

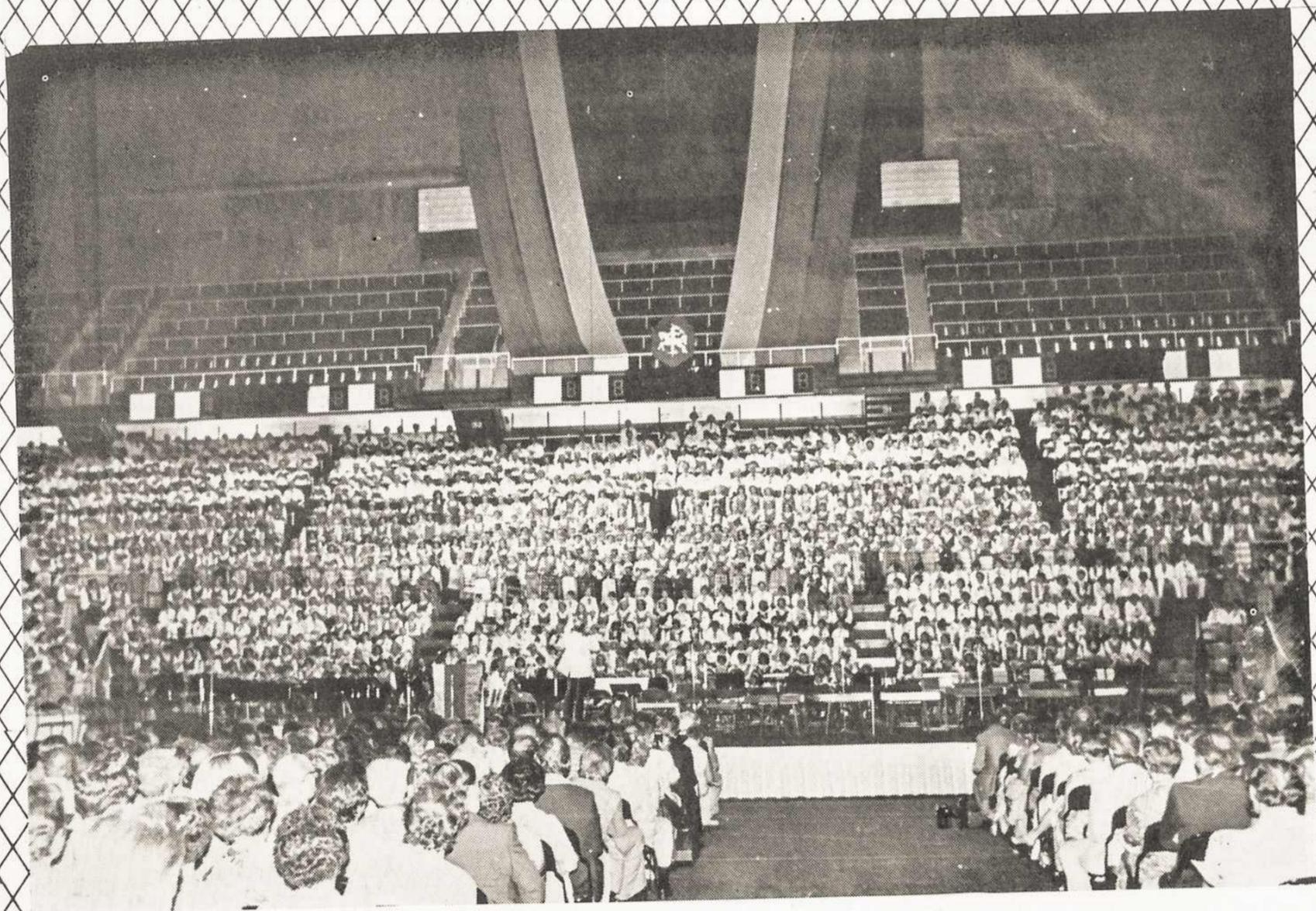
VOL. 64 NO. 7

RUGPIUTIS — RUGSEJIS
AUGUST — SEPTEMBER



VYTTIS

• 1978 •
The Knights
of Lithuania



Fifth Lithuanian Song Festival in Toronto, Canada

Photo by Linas Meilus

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AUGUST — SEPTEMBER

1978

VOL. 64 NO. 7

the KNIGHT
VYTIS

PUBLISHED BY THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

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VYTIS is published monthly Oct. through May, bi-monthly June-July and Aug.-Sept. by the Knights of Lithuania. Second class postage paid at Chicago, Ill. Subscription - \$8.00/yr.. All correspondence should reach the editors by the 5th of the month two months preceding the next issue. The editor assumes no obligation to return any material not solicited.

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OUR HERO: STANLEY BENDER

By Stanley Pieza



Some 15,000 cars a day cross the Stanley Bender bridge on the West Virginia Turnpike — one of the highest bridges of its kind east of the Mississippi. Many wonder who is Stanley Bender.

You can find Stanley Bender (Bendorius in Lithuanian) in his home in Fayette Heights, West Virginia. He is a modest man, of medium build, about 5-10 in height, and who looks ten years younger than his actual age of 67.

The spotlight — for which he never cared — was turned on Bender by the Darius-Girenas Post of the American Legion, founded by U.S. war veterans of Lithuanian ancestry, which celebrated its 45th anniversary on Sunday, July 9th, with a banquet in the Martinique Restaurant, Evergreen Park, a suburb of Chicago. Bender was the honored guest.

At the same time the famous Post also commemorated the tragic flight in 1933 of Lieut. Stanley Girenas and Capt. Stephen Darius for whom the Post was named, according to Stanley Rastutis, a past Post Commander and chairman of the 45th anniversary arrangements committee.

Stanley Bender is the man whom the state of West Virginia decorated with the Distinguished Service Medal, upon whom France bestowed its Croix de Guerre, and the United States singled him out for its highest recognition of bravery — the Congressional Medal of Honor. He is the only American Lithuanian to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In a recent interview in his home with this writer and his wife, Anne Pieza, Staff Sergeant Bender in a soft-spoken voice said, "Let's not talk too much about all these honors... there are so many more important things to discuss".

Bender never sought the limelight, but he loved his country. Because he loved his country enough to die for it, he had to tolerate cheering crowds straining to see a genuine hero of World War II.

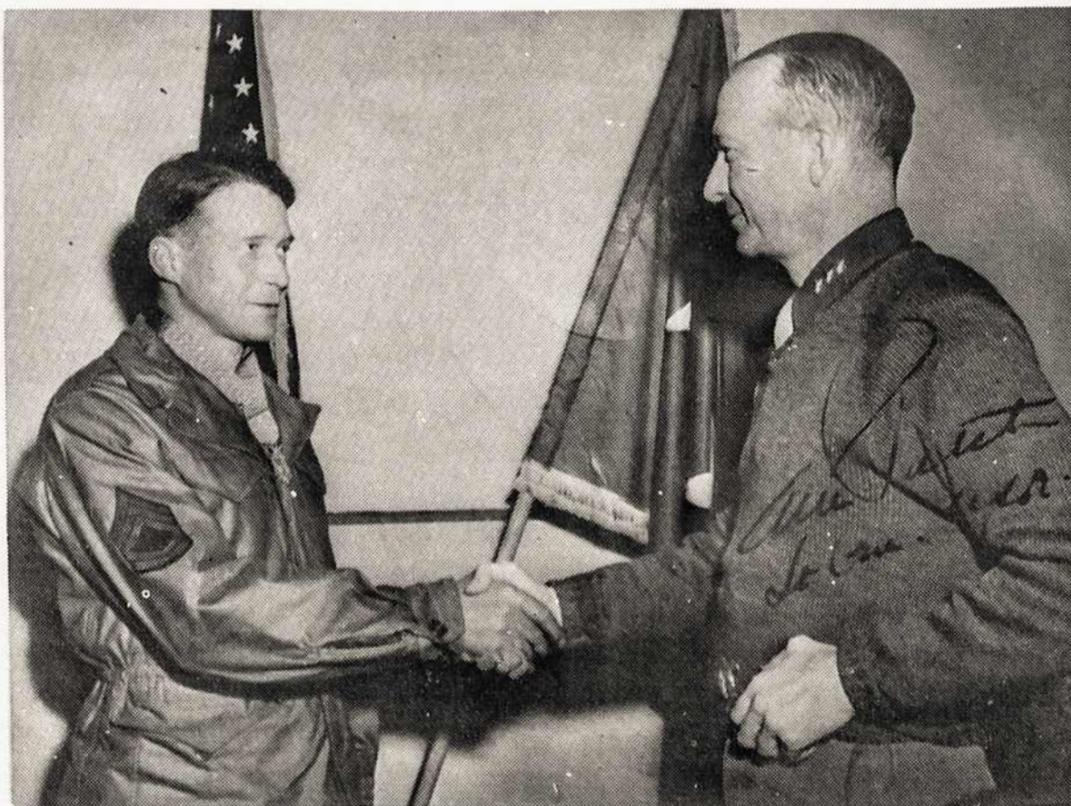
As an army sergeant, he fought with the 7th Infantry through North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and France — where he made history on August 17, 1944.

In highlighting his deeds the press called Bender a "One-Man Army".

It happened at La Laonde, France, where the Germans were holding up the advance of American troops. The document which came with Bender's Congressional Medal of Honor describes his heroic deeds as follows:

"Bender mounted a disabled tank to locate machine gun nests which were holding up troop advances. Standing erect for at least two minutes while bullets ricocheted off the turret at his feet, he located the nests on a knoll 200 yards away.

"While two squads covered his advance with rifle fire, he led his



T/SGT. Stanley Bender shaking hands with Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, Jr. Commanding Gen. U.S. 7th Army after receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor in France, Jan. 21.

own squad down an irrigation ditch under heavy enemy fire, losing four of his men during the first 50 yards. He made the last 40 yards alone without cover, facing small arms fire and a cascade of grenades. His bravery so inspired the other men, they swept forward in a wave, overwhelming a German strongpoint."

A veteran of seven campaigns, Bender said, "I had a lot of close calls during the hellish war, but so did a lot of other men. Something always brought me out of it". At times he has pain in his ankles, which he jammed on some long-forgotten battlefield. There is shrapnel in his chest.

Bender's wife Esther Marie, a pretty brown-haired woman of 52, said that her husband never talks about his heroic war deed.

Sometimes, not often, someone will ask to see the medal. Bender keeps it in a fire-proof box. He showed it to Anne Pieza and this writer. The medal's ribbon is wrinkled, as is the tissue in which the medal is wrapped. Bender returns it to its resting place. There is no mistaking that he is proud.

Until 1969, when he retired, Bender worked for the Veterans Administration.

Bender was born in Scabro, West Virginia, in 1909. His parents were Andrew and Eva Bendorius who emigrated to Shenandoah, Pa., in 1890 from the county of Kaunas, Lithuania. His father was a coal miner and when Stanley was a youngster he also worked in a coal mine. His parents are buried

in a Catholic cemetery in Scabro, W.V.

Stanley moved to Chicago in 1924, where he had a variety of jobs, including driving a taxi, to support his mother and sister. He married in 1945 in Chicago. The Benders have two daughters: Mrs. Evelyn Treadway, Oak Hill, W.V., and Mrs. Shirley Atkinson, South Haven, Mich.

The dinner at which Bender was honored by the Darius-Girenas Post was the second honor that came his way from the Post, of which he is a member.

Bender received a special citation from the Post on April 25, 1945, which declared: "Whereas, the Lithuanians of Chicago and the membership of this Post are proud to know that one of their sons — Sergeant Stanley Bender, has made a brilliant record on the field of battle for which our government has seen fit to bestow upon him the Congressional Medal of Honor for his many valiant deeds above and beyond the call of duty".

Bender is also proud to be a Lithuanian, and in his conversation in the kitchen of his home with Mrs. Pieza, he pleaded in Lithuanian, "Mrs. Pieza, please make me some of your famous kugelis". Mrs. Pieza did and Bender asked for Mrs. Pieza's special kugelis recipe.

He is also proud of being a Catholic, explaining: "I go to church now... but, let me tell you, I prayed more on the battlefield".

Bender joined with nearly 1,000 persons in celebrating the 45th anniversary of the Darius-Girenas



JOSEPH A. MICKELIUNAS



Witnessing signing of resolution designating the Lithuanian Plaza in Chicago by Mayor Richard J. Daley, are Alderman John Egan, Mother Theophila of the St. Casimir Sisters, Darius-Girenas Post Commander Joseph Kamin, Mayor Daley, Judge Alfonse Wells, and the Rev. Canon George Paskus, pastor of the Nativity B.V.M. Church.

American Legion Post on July 9th.

The speakers at the anniversary banquet recalled some of the great accomplishments of the Post founded by Joseph A. Mickeliunas, the first commander, who died September 11, 1948. Mickeliunas was also a pioneer member of the Knights of Lithuania.

One of the chief accomplishments of the Post was its cooperation in naming by the City Council of Chicago an area of Marquette Park community as the Lithuanian Plaza. The naming of the plaza was engineered by this writer and The Chicago Herald-American, with the aid of Alderman John Egan of the 12th ward. The document naming the plaza was signed by Mayor Richard J. Daley. More than 45,000 persons attended the dedicatory ceremonies of the plaza on July 22, 1956, when Gov. G. Mennen Williams of Michigan was

the guest speaker. The plaza was "baptized" by Monsignor Damasus Mozeris, pastor of the Immaculate Conception Church, Chicago.

Today the Lithuanian Plaza in Chicago is the mecca of Lithuanians world-over. In it are the Darius-Girenas monument, the Maria High School, Holy Cross Hospital, Nativity B.V.M. Church, and the St. Casimir Sisters Convent — all Lithuanian institutions.

The Darius-Girenas Post is known for its various religious, public and patriotic activities, which include parades on Memorial Day in the St. Casimir and Lithuanian National cemeteries, and public demonstrations at the Darius-Girenas monument in the Lithuanian Plaza. The events have attracted such dignitaries as Senator Estes Kefauver of Tennessee, mayors of the city and governors of Illinois, including Lithuanian officials such as Joseph Kajeckas of the Lithuanian embassy in Washington, D.C., and the late Dr. Peter Daužvardis, Lithuanian consul-general in Chicago.

Among its honored members are Edward "Moose" Krause, former



D.G. Post Past Commander J. Paukstis [left] at a Legion activity with the late Sen. Paul Douglass and Petras Dauzvardis, late Lithuanian Consul.

head of the athletic department of the University of Notre Dame, and former Judges Alfonse Wells. Also members of the Post were the late Judge John T. Zuris and the late Anthony Olis, president of the Sanitary District, and the only American Lithuanian seriously considered for the candidacy of mayor of Chicago. Also a distinguished member of the Post is John L. Paukstis, former Cook County Commander of the American Legion and past commander of the Darius-Girenas Post.

The Darius-Girenas Post has led in campaigns against Communism, conducted cigarette and blood drives for war veterans, and promoted polio vaccine shots. In 1949 it won the county's soft-ball championship.

The Darius-Girenas Post, composed of veterans of World Wars I and II, and of the Korea and Vietnam conflicts, is acclaimed as one of the outstanding American Legion Posts in the Nation. It also has an outstanding women's auxiliary.

JUNIORS CORNER

JRS. C-96 - DAYTON, OHIO

The annual celebration of the Crowning of our Blessed Mother by our Junior Knights cast sunshine on our souls after much rain. Pres. Shannon Grantham had the honor of placing a crown of roses on the head of our Blessed Lady's statue. With the Juniors serving, doing the readings, bearing the Offertory gifts, and blending their voices in singing the hymns (accompanied by Mary Agnes Mikalauskas on the guitar), it made for a very memorable beginning to Mother's Day.

After Mass, under the guidance of their Advisor, Chris Mantz, they hosted their parents and guests to a complete breakfast. The food prepared by Chairman Sue Mantz

Smiley and her committee and workers, Eleanor & Chris Mantz, Rita Ambrose, Harley Karns, Pat Smiley, Joe & Joey Mantz, Michael F. Petkus, Kathy Sinkwitz and Rita Gečas, was delicious and plentiful.

They presented two plays this year after showering their mothers with terrariums which they had made. The first play, "What is a Mother", was written and directed by Pres. Shannon Grantham. The second play, "Hassle in the Castle", was directed by the very capable Edward Sluzas. If our Jrs keep this up, we may have budding actors in our midst. To all, Ačiū Labai!

Members of the regular council are to be congratulated for the excellent cooperation they gave the Juniors with their paper drive

of Apr. 29-30. The truck was loaded!

Recently, Natl. Cultural Chairman Aldona Ryan had the pleasure of speaking at the Founder's Day Dinner in Cincinnati, hosted by C-134. Aldona was most impressed with the number of young people in attendance at the dinner. Could this be growing signs for a Cincinnati Junior council developing?

Congratulations to Tom Petkus for completing a twenty-mile hike in our local March of Dimes Walkathon for the handicapped.

Annamarie Sluzas and Vida Gečas, with the help of their mothers, prepared kugelis and ausiukės for their school's Ethnic Luncheon recently.

FBP

REV. MSGR. JOHN SCHARNUS CELEBRATES HIS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

by Loretta Stukas

On June 11, 1938, a dedicated young man from Newark, N.J. was among those ordained to the priesthood at Immaculate Conception Seminary. 40 years later, the parishioners of Holy Trinity Lithuanian R.C. Church, Newark, proudly celebrated the 40th Anniversary of priesthood of their "favorite son" who a few years earlier had returned to become their pastor... REV. MSGR. JOHN J. SCHARNUS.

Holy Trinity Church was filled, on June 11, 1978, with well-wishers celebrating the special Mass of Thanksgiving, which was concelebrated by the Juliarian and Rev. D. Pocus, Rev. P. Zemeikis, Rev. K. Žalalis, OFM, Rev. A. Valančius and Rev. S. Brach. Rev. T. Žiūraitis, OP delivered the homily. Special offertory gifts symbolizing various phases of the priesthood, were presented by K of L Juniors and members of Msgr. John's family.

After Mass, an overflow crowd of nearly 400 family members, present and past parishioners, and friends gathered for a Jubilee banquet in the parish hall. Jubilation and warmth abounded as organizations and individuals congratulated Msgr. John and expressed their gratitude for his constant counsel and support. Soloists Louis Stukas and Genevieve Mazur presented the musical program. Dr. Jack Stukas served as Master of Ceremonies. The entire event was planned and executed by Holy Trinity parishioners as a worthy tribute to a most worthy person.

John J. Scharnus was born in Newark, N.J. on June 29, 1911. After graduating from East Side High School, he attended Faucett Art School. Completing a post-

graduate course at St. Benedict's Preparatory School, he entered Seton Hall University, and graduated on June 6, 1934. On June 11, 1938, Father John Scharnus was ordained to the priesthood, realizing his life's dream.

His first assignments included service as curate at St. Paul of the Cross Church, Jersey City, Our Lady of Sorrows (then in Harrison) and Sts. Peter and Paul, Elizabeth.

On July 1, 1941, Father John was appointed administrator of St. Ann's Church in Jersey City, and continued in that post for 23 years. During his tenure at St. Ann's, Father initiated many changes and

improvements. The church was completely renovated and modernized, a new sacristy was built, and the parish debt, including that for the new improvements, was completely paid off.

In 1964, Father Scharnus returned to Our Lady of Sorrows, Kearny, as its pastor. Entering the parish in the midst of some major innovations, he proved himself equal to all challenges. He saw to completion the building of a modern new convent and the renovation and opening of a parish school. Under Father John's able leadership, Our Lady of Sorrows continued to be a thriving and vital



religious and cultural institution.

In 1968, after the retirement of Msgr. I. Kelmelis, Rev. John Scharnus "came home" to Holy Trinity, this time as its pastor. Rev. Scharnus brought a new dimension to Holy Trinity. His sincerity, priestliness, and interest in his parishioners and their activities made him a popular and welcome addition to the parish. With the help of his curate, the late Rev. Totoraitis, and the generosity of the parishioners, Rev. Scharnus, after just a few years as pastor, managed to reduce the parish debt by more than \$28,000.

In 1971, Father Scharnus was elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate. The title of Reverend Monsignor was bestowed on Rev. John Scharnus by Archbishop Boland in March, 1971.

Through his priesthood, Msgr. Scharnus has earned and enjoyed the reputation of being a "real priest" among all his parishioners. His first concern has always been the spiritual welfare of his flock, young and old.

The Knights of Lithuania have especially enjoyed the benefits of Msgr. John's support — moral and financial. Joining C-29, Newark,

shortly after his appointment to Holy Trinity, he has taken his position as Spiritual Adviser of the Council most seriously. He regularly brings new ideas and provides interesting religious advice and counsel to meetings, and supports all activities of the Council. He served as Spiritual Adviser during the National K of L Pilgrimage to Rome in 1970, and attended several other C-29 sponsored K of L excursions as well. Msgr. Scharnus is also a most regular and very generous financial supporter of the VYTIS.

Monsignor John has always had a special place in his heart for youth. In 1946, he was appointed one of the ten original Assistant Directors of the Catholic Youth Organization, after its initiation into the Newark Archdiocese. He also helped find the Lithuanian Sodality Union of New York and New Jersey, and served as its Spiritual Director for 20 years — 1942 to 1962.

The newly reorganized C-29 Knights of Lithuania Juniors in Holy Trinity also have a special place in Msgr. John's heart. He has generously offered them his help and encouragement in becoming

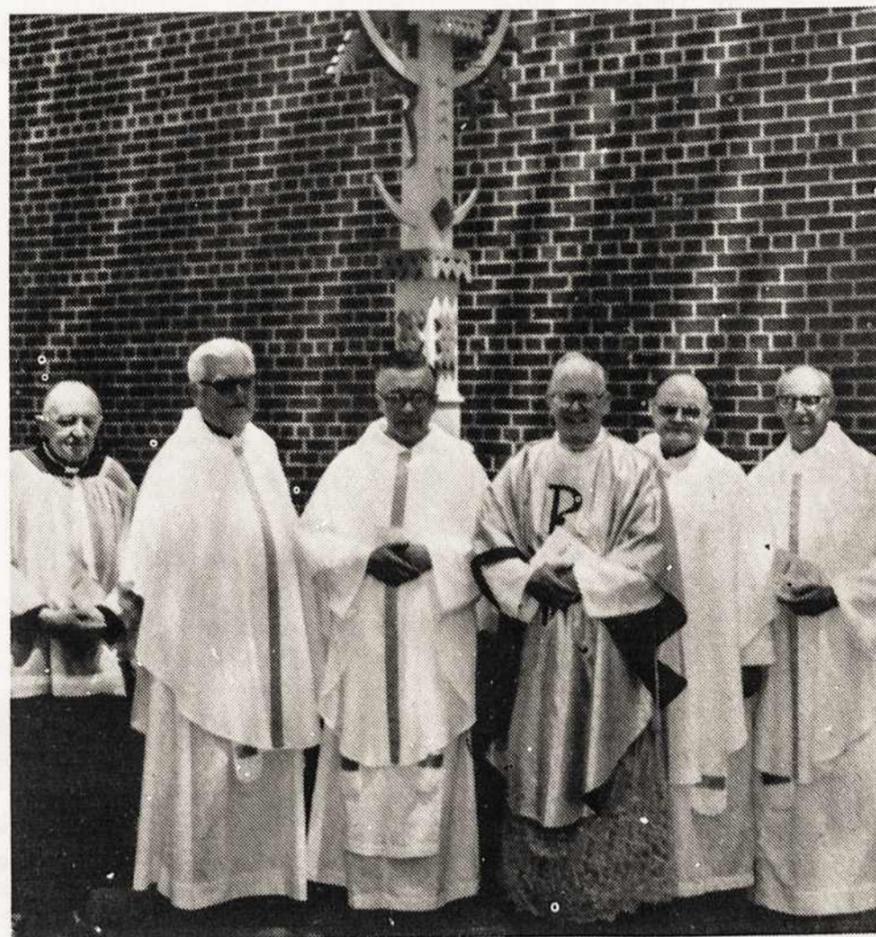
better Lithuanian Americans.

The sick and elderly are also frequent beneficiaries of Msgr. Scharnus' time. He not only finds time to regularly visit the bed-ridden and confined, but encourages his other parishioners to do so also.

Showing his concern for fellow priests, Father Scharnus, in 1963 was elected President of the Lithuanian Priests' Relief Association, an international organization to help priests of Lithuanian descent in time of sickness with financial assistance.

Wherever he served, Msgr. Scharnus always was generous with making parish facilities available for parishioners' needs. In Newark, as elsewhere, under his tutelage, the parish has become not only the religious center but also the cultural center of local Lithuanians.

In spiritual and material matters, Msgr. John Scharnus has indeed served his God and his flock well during the past 40 years. We sincerely wish him many more years of outstanding stewardship in God's vinyard. AD MULTOS ANNOS!



Scenes from Msgr. Scharnus' 40th Anniversary. Above: Banquet Guests after Benediction. Right: Concelebrants pause at Parish Cross.

SIMAS KUDIRKA'S OWN STORY: FOR THOSE STILL AT SEA



November 23, 1974 -- Simas Kudirka welcomed aboard the Coast Guard cutter Vigilant, four years to the day of his abortive attempt to defect to the U.S. by jumping from his Russian ship to the deck of the Vigilant. One of eight pages of photos.



The Kudirkas in 1978--Simas, Gene, and their son Evaldas (daughter Lolita was abroad when photo was taken). One of 8 pages of photos

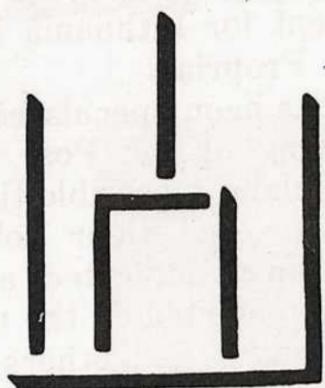
At long last, the world has Simas Kudirka's personal narrative about the events leading up to, and the consequences which evolved from his ill-fated leap for freedom on November 23, 1970. **FOR THOSE STILL AT SEA**, by Simas Kudirka and Larry Eichel, published by the Dial Press, is a moving and compelling account of Kudirka's life which covers the defection attempt itself, his trial, and the years of imprisonment in various Soviet Labor camps.

The story flows from a third person account, to Kudirka's inner thoughts, and back again, immediately captivating the attention and interest of the reader. We are caught up in a man's personal struggle, its effects on his family, and the concern of those who extended themselves, even at personal risk, to assist Simas in his release from prison and emigration to the United States.

FOR THOSE STILL AT SEA is a highly readable book, guaranteed to hold the reader's interest from beginning to end. The prison camp years, especially, reveal the fiber of the man. In one suspenseful anecdote, Simas and a fellow prisoner, Sharygin-Budalak, determine to make, and display, the United Nations flag, to make their fellow prisoners aware of the significance of Human Rights Day, December 10. This unheard-of feat was accomplished, and the flag flew for two hours before being removed by prison guards. No fiction could duplicate the emotions of fear and triumph aroused by just this one incident.

FOR THOSE STILL AT SEA is an unusual book, which should be read by all those who need to have their belief in humanity reaffirmed. It is available from the Dial Press, 1 Dag Hammerskjold Plaza, New York, New York 10017, and the Franciscan Fathers Press, 361 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, New York 11207. Price for the hard cover edition is \$7.95.

Marian Skabeikis



An excerpt translated from the book NUMIZMATICA by Jonas K. Karys (1970) dealing with the historical facts regarding the symbol of Gediminas' Post Gates and the ushering in of the emblem of the Knight (Raitelis).

The wooden - Post Gates symbol was a singular emblem in Lithuania during the Middle Ages. Gediminas, the Grand Duke of Lithuania, incorporated the symbol in his heraldic bearing and eventually the emblem became known as Gediminas' (Posts) (Gedimino Stulpai).

However, since the symbol signifies not simply posts, but, in actuality, gates, and since from the very beginning the posts were wooden poles (not as some would hold, constructed of brick, stone or other material), the emblem received its more fitting term of "Post Gates".

The first inkling of the use of this term is gleaned from a funeral homily given by a Polish king at the burial ceremonies of the Grand Duke Zygmantas Vaza in 1632. From this time on the term is more frequently found in Lithuanian discourses and begins to root itself in educational manuals for teachers.

The Post Gates emblem became the symbol of Gediminas' Sovereignty. He inscribed it on coins, shields, flags and seals, as did many of the earlier historic sovereigns, using the image of their own palace or city gates. The Romans had their god, the double-

GEDIMINO STULPAI - POST GATES

(translated by Joan Laframboise)



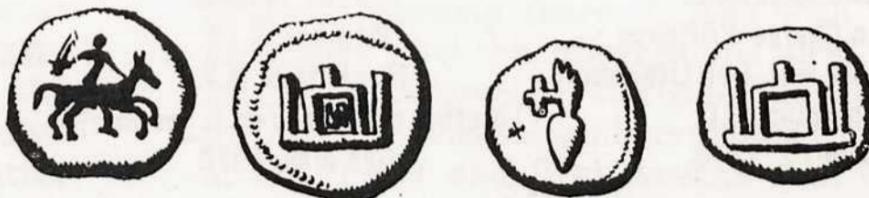
Copper coin in the time of Gediminas and Kestutis.

faced Janus, who stood over the "janus" or gate. The biblical judges decided their pending cases at the gates of their capitol cities. In Turkey, the highest and topmost gates symbolized the country's government. The gates of a capitol city, as a symbol of sovereignty, was first employed by the Roman emperors. This practice was continued as titulary, even when the emperors were no longer in the reigning seat of government. So we find on their seals the gates of the Eternal City.

Gates figured in the heraldic bearings of a goodly number of European cities (as for example, Riga, Torna, Klaipeda). The idea of gates was undoubtedly brought to Lithuania during the Middle Ages by the much-traveled missionary religious, who, in many instances, acted as scribes and secretaries to the Grand Dukes of Lithuania. However, Gediminas' emblem is not a plagiarized copy symbolizing

some foreign gates, but is a realistic representation of ancient Lithuanian architecture combining straight lines in a geometric figure.

Just when the Post Gates were accepted in Lithuania as a meaningful symbol, is not exactly known. Evidence of its existence appears as a fact at the time Vilnius was established as the capitol city of Lithuania, at the beginning of the 14th century. It was already emblazoned on the flags and shields of the Grand Duke Gediminas. Also the symbol began to appear on copper coins at this time. Kestutis employed the emblem on the latest issues of all monies in the 1360's. Later the symbol was used on seals, shields and monies by a long line of Gediminas' descendents. The symbol was found on the headstone of Karigaila's grave who died in 1390 in the battle of Vilnius during the Crusades. He was a nephew of Gediminas. Vytautas' army, in the



Coins used during Vytautas reign.

battle of Žalgiris, carrying their banners emblazoned with their motto, still had the Post Gates on them symbolizing the sovereignty of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania.

However, not long after, a new emblem began to appear portraying a knight on horseback (Raiteilis) and this emblem began to appear more frequently, eventually relegating the symbol of the Post Gates to a secondary place. After Vytautas times, the Post Gates symbol began to recede and eventually became the sole property of Vilnius. It was here that the emblem had its origin. From here it reached the farthest corners of Lithuania. Hence, it seems only fitting and proper for it to return, as a symbol, to its place of origin. The Knight now reigned supreme as the official emblem of the sovereigns of Lithuania.

Historically, the inscription of the Post Gates on the monies of Lithuania disappeared after the last of Gediminas' descendents, Zygimantas Augustas, died in Vilnius. However, the rulers of the conjoined Lithuania-Poland government continued to use it on their seals. Even the Anglo-Saxon



Money of Independent Lithuania

Augustus II continued to use it, thus symbolizing the old Lithuanian capitol, Vilnius, as the seat of government for Lithuania Proper (Lituania Propria).

Much has been speculated as to the meaning of the Post Gates. Some did claim a possible tie with the Romans and their columna, colona. Others indicated a similarity to the symbol on the monies issued by Kufos. Still others saw a trace of Kiev's "labarum" and even Dorestatus' "brakteatu" inscriptions. Others even saw a similarity to the facades of Mindaugas' Church. All these are but fantasies with no substance in historic fact. Also, this symbol was never Jogaila's emblem, much less that of any of his descendents. They simply used the emblem as the right of successors, just as did Kestutis, Vytautas, Svitrigaila and other descendents of Gediminas.

In the gaining of independence and in the establishment of Lithuania as a Republic (1918-1940), Lithuania, at the very outset, recognized the symbol of the Post Gates as a national emblem and used it profusely on all government documents, monies, flags, banners and seals.



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SINCEREST THANKS...

to REV. SIMAS MORKUNAS
Pastor, St. Casimir Church, Sioux City, Iowa for
his generous donation of \$58.00 to the VYTIS FUND.

...to MARY YORK, C-12, Manhattan, N.Y., for her
generous donation of \$25.00 to the VYTIS FUND.

IN MEMORIAM

Please remember in your prayers...

JUOZAS KAJECKAS
Lithuanian Charge d'Affaires
[representing pre-war, free Lithuania]
Washington, D.C.
died July 2, 1978

ALBERT Janonis
Member, C-12
Manhattan, N.Y.
[brother of MAD Pres. L. Janonis]
died May, 1978

REV. PRANAS RUGGLES — RAUGALAS
Pastor, Annunciation Church
Brooklyn, N.Y.
died June 29, 1978

BARBARA SACKLE
Assoc. Member, C-79
Southfield, Mich.
died May 12, 1978

MARY MARGARET PANAVALS
Member, C-79
Southfield, Mich.
died April 14, 1978

ALBERT NEVEIRA
Member, C-17 Srs.
So. Boston, Mass.
died April 14, 1978

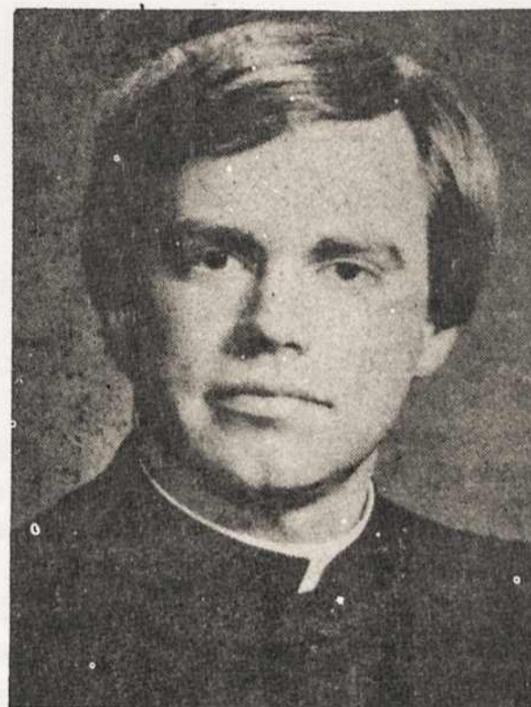
Lithuanians in The

NEWS

EDITED BY MARIAN AND PHIL SKABEIKIS



The Lithuanian Franciscan Fathers recently unveiled several beautiful additions to their Lithuanian Cultural Center on Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, New York. To commemorate past and future sacrifices made for Lithuania as well as to represent her faith and hope, architect Antanas Vytuvis and sculptor Mindaugas Jankauskas erected a metal and stone memorial cross. It symbolizes, according to the artists, the indomitable will of the Lithuanian nation to preserve its national consciousness and to shatter the fetters of slavery.



In these days of scarce Lithuanian vocations, the ordination of a new Lithuanian-American priest is cause for celebration.

Rev. Kenneth Kazimieras Stewart was born in Philadelphia, Pa. in 1951 of a Scottish-Anglican father and Lithuanian-Catholic mother. Originally studying for the Anglican priesthood, he converted to Catholicism in 1970 as did his parents three years later.

In 1973 he received his Bachelor's degree in Philosophy. It was not until his young adult years that Father Kenneth began formal study of the Lithuanian language. He quickly developed a keen ethnic consciousness, and has dedicated his priestly duties to the eventual freedom of the Lithuanian nation and the more immediate relaxation of restrictions on religious worship there. It was with these special intentions that he offered his first Mass at St. Andrew's Lithuanian Church in Philadelphia on May 21, 1978. He was solemnly ordained the previous day at Sts. Peter and Paul Basilica with Cardinal Krol officiating.



JUOZAS MARKELIONIS of DuBois, Pa. recently celebrated his 100th Birthday at a reception sponsored by his family and friends held at that town's Lithuanian Club. Among the guests at the reception was DuBois Mayor Mark Vrahas. Congratulatory letters and telegrams were also received from President Carter, and a particular favorite of Mr. Markelionis', Lawrence Welk.

Juozas was born in the Lithuanian village of Siauiskas. He came to the United States at age 21, and spent the next 46 years of his life as a coal miner.

Always proud of his Lithuanian heritage, he avidly follows the Lithuanian Press, is a member of K of L Council C-86 in DuBois, and donates generously to Lithuanian causes.

Ilgiausiu Metu Juozai!

Boston papers have been generous with coverage the South Boston Lithuanian Club Basketball Team's recent victory. The team under its coach **AL SKABEIKIS** won its third consecutive basketball championship during competitions in New York against other Lithuanian teams from the US and Canada. This year's victory entitled the team to permanent possession of a large silver trophy of the North American Lithuanian Federation.

If you were to tune in to the Harrisburg area's premiere classical music station WMSP 94.9 FM on Wednesday morning between 9:05 AM and 12 noon, you would hear the voice of **CAROL GRABAUSKAS**.

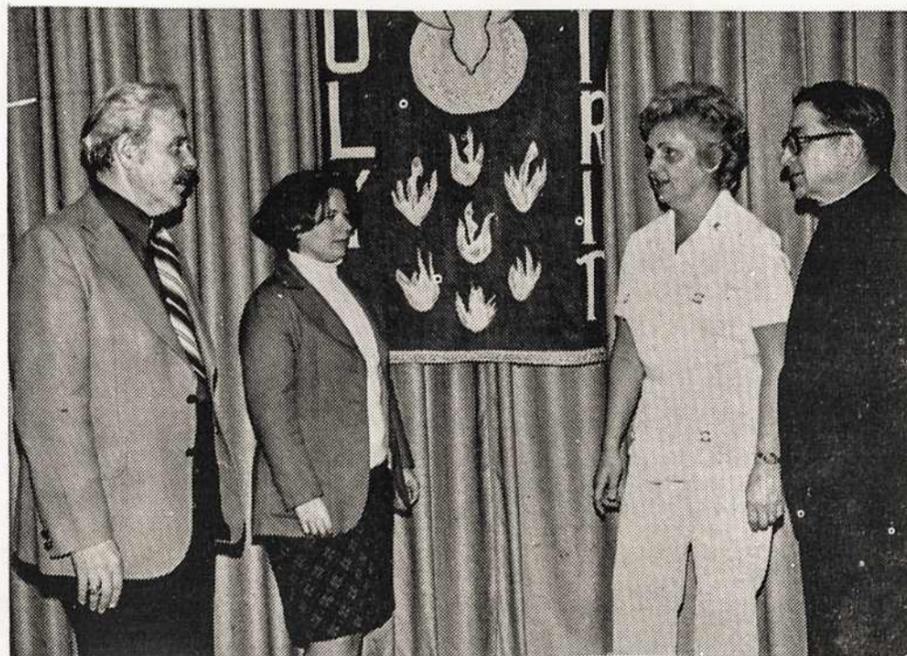
Carol's program, Wednesday Morning Music Hall featured music by Lithuanian composers this past spring to commemorate Lithuanian Independence Day, as well as an interview with Msgr. Joseph Neverauskas, author and pastor of St. George's Church, Shenandoah, Pa.

Carol was born in New York City but moved to the Harrisburg area when she was five. She graduated from Cedar Cliff High School in 1975.

It was through her brother's interest that Carol entered the world of radio broadcasting. She easily qualified for and secured her FCC Third Class Operator's License. She is also well on her way to getting her pilot's license. In her spare time, Carol works in the production department of a local Community Theater.

Carol's love and appreciation for her ethnic heritage was deepened after a recent visit to Lithuania with one of her grandmothers. Three of her grandparents were born in Lithuania, the fourth in Brooklyn, New York.

Carol has now lent her talents and dedication to the Knights of Lithuania as she serves as Vice President of C-146, Harrisburg, Pa.



C-110 - Maspeth, N.Y. Vice-Pres. John Adomenas, Pres. Marian Skabeikis, Guest Speaker Loretta Stukas & Spiritual Advisor Rev. John Pakalniskis.

THE QUEENS LEDGER, continually generous in its coverage of Lithuanian events in the Queens, New York area, recently reported on VYTIS Editor **LORETTA STUKAS'** guest appearance at a C-110 meeting in Maspeth. Loretta spoke on the history of the K of L as mirrored in the pages of VYTIS.

SIMAS KUDIRKA is continually in the news as he makes guest appearances from coast to coast. This past spring brought to fruition one of his greatest undertakings, the release of his book **FOR THOSE STILL AT SEA**. The book is co-authored with Larry Eichel, a writer and editor with the Philadelphia Inquirer.



At recent gymnastic meet held in Pennsylvania's Allentown District, **MARY BETH WALACAVAGE** of Minersville proved to be a girl to keep one's eye on. In a disciplined and skillfully executed gymnastic routine she carried off two Bronze Medals, in the balance beam and the uneven parallel bars. She went on to win a Gold Medal in vaulting and a Silver Medal in the floor exercise competition. These victories qualified her for participation in the State Finals at Shippensburg State College. Mary Beth is a 14 yr. old freshman at Minersville High School and studied gymnastics under John Weitzel at the Gymnasium Sports School in Schuylkill County.



Short Wave enthusiasts who tune into Vatican Radio in the early evening will already be familiar with the carefully modulated voice of **CHARLES SAVITSKY**. Thirty one years old Mr. Savitsky and his work were recently featured in **OUR SUNDAY VISITOR**, a newspaper for which he serves as Vatican correspondent.

Charles was born in Scranton, Pa. of a Lithuanian father and Polish-Lithuanian mother. He was educated and grew up in the town of Dunmore, a few miles north of Scranton. His original vocation upon high school graduation was to the priesthood. This decision took him to St. Charles Seminary in Catonsville, Md. and to the St. Pius Seminary in Dalton, Pa. He graduated cum Laude from University of Scranton with a Philosophy Degree. His first exposure to the world of broadcasting came while at North American Seminary in Rome. During this difficult period of transition, he decided against the religious vocation, but nevertheless chose to serve the church through his new vocation, the media.

Charles served as head of the Information Department of Multi-Media International, a Catholic organization which trains personnel in radio and television programming and production.

He later accepted the job as English Broadcaster for Vatican Radio and continues to be one of several Lithuanians at the Vatican, both lay and clergyman.

ARNOLDAS VOKETAITIS recently performed the role of Adam in a performance of Josef Hayden's Oratorio, "The Creation". The performance was broadcast over Chicago radio station WFMT (98.7) as part of the series "The Chicago Symphony Orchestra in Concert". The Conductor was Metropolitan Opera Musical Director James Levine.

A SPECIAL DEDICATION HONORING LITHUANIAN PARENTS

Mary York
C-12, NY, NY

On Nov. 5, 1977 a Memorial Dedication of an exhibition display case took place at the American Museum of Immigration, located at the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, Liberty Island, N.Y. The occasion was in honor of Mary York's Lithuanian immigrant parents, Frank and Mary Rodell-Radvila.

Officiating at the blessing of the display case were Rev. George A. Gurinkas, Pastor of Our Lady of Vilnius Church and Spiritual Advisor of Council 12, assisted by Vincent Kuldoshes Mascola, Eucharist Minister of the church and a member of C-12.

During the dedication, amber memorabilia was displayed for the appreciation of the assembled guests and as a touch of Lithuanian culture.

K of L guests were Agnes Krauss, Barbara & Michael Kartanowicz, Millie Pietz, John Antanovich and Jim Sabal of Council 12, N.Y. Also, Loretta I. Stukas, Editor of the Vytis and Anne Klem, Past President of Council 90, Kearny, N.J. Among other guests were close friends of the parents, representatives of the Business & Professional Women's Federation, the Amalgamated Seniors Club of New York and New Jersey Bell Telephone Co.

The guest speaker was Morris Pesin, Director of the Jersey City Cultural & Arts Commission who spoke on the meaning of Immigration History.

Paul Weinbaum, Curator of the American Museum of Immigration accepted the gift of the exhibition

GRAŽINA PAEGLE, nee Kulikauskaitė, recently opened a photo exhibit of her work at New York City's Sohophoto Gallery. The exhibit is entitled "Save, Fly, Explore", and consists of a cycle of black and white photos of children enjoying various life learning experiences. The photos beautifully capture the wonder and innocence that is childhood. Mrs. Paegle studied at the School for Visual Arts under the direction of LIFE magazine staff photographer Bernard Hoffman.

display case on behalf of the National Park Service.

Mary York serves as a Volunteer-in-Parks at Liberty Island and is also an Advisory member of the Jersey City Cultural & Arts Commission. Currently, she is deeply involved & supportive of the Liberty State Park in Jersey City, N.J., an area which overlooks the entire New York Harbor and the National Historic Monuments of Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.

Her trust in the significance of the Park is such that she was instrumental, with the cooperation of the Jersey City Business and Professional Women's Club, in donating thirteen American Flags as a Bicentennial gift to Liberty State Park at its dedication in 1976. In just one year the Park has been visited by 600,000 people.

Mary is delighted that the first developmental step of the Park (35 acres of proposed 800 acres) has been accomplished to beautify an area which is only 900 feet from the Statue of Liberty and long overdue for a deserving green background to our Symbol of America.

Mary treasures the memory of her parents and is fond of quoting a remark by her beloved Mother. It seems, as a child she asked her Mother "How did you know it was America when you arrived by boat from Europe?" and she received a prompt response of "that was easy, I saw the Statue of Liberty!"



K of L guests attending the Dedication. Left to right Vincent Kuldoshes Mascola, Michael Kartanowicz, Barbara Kartanowicz, Anne Klem, Loretta Stukas, Mary York [hostess], Agnes Krauss, Millie Pietz, John Antanovich, Rev. George A. Gurinkas, and Jim Sabal.



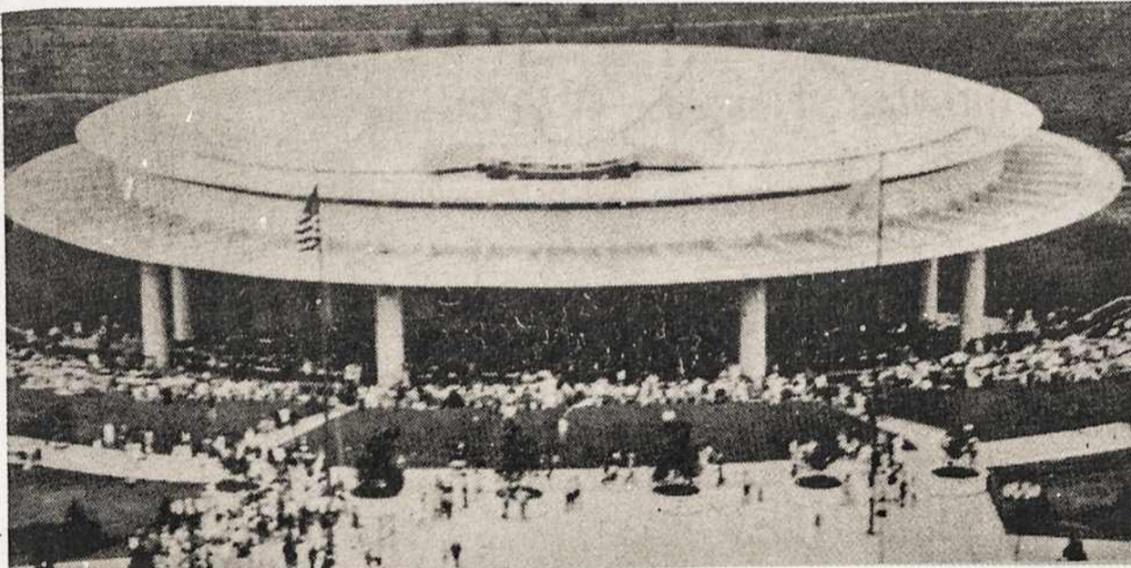
SECOND **BALTIC-AMERICAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

September 23, 1978 Garden State Arts Center

Dear Friends,

We hope to see you at the Second Baltic American Heritage Festival on Saturday, September 23, 1978, at the Garden State Arts Center. Come and join your Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian friends in a day-long celebration of their rich cultural heritage.

An evening program at 5:00 P.M. will present the best in Baltic entertainment. But come early! The festivities begin at 1:00 P.M. with a plaza program featuring our youth in song, dance and gymnastics. See colorful native costumes and an exhibit of folk and modern art. Refreshments including American favorites and tasty Baltic specialties will be available all day.



The Garden State Arts Center, operated by the New Jersey Highway Authority, is located in Telegraph Hill Park on the Garden State Parkway off Exit 116 in Holmdel, N.J. There are picnic facilities available in Park area.



EVENING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS. . .

- * HEINZ RIIVALD, Tenor
- * KATRIN and ERIK VESKI, Pianists
- * ESTONIAN RHYTHMIC GYMNASTS
- * "KOLIBRI" Latvian Singing Ensemble
- * "PERKUNAS" Lithuanian Men's Chorus
- * "VILIJA" Lithuanian Women's Quartet
- * "AUSRINE" Lithuanian Dance Ensemble
- * "LIEPSNA" Lithuanian Dance Ensemble
- * "TRIPTINIS" Lithuanian Dance Ensemble

FOR TICKETS...

Tickets range in price from \$8.00 for Box Seats, \$6.00 (section A), \$5.00 (section B) and \$4.00 (section C). Children under 12, accompanied by an adult, may obtain tickets at half-price in Sections B and C. Groups desiring 50 or more tickets can receive a discount.

Contact LORETTA STUKAS,
1467 Force Dr., Mountainside,
N.J., 07092.

FOR TICKETS OR INFORMATION

ALL K of L-ers, especially the "Easteners". are invited to join in this beautiful event.

THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA COMES TO PENNSYLVANIA'S CAPITAL

WELCOME COUNCIL 146
HARRISBURG, PA.

Phil Skabeikis

The freshness of ideas and enthusiasm of new members have been two of the continual joys I've experienced during my three years as National Membership Vice President.

This enthusiasm is new to one that experience tends to jade, and yet now new. It is this eagerness and unanimity that must have fired the blood of our founding fathers.

The Installation of newly found C-146's Charter Officers was an event that proved that the K of L is alive and flourishing. It took place on Sunday April 30, 1978 in Camp Hill, Pa. at Schindler's Restaurant.

At first glance, one might ask, how could there be a K of L stronghold in the middle of Amish country of Pennsylvania? But, as we all know, there are Lithuanians everywhere waiting to find each other and share their songs, memories, and aspirations. On that beautiful April afternoon, Council 146, and its newly installed officers began a hopefully long and fruitful association with the K of L family.

After a cordial hour or so of cocktails and conversation, Schindler's Banquet Hall filled with some 150 persons. Carol Grabauskas, C-146 Vice President and a local radio personality, served as Mistress of Ceremonies. The program began with the singing of the Lithuanian National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. The Invocation was provided by the new council's Spiritual Advisor Father Francis M. Kumontis, the young Director of the Family Life Office of the Harrisburg Diocese. Re-

marks by C-146 President Joseph J. Makalonis followed. Mr. Makalonis' knowledge of the K of L began with a membership brochure

in Kennebunkport, ME. It was his dream and the difficult preliminary work done by Ms. Frances Boyle that was making C-146 a reality today.



Left to right, Phillip A. Skabeikis, 2nd Nat. V.P., Stanley Senteras, Treas., Carol Grabauskas, V.P., and Joseph J. Mackalonis, Pres.



C-146 Members and guests at Installation Banquet.



Sonetta Senferas C-146.



Art Exhibit by Carol Grabauskas and Stanley Senferas.

Godparents from the sponsoring Council, Bernice Mikatavage C-144 and Msgr. Joseph Neverauskas of St. George's Shenandoah, Pa., welcomed the new members. It was through a joint Harrisburg Lithuanian Festival held in the Fall of 1977 that cooperative efforts between these councils began. Helen Chesko of C-144 swore the new members to the First Degree.

It was after a delicious and varied smorgasbord dinner, that I had the privilege to present C-146 with its Charter.

The hall was decorated with a full sized Lithuanian flag and exhibit of Lithuanian arts and crafts arranged by Miss Grabauskas and Stanley Senfares. In a written greeting to C-146, Pennsylvania's Congressman Gus Yatron of Schuylkill County said, "The Knights of Lithuania have truly exhibited a love for their fellow man, and a dedication to the ideals of liberty and individual rights on which our country was founded". Both C-146 and C-144 received American flags that had flown over the Nation's Capital, compliments of Congressman Yatron.

In attendance were many members of the Anthracite Council, new and prospective members of C-146 and guests from New York and Baltimore. Besides the aforementioned officers, the charter officers of C-146 are: Secretary Ann Roman, Treasurer Stanley Senfares, Trustee Gerald Kupris, Cultural Chairman Michael Grabauskas and Lithuanian Affairs Chairman Helen Grabauskas.

C-146 is also moving to create a Junion Council.

We all wish long and successful years to the Harrisburg K of L!



ON THE WASHINGTON SCENE

REMINISCING WITH
DR. CONSTANTINE JURGELA, AUTHOR OF
"LITHUANIA: THE OUTPOST OF FREEDOM"
AT THE LITHUANIAN EXHIBIT AND
RECEPTION HELD BY COUNCIL 142 AT
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, ON FEB. 26, 1978

Council 142's outstanding author of "Lithuania: The Outpost of Freedom" was caught by Juris Bilmanis' camera sitting in front of the VYTIS, a gift from the American Lithuanian Society at the reception, with Council 142 President Eva M. Migonis, and his wife, also a K of L member, and his daughter, Elena, formerly with the Denver Opera, who sang several arias during the program.

Council 142 honored Dr. Jurgela last year with a reception at the Army-Navy Club in Washington, D.C., upon the occasion of the publication of his book.

Dr. Jurgela is the former President of the New York-New Jersey District of the Knights of Lithuania, the forerunner of the present MAD District, over which he presided for seven years. In June 1924, Dr. Jurgela had just returned with his family from Lithuania. He joined the Knights of Lithuania in 1925, in Elizabeth, N.J., where he had settled with his family. He was an early member of Council 12 which is still active in the New York area. Dr. Jurgela was involved with the purchasing of the sword



for General Sylvester Zukauskas, Commander in Chief of the Lithuanian Army in the Independence War. He recounts many pleasant memories of activities with such K of L stalwarts as Alexander Aleksis of Waterbury, Conn.; Mary York, Frank Vaskas, and Anthony Mazeika, whom Dr. Jurgela and his brother had been instrumental in enrolling as a K of L member.

MRS. LOUISE EURKOOS, R.N.,
HONORED BY COUNCIL 142 K OF L

Last year at Council 142's Organization Day celebration, April 24, at St. Dominic's Church, VYTIS Editor Loretta Stukas made the Day "Special" when she presented her colored slides taken on her trips to Lithuania. Also at that occasion, Spiritual Advisor Rev. Dr. Thomas Ziuraitis, O.P., administered the



L. to r.: Rev. Dr. Thomas Ziuraitis, O.P.; new first degree K of L members taking oath: Jean Lutwin, Helen Gaina, Dr. Constantine Jurgela, Charles H. Laukaitis.



Left to Right: Eva M. Migonis, President, Council 142; Mrs. Elena A. Jurgela, Dr. Constantine R. Jurgela, and Ms. Elena Jurgela; background VYTIS presented to Council 142 by Mrs. Louise Eurkoos, of the American Lithuanian Society.

Photo credit: Juris Bilmanis



Left to Right: Eva M. Migonis, President, Council 142; Loretta Stukas, Editor, Vytis; Rev. Dr. Thomas Ziuraitis, O.P., Spiritual Advisor, Council 142; and Ladislaus J. Esunas, Financial Secy/Treasurer, Council 142.

oath and presented the new members of Council 142 with their first degrees. To make the day even more memorable, President Eva M. Migonis presented the Lithuanian and American flags, donations received from Mrs. Louise Eurkoos, of the American Lithuanian Society.

This year, at the reception at Georgetown University, Feb. 26, 1978, Council 142 presented Mrs. Louise Eurkoos with a VYTIS plaque, to express their appreciation for the donations received from the American Lithuanian Society. Louise then spoke of her early days as a K of L member in Rochester, NY, and of attending the convention in New York City as a delegate in 1925.

Louise was, on April 7th, celebrating her birth-



Left to Right: Ernest C. Raskauskas, Jr., Chairman, Reception & Exhibit; Mrs. Louise Eurkoos, American Lithuanian Society; and Eva M. Migonis, President, Council 142, presenting VYTIS as expression of appreciation for the donations to Council 142 of Vytis, American and Lithuanian flags by the American Lithuanian Society.

Photo credit: Juris Bilmanis

day — being in her early 80's — in Forest City, PA with her sisters. Louise has a warm place in the hearts of Council 142, not only for being a pioneer K of L suffragette, but also for her contributions to the Lithuanian community in Washington, D.C., up until the time of her retirement from nursing a couple of years ago. She was the force that kept the community one of the most active. Louise was always heading such activities as arrangements for the Lithuanian Independence Day celebration, egg decorating demonstrations, mushroom hunting hikes through the woods in the fall. She was a dynamo.

Council 142 salutes Louise on her birthday on April 7th, and wishes her continued good health and a long life.

KUR DINGO LEWISTONO VYČIAI?

Noriu paklausti, kur dingo Lewistono (Maine) vyčiai ir lietuviai? Pamištas ir vyčių veikėjas Povilas Kapiskas, kuris jau 1912 m. buvo iškėles lietuvių vardą Maine valstybėje. Šeštadieniais ir sekmadieniais lietuviai susirinkdavo Šv. Baltramiejaus pašalpinės draugijos nuosavose gražiose patalpose. Čia dainuodavo, šokdavo ir vaidindavo. Klausydavosi įdomių paskaitų.

Šv. Baltramiejaus pašalpinės draugijos prezidentais buvo Jonas Pauža ir Latvis, o viceprez. - Povilas Kapiskas. Jis gražiai kalbėdavo ne tik svetainėje, bet ir piknikuose. Lietuvos vėliava plevėsuodavo

parke. Vėliavos nešėjas buvo Liudvikas Baniulis. Pas P. Kapiską susirinkdavo įvairių pakraipų lietuviai: tautininkai, katalikai ir socialistai.

Lewistono mieste daugiausia buvo prancūzų, kurie, nepažinę lietuvių, juos vadindavo lenkais. Lietuviai per vietos spaudą pareiškė protestą ir pristatė Lietuvą kaip atskirą tautą. Nuo to laiko visi žinojo, kad lietuviai nėra lenkai, bet garbingos lietuvių tautos ainiai.

Tai kur gi dabar dingo Lewistono lietuviai?

Jonas Gulbinas

K of L Calendar

AUGUST

- 13 64th ANNUAL LITHUANIAN DAY, Lakewood Park, Barnesville, Pa. C-144, Coordinators
 16-21 65th NATIONAL K OF L CONVENTION, Hotel Syracuse, Syracuse, N.Y. C-140, Syracuse, Hosts

SEPTEMBER

- 16 C-110, Maspeth, FAMILY PICNIC, Long Island, N.Y.
 23 EASTERN SEABOARD "BAL TIC-AMERICAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL", Garden State Arts Center, Holmdel, N.J.
 24 C-143, Pittston, Representation at WYOMING VALLEY (PA) Folk Festival
 24 MAD ANNUAL MEETING & CONVENTION, 11:00 A.M. Mass, followed by meeting, Transfiguration Church & Hall, Maspeth, N.Y. C-110, Maspeth, Hosts
 24 NED FALL CONVENTION, Holyoke, Mass., C-145 Hosts
 30 C-143, Pittston, OLDE LITHUANIAN NITE, St. Casimir Parish Hall, Pittston, Pa.

OCTOBER

- 14 C-29, Newark, ANNUAL DINNER DANCE, Holy Trinity Hall, Newark, N.J.
 14 C-74, Scranton ANNUAL FALL DANCE, St. Joseph Church Hall, Scranton, Pa.
 22 NED SCHOLARSHIP FESTIVAL, Maironis Park, Shrewsbury, Mass.
 15 MAD TESTIMONIAL DINNER for Anthony J. Mazeika, H.M., Annunciation Church Hall, Brooklyn, N.Y.
 28 C-112, Chicago OKTOBERFEST II, K of L Bldg., Chicago, Ill.

NOVEMBER

- 11 C-110, Maspeth ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY DINNER & DANCE, Transfiguration Parish Hall, Maspeth, N.Y.

DECEMBER

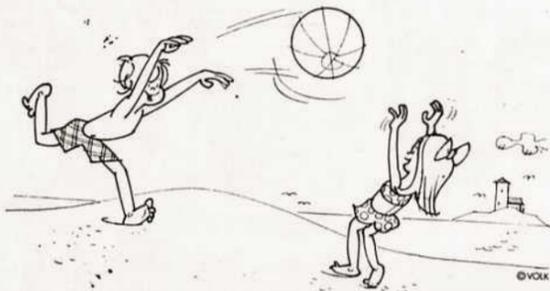
- 24 C-12, Manhattan 9th ANNUAL HOSPITALITY, Coffee & Cake after 8:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Vigil Mass, Our Lady of Vilnius Church, Broome St., New York City. K of L visitors to N.Y. most welcome.

AUGUST, 1979

- 65th NATIONAL K OF L CONVENTION, Chicago, Ill.

Vyčiai Veikia Council Activities

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



MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

PIRMIEJI FLORIDOS VYČIAI

Lietuvos Vyčių organizacija vaidina svarbų vaidmenį. Vyčiai veda plačią kovą už Lietuvos laisvę, išjungdami ir į veiksmingą Amerikos Lietuvių Tarybą. Vyčiai, kaip katalikai, įeina į A.L.R. Katalikų Federaciją. Jie gerai pažindami Ameriką, lengviau palenkia viešą opinią lietuviškiems uždaviniams.

Kai į Floridą persikelia daugiau lietuvių, St. Petersburge apsigyvenęs buv. vyčių centro valdybos pirm. Antanas J. Mažeika š.m.

sausio 28 d. įsteigė Lietuvos Vyčių 147 kuopą, pirmąją Floridoje. Kuopa turi 20 narių. Valdyba išrinkta: dvasios vad. kun. J. Gasiūnas, pirm. A. J. Mažeika, vicepirm. A. Kraujalis, prot. rašt. V. Kleivienė, išd. A. Paleckis, finans. rašt. V. Kraujalienė. Komisijas sudaro: informacijos - koresp. K. Kleiva, kultūros pirm. A. J. Mažeika, liet. reikalų pirm. Victorija Jacobson.

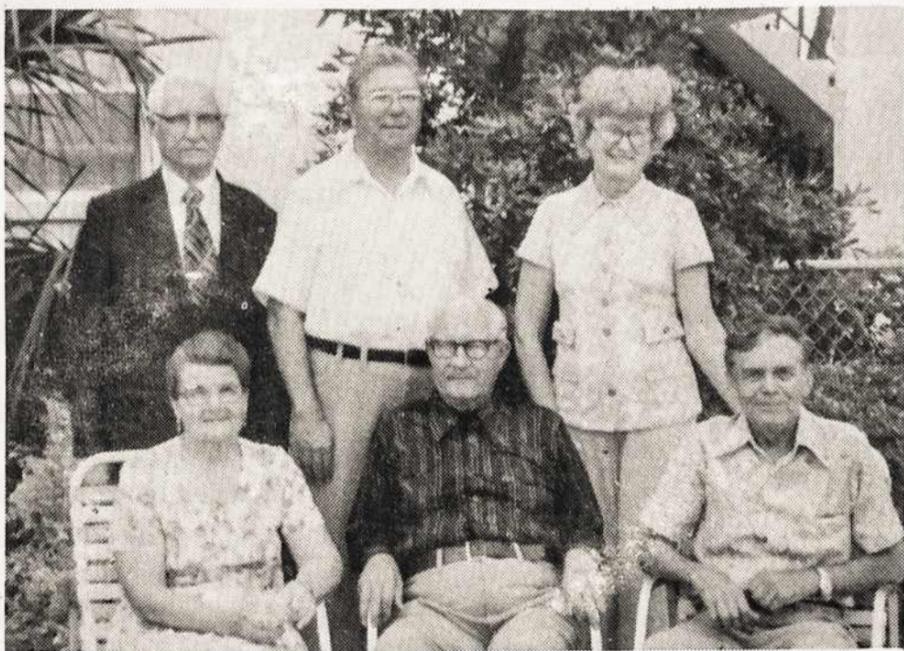
Vyčių globėjo šv. Kazimiero pirmąją šventę kuopos nariai atšventė kovo 5 d. Holy Name bažnyčioje, Gulforte, Fla. ir liet. klube pietų metu, sudarydami bendrą stalą. Į vieną gražiausių kolonijoje iškilnių vyčiai pakvietė visas 12 organizacijų bal. 26 d. pagerbti dvas. vadui kun. J. Gasiūnui, šventusiam 50 m. kunigystės jubiliejų. Vadovavo K. Kleiva. Gerai paruoštos vaišės klube, puiki meno programa su sol. Prudencija Bičkienė iš Chicagos ir amerikiečių kameriniu trio. Per 220 dalyvių vardu jubiliatui įteiktas liet. ornamentikos kryžius.

Balandžio 1 d. Tėvų Prašciškonų patalpose prel. J. Balkūnas ir pirm. A. J. Mažeika į vyčių pirmą laipsnį pakėlė šiuos narius: E. Bacevičienė, A. Bacevičius, kun. T. Degutis, OFM, U. Eidutienė, V. Jacobson, V. Kleivienė, K. Kleivą, V. Kraujalienė, A. Kraujalį, T. Liutkienė, J. Valauską.

Kuopa jau turėjo 4 susirinkimus, kuriuose nagrinėti vyčių stipendijų fondo, vyčių seimo reikalai, Centro Valdybos informacijos, veiklos klausimai. Kuopos išdą papildė aukomis E. ir A. Bacevičiai ir A. J. Mažeika. Nariai išigijo vyčių ženklelį. Mūsų kuopos pirm. A. J. Mažeika bus pagerbtas š.m. spalio 15 d. Annunciation Church salėje, Brooklyn, N.Y., kaip 41 kuopos garbės narys, kuriai ilgai vadovavo.

Džiaugiamės gražia ir rimta vyčių veikla JAV bei St. Petersburgė ir laukiame naujų narių.

Kaz. Ažytėnas



L.V. 147 Kuopos Valdyba:

Sėdi – iš kairės: Viktorija Kleivienė, rašt.; Kun. Jonas Gasiūnas, Dvasios Vadas, Antanas J. Maz, pirm.

Stovi Adolfas Paleckis, išd., Aleksas Kraujalis, vic. pirm.; Violeta Kraujalienė, fin. rast.



St. Petersburg 147-tos kuopos dalis – sėdi iš kairės – V. Kraujalienė, M. Eidutienė, V. Kleivienė, stovi A. J. Maz, T. Liutkienė, Kun. J. Gasiūnas, A. Paleckis, Kun. T. Degutis, A. Bacevičius, E. Bacevičienė, K. Kleiva.

C-74 - SCRANTON, PA.

Greetings to all members of K of L from Scranton Council!!! Although we have not been heard from for some time, we have been active. In OCTOBER Elections were held and our congratulations to the following officers: Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Michael Ozalas, President - Eve Kazokas, V. Pres. - Andrew Leonard, Secretary - Helen Cravath, Treasurer - Joseph Zubavich, Financial Secretary - John Skeras Trustee - Edward Tomasaitis, Sgt. at Arms - Frank Romeika, Spiritual Program Chairman - William Romeika, Lithuanian Affairs - Sr. Virginia Marie, CJC, Cultural Chairman - Rose Stanchis, Ritual Chairman - Elizabeth Tomasaitis, Public Relations - Alice Galenas.

During the month of NOVEMBER our annual Dinner Dance was held. The success of this affair was due to the hard work of our co-chairpeople Betty & Ed Tomasaitis, and Helen & Bill Romeika, and their Committee. Decorations: Gertrude Romeika, Helen Roginski and Pranas Shimkus, Liquid Refreshments: Frank Romeika and Joseph Sabaitis, Basket of Cheer: Helen & Walter Cravath, Orchestra: Margaret & Al Laibinis, Clean up: Ann Ulanoski, Ann Kvetkus, Jean Kveragas, and Mary R. Kazokas. Honored Guests at this dance were Father Ozalas, Father John Galenas, Sr. Virginia Marie, CJC, Sr. Verna, CJC, members of Pittston Council 143, Forest City Council 46, and Anthracite Council 144. It was nice to see the following members who for various reasons are infrequently at our meetings: Leo & Evelyn Zewecki, Tony & Gene Rice, Marian Manko, Patsy Simms, Rose Stanchis, Ann Patelunas, Andrew & Betty Leonard. We hope they will soon attend our meetings regularly. At our November meeting the First Degree was conferred on Peter & Anna Galenas, Alice Galenas, Al & Margaret Laibinis and Pranas Shimkus.

The month of DECEMBER was



C-74 Dinner Dance Guests. 1st Row: Anna Patelunas, Margaret Laibinis, Eve Kazokas, Anna Galenas, Agatha Suetta. 2nd Row: Gertrude Romeika, Jean Kveragas, Mary R. Kazokas, Evelyn Prep, Marie Lithkowsky, & Ona Cicioni.



C-74 Dinner Dance Committee & Guests. 1st Row: Sr. Virginia Marie CJC, Fr. John Galenas, Fr. Michael Ozalas, Sr. Verna CJC. 2nd Row: Edward & Betty Tomasaitis, Eve Kazokas, Helen & Bill Romeika.

celebrated with a Lithuanian Christmas tree display at Nay Aug Park. The persons responsible for decorating the tree were Jean Kveragas, Helen Roginski and Eve Kazokas. A Lithuanian Christmas Carol Sing Along was enjoyed by all.

In January we recuperated from the Holidays, at our regular monthly meeting we were treated to Homemade Donuts prepared by Joe Sabaitis' Mom, and coffee by Joe Zubavich.

February 19th, Lithuanian Day was celebrated with Mass where we received Communion in a Body. That afternoon a delightful program was presented by Sr. Virginia Marie, CJC, and presided over by Eve Kazokas. The program included Guest Speaker, Father Clement Kasinskas, C.P., a delightful display of Lithuanian folk dancing presented by the young people, taught by Sr. Verna, CJC, and a beautiful Lithuanian Ballet by Debbie Laske.

On the 26th of February, a delegation from our council attended Forest City Council's Communion Breakfast at St. Anthony's Church in honor of St. Casimir's Day.

March 5th we celebrated St. Casimir's day with Mass at St. Joseph's Church, Scranton. Fr. Ozalas was celebrant, and Agatha & Frank Suetta participated in the Offertory procession. Breakfast followed at the Castle Restaurant. Fr. Galenas offered Invocation & Words of encouragement. Eve Kazokas presided, chairpeople for this affair were Bill & Helen Romeika. Lithuanian Hymns were sung at Mass and following our breakfast.

Our Best Wishes & Prayers for improved health are extended to Margaret Laibinis, we miss her at our Functions.

On April 17th First Degree was conferred on Richard & Marie Laske, Vito Shimkus, Marcella Kukaitis, Anna Matulevich, Mary V. Kazokas, and Ann Marie Huffstutler. Second Degree was also conferred on Jean Kveragas, Joseph Zubavich, Frank Romeika, William Romeika, Helen Romeika, Edward Tomasaitis, Elizabeth Tomasaitis, Helen Roginski, Ann Ulinoski, Joseph Sabaitis, and Mary R. Kazokas.

Our future plans consist of a picnic at St. Mary's Villa Elmhurst on July 16th. Also our Fall Frolic is planned for Oct. 14th.

A Happy Summer To All.

Mariute

C-110 - MASPETH, N.Y.

Our April meeting was opened with prayer by Brother George Petcavage. Guests were Fr. Walkevicius of Hudson, Mass.; Fr. Clement Kosinkas, Passionist Father; Loretta Stukas and Viola Skrapata of Newark, N.J. C-29.

Eighteen delegates and guests attended the Dist. Convention in Shenandoah. Glowing reports were given of their hospitality. V.P. John Adomenas reported



*Honorary Member and Vytis Editor
Loretta Stukas, gucsi speaker at
Maspeth C-110 council meeting.*

membership has reached the 100 mark. He is still actively recruiting Lith-Americans for our council. He is also organizing a bus or two for the Aug. 13 Lithuanian Day Picnic in Lakewood Park, Pa. A delegation of our members attended the Dist. Meeting in Elizabeth, N.J. on May 21.

Our council will host the MAD Meeting on Sept. 24 commencing with the 11 a.m. Mass at Transfiguration Church. This will be the important annual meeting, as Convention reports will be given and officers for 78-79 elected.

Our annual Anniversary Dinner & Dance will be held Nov. 11 in the parish hall. Lottie Ulrich and John Adomenas will chair this affair. A great menu is in store, so make your reservations early!

After the business portion of our meeting, Guest Speaker Loretta Stukas, Vytis Editor and Honorary Member, was introduced by Pres. Marian Skabeikis. Mrs. Stukas gave a very interesting progressive K of L history starting at the very beginning when Mr. Norkūnas and Mr. Bugnevicius first organized the Lith. Catholic Youth in 1912. We learned the Vytis was first printed in 1915 as a cultural and news magazine, and today the Vytis relates to modern times with

informative material for all Lith. American Catholics in the U.S. and Canada. The members listened to Mrs. Stukas' talk with rapt attention. We heartily recommend this program to other councils.

At the May meeting we welcomed two new members, Pat Danowski and Taffy Samanka. After a film produced by Fr. Casimir Pugevičius of the Consecration of the Chapel of Our Lady of Šiluva was shown, a party cake was brought out in celebration of Father's 25th anniversary of ordination. Many verses of Ilgiausiu Metų were sung. Our prayers are for many, many more healthy years.

Our Lith. Cultural Chmn. Helen Yocis reproduced information sheets distributed by the Supreme Council. Members received copies to help them in promoting Lithuanianism.

At our June meeting four new members were introduced: Peter Yuskevich, Mary Ann Janus, Helen Janus and Edward Sirgetas. Welcome. Pres. Marian Skabeikis informed the council that Brother George Petkavage was appointed Dist. Delegate to the Natl. Convention.

A family picnic is planned for Sept. 16 to be held on Long Island. Adele & Arthur Nelson are making final plans.

Six members in Lithuanian costume represented the Transfiguration parish at a special Mass celebrated at Resurrection - Ascension Church in Rego Park.

Fr. John Pakalniskis, our Moderator, received rousing congratulations on the celebration of his 39th year in the Priesthood.

Guest speaker, Mari Linama, Membership V.P. of BATUN, spoke of the organization's twelve-year history. BATUN was started in 1965 with a march to the United Nations. The purpose of this organization is to keep the United Nations informed of the plight of the people in Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. BATUN also sponsors Prisoner Conscience Groups to help Baltic prisoners. They were

also responsible for bringing to the attention of the Geneva Conference the violations of human rights in Lithuania. Membership is open to all and the yearly dues are nominal.

We congratulate and extend best wishes to Rita Bobelis and Robert Thomann on their forthcoming marriage.

John Adomenas was host of a successful trip to Lithuania and several neighboring countries. His wife Ann, Lottie Ulrich and Nellie Skabeikis accompanied him. Their comments were very interesting and surely next year many more K of L's will make this trip.

Congratulations to Bill Sidtis, Junior Councilor and M.A. Dist. VP in charge of Juniors, on his graduation from Cathedral Prep. Bill will be attending St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn.

AMS

C-140 - SYRACUSE, N.Y.

We hosted our first Supreme Council meeting on Apr. 8. It was a good experience for us and our members came through with flying colors. They did their utmost to be the congenial host.

We must have been successful, because the Supreme Council scheduled another meeting in Syracuse for June 10. They say we are the hospitality council with a capital H.

If the Supreme Council likes us so much to come back a second time, just think what is in store for the membership come August and "Upstate in '78" — Syracuse. We don't only know you'll have a good time, but we unconditionally guarantee it.

Our Apr. 14 council meeting dealt with Natl. Convention planning. The Convention is all set but minor items were discussed and finalized.

The members enjoyed Aldona Ryan's monthly cultural article. It was informative and interesting and we are looking forward to future articles.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our two newest members, Vita & Gerald Talandis from Ithaca.

We leave you with thought: Happiness — It is better to desire the things we have than to have the things we desire.

Pusbrolis

C-12 - NEW YORK, N.Y.

As in all churches throughout the Christian world, the glorious resurrection that Easter signified was celebrated at Our Lady of Vilnius Church. The High Mass celebrant was our pastor emeritus, Rev. George Gurinkas. Meanwhile, at approximately the same time in Rome, his Holiness Pope Paul bestowed his Easter blessing on the gathered multitude in ten different languages, among them Lithuanian. There was no indication who had coached the Pontiff, but a good guess would have to be Fr. Marcinkus, the Holy Father's able assistant and constant companion.

At the April meeting, our delegate to the Shenandoah conclave, Vincent Gendvilas, gave us a graphic account of just about everything that happened there at every session. Our thanks to Vince for an informative job well done.

It was a pleasant surprise to read that a K of L council was formed in Harrisburg, Pa. I've lived and worked there for almost ten years, and have fine-combed the local telephone book in search of a Lithuanian sounding name. I never did find one, nor did any of my friends know of any Lith's in the area. Now there are more than fifty from that region enrolled in our fine organization! I intend to visit Harrisburg in the near future to shake the hands of the persons who brought about something I was so sure just couldn't be done in Pa.'s Dauphin County.

At a recent council meeting, by-laws were updated, clarified and streamlined by Larry Janonis, a tireless worker not only for the

M.A. Dist., but also for our group. Jeanne Janonis did all the clerical work and distributed copies to all our members. Our sincere thanks to both for a monumental task ably performed.

The Spring version of Our Lady of Vilnius parish dinner was well attended. The hall had a new look with several king-size paintings on the wall, a part of Mary York's beautification program. There was excellent carpentry and wiring, too, a modernization program engineered by Al Yatkas and Joe Kscenaitis. The church roof problem was detailed by the pastor as well as Vincent Mascola, and the repair bill will be astronomical. However, there were some healthy donations to help resolve that problem. Too much cannot be said about the quality and quantity of food at these parish dinners. Six dedicated ladies manned the kitchen and as usual, made the Rev. George Gurinkas Hall the best restaurant in town.

Millie Paskacimi celebrated a birthday and Larry & Jeanne Janonis a wedding anniversary. Back in circulation after a hospital stay are Helen Yurkus and Anna Zindzius. Helen Cuprewich is sporting a deep tan after hibernating in Florida, and Anthony & Kazimiera Yacavonis rejoined us after an extended European tour. A very warm welcome is extended to our newest members, Peter & Alice Zupkus and Katherine Marcotte. John Antanavicius has rejoined us after visiting Lithuania. He reports having one marvelous time while visiting there. This is understandable since Lithuanian hospitality is legendary.

Our last get-together until the fall was indeed a noteworthy one. It was dedicated to commemorate the June deportations in the 40's in Lithuania. We were fortunate to have the Natl. Lith. Affairs Chmn., the Rev. Casimir Pugevičius, for the invocation as well as principal speaker. He drew an accurate picture of what the lifestyle was in Lithuania a few generations ago

nd what it is today. Both fall far short of giving even the barest minimum of freedom and human dignity to an enslaved and long-suffering ethnic people. Poetry recitations by Julia Gomes and Milly Paskacimis were very well received. Pastor Emeritus Rev. Gurinkas closed the program with well-chosen comments from his experiences both in Europe and his lengthy guidance to the parishioners of our church.

We were saddened by the sudden passing of Albert Janonis, one of our newer and highly esteemed members who died just one day after attending our June meeting. Our condolences to his family, and his brother, MAD Pres. Larry. Please remember Albert in your prayers.

A ceremony was held at Flushing Meadows park in nearby Corona marking the mass deportations of the Baltic people to prisons and slave labor camps in the Soviet Union. Leader of the group was Peter C. Wytenus, Pres. of the Lith.-American Wayside Shrine Committee. Unfortunately, a bronze plaque from a Lithuanian shrine had been stolen and the grounds vandalized somewhat. Despite these irritations, the program was completed on schedule and was well attended.

The Vet

C-144 - ANTHRACITE, PA.

Our heartiest thanks to Mary Koons and to Radio Station WPPA Potsville for her delightful program in honor of Lithuanian Independence Day. Mary also had a Mother's Day Program. We are all proud of her and grateful to Mr. A. V. Tidnore, owner of the Station, for giving the hour for the program.

Welcome back to Msgr. Joseph Neverauskas and Anne Panchari from their trip to the Holy Land and to Rome.

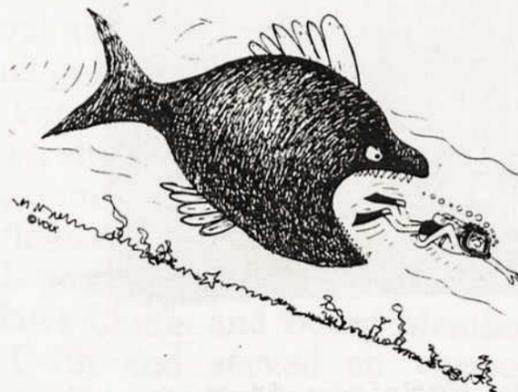
On Apr. 23 in St. Casimir's Church, we had our Founder's Day Celebration and Awards Night. In a very impressive church ceremony, Father Al Bartkus pre-

sented the First Degree to 37 members and the Second to 64. A million "ačiū's" to Ritual Chairman Helen Chesko for the job well done. Our newly-formed choir under the direction of Stanley Vaičaitis sang for the first time the beautiful Lithuanian Benediction and it was heart-warming. Since this was also St. George's Day, special prayers were offered for the beatification of Archbishop George Matulaitis. Through the efforts of our Pres. Bernice Mikatavage, prayers were offered in all our churches. After the ceremonies, everyone had a grand time at the social in the hall. There was a Lithuanian Auction and much Lithuanian singing. We were happy to see Eugene Kaledas there. Our Pied Piper wasn't well this winter and we were glad to have him back.

On the 30th, a busload, under the guidance of Frances Stefanek and Helen Chesko, journeyed to Harrisburg for the installation of officers of our new Harrisburg council.

The council had a cultural display on May 21 at the Greater Pottsville Area Downtown Fair. Anne Sikora was chairman. We had a busload going to Toronto on June 30 for the Lithuanian Song Festival and Olympics. Three cheers to Elsie Kosmisky for her very expert planning of the trip.

Then the big day — the 64th Annual Lithuanian Day on Aug. 13. Anne Wargo and Stanley Vaičaitis are co-chairmen. To date we have obtained Simas Kudirka as guest speaker and the Kalvelis Folk Dancers of Baltimore under the direction of Algimantas Vitkatas-



kas. Many other things are planned. We are looking forward to seeing our Vyčių friends at Lakewood Park in Barnesville, Pa. on Aug. 13.

Council members wish all our Vyčiams Broliams ir Seserims, a Happy Vacation. Hope to see you at Lakewood and Syracuse in August.

Ona

C-100 - AMSTERDAM, N.Y.

Our April meeting was held at the home of Ed & Nellie Liberis. Rev. Anthony Grigaitis, opened the meeting with prayers and Rev. Robert K. Baltch led the group in the singing of our Vyčių Himnas. Due to the illness of Pres. Anthony Radzevich, the meeting was conducted by V.P. Gene Gobis.

Cultural co-chairlady Regina Kot read Aldona Ryan's article on the stars and other heavenly bodies.

Polly Ziausys suggested that we apply to the district for a grant of \$25. to purchase a book on Lithuania's national dress, etc., which in turn would be donated to the Amsterdam Library. The motion was approved.

Ads for the Natl. Convention book were mentioned. Ed Bablin was approached to contact various businesses, etc. and he accepted to be chairman.

Gene Gobis was sought out by the vice-president of Amsterdam's Common Council, Mr. Karol Krajewski, with reference to the Lithuanian flag which had been stolen from the 4th Ward Memorial. The council members voted unanimously to donate the money to replace the flag.

Mirga Bablin reported on the Mar. 5 Communion brunch which was held at the Teepee Restaurant. Over one-half of our members attended. Mirga was an excellent mistress of ceremonies and most eloquently related the history of Amsterdam's St. Casimir's Church. Rev. Baltch was the principal speaker and his topic was the life of St. Casimir. The Ritual Chairlady Mary Stanionis and our Spiritual Advisor Rev. Baltch pre-

sented First and Second Degrees to the qualifying members.

Algis & Anele Dzekorius attended the brunch. They had a new addition to their family. A son, Kevin Kestutis Matthew, was born Dec. 19.

Officers of all the Bendruomenes organizations attended a special meeting on May 20 at the Cultural Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. Serving on the panel was our Father Baltch. Vytautas Radzivanas was the moderator.

Our council members wish to extend their congratulations to Rev. Casimir Pugevičius on his 25th anniversary in the priesthood and on his birthday. We wish you many, many good things in life, your health, your devotion to Lithuania, and to our Knights of Lithuania. Ilgiausiu Metu, tēveli!

There's no holding Annacetta Guzielek down. Mildred Whelly, Fran Di Bart and Annacetta vacationed in Europe in May. She's already planning her next spree, a convention in Chicago, plus our own K of L Convention in Syracuse.

Our member and third ward supervisor, Joseph Valikonis, was on the sick list. We hope that by now Joe will once again be in the best of health.

SMILE & SPARKLE



MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT

C-96 - DAYTON, OHIO

Our thanks to Pat Smiley and his committee for making arrangements that made it possible for the council to have an Evening of Prayer. With good attendance by the members, Benediction was held at Holy Cross Church at 7 P.M. on Apr. 11. Services were conducted by Rev. Michael Mahoney of Holy Angels, Dayton. Father's homily encouraged lay people to become more involved with their local community. This was followed with an informative discussion period in the church hall. It was a well-spent evening.

Joe Mantz chaired our Founder's Day Social on Apr. 22 in the church hall. With a buffet supper prepared by Joe's committee, we

settled down for hours of reminiscing. Movie films were from the Ambrose and Mikalauskas collections, and slides were shown from the Mantz collection of council activities. In between these, sound movies were shown for our young ones. A reading of our founder, Mr. Mykolas Norkūnas, was rendered by Fran Petkus. To Joe and his committee, a hearty thanks for a fun evening.

Joe & Aldona Ryan and Fran Petkus had the pleasure of attending the Apr. 8 S.C. meeting in Syracuse. The members of C-140 were most hospitable. If this is a sample of how they are going to host the Natl. Convention, we are in for a warm, down-home treatment. Special thanks to Frank & Irene Petrauskas (adopted Petkus'), for their extra special treatment to this writer.

Through arrangements made by our Cultural Chmn. Aldona Ryan, the Lith. Affairs Comm., Laima Raštikis and Alice Petkus, with eight other members had the pleasure of hearing and visiting with Simas Kudirka during his few hours stopover in Dayton Apr. 22. Mr. Kudirka was guest speaker at the closing banquet of Youth of America for Freedom Convention in Dayton. He did not have time to join us at our Founder's Day function, regretfully.



C-96 Dayton, Ohio, MCD Ritual Chmn. (l) Nellie Arunski and Nat'l Ritual Chmn. (r) Fran Petkus with 3rd



Degree Recipients Mary Ann Blum, Susan Smiley and Christine Mantz.

C-96 Dayton, Ohio. Trophy winners, Sue & Pat Smiley, at Mid-West Bowling Tournament, Detroit, Mich.

The parish's annual Eucharistic Devotion and Missionary Appeal was held May 13-14. Rev. Edmund Montvilas, S.J., formerly with the Jesuit's mission in India, now stationed in Cincinnati, was guest homilist. It was a very heart-warming and informative weekend. We certainly learned much about the works of the Jesuits in India, thanks to Father Montvilas.

On May 21 over 200 Boy Scouts and their leaders attended the formal ceremony of the return of the St. Casimir statue to the Shrine of the Three Crosses. The original statue had been stolen two years ago. The Scouts made the return a special project of theirs. John Lougeman, representing our council, was emcee and historian, and helped with arrangements making certain the Scouts were fed. Al & Albina Wallis were in charge of food arrangements for the day.

In spite of a few problems that cropped up, we had a great time in Dearborn the weekend of May 19-21. A most successful district meeting was held on the 20th under the leadership of Dist. Pres. Aldona Ryan. We were saddened to hear of the death of Mary Margaret Panavas and Barbara Sackle, both of C-79. Our sympathies are extended to their families.

The Mid-West Bowling Tournament took place later that day with four teams entered from Dayton. The closest we came to First place was Second thanks to Mike, Audrey & Greg Blum, and Pat & Sue Smiley. Pat and Sue each took trophies for Hs/Hcp. Each won twice in the money division, with Fran Petkus also taking a win in that area. The new Traveling Trophy, donated by the Dayton council, was presented in the honor of our deceased member Joseph C. Noreikas. We had one casualty with Eloise Berczelly breaking her foot on the way up to Detroit. She is doing just fine. To C-102, our host for the weekend, we thank you for making us feel most welcome.

We congratulate the parish's Lithuanian Cultural Council for another very fine display at Dayton's Annual International World A'Fair, May 26-28. It was good to see the Knights helping the committee.

Get-well wishes are sent to Joe August, Judy Petrokas, Ida Kavy, Venice Grantham, Marian Owens, Jim Kavalauskas, Ernest Omlor, Elynor Matkins and Charles Vangas. Speedy recoveries to all.

Congratulations to Mary Ann Blum, Christine Mantz and Susan M. Smiley. They received Third Degree Medals at the Dist. Mass on May 21 in Detroit.

Apologies to Ada Sinkwitz for not listing her on the Palm Sunday Bake Sale Comm. Ada did a terrific job manning the Raffle Sales. Our thanks to Mrs. Jeanne and Lori Smiley for donations at recent functions.

Deepest sympathies are extended to Pat Zelinskas Alexander and her family on the loss of her mother, Frances. We pray her soul is at peace.

FBP

C-79 - SOUTHFIELD, MICH.

Friends and members are still trying to recover from the sad news on Apr. 14 that Mary Margaret Panavas had passed away. Only 22 years of age, the news was heard in disbelief. She was the eldest daughter of members Violet & Joseph Panavas.

Following corrective heart surgery a few years ago, Mary Margaret was given a chance for a full life expectancy. She lived it to the fullest, ever ready "to get involved in things". Her philosophy about any project had been "if you don't get into it, how are you going to know?" She theorized it best when she accepted to serve on the Supreme Council Youth Coordinator Comm. Among other K of L positions she held were Lith. Affairs Chmn. and Board Member of C-79; and served on various committees — Family Day Picnics, Fall Festival, Millionaire's Party,

Lunch & Card party, and was hostess several times.

Intelligent and confident Mary Margaret had a serious goal — Psychology. She pursued those studies at Mercy College where she was to graduate just a few short weeks of her untimely death. Mary Margaret's "fulfilled" graduation was recognized on Apr. 24, when a B.A. certificate was presented in special ceremonies to her parents following a Mass at the Chapel of Mercy College.

Besides her parents, Mary Margaret is survived by two sisters, Kathi & Karen, brother David, and grandmother Anne Kuiber. She is an inspiration and a radiant example to emulate. May she now rest in Eternal Peace.

We wish to thank our pastor and Spiritual Director Rev. V. Kriščiunevičius for a very inspiring eulogy during Margaret's funeral services. He punctuated his references on Enthusiasm, Education and Eternity.

On May 12, the life of another member came to an untimely end, that of Barbara Sackle. Despite a battle of an illness of two years, she was possessed with great willpower and was a gallant fighter who was never heard to complain.

Spurred by a well-liked personality, Barb was a very loyal (associate) member, ever ready of her duties to the K of L, though of non-Lithuanian heritage. Among her many achievements were working on Family Day Picnics, Fall Festival, Card Party, K of L Bowling, and Social Hostess. Among her other skills included expert sewing, crocheting and leathercraft, which included a unique leather handbag for our first Fall Festival.

From her K of L involvement, Barbara made many friends. She will be truly missed. Our deepest sympathy to her husband Edward, and her two brothers, John & Frank and their families.

The Fourth Annual Social Bowling Tournament held on Apr. 23 attracted 36 bowlers. Chairman Joe Yakstys reported there were 12 teams in operation. He was

capably assisted by Sec. Jeanne Yakstys, Mart & Ruth Wagster, and Clem Galinas. Awards went to the following: 1st Place — Mike Vale & Linda Calles, 2nd — Maggie Smailis & Chip Newberry, 3rd — Ed Salas & Vince Bridges, 4th — Clem Patocki & John Laconis, and 5th — George & Marie Kase. Last Place Champs were Chuck & Marge Krieg. Congrats to all!

A super, spring weekend brought a nice representation of bowlers & members for the Mid-West Bowling Tournament & semi-Annual M.C. Dist. Meeting on May 20-21. The event was hosted by C-102 of St. Anthony's. Chmn. Jos Guerriero extended a warm welcome to everyone following the opening of the meeting. Warm thanks to Joe and his committee for all their efforts and open hospitality. Pres. Aldona Ryan conducted the Dist. meeting with all expertise as usually common in that Ryan flair.

People are on the go. Frank & Sophie Zager loved their Caribbean cruise. They did everything — lounging by the pool, danced to Vadnal's Polka Band, feasted "like royalty" and revelled in night shows. Another attraction enjoyed was an all-day guided tour of Caracas, in Venezuela. Ironically, the guide was the same person with the President Carter entourage when he visited So. America a few weeks previous. Other points of interest were San Juan, St. Thomas, Curacao, Granada and Martinique. A quick shopping spree for souvenirs climaxed the trip. Also taking in a Caribbean trip were Bertha Janus & her friend, Cel Kuhn. They joined Bertha's cousin, Emma & Al Mikenas, who were with a Cleveland group.

A proper portion of whoopee, sobriety, and congratulations was the order of the day at Jeanine Mickey's wedding on Apr. 7. She is the daughter of our members Eleanor & Joseph Mickey, and the happy groom was John Mittelstadt.

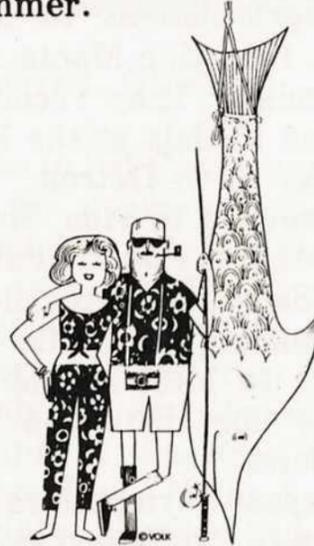
Congratulations, also, to Carol

Mykolaitis upon her marriage to Thomas Young on the same date, Apr. 7. She is the daughter of members Helen & Charles Mykolaitis. Many, many happy years together to both couples.

Ilgiausiu Metu to John & Julia Belickas upon their 25th wedding anniversary.

Carol & Gerry Zager are singing lullabies to their 2nd addition, Nicholas Joseph, born May 26.

Hope you all have a pleasant and safe summer.



Soffi

ILLINOIS-INDIANA DISTRICT

ILLINOIS-INDIANA DISTRICT

Another successful Rummage Sale was held at the K of L Bldg. due to the efforts of the Bldg. Trustees and their very capable committee. This event, along with the very well attended Banquet for the benefit of the building under the direction of Juozas Laurinaitis, is enabling the trustees to fulfill their commitment to the Supreme Council.

The Mid-West Bowling Tournament held in May in Detroit with C-102 as hosts was graced by one team from the IID. Representing the Chicago bowlers were Ann Marie and Georgianne Kassel, Bernice Pupinek and Vince Samaska, all of C-36, and Eddie Krivickas of C-112. Unfortunately it was not a bowling day for the illustrious quintet, as the group placed last among the 20 teams entered. But nevertheless everyone enjoyed the hospitality of the Detroiters and had the oppor-

tunity to meet and socialize with friends from the Mid-Central District and Natl. Pres. Tony Miner. The events were well planned and our reps especially enjoyed the Dinner Dance held at the Italian American Club and the Sunday Brunch at the Darius-Girenas Lithuanian Hall. Hosts for the 1979 Mid-West Tourney will be C-96 of Dayton, Ohio.

The IID and councils were represented by the K of L Colors, organized by IID Sgt-at-Arms Jerome Jankus, and member participants at the Annual Memorial Day Mass and the 75th Anniversary Program of the St. Casimir's Lithuanian Cemetery. Most Rev. Paul Marcinkus of Rome was the principal celebrant assisted by the pastors of the Lithuanian parishes.

Condolences to the family of K of L Choir member Rima Utaras who recently passed away, to John Spackauskas on the death of his father, and to Antanas Krevanas on the death of his brother.

The LLA Mens Lodge #228 had a successful fun-fest at the Lithuanian Playhouse. Among the K of L members active in this group are Al Brazis, Stan Molis, John and Whity Evans. The group is a great supporter of K of L events and activities.

The K of L was well represented at the 45th Anniversary Banquet of the Darius-Girenas American Legion Post No. 271 which was held at the "Martinique". The D-G members in attendance at our last "Memories of Lithuania" banquet so enjoyed the event that they patterned their anniversary event after our banquet.

Among the other affairs attended by K of L Members: the Annual Awards Banquet of the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture held in the Preston Bradley Hall of the Chicago Public Library's Cultural Center (The American of the Year award was presented to Patrick L. O'Malley); the 1st Annual Banquet of the new radio program "Lietuvos Aidu" held at the Lithuanian Natl. Hall; and the Annual Amber Ball, spon-

sored by the Chicago Lithuanian Women's Club, held in the Grand Ballroom of the Conrad Hilton Hotel.

Our C-36-112 Juniors spent a busy Spring session rehearsing for the "Dainų Šventė", and under the direction of IID 1st VP Ann Marie Kassel, many social and fun activities were arranged. Current president is John Paul Kilkus. Faustas Strolia was the primary instructor for the song festival as the entire junior program at the festival was under his direction.

Election of officers will be held at the September business - convention meeting.

C-112 - CHICAGO, ILL.

The social evening of the spring session was the premiere performance of the Lithuanian Opera Company of Chicago with their presentation of Verdi's "Nabucco". Starring in the title role was our own Algerd Brazis. Our members were in attendance and thoroughly enjoyed the performance, the pre-opera cocktail party at the home of Irene Sankus, and the evening of dancing and socializing which followed at the Martinique.

Many of our members were active participants in the recent IID Rummage Sale and the IID Bldg. Trustees Banquet. Both events were held in the K of L Bldg. Our Bldg. trustees are a dedicated group and our own members on the board are Al Mockus, Al Zakarka and John Auksciunas.

At the April business meeting, Pres. Al Zakarka followed the recommendation of Natl P.R. lady Aldona Ryan, and held a Founder's Day commemorative program which included the reading of the history of our founder, Mykolas Norkunas.

Following the May business meeting, chaired by V.P. Al Dagis, we all enjoyed the delicious goodies prepared by hostess Gerrie Mockus, while co-hostess Julie Zakarka was on a vacation trip with husband Al.

New members welcomed into the council at the meeting were John & Mary Dauginas of Flossmoor. Both are former K of L members. John was with C-8 of Roseland and Mary, C-3 of Philadelphia.

Our council was represented by bowler Ed Krivickas and socializer Irene Sankus at the Mid-West Bowling Tournament. They enjoyed the hospitality of the host C-102 of Detroit and especially the welcome of Grazina and Vitalia Vaskelis, and enjoyed meeting members of the Mid-Central District.

Another theater party was arranged by our hostesses, Gerrie and Julie, at the Drury Lane Theatre. Those in attendance enjoyed the performance of Hugh O'Brien in the play, "Sunday in New York". An evening of dining and dancing followed.

Charlotte Brazdzionis, council member and the "Lietuvių Aidų" radio program moderator, was the gracious hostess of the program's 1st Annual Benefit Banquet held at the Lithuanian Natl. Hall. Many council members were in attendance.

Dr. Leonas Kriaučeliūnas, member of our council and the K of L representative on the Natl. Board of the Lithuanian American Council (he is one of the vice-presidents) has been traveling throughout the country with Dr. Kazys Bobelis and other ALTAS members holding symposiums on the Belgrade Conference and other related events. Recent trips were made to Boston and Toronto.

Best wishes to Father Tony Puchenski on his transfer to St. Damien's Church in Oak Forest. A farewell banquet was held at the Nativity Parish hall. Everyone wishes him great success and joy in his new assignment, but we hope he will continue to participate in K of L affairs.

Congratulations to Robert Mockus, son of Gerrie & Al Mockus and nephew of Ruth & Al Dagis, on his awards in the field of music. Robert, a high school student, has

received many prizes and is a most talented pianist.

Date to Remember: Oct. 28 — Oktoberfest II, K of L Building. iks



NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

C-135 - ANSONIA, CONN.

Few people realize the work involved in making any affair a success. First the planning, then the arranging to make the plan work, and then the report showing success or failure of the affair. Our K of L's make a success of all their programs. Pick a good committee and things run smoothly.

At our Annual Communion Breakfast, which was attended by one of the largest group of people ever to participate in a K of L breakfast, things couldn't have run more smoothly. The committee was headed by co-chairmen Millie & Walt Stachowicz. Assisting in the kitchen were Carol Bujanauskas, Christine Slushinski, Lorraine Kapinos, Rose Marie Tabaka, Lillian Chaplik and Ann Barauskas. Serving the delicious food and offering seconds were Lillian Norwid, Dorothy Martin, Casey Svelnys and Al Barauskas.

Another successful affair this year was our Cake and Perogi Sale. This year kielbasa was also sold. Co-chairmen Lil Twerian and Dot Martin did it again this year on Mar. 18-19, after all Masses, Saturday and Palm Sunday. All members did their part by donating cakes, cookies or breads. Those helping Lil and Dot making perogies, which were ordered in advance, were Helen Chepulis, Millie Stackowicz, Ann Barauskas, Lil Chaplik, Christine Slushinski, Rose Marie Tabaka, and Mary Slavin. Special thanks to Mary Slavin for coming out from Hamden to help make the perogi.

On Apr. 15, the council held their Spring Dance. The Big Four responsible for this good time were co-chairmen, our Pres. Anthony Chepulis and Ella Ellis, with Helen Chepulis and John Ellis. Old-fashioned hot dogs and sauerkraut were again featured, with an added attraction, a Polka Contest, to keep things hopping. Millie & Walt Stachowicz shared top honors with another couple in this contest. It was a good show, and the winners were well applauded.

Jack Tyson left our midst for a few days, and entered Griffin Hospital. After a short stay there, nothing appealed to him, so he came home. Jack could be heard humming the song "There's No Place Like Home". We are glad it turned out this way Jack, stay with us.

Congratulations to our Judge Joseph J. Chernauskas who was appointed a Superior Court Judge in the State's new one-tier court system. He will be a Resident Judge in the Ansonia-Milford District under this new system.

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

As Spring leaves us and the weather improves, the activities of the councils increase. The Seniors held their annual whist party to benefit the church. Anne Norinkavich and Al Akule co-managed the affair. We thank all the members and friends who attended and donated prizes. We also appreciate the donations of cakes and aluminum items — cans, foil, etc. — to the Jrs. for their fund-raising efforts.

On Apr. 30 the N.E.D. held their Spring Convention at St. Casimir's Church in Brockton, Mass., hosted by C-1 with Pres. John Tomashunas. Rev. Peter A. Shakalis, Pastor, celebrated Mass, greeted the delegates and guests, and sat in during part of the proceedings. Mary Minkus, NED Pres., presided and handled the agenda with



A few gentlemen at the St. Casimir's Day Communion Breakfast, C-17 & Srs., at St. Peter's, So. Boston, Mass. (l to r): Joseph White, Alexander Akule, John Norinkavich, John Olevitz, Albert Jaritis.



Combined C's 17-Communion Breakfast, So. Boston, Mass. Ann Carroll, Anne Norinkavich, Ardele Martus, Pat Akule, Mary Mickavich, Alice Opanasset, Anne White, Ardele Martus, Ann Antanelis, Florence Casper.

dispatch. The day started with Mass at 9:45 a.m. with the convention commencing at 1 p.m. and concluding at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner in the church hall. Our council was well represented with the following delegates: Alexander & Patricia Akule, John & Anne Norinkavich, Joseph & Betty Balaconis, Longinas Svelnis, Joseph White, Anthony Young, Anne Markewich, and Anne Voveris. We thank C-1 for their hospitality and the fine lunch and dinner.

Our combined councils' Scholarship Committee had been meeting to prepare awards for three members of the graduating class of St. Peter's School in So. Boston.

Themes for the essays dealing with Lithuania or Lithuanians were selected and all potential candidates wrote their essays monitored by committee members. Source material had been provided by the councils in addition to the material at the local library. In this manner the students were exposed to material dealing with the subject matter and learned where to look for such material.

It is our sad duty to report the death of Albin Neveira on Apr. 14. Albin was a 4th Degree member and active for many years in the K of L, local business, and the Lithuanian community. He will be missed by all. May his soul rest in peace.

Felix Zaleskas, our venerable senior member, is hospitalized. We celebrated his 85th birthday in March when he received greetings from President Jimmy Carter. We are all praying for his rapid recovery. Dr. Albert Kiburis is well and about after a hospital stay. Betty & Joe Balaconis flew to Hawaii to visit their son Roy and his new bride.

All Sr. C-17 members are urged to forward newsworthy items and photos to the council correspondent, Joseph White. Members like to know what is going on in the K of L community.

Members enjoyed the NED Retreat at Kennebunkport, Me. the weekend of June 24-25 at the Franciscan Monastery, and the Dist. Picnic at Lithuanian Grove in Gardner, Mass. on July 30. We look forward to other activities sponsored by the Dist., — the NED Fall Convention at Holyoke, Mass. on Sept. 24, and the Dist. Scholarship Festival at Maironis Park, Shrewsbury, Mass. on Oct. 22.

Excitement mounts as we rapidly approach Natl. Convention time. Delegates have been selected, ads and greetings for the program book formulated, and travel plans made. We are looking forward to visiting Syracuse, Frank Petrauskas and his hard-working C-140.

Raštingas Žmogus

C-10 - ATHOL-GARDNER, MASS.

Our council sponsored and members attended the Mass celebrated in St. Francis Church on May 3 for the persecuted Church in Lithuania.

Blanche & Charlie Genaitis spent the month of April in the state of Washington visiting with their daughter and family.

St. Francis Church was again exquisitely decorated at Easter time. Our parish consists of about 550 members, but Father Stepnaitis distributed Holy Eucharist to 1500 during the holidays. During this beautiful season, so many non-parishioners find their way to St. Francis, the miniature cathedral in Athol.

Thought for the month: Now that summer is on us, let not the season of picnics, etc., keep us from our commitments to the K of L and our parish.

Member of the month: It is our pleasure to reintroduce to the readers of the Vytis, our member, Mary Gauronsky. Mary was born and raised in Athol, attended the local schools and was graduated from Athol High School. She has been a faithful and dedicated worker at Starret's since her graduation from high school. Mary is a dedicated parishioner of St. Francis, a devoted daughter to an ailing mother, a member of the St. Francis Women's Guild, the K of L, and several prayer groups, giving to each group her talents and devotion. She is also an excellent cook. The members of our council wish Mary many more years with her choice affiliations, and good health.

Vincukas

C-145 - HOLYOKE, MASS.

Advance publicity drew "students" from an unusually large sphere. Among the novices were such names as Lyons, Smith, Carr, Ruggles, Laframboise, Daniels, Rex, Picard, Lord, Doerpholz and Proulx along with Adamaitis, Mikalis, Kwapik, Pasternak, Mar-



C-145 Holyoke, Mass. Lithuanian language classes with Dr. I. Alis. Reading was one thing, then came the writing (from memory): Shown are Della Mikalis (partially hidden), Nellie

koski, Dapsius and Suzor. All were of Lithuanian Descent who desired to speak, and better understand, the language of their ancestry.

Even though, a stone's throw in any direction, here in the heart of the Pioneer Valley would lead to such colleges as Smith, Mt. Holyoke, Amherst, Hampshire, U. of Mass. or scores of lesser known campuses where various languages are studied, Holyoke was the first in this area to have the Lithuanian language included in their evening school program.

Given the approval and blessings of Mr. Edward Moriarty, Superintendent of the Holyoke Public Schools, consent for the formation of a Lithuanian language class was granted by the school board. These classes were held on Mon. and Tues. evenings at the Holyoke High School in union with the Evening Div. of Continuing Education.

Prior to each formal classroom session, Joan Laframboise, our council's Pres. and certified school teacher, presented highlights con-

cerning Lithuanian history, architecture, mythology, and geography. Lord, Viola Mackoski, Nellie Ruggles, Julie Pasternak (hidden), James Adamaitis (with back to camera) and Joan Laframboise.

cerning Lithuanian history, architecture, mythology, and geography.

Dr. Isidorius Alis of Springfield, Mass. was the instructor. Often, lingual sounds produced by the tongue did not coincide with the correct pronunciation and peals of laughter would be heard. There were times during conversation, where it was necessary for Dr. Alis to chip away at words and idioms that had been Polonized, Russified, or Anglicized revealing the basic Lithuanian structure. Each of us made mistakes. However, errors in writing as well as in speaking did not inhibit our determination to master the Lithuanian language, and therefore we did progress.

The pleasure derived from cultivating another language is immeasurable, especially when it concerned one spoken by our parents. Once more we can add another link to the chain of continuity, and hopefully these links can be made stronger and more binding by the continuation of our classes next fall.

Margaret Picard

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**MOMENTS FROM – MARCH, 1978
LITHUANIAN HERITAGE MONTH****Sacred Heart University
Bridgeport, Conn.
C-141, Bridgeport, Co-Sponsors**

Dr. Thomas P. Melady, President of Sacred Heart University announces at the "Meet the Author" program that a course on Lithuanian History and Civilization will begin with the September 1978 Semester.



Dr. Evelyn M. Conley, President of the Friends of Sacred Heart Library extends greetings at the Meet the Author program.



Alphonse Trainis, President C-141 Knights of Lithuania welcomes members and guests to "Meet the Author" Sunday.



Mrs. Diana McDonald - Speaker for Sr. Virginia Vytell. Sr. Virginia Vytell took sick and could not attend but sent her niece Diana McDonald. She spoke on sister's book "Praise the Lord, All You Nations".



Sacred Heart University - March 5, 1978 "Opening of the Lithuanian Art Exhibit". Mrs. Victor Miller and Mrs. Sigatas Liukas were co-chairmen for this program. Mrs. Melda Liukas is pictured [2nd from the right] with participating Lithuanian artists.