Eleanor Vaicaitis, Anne Marie Lithkowsky, Florence Kolbuskie, Anne Panchari, Helen

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BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11207

Chesko, Mary Brennan, Alma Linder, Anne Lesky and Anne Wargo (representing the MAD) reported their first Convention was not only interesting but fun as well. They praised the Providence council for their excellent hospitality, and especially Stanley & Eleanor Vaicaitis who are former Providence residents and really showed them the city. They came away from their first Convention with many new friends and good memories.

At the September meeting new officers were elected: Pres. Bernice Mikatavage, Vice Pres. Bernard Terway, Corresp. & Rec. Secy. Anne Klizas Wargo, Fin. Secy. Anne Marie Lithkowsky, Treas. Nell Klizas, Trustees Adele Laurinitis and Clem Kosmisky. Spiritual Advisor is Father Al Bartkus. After the meeting, the Lithuanian Day Committee hosted a small celebration. A profit of \$1,000 was realized and sent to the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid.

Several members joined the Pittston council at their Old Tymer's Night on Sept. 23 and really enjoyed themselves.

Thirty-eight members, under the chairmanship of Joe & Pauline Martunas, went to the Baltic Human Rights Rally on Sept. 24. Joe and Pauline were excellent hosts. They supplied the lunch and all the signs for the rally. After a delightful day, the group attended Mass at the Cathedral, then all went into the Shrine where they sang "Sveika Marija". It was a beautiful ending to a good day.

At the October meeting, Msgr. Neverauskas installed the new officers.

Then came the big day! Under the very able leadership of Evelyn Prep and her husband Victor, - and

their committee, Anna Butts, Esther Bartoshus, Elsie & Clem Kosmisky, Stanley & Eleanor Vaicaitis, Margaret Zelonis, Anna Brennan, Bernice Mikatavage and Anne Wargo, - a very successful Lithuanian Day was presented at the Capitol City Mall in Harrisburg. The day began with a very good program emceed by Eleanor Vaicaitis. A citation from the Penna. State House of Representatives was presented to the group for this day. It was sponsored by Hess Bros. Dept. Store. Good Lithuanian food was sold, Annie Morgalis demonstrated her margučiai, Anne Lesky her straw ornaments, Anna Watson the baking of pyragas, Jerry Lapinsky his candles, Anne Morgalis presented her amber and doll collection, Frances Brillus her weavings, Stanley Vaicaitis showed slides on Lithuania, and the Kelmelis Lithuanian National Folklore and Dance Group of Baltimore performed. As a result of this very successful day, a new council is being formed in the Harrisburg area. Evelyn Prep is to be commended on a job well done.

Anne Klizas Wargo, Anne Marie Lithkowsky and Anne Panchari attended the MAD Convention in Kearny, N.J. on Oct. 16 where they renewed old friendships. Anne Wargo was elected Trustee of the MAD for 3 years.

Beginning Oct. 24, Msgr. Neverauskas, Father Bartkus, Father Jarusonas and Bernard Terway are conducting a 20-week course on Lithuanian language and history.

A Christmas Party under the leadership of Anne Cicioni was held with everyone having a grand old time. Best wishes to all for the New Year!

akw

**IN MEMORIAM**Please remember in your
prayers...

PHIL KRAUSE
Member C-112
Chicago, Ill.
Died Nov. 1977

EVA YUREVICH
Member C-135
Ansonia, Conn.
Died Nov. 11, 1977

**ANTHONY "CHRIS"
BARTASHUNAS**
Member C-143
Pittston, Pa.
Died Sept. 3, 1977

ADAM MAKALUSKY
Member C-143

Pittston, Pa.
Died Sept. 24, 1977
