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the KNIGHT

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**Loretta I. Stukas, Editor**  
1467 Force Drive  
Mountainside, N.J. 07092

**"VYTIS" STAFF**

**Josephine Zukas,**  
**Council News Editor**  
9 Charles Street  
Port Washington, N.Y.

**Phil & Marian Skabeikis,**  
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Richmond Hill, N.Y. 11418

**Anthony Yuknis, Asst. Ed.**  
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**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

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1020 19th St. NW #610  
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1709 Woods Dr.  
Dayton, Ohio 45432

**Isabelle McKinley [MAD]** **Vincent Samoska [IID]**  
833 Maple Ave. 2415 S. Sawyer Ave.  
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**Antanas Skirius [Calif.]** **Longinas Svelnis [NED]**  
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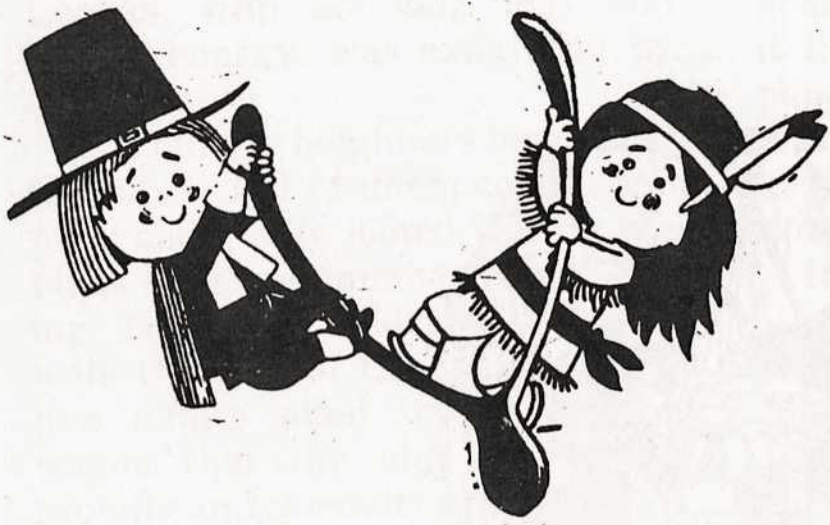
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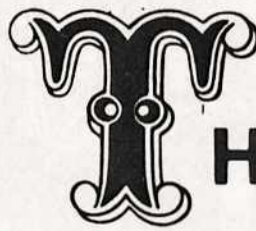
**IID**  
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**MCD**  
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Centerville, Ohio 45459

**NED**  
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Westfield, Mass. 01085



## THE FIRST



## HANKSGIVING

A Short Story

by

Aldona Ryan

Leonas sat on a tall stump and dangled his long legs viciously. His heavy boots made a cracking sound as they struck the loose bark of the old tree. In boredom and frustration, he had fled from the house.

He was sixteen years old and his only companion was his younger sister, Brone. Together with his mother and father, they had escaped from their native Lithuania and had lived for a few years in Germany. His father's sister had helped them come to America. Leonas had certainly pictured America to be different from what he had known the two weeks he had been here.

The calendar showed it was late in November but it seemed more like Lithuanian September. Where was the snow for sledding? Where was the ice pond for skating? Maybe if they had stayed in a place called Boston where his mother had wanted to go, there would be snow.

But his father was a physician. Aunt Sophia's husband was a physician. As soon as his father passed the American examinations he could work in the medical center with his uncle.

They had ended up in Ohio. To Leonas and his family, America was a small town in southern Ohio.

Aunt Sophia had rented a large, brick house for them. Other Lithuanians had given them furniture and household items. The house was very different from the

apartment in Lithuania and the bare room in the refugee camp in Germany.

"Look Leonas", his mother had said, "We have five acres of land here. As soon as your father starts working, you can have a horse to ride. It will be like the old days before we moved to Vilnius".

Leonas stared at the red barn. It was quite empty except for a skinny cat that he had chased for days but had never succeeded in catching.

"Next week you will start to go to school again", said his father, "It is lucky that you studied English at the Academy. You will soon be at the head of the class".

Leonas was sure that school in Ohio-America would be interesting. At least he could meet some other boys to play with. He was an expert in volleyball and soccer.

"Volleyball! Poof!" his Aunt Sophia had said. "Here, big boys like you are football players. If you grow tall enough, you can be a basketball player".

Twice during his stay here, Leonas had seen a very tall boy jogging down the road. If he knew where the boy lived he would ask him to teach him how to play basketball.

At this moment Leonas almost leaped off his stump at the noise of a great crash. The heavy metallic sound had jarred his eardrums with its blast.

The rest of the family came running out of the house and joined Leonas in heading for the road. A

black car sat crumpled up against the big oak tree across the street.

As they neared the car, a dark haired man struggled out of the driver's seat. He shook his head and felt his arms and legs.

"Hello", shouted Leonas. "Are you hurt? My father is a doctor. He will help you".

"I'm OK", answered the man as he raced around the car to the other side. "It's my little girl who might need help".

The car door would not open. Leonas and the men struggled with the door while Leonas' father, the doctor, got into the driver's seat. Mamyte and Brone shivered in the cold wind, watching tensely.





The impact of the car against the tree had sprung open the little door to the dashboard. The little girl had fallen forward and her right arm seemed hopelessly caught in the small compartment where Kleenex and sunglasses usually hide.

"Good morning", said the doctor as he squinted at the somber child. "Do you hurt someplace?"

Big brown eyes stared into his blue ones as she shook her head "no".

"What's your name?"

"My name is Rose Anna", she whispered.

"Let me see your hand, Rose Anna".

"I can't get it out. Do you live in Billy's house?"

"I live in the big red house across the road".

"That's where Billy lived. He went away".

"Can you move your fingers?"

"Oh, they're fine. See? It's my leg that's tired".

The little girl had been caught by the dashboard and ended in a strange position with one leg backwards on the seat and the other forwards under the dash door.

After a quick glance with an experienced eye, the doctor deftly picked the child up and turned her over. Miraculously, the arm came

out of its prison. The doctor picked her up and carried her to his home. The group followed like a flock of geese — honking and clacking about the demolished car, the luck of no one getting hurt, and the cat that ran across the road and caused the accident in the first place.

A cold Canadian wind swept through the area. The barometer was falling. It might snow. The electricity had gone off in the neighborhood. The doctor's house, which was an all-electric modern, was very cold.

"It's Thanksgiving Day", said the luckless driver. "My wife has a half-baked turkey in the oven and the stove is out. It's been out for two hours now. I was running up to the filling station to buy some kerosene for our camper stove when I missed the cat but hit the tree. My wife will be furious. How are we to bake our Thanksgiving dinner now?"

Yes, Aunt Sophia had mentioned that today was some kind of American holiday. It had to do with Indians and Pilgrims and other strange things. She had begged them to come to her house for a feast but they had declined. Mamyte was going through a period of homesickness and only wanted to be left alone. The accident and the lovely girl with

long dark curls and big brown eyes had snapped her out of her lethargy. The thought occurred to Mamyte if their stove, which was electric, didn't work either, they would only eat bread and butter today. The pork roast and potatoes could not be eaten raw.

"Look", said the neighbor. "You people can't stay here in this cold house. We have a fire going in our fireplace in our family room and it is warm there. Come with us. There is room for everyone. Which reminds me. Our neighbors across the street are an elderly couple who are probably freezing in their cold home. We will stop by and bring them along with us. We will make it a community Thanksgiving. It is time we all became friends".

By this time, Brone, who was fourteen, had already taken over the care of the little girl. Mamyte picked up a large loaf of Lithuanian bread she had baked at dawn and a bottle of krupnikas and took them with her. It was not proper for a Lithuanian to visit a neighbor for the first time empty handed. This would be an adventure.

Everyone bundled up and started out on foot. It was only half a mile up the road to the home of the older neighbors but the bucking the wind and climbing up a hill seemed a hard task. Only

Leonas, with his long legs and boyish energy, was exhilarated by the walk.

The elderly neighbors beamed at the house full of unexpected company and gladly joined in with the plans for a community Thanksgiving. The three children decided to walk the rest of the way and the five adults piled into a station wagon that the old man drove proudly and carefully up the rest of the hill and down the long lane to find a fire and warmth on a day when modern heating had suddenly disappeared. The old man had also found a can of kerosene and now cooking the turkey was assured.

The Lithuanians had never seen a camper before. It was almost a full house on wheels. It became the kitchen for the day. After inspecting the camper, they all entered the big, white house.

Mamyte, who could not speak English as well as the rest of the family, kept quiet until it was discovered that the elderly couple could speak German. After that the room resounded with the tones of three languages spoken simultaneously.

The neighbor's wife was a beautiful woman about the same age as Mamyte and it was evident she liked to talk. She seemed very interested in the Lithuanian family. Her friendliness gave the party a gaiety that was contagious.

Besides Rose Ann, the family here included two teenage girls and the tail jogger whom Leonas had watched and wondered about. He seemed surprised when Leonas extended his hand for a handshake.

Leonas was surprised when the youth stood up to accept the handshake because he, Leonas, was at least two inches taller. It appeared that basketball would soon become a fad on this road.

Soon apple cider was passed around and a discussion followed. Was it wine? Was it liquor? Was it a liqueur? Whatever it was, it was good. Then everyone tasted the krupnikas. Ah — this was quite

heady and good. Was it wine? Was it liquor? Was it a liqueur? The popcorn that was served with it was a real puzzle. How could the hard kernels turn into white, downy, salty morsels?

It would be hours before the turkey was finished so it was decided to roast hotdogs, chestnuts, and marshmallows in the fireplace.

Leonas and Brone had tasted hotdogs when their Aunt Sophia had taken them shopping. They watched as Mamyte and Tévelis bit into the little red sausages to see what their reaction would be. Mustard and ketchup oozed out of the white bread and both parents seemed delighted although Tévelis would have preferred dark bread and horseradish.

The half-burnt marshmallows were placed between graham crackers together with bits of chocolate. The Lithuanians agreed that Thanksgiving was a very fine day — not realizing that the real feast was yet to come.

At this point the power came back on and soon the whole house was warm and bright. Rose Anna curled up next to the old German man on the couch and they both fell asleep. The boys went down to the basement to play table tennis. After making arrangements to have the demolished car towed to a garage, the neighbor man recounted the history of the community to the doctor. The two

teenage girls taught Brone how to play Monopoly. The three ladies sat in the breakfast nook next to the kitchen and kept an eye on the turkey. The camper had been closed down and the turkey was now roasting in its rightful place.

The smells coming from the stove were very tantalizing. Mamyte had exclaimed over the huge size of the big "chicken" — even bigger than a goose!

Later in the afternoon the young people started their record player and danced and sang. Leonas and Brone picked up the steps very quickly and were soon out of breath but pink and warm in their youthful exuberance.

When the Thanksgiving dinner was finally served, the Lithuanians gazed in awe at the table loaded with strange foods.

The thirty-two pound turkey reminded the doctor of days when a whole suckling pig would be put on the table. There was dressing made with aromatic herbs and spices that was unknown to them. The mashed potatoes tasted the same but the orange potatoes with a brown glaze were a surprise. The cranberries were familiar and tasty. The turkey did not taste like chicken but was quite good. A bowl of rich gravy was served with it. A large bowl of greens was mixed with something that looked very much like sour cream but not the same at all. The neighbor's wife explained how she made her own





mayonnaise. Everyone enjoyed Mamyte's Lithuanian bread and she promised to give the recipe to the other women.

Tiny tastes of this and that soon turned into large second helpings. When they had decided they could not eat another bite, pumpkin pie and minced meat pie were served with whipped cream and large mugs of coffee.

The old German man complained that the spicy pie would give him an attack of indigestion. Tévelis said that as soon as he passed his American examinations, he would personally take care of the old man and keep him well.

It was almost like the first Thanksgiving. Were they not gathered together for a feast after suffering hardships? The Lithuanian family were new settlers like

the Pilgrims. Rose Anna got her dark hair and brown eyes from Indian ancestors. It was evident that soon enough, the German couple would become the neighborhood grandparents.

Leonas decided that Ohio - America would be all right. He would talk his mother and father into inviting the neighbors over for Christmas. For goose and sauer kraut and Lithuanian cheese and torte.

He looked out the window and saw huge flakes of snow falling. It really was almost like the old days before they moved to Vilnius. Soon there would be sledding and skating and snow games. There would be ball games and dances. Besides the Lithuanians who lived fairly closeby, there were these wonderful people next door and across the street. That skinny cat had brought them together. Somehow he would have to make friends with that cat.

When summer came there would be horses and vegetable gardens and fishing and swimming.

"Ah, it is snowing", said Tévelis — the doctor. "The snow will cover the earth with a white coverlet as our years of wandering and hardship have been covered

with a mantle of friendship here in America. Thanksgiving Day is a wonderful idea. It is a time to thank God for this magnificent food, our good neighbors, the kind people of America and the many blessings He has given us. Yes, Thanksgiving Day truly is a wonderful idea".



**A VERY  
HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING**

**SUPREME COUNCIL  
&  
VYTIS STAFF**

## ŽALIOJI "DYPUKĖ"



Stovime Vilniaus aerodrome ir laukiame lėktuvo. Netrukus paliksime trumpai aplankyta Lietuvą ir tęsime kelionę toliau. Draugai ir giminės dalinasi paskutiniais atsiveikinimais, spaudžia rankas ir bučiuojasi. Nereta ašara nesulaukiamai išsiveržia iš akių ir nurieda skruostu, nes kitą pasimatymą sunku nustatyti. Šis apsilankymas vienam gali būti paskutinis. Keliautojai rankose laiko glėbius puikiausių gėlių atminčiai. Nuošaliai, atokiau stoviu aš. Stoviu vienas, nes Lietuvoje neturiu giminių. Stoviu be gėlių, tuščiom rankom. Bet štai, visai netikėtai iš kažkur atsiranda prieš keletą dienų patarnavusi dantistė, mūsų būrio vadovės mokslo dienų draugė. Ji atlaužia žalios rūtos šakelę iš vadovei įteiktos puokštės ir padovanoja ją man, kad nepalikčiau Lietuvos be šiltos atminties. Nuoširdžiai padėkoju daktarei ir įsidedu tą žalią rūtelę į švarkelio viršutinę kišenę. Išskrendame iš Vilniaus ir paliekame Lietuvą. Prie kairiojo atlapo, švelniai prisišliejusi, ramiai ilsisi žalioji rūtos šakelė.

Nusileidus Rygoje ir įsitaisius viešbučio kambarėje, pirmasis rūpestis buvo įmerkti rūtelę į stiklinę vandens. Tartum įvertindama patarnavimą, ji bematant atsitiesia ir plačiau atskleidžia pavytusius lapukus. Tas pats buvo pakartota Leningrade, Maskvoj ir Romoje iki, pagaliau, sugrįžome į namus Amerikoje. Nebandydamas jos slėpti, ją visur kelionėse viešai nešiojau švarkelio kišenėje. Prieš nusileidžiant New Yorke, užpildydama muitinės anketą, aiškiai pažymėjau, jog "Taip. Vežuosi gyvą augalą". Visiems buvo aiškiai galima matyti kyšanti iš kišenės kukli, žalioji "dypukė". Laimingai

pavyko parsivežti gyvą rūtos šakelę į namus.

Pirma proga, ištačiau rūtos šakelę į įprastą stiklinę vandens. Išvargus, nustojus pirmojo žvalumo ir pavytus, po keletos dienų ji iš naujo atgijo, atsigavo, nušvito ir sustiprėjo. Na, ką? Amžinai laikyti ją vandenyje negalima. Reikia bandyti sodinti kad ir į svetimą žemę, kad su laiku išleistu šaknis ir prigytų. Parinkęs nuošalią vietą atsargiai pasodinau, palaisčiau ir uždengiau stikline. Kartkartėmis atlankydavau pasodintą rūtos šakelę, iš naujo palaistydavau ir raginte ragindavau: "Nepasiduok, žalioji! Laikykis, stiprėk, ir leisk naujas šaknis!" Maža vilties. Čia pat rimtai grėsė ruduo ir nepalankūs orai. Pakilo vėjai, užėjo šalčiai ir žemę sukaustė gruodas. Atpūškavo žiema. Spirgino speigai ir siaučiančios pūgos užpustė vargšę giliu sniegu. Ji liko kentėti vieniša, neatlankoma ir neprieinama.

Mėnesiai praslinko, pasikeitė metas ir, pagaliau, išaušo pavasaris. Visur vyksta atgimimas, visur reiškiasi gyvybė. Bėgu žiūrėti ir patikrinti kaip klojasi rūtai, kaip atlaikė žiemą. Nukeliu stiklinę. Vaizdas vargas. Rūtelės lapukai pageltę, šakelės sudžiūvusios. Vargšė nepajėgė pakelti žiemos žiaurumų. Visos mano pastangos ir geriausi norai nuėjo veltui. Nusiminęs nusisukau ir lėtais žingsniais grįžau prie kitų kasdienybės rūpesčių.

Daž po kiek laiko, vieną dieną beravinėdamas lysves, užtikau lyg užmirštą rūtelę. Nukėliau stiklinę. Stovi laibas sudžiūvęs stagarėlis, tačiau kažkas nepaprasta pagavo akį. Pritūpiau iš arčiau pasižiūrėti. Pasilenkiau visai arti prie žemės ir... stebuklas! Prie pat stagarėlio apačios smulkūs smulkučiai, ryškiai žali veržiasi naujutėliai lapukai. Mano rūtelė gyva! Ji tokia giedri, linksmutė. O koks džiaugsmas! Lyg seniai išsiskyre draugai vėl susitinkame. Po tiek vargo, po tokios alinančios kelionės, po tiek

nepalankių aplinkybių, po sunkios žiemos mano rūta yra gyva! Šildoma grįžtančios pavasario saulutės ir laistoma gaivinančio lietaus, ji savomis jėgomis augo, klestėjo ir bujojo. Ir šiandien jau po keletos žiemų ir vasarų, ji žaliuoja ir puošia mano darželio kamputį. Žinau, kad lietuviškos rūtos žaliuoja kai kuriuose darželiuose, tačiau jos paprastai išaugintos iš sėklų, atsiųstų ar parsivežtų iš Lietuvos. Mano ji gi rūta skirtinga ir ypatinga. Ji žalioji "dypukė"! Ji parvežta gyva iš Lietuvos ir yra niekad nenustojusi Lietuvoje gautos gyvybės. Ji šiandien gražiai gyvuoja mano darželyje. Norėčiau tikėti, kad jos ištvermė, atsparumas ir gajumas yra mūsų lietuvių tautos būdingas atspindys. Norėčiau tikėti, kad ji pranašauja būsimą Lietuvos atgimimą, išsilaisvinimą iš engėjų laisvam gyvenimui.

Stasys Vaičaitis, Kp. 144



# THE VYTIS OF LITHUANIA AND HERO RIDER OF ANCIENT THRACE

(The birth of a bold hypothesis)

by Vytold Sirvydas

An American often requests a signature by saying "Put down your John Hancock", thus paying a tribute to the first signature on the American Declaration of Independence. A Lithuanian may well say "Put down your Jonas Basanavičius", since the signature of this grand patriarch of the Lithuanian national Renaissance stands first on the Lithuanian Declaration of Independence proclaimed at Vilnius February 16, 1918.

The 50th anniversary of his death at Vilnius on February 16, 1927 was widely commemorated this year in our press.

Numerologists may find something in the fact that he died exactly nine years to a day after placing his signature on the most important Lithuanian document of

modern times. Ancient Lithuanians believed nine to be a magic number of fate.

In his student days Basanavičius became imbued with a strong conviction that one cannot be a good Lithuanian if one does not know the origins of his race. Therefore, he began a life-long study of the problem and came up with a startlingly-bold hypothesis which he began to form around 1883 and finally perfected in 1921 at Vilnius in a book whose Lithuanian title was "Apie trakų ir prygų tautystę ir jų atsikėlimą Lietuvon" (The ethnic identity of Thracians and Phrygians and their coming to Lithuania).

Basanavičius was born 1851 in Ožkabalai (The Goats' Swamp) village in the county of Bartininkai.

The name stems from the ancient tribe of Lithuanian Prussians, the Barta, and is echoed among American-Lithuanians with family names like: Bartis, Bartusevičius and Bartkus. The meaning of "barta" still eludes our linguists, but all stoutly deny it could have come from Polish "borc" or Russian "bort" (meaning a beehive), although ancient Lithuanians were ardent bee-keepers and brewed a strong "midus" drink from the honey (medus).

Near Ožkabalai was a tract of land locally known as "užgirių trakas" (a clearing beyond the forest). It had villages of Trakėnai and Trakiškės. An important fortress Trakai was built by Grand Duke Gediminas near Vilnius and became an important district in the





Grand Duchy of Lithuania. These names, no doubt, suggested to young Basanavičius, when he embarked on researches into Lithuanian racial origins, that there must be some historical connection between the Trakai in Lithuania and the name of ancient Thrace.

"Trakas" in Lithuanian has several meanings, one of which is a "cleared space", particularly one cleared of trees. Another meaning comes forth in the phrase "patraķes šuva" (a mad dog), also suggesting a clearing of something, this time, of sanity. One folk saying tells us: "Juo pliks, juo traks" (The poorer, the madder) suggesting that one denuded of all belongings and clothing is mad indeed. What the ancient name of Thrace means is not clear.

#### WHO WERE THE THRACIANS?

The June 1977 issue of the periodical Smithsonian had an article by Tom Prideaux on the "Rich and Rugged Thracian Life" as seen in a glittering show recently exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. It was sent to the United States by the People's Republic of Bulgaria which considers itself a descendant of Thrace because its territory roughly covers the area of that ancient realm.

Prideaux writes: "The ancient Thracians had no written language of their own. Therefore, we have to fall back on tales from their Greek neighbors, on Homer and Xenophon, on references in Greek plays and the superbly nosy Herodotus. By bits and pieces, the Thracians have emerged as a sharply original people, split into rugged tribes, given to hunting, stock-breeding, battles and banditry, and to an almost sybaritic love of elegant gold objects. Above all, they were dashing horsemen, who in their time acquired something of the charisma of the American cowboy. The ancient Thracians charge into recorded history with galloping horses and the glint of gold".



*Furiously charging Thracian horseman, running over a lion, dates back to 4th century B.C.*

#### THRACIAN HORSEMEN AT THE TROJAN WAR

Ancient Thrace lies in the Balkans, between the Black and Aegean seas. Identifiable rulers and gods of Indo-European origin appear in this region around 1500 B.C. (3500 years ago) to begin the lively Thracian pageant.

Two major figures of Thracian mythology were the God Dionysus and his follower Orpheus. Dionysus was a god of vegetation, wine and drama, whose life cycle included a winter death and a springtime resurrection, ecstatically celebrated with wine, women and song. Orpheus was the first legendary king of Thrace, a very gifted musician whose lyre tamed men and beasts and made the stones dance.

At the time of the Trojan war, around 1200 B.C., the Thracians were already held in high esteem. In his poem about this war, the Iliad, some 500 years later, the great Greek poet Hómer wrote that the Thracians surprised the Trojan scouts by their fine horses and armor: the horses were "whiter than snow", and the armor "is golden and gigantic, a wonder to look at". The Trojans killed the Thracian king Rhesus in battle and the willy Greek Odysseus stole

from the dead king what was most worthy of grabbing: his dazzling white horse. The name Rhesus reminds the ancient Lithuanian word for "king" - rikis, the Latin rex.

#### LITHUANIAN FOLK SONGS AND FOLK TALES

In his life-long quest Basanavičius started a collection of folk songs and folk tales and six volumes were published for him by American Lithuanians before 1904, since before then Lithuanian publications in the Latin script (but not in Russian letters) were forbidden by the Tsar who ruled Lithuania.

Basanavičius was amazed by the frequent mention of gold and silver in Lithuanian folk songs, also, of horses (all the "berneliai", it seems, had their "žirgeliai"), of maidens going to the Dunojelis (the river Danube) to fetch water, but, particularly to the numerous lions (liūtas) appearing in Lithuanian folk tales. All these were numerous in the Thracian region, wedged in between Greece and Asia minor, but were sadly lacking in the ancient Lithuania we know. Perhaps, they were unconscious folk recollections of a Thracian life near the Mediterranean?



### A NOTABLE THRACIAN

The single best known Thracian today, thanks to a Hollywood movie, a popular novel, and a spectacular production by the Russian Bolshoi Ballet, is the fictional Spartacus, whose names recalls to a Lithuanian the word "spartus" (fast, or nimble) in his language.

### THE THRACIAN HERO RIDER AND THE VYTIS

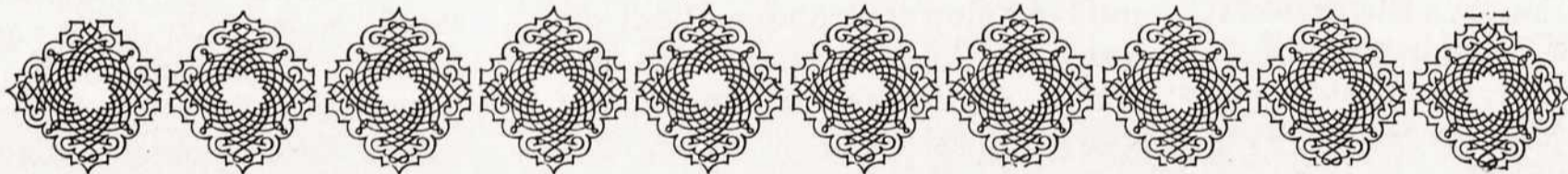
In their art, the Thracians paid steadfast homage to an anonymous god of their own, simply known as the Hero, symbolized by their national emblem of a man mounted on a horse. It is thought, that later this figure acquired a halo above his head and a downbeaten monster at his feet and thus be-

came the Christian St. George, the dragon slayer.

This mysterious Thracian Hero riding a horse and the Lithuanian Vytis on a white charger may have deep historical connections which are not evident on the surface.

Anyway, Basanavičius, who practiced medicine for over 20 years among the Bulgarians on the territory of ancient Thrace, thought so and gathered a great amount of proof. He did not convince everyone, but inspired a great many patriotic Lithuanians who felt a nice, warm comfort in a theory which connected them ethnically with a renowned ancient race. Apparently the Bulgarians have appropriated the Thracians as some sort of ancestors, probably, on the theory, that possession of their land is nine tenths of the law. But Lithuanian Trakai and the ancient name of Thrace, the Lithuanian Vytis and the anonymous Thracian Hero on a horse, the gold and silver in Lithuanian songs, the river Danube and the lions in folk tales may have connections which Slavic Bulgarians cannot rub away.

So, let's "Put down our Jonas Basanavičius" where it will do the most good!



## THE SILENT CHURCH...

From 1457 to approximately 1570 Lithuanians made their way to Šiluva to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of Mary. With the loss of the church in Šiluva the gathering of the faithful ceased.

In 1608 the Apparition of Mary took place at Šiluva in Lithuania. The Mother of God showed her concern for them, when Calvinism and Lutherism were flourishing in their country. She challenged their faith. She showed her concern. Mary called her people. Her people answered Her.

Once again the Feast of the Nativity of Our Blessed Mother was celebrated by thousands of people.

Today, Šiluva and all of Lithuania are under the grip of Soviet Communism.

We, the Knights of Lithuania pray that Our Lady of Šiluva will come to the aid of Lithuania in her hour of darkness.

Bertha R. Stoskus  
K of L LCRA CO-ORD.



# NOVEMBER 2,

## THE FEAST OF ALL SOULS

By Marian Skabeikis

From the earliest times in their history, the Lithuanian people believed that the links between the living and the dead members of the community remained unbroken as long as someone among the living remembered the departed. This important part of Lithuanian tradition persists even in modern times. The Lithuanian people arrange to have numerous occasions for the remembrance of their dead, particularly on the anniversaries of the deaths of their loved ones, on Christmas Eve and Easter, and on the occasion of the Feast of All Souls' Day.

This important day marking the remembrance of the souls of all the faithful departed was formally added to the calendar of the Catholic Church in the 11th Century, although it was always a Christian custom to pray for the souls of the deceased. The Catholic tradition, including church services, processions to cemeteries, and the placing of flowers and lighted candles on the graves of relatives and friends would become a part of the Lithuanian observance in later centuries.

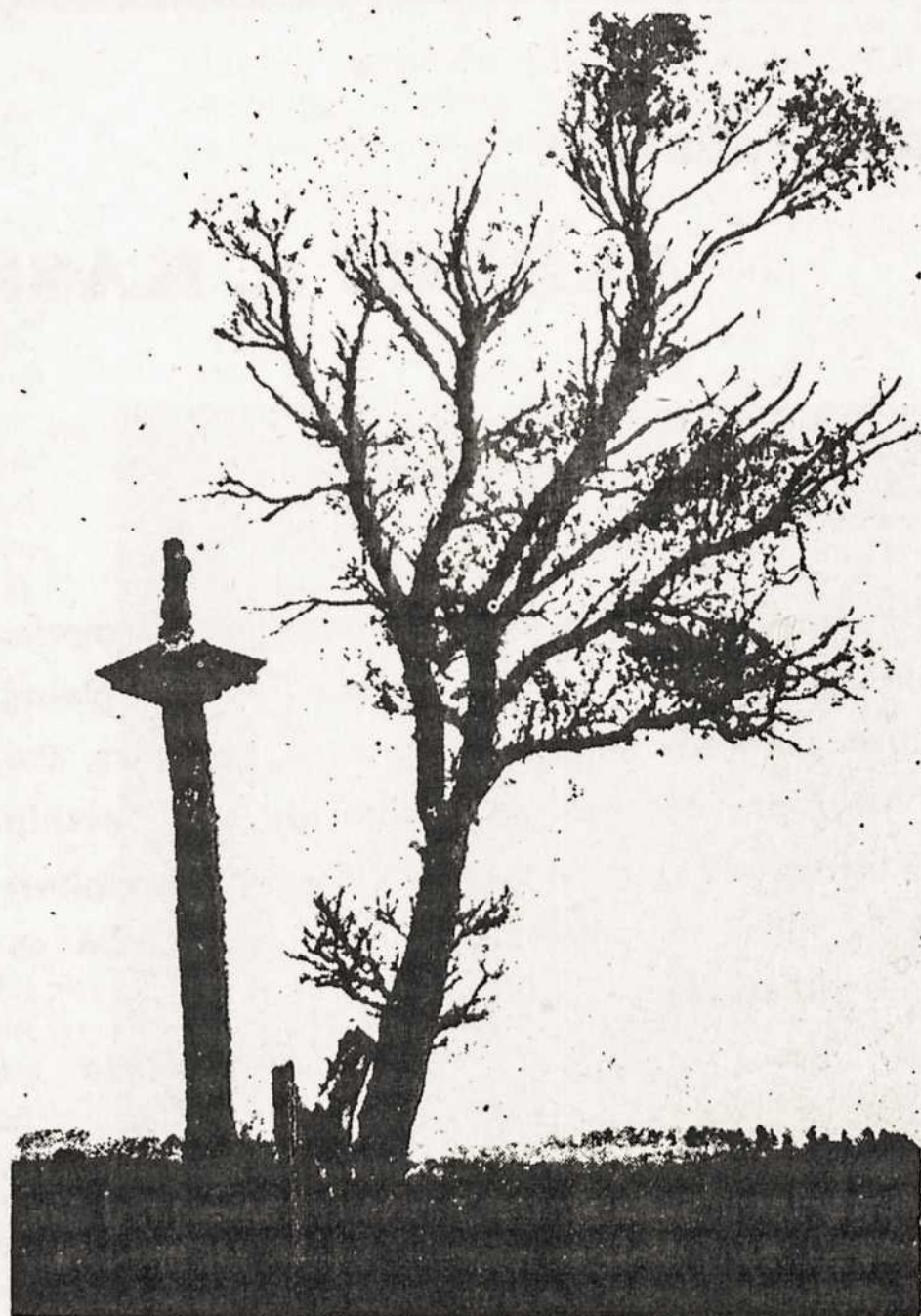
From pagan times, the Lithuanians held the conviction that the spirits of the dead did not cease to exist when life on earth was over. For this reason, burial grounds were treated with special reverence, and certain customs evolved regarding the relationships of the dead to the living. It was customary not to prune the trees, or pick flowers or berries in a graveyard, because these things belonged to the dead. It was feared that some night the dead might come seeking the return of their property. It was not until the 14th Century when Lithuania was con-

verted to Christianity that the pagan customs surrounding the departed spirits of Lithuanians were combined with Christian customs.

From the time of the 16th Century, members of the clergy attempted to eliminate the pagan elements from All Souls' Day observances, but some of these very traditional parts of Lithuanian folk-life persisted until recent times.

Part of the ancient belief held that the souls of the departed were most sensitive to the cold. On the eve of All Souls' Day, fires were

lighted in homes so that the souls returning there could warm themselves. This was also in accordance with the belief that the spirits of the departed remained close to their homes after death. In various parts of Lithuania, householders placed objects which the souls might need on a window ledge or at the threshold of their homes. Warm water and towels were left so that the souls might wash themselves, combs were available for grooming, and food was left for their nourishment. In other places, the first spoonful of food was poured on the floor for the spirits,



while certain towns had the custom of placing bread behind the table for those returning to fortify themselves. In some locations, it was considered necessary for floors to remain unswept, so as not to hinder the peace of the visiting spirits. It was believed that the spirits would "put right" anything which needed to be done.

When the house was made ready for the returning souls, the members of the family went to bed so as not to disturb the visitors. Working or visiting that night was avoided, because it was believed that those who hindered the souls from meeting might suffer some misfortune. Ill fortune might also arise if someone attempted to look at the souls. There was a very strong belief that the dead and the living still needed each other. It was accepted that if a soul wished to communicate with someone among the living, the spirit would awaken that person and speak directly to him. One such popular

belief held that the souls of children would complain that their garments were wet from their mothers' tears.

As the Christian influence grew in Lithuania, people began to believe that the souls also gathered in the churches, meeting at night in the graveyard.

People began to gather in the village cemetery on All Souls' Day, with the women bringing food wrapped in unused tablecloths to be placed on their relatives' graves. Prayers were offered, hymns were sung, and the food eaten. Scraps of food were given to the poor. By the end of the 19th Century, members of the local parish were encouraged to bring donations of food to the church for distribution to the poor, so that the poor would pray for the souls of the dead. Graves were decorated with blessed flowers and candles.

During the period of Lithuanian independence, the people decorated the graves, not only of their

own families and friends, but also of soldiers, national heroes, and those which had no one left to care for them. The customs surrounding the observance of All Souls' Day began to have both religious and patriotic elements.

With the coming of the Soviet occupation, the observance of All Souls' Day was prohibited. The honoring of the graves of national heroes emphasized an attachment to the homeland which was not to be encouraged. Arrests and deportations suppressed patriotic manifestations in larger cities.

Despite the difficulties faced in Lithuania today, All Souls' Day has never been forgotten. The ancient beliefs, reinforced by the Christian tradition of praying for and remembering the dead are not easily erased by harassment and suppression. On the evening of the Feast of All Souls, candles can be seen twinkling in the darkness from cemeteries on Lithuanian hillsides.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

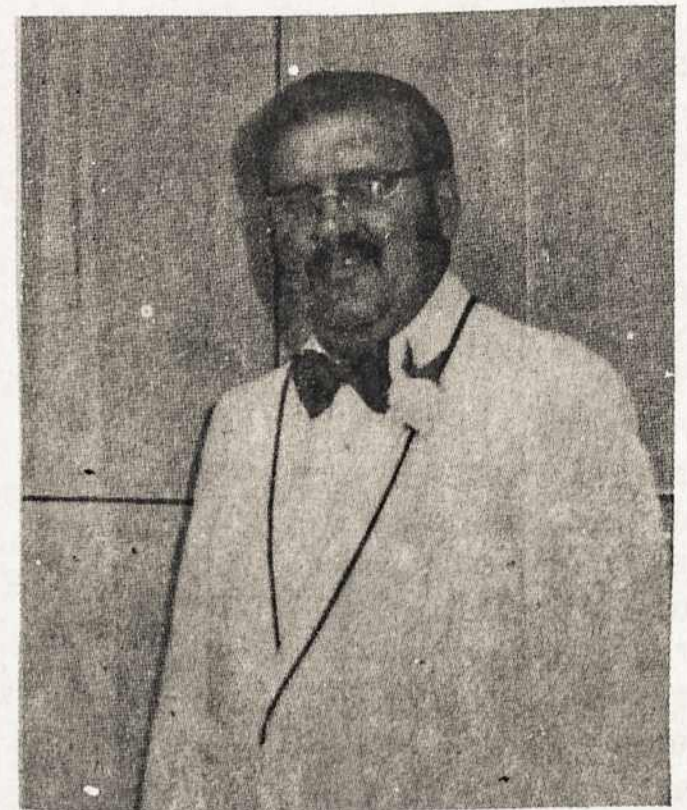
## ALBERT A. KASSEL, R.I.P.

5TH ANNIVERSARY

We ask that you remember him in your prayers.

Since we now have a precedent in giving Honorary Membership to deceased members, we ask your prayers that the Honorary Membership Committee will quickly approve Honorary Membership to those deceased members who were so active nationally.

Ann Marie  
and  
Georgianna



**CONVENTION PANELS...**

## LITHUANIA TODAY OUR RESPONSIBILITY

The current concern with the problems of human rights, particularly in Lithuania today was made more realistic at the Convention panel on Human Rights, which took place during the Saturday morning session of the Convention. Coordinated by National Lithuanian Affairs Chairman Fr. Casimir Pugevičius, the panel featured Lithuanian dissident Kestutis Jokubynas, who arrived in the USA two years ago following several periods of imprisonment in Lithuania.

In his opening address, Fr. Pugevičius concentrated on the topic of the violations of religious human rights in Lithuania, while Mr. Jokubynas reviewed the general problem of human rights and offered some concrete suggests to participants in the session.

Fr. Pugevičius concentrated on the need of the American public to direct their efforts toward the release of Prisoners of Conscience Balys Gajauskas and Viktoras Petkus, and emphasized the importance of the CHRONICLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LITHUANIA.

Mr. Jokubynas spoke in English about the life of the Soviet citizen, and described the historical situation leading up to the events which are taking place in Lithuania at this time. He emphasized the importance of the support of Lithuanians living outside of Lithuania to those engaged in a struggle for human rights, and noted that press coverage and letters sent to individual Prisoners of Conscience were a good start in this direction. He added that Prisoners of Conscience and exiles deserved special attention, and that our concern can be expressed by letters to Soviet officials, as well as to officials in the United States, calling for their release. While he agreed that no immediate results would be seen, patience and persistence does pay off in the end.

As he developed his theme of contact with prisoners, he emphasized the importance of correspondence with the families of these prisoners, as well as with the prisoners themselves. "The arrival of a letter to a (Prison) camp village is a big deal", Mr. Jokubynas said. People are very sensitive to a heavy flow of mail from the United States. Although a small percentage of letters reach the prisoners, the prisoners know that for every letter that they receive, many more haven't reached them, and this in itself is a big boost to the morale of a prisoner.

Unfortunately, few of these Prisoners of Conscience are known to us, and it is the task of the Lithuanian community and others to discover who they are.

Mr. Jokubynas recommended that each group or council select a different prisoner in an "Adopt a Prisoner Program". In this way, material aid can be sent to them, as well as to exiles and their families.

Other points of interest to those concerned with helping those in need of assistance from the outside world, was the reminder that the people of Lithuania crave books as a means of contact with the society beyond which they live. He also noted that letters written on company letterhead stationery seems to have a better chance of reaching the intended reader than other mail.

This panel was a revealing insight into the situation of those who are struggling for their fundamental rights in Lithuania today. All those who participated came away with a renewed sense of purpose in assisting those who so desperately need our support in their cause.



*Human Rights Activists — Frank Petrauskas, Bishop V. Brizgys, S. Stratton, M.C. and ?*

*Photo - W. Sidtis*

**RELIGIOUS PANEL**

## ARCHBISHOP GEORGE MATULAITIS

by Rev. Dambrauskas

I am most grateful to this organization to be able once more to speak in behalf of Archbishop George Matulaitis.

- Would he want us to speak for him?
- Would he want to become a Saint?

The ways of Providence are not understood by the human mind. We must be totally convinced in our own minds that it is God's plan to have the beatification of Archbishop George.

As Knights of Lithuania, we must take our motto and examine our consciences — "For God and Country" — I believe God is asking us, "What are you doing for God?"

Many works have been done for country — the United States and Lithuania. Many letters have been written.

At this time we must emphasize what we're doing for God — the beatification of Archbishop George. HE doesn't need glorification. WE need HIM. We need reassurance that Archbishop George is interceding for us.

As Knights, are we ready to work and give time for the cause of Archbishop George? I want the Knights of Lithuania to have the SELFLESSNESS OF LOVE in this endeavor. Love must have sacrifice. It cannot be alone. Without sacrifice it is selfishness. Our motto is "For God". These words mean nothing; now we must do works. Since our motto is "For God", our organization should be the prime movers in this cause. I congratulate the Knights of Lithuania for giving ample time for this work. The mere fact that

we're giving time means that we are willing to give dedication.

I ask for three things —

**PRAYER** — God has told the World, "Without Me you can do nothing". We need God. We must pray for success. Prayer groups will be forming in this country and South America asking the Holy Spirit to guide us and praying for the beatification of Archbishop George because WE NEED HIM.

**MORAL SUPPORT** — We must be convinced of the necessity of having one of our people beatified. We must be prepared psychologically to receive the beatification of Archbishop George. Not only you and I, but the Universal Church must be told. Archbishop George will only be known if we speak to whomever we meet about him. We need thousands of signatures in the name of the Knights of Lithuania to be presented to the Holy Father so that he will again become aware of the necessity to glorify Archbishop George.

**FINANCIAL HELP** — I am not asking for donations. If we're doing work for God, He will help us. I have no fear that money will not be flowing. Gifts are not only coming in from affluent people, but from people who love and understand the necessity of this cause. People who are on Social Security are sending in donations. Our people have always been good. They have built the Lithuanian Churches, schools,



*Religious panel — Ann Wargo, Larry Janonis, Rev. Dambrauskas, A. Miner.*

*Photo - W. Sidtis*



Cardinal S. Wyszyński signs the documents ending the process in Warsaw.

and hospitals throughout this country. The monument that I want the Knights of Lithuania to leave is the beatification of Archbishop George.

Archbishop George tells us he will definitely hear us. There have already been miracles. The summarium is now in the hands of the Devil's Advocate and in one month's time we will know how well the process is going.

In the meantime, I will send as much literature as you want. Read his life, his diary. In his works, Archbishop George says he's wasting his time. Yet he was able to revise the orders of the Marian Fathers and the Sisters of St. Casimir. Yet he was always a sick man. His hand was always encased in a leather band, his shoes had to have a proper brace. He had Tuberculosis in his youth.

In spite of all this, he lived his motto, "To change wickedness to good".

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS PANEL

Following are some excerpts of comments made by the P.R. Panel Speakers:

Bernard Aiello — Get to know your Radio or TV station... "Time" is very special and defined in 10-second, 20 sec. and 30 sec. slots.

Joan Salesman — "Nuts & Bolts" are needed for Public Relations. Find out the News representative needed and how to get in touch with interesting news. Personal contact very important.

Carol Jeschke — P.R. is intended basically to serve and please the public. Give publicity that adds to common sense. Co-ordinate news on various levels (not too many news items on the same people).

My work will be finished when Archbishop George is beatified. The only way to accomplish this is to take the pamphlets home and pray. Give out the literature. The Knights of Lithuania must be my eyes, my hands. You've got to be IN LOVE with this cause.

You don't realize my elation that this organization is the first one to make Archbishop George their cause. We're doing a marvellous job "for country", now we must do something "for God".



Archbishop George Matulaitis.

Joanne Dennis — Best tools of publicity are based on the five W's — Who, What, Where, When and Why. Be specific about the "who" the news is about. She advised "don't call another newspaper with same story as it may cause embarrassment if the same story appears in the newspaper contacted originally".

Robert Carolin — "Don't ever take a 'no' for an answer when you can get a 'yes'. People in radio are always available to listen. Best policy — get to know people in your radio area and community. Being active in sport or cultural activities are very helpful".

# OFICIALUS SKYRIUS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

The Knights of Lithuania column "Darbai ir Dienos" in the DARBININKAS is now being edited by Dale Bulvicius, C-12 and Brother George Petcavage, OFM, C-110. K of L Councils and Districts are encouraged to send timely, newsworthy items to the Editors at 361 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, NY 11207 for inclusion in the monthly page. Articles may be submitted in either Lithuanian or English, and should include photographs whenever possible. Please be sure to enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have copy and photos returned.

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The Knights of Lithuania National Lithuanian Affairs Committee continues to publish its monthly Lithuanian Affairs Bulletin. Copies are sent to all Council and District Presidents, Lithuanian Affairs Chairmen and Lithuanian Affairs Committee members. All Councils and Districts are asked to submit the names of their new officers and committee members **DIRECTLY TO THE COMMITTEE** as soon as elections are held. This will insure that the Bulletin is sent to the appropriate people for timely action.

Knights of Lithuania  
Lithuanian Affairs Committee  
351 Highland Blvd.  
Brooklyn, NY 11207

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### ATTENTION ALL COUNCIL CULTURAL CHAIRMEN

Please keep the National Cultural Chairman apprised of all cultural programs and activities engaged in by your councils. Personal contact will be made later after the addresses of the officers of all councils are supplied by the National Recording Secretary.

Stanley P. Vaicaitis  
National Cultural Chairman  
201 S. Line St.  
Frackville, PA 17931

Stanley Vaičaitis

Only a very modest response was received to an official request, published in VYTIS, Jan. '78, by the National Cultural Committee for craftsmen and teachers of various expressions of Lithuanian cultural folklore. The request is being repeated for people who could teach or demonstrate any of the Lithuanian arts or crafts: e.g. Easter egg decorating, straw art or straw ornaments, weaving, woodcarving, etc. We are especially in need of Lithuanian dance teachers. It would be well to also have a list of available speakers on various Lithuanian topics.

Please mail NAME, ADDRESS, COUNCIL NUMBER AND CRAFT to:

Stanley Vaicaitis  
201 S. Line St.  
Frackville, PA 17931

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### IN MEMORIAM

Please remember in your prayers...

**JOHN EVANS**  
Member, C-112  
Chicago, Ill.  
Past IID President  
died Oct. 7, 1978

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**MARIAN OWEN**  
Member, C-96  
Dayton, Ohio  
died Aug. 27, 1978



# Lithuanians in The

# NEWS

Edited by Phil and Marian Skabeikis

JOSEPH (JUOZAS) KAJECKAS, charge d'affaires of the Lithuanian Legation in Washington, D.C. for 20 years died this summer at the age of 81. The Lithuanian community suffered a further loss with the death of his wife ONA shortly thereafter. Mr. Kajeckas began working for the Legation of the Lithuanian government in exile in 1940. Born in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, he left the United States for Lithuania in 1909, accompanied by his mother following his father's death. Mr. Kajeckas was educated in Lithuania, and also received degrees from the University of Montpelier and the School of Political Science in France. He joined the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry in 1929, and served in the London legation for 5 years before returning to Lithuania where he worked in the ministry until 1939. He was then named counselor of the legation in Berlin. With the Soviet occupation in 1940, he came to the US and worked as an attache in the legation. He assumed the post of charge d'affaires in 1957. During the period of 1940 to 1957, he was editor of the legation journal, "The Lithuanian Situation". Mr. Kajeckas was a Knight Commander of the Papal Order of St. Gregory the Great.

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Tragedy has ended the life of stuntman A. J. BAKUNAS, a young Lithuanian-American recently featured in Lithuanian in the News. Bakunas died in Lexington, KY, while trying to set a world record for a 323 foot free-fall. An air-bag safety device used to cushion his fall burst on impact. A professional stunt man since 1974, Bakunas had captured the interest of the movie-going public for his record of dare-devil stunts.

\*\*\*

REV. LEONAS KLIMAS, who served in St. Patrick's Church in Southold, Long Island, retired this past summer. Ordained in 1933, Fr. Klimas served as a pastor in Lithuania, and was imprisoned by Russian Communists from 1940-41. In 1944, he escaped to Germany where he became a chaplain for displaced persons. He emigrated to the United States in 1951, and served in several parishes in the Rockville Center Diocese.

The EVENING HERALD of Schuylkill Co., PA, featured an interview with ARĖJAS VITKAUSKAS, now of Jersey City, NJ, who shared his recollections of arriving in the United States in the early part of the 20th Century.



*Arėjas Vitkauskas, now of Jersey City, shortly after WWI wearing U.S. Army jacket received from U.S. Army stores in France, along with food and weapons.*

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DR. JOHN SIDTIS, who recently received a PhD Degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook for his work in psycholinguistics in the Department of Psychology has recently been appointed to Cornell University to take part in developing a program in cognitive psychology as an adjunct to the Neurology Department. John is a member of C-110, Maspeth.

The PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER published a recent feature story on the Lithuanian community of Chicago. The article, complete with photographs, described the riches of Lithuanian culture available in the city with a special mention of the BALZEKAS MUSEUM OF LITHUANIAN CULTURE. The story went on to concentrate on the culinary riches of the city, especially its Lithuanian restaurants. The article included several popular Lithuanian recipes for traditionally favorite dishes.

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The Martin Marietta Corporation of Bethesda, MD, featured a two page color spread of a recent Lithuanian wedding held in Cleveland, Ohio, as part of their advertising promotion. An interview with the father of the bride HENRIKAS IDZELIS, served as the basis for the copy, which emphasized the basic, enduring strength of our country.

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President of C-144 BERNICE MIKATAVAGE was presented with a plaque by the South Anthracite Council of the League of Ukranian Catholics in America at their annual Ukranian Day. She was awarded this honor for her outstanding work, contribution and interest in the advancement and preservation of ethnic culture in the United States.



*Bernice Mikatavage is pictured in front, second from left, flanked by Polka King Happy Louie and his wife Julie. At right is Steve Postupack leading promoters of the Ukrainian heritage in the Anthracite region. In rear are Rev. David Chabon of Mt. Carmel and Paul Hanchon, national sports director for the League of Ukrainian Catholics. (Emil).*



## ...FROM THIS YEAR'S SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS...

Dear Mr. Svekla,

I just received the great news from my uncle concerning the Scholarship Award and I am writing to sincerely thank you for taking the time and having the energy to so thoroughly research the many applicants. Just talking to you made me realize how difficult it must be for you to familiarize yourself with each applicant and then make the final decision of which individuals will actually be awarded the scholarships.

I also realize how truly lucky I am to be awarded the scholarship and that this is one of the many ways the Knights of Lithuania supports and encourages us to worthwhile goals.

Please relay my many thanks to the other members of the committee and I remain,

Vytiškai,  
Marcy Krecioch

Dear Mr. Svekla,

I am dropping you a line to convey my sincere appreciation for allowing me to receive a Knights of Lithuania scholarship. It is a great honor for me to receive an award from an organization I take pride in belonging to. With my extended education, I hope to continue applying myself towards the K of L.

Vytiškai,

Mary Agnes Mikalauskas

Dear Mr. Svekla,

My sincerest thanks to you and the scholarship committee for finding me worthy of the Knights of Lithuania Scholarship. I am most grateful for this honor that the Knights of Lithuania have shown me. Words cannot express the feeling of receiving such a

distinction from the organization I have served and loved for the past five years.

It is my hope that as I begin my college career at St. Joseph's that at least I will remain as active as I have been in the past.

Vytiškai,

Bill Sidtis

Dear Mr. Svekla,

I'd like to express my appreciation to the Scholarship Committee for finding me worthy of a Knights of Lithuania scholarship. It will help me in covering high college tuition.

I hope to be as active in C-103 Providence here as I was in C-1 Brockton. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Ann Marie Statkus

# JUNIORS CORNER



*We get letters...*

OH, HOW COLD IT IS!

Did you sleep well?  
I froze while sleeping  
The night was very cold  
I left the window open  
Let's go to Florida  
I shall live there next  
winter  
It was 85 down there  
yesterday  
At least I would be warm  
What is the weather like  
now?  
What month is the  
warmest in Lithuania?

A, KAIP ŠALTA!

kaip išmiegojai?  
sušalau bemiegodamas  
buvo labai šalta naktis  
aš palikau langą atvirą  
važiuokime į Florida  
ten gyvensiu kitą žiemą

ten vakar buvo 85  
laipsniai  
aš nors sušilti galėčiau  
koks dabar oras?

kuris mėnuo šilčiausias  
Lietuvoje?



Dear Mrs. Kassel,

Thank you for the Knights of Lithuania Conventionship Award. It helped pay for this year's convention. See you next year, hopefully.

Tom Petkus, C-96  
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Ann Marie,

I would like to thank you for awarding me this year's conventionship. I was honored. So once again, I'd like to say "Thank you".

Sincerely yours,

Leo Stungurys, C-110  
Maspeth, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Skabeikis,

I would like to thank the Supreme Council for the Conventionship Award. I got a lot out of the convention and I was glad to have the opportunity to attend it.

Thanks,

Adele Martus, C-17 Jrs.  
So. Boston, Mass.

## JRS. C-96 DAYTON

During the International Festival (May 27, 28, 29) many of the Juniors that belong in the Vėjeliai Lithuanian Dancing group participated in the dancing program. We met many people from different countries and we enjoyed sharing each others cultural backgrounds.

This past July, thanks to Eleanor and Joseph Mantz, with the help of Sue and Pat Smily the Juniors went to NCR - Old River Park for a picnic. The food that was provided by the hostesses was delicious. We also enjoyed many activities such as swimming and canoeing. Along with the beautiful surroundings of the park we had a most enjoyable day. We thank the hostesses gratefully for a wonderful day.

On Saturday, July 29, we had a car wash which was located at Joe Gečas' service station. People were generous and it turned out to be a success.

We all worked hard and had an enjoyable but "wet" experience. Many thanks to Joe Gečas for letting us use his station.

On August 12 we had the pleasure of seeing a play at the La Comedia Dinner Theatre entitled "The Emperor's New Clothes" which was delightful. After the matinee we were invited to Walter & Mary Lou Lastoskie's home. We then had lunch and enjoyed a game of volleyball. Special thanks to them for having us over.

Our Juniors were represented at the Natl. Conv. in Syracuse with three delegates, Anne Marie Sluzas, Jr. council Vice-Pres., Elena Mikalauskas, and Tom Petkus. They were most appreciative of the Junior Conventionship Awards that were presented to them. They came home with new ideas and friendships. All three have pen pals with other Junior Knights!

This fall we plan to have a country store which we hope will be successful.

Irena Gečas



C-142 Washington, D.C. Jr. Council officers, Vice Pres. Tim LaBarre and Pres. Dede LaBarre.



C-29 Newark Juniors; Denise Stramara, Vickie Skripata, Edward Skripata present gift to Msgr. Scharnus during his Testimonial.



K of L Juniors, C-36-112, Chicago, march at "Dainų Šventė" Toronto, 1978.

Photo - L. Meilus



#### NOVEMBER

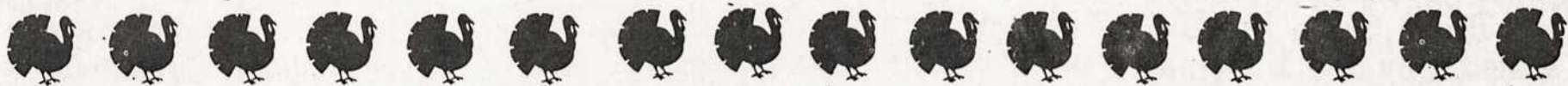
- 4 C-116, Worcester, Second Annual Harvest Dinner Dance.
- 11 C-110, Maspeth ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY DINNER & DANCE, Transfiguration Parish Hall, Maspeth, N.Y.

#### 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

- 16-19 66th National K of L Convention, Hotel Radisson - Chicago, Chicago, Ill.  
IID - Hosts.



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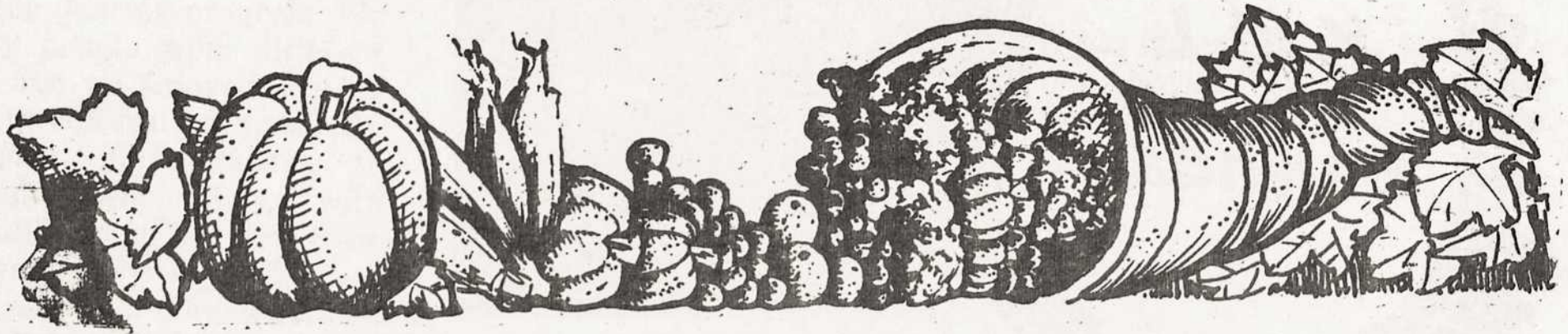
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# Vyčiai Veikia

## Council Activities



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



### MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT

#### C-79 - SOUTHFIELD, MICH.

A Super Sunshine Spree was the order of the day for the 2nd Annual Parish Bazaar on June 4. It was good to see our members working at the bazaar. Pres. Frank Zager chaired the Bingo Game and was capably assisted by Joe & Jeanne Yakstys, Sophie Zager, Maggie Smailis, Phyllis & Emil Byville, and Ruth Grasha. Labai Ačiū to all.

In another vein, Helen Tucker is to be congratulated, along with all donors who contributed cakes and other goodies, for an excellent Bake Sale in conjunction with the bazaar. The tables were "bulging full". Helen was able to report the highest profit ever made at a bake sale. Tariame nuoširdų ačiū to Helen and her workers, Eleanor Mickey, Eleanore & Ruth Grasha.

A bit of nostalgia was revived during the bazaar. You may recall Veto Paul & his wife Ann. He surprised us by coming to the event with his youngest son (now a teen-

ager) who at the last scene was "stationed" in a baby buggy in the kitchen of ole Divine Prov. quarters while Ann was preparing a Juniors' breakfast and Veto was preoccupied with setting tables and chairs in the hall. They were a hard-working couple, dedicated to our once flourishing Junior council. We need more active members like that!

Our membership is smaller now (God has claimed so many these past years), and others have just "dropped out", but our responsibilities have not become less.

We have received word that Cel Yunk passed away in Florida. She had been a former member of our council for a number of years, and a truly dedicated worker. She never refused whenever called upon to serve in any capacity, and was never one to boast. Cel lived rather a quiet life in Florida due to illness that plagued her life for approximately the past 5 yrs. Our council has had its share of "quiet heroes", and Cel was one of those persons. Our sincere condolences to her beloved husband, Harold. Cel was interesting, and interested, and may she now find Eternal Peace.

Satisfaction and Sincerity were the dominant factors that captured the "Upstate in '78" Convention in Syracuse. Right from the start, the smiling faces of Chm. Frank Petrauskas and his Big Man Com-

mittee greeted delegates from everywhere, directing everyone on the right course. Meetings were arranged so that it made one feel that you were a part of it. The Panel Sessions, especially, were most interesting and knowledgeable with moderators Rev. Jos. Dambrauskas, MIC.; Kęstutis Jokubynas; and Rev. Casimir Pugevičius, Exec. Director of Lith. Cath. Religious Aid. Also, very interesting and informative was the Panel on Public Relations with moderator Eva Migonis, S.C. Public Relations Chm.

Then there was a "breeze away" for the Social Events which were enjoyable and very well attended. Delegates representing our council were Vicki Chepelonis, Bertha Janus, Magdalena Smailis and Sophie Zager. Pres. Frank Zager represented the M.C. Dist., and Chip Newberry joined in the activities of the Juniors. Over one thousand new members were reported in the K of L. This Convention brought a lot of new faces and new friendships.

We sum it up by saying, "Syracuse couldn't do enough for us". Thanks "labai" Frank Petrauskas, and thanks to the Syracuse council.

Due to a late dinner start Friday evening, Sophie Zager and Co. unfortunately missed a portion of the Cultural Program, but vouch that Father Baltch was terrific! It was a great program, and a lot of

hard work went into it.

This Convention led to the reunion of Sophie Zager and a neighbor friend (nee Julia Kerbelis) from Amsterdam, N.Y., who met for the first time since Sophie left Amsterdam 36 yrs. ago. Some nostalgia!

Betty & Frank Petroski were visited by Betty's great-niece, Birute, from Australia. The Petroskis had a grand family reunion for the occasion. Later the guests left to visit Betty's relatives in Pennsylvania.

Enjoying a trip in our town were Dorothe Martin, Phyllis Milius and daughter, Dana. They visited the Clem Patockis, Andy & Pat Milius and others. They reside in St. Petersburg, Fla. Hope they come back more often. Also in town were George & Sophia Leskosky of Winter Haven, Fla., visiting their son George, Jr. and his wife, the F. Zagers, as well as others. Come back and see us soon. We enjoy seeing all our Florida friends.

Get well wishes to Eliz. Paurzas who was hospitalized, requiring surgery. A speedy recovery to John Belickas & Bill Walls who are very sick.

Many thanks to these members who help at our K of L Sundays — M. & G. Kase, A. Baron, V. Tulauskas, V. Kirsh, E. Gogelis, M. Vale and F. & S. Zager. We are very grateful.

Soffi

#### C-96 - DAYTON, OHIO

Our first Family Picnic of the season on June 11 proved to be fun time as usual. Encouraged by Sports Comm. member Chris Mantz, even the oldies' took part in the planned games. We did have two minor foot casualties in John A. Berczelly and Ed Sluzas.

Our super Social Committee, Rita Ambrose, John & Joyce Berczelly, Harley Karns, Judy Petrokas and newest member Chris Mantz, came up with another terrific social on June 24. It was Scandinavian Night at Holy Cross

Church Hall. A complete dinner with foods prepared from scratch from Danish, Swedish, Finnish and Norwegian recipes was served. With food galore, everyone went home full and contented. Anyone missing these socials prepared by this year's committee is really the loser. The gourmet foods and service has been above and beyond excellence. Even though I was attending the S.C. Meeting in Syracuse on the same weekend, much to my surprise I did get to taste some of the leftovers. I would like to reiterate — super!

July 16 saw many of the Knights taking part in Dayton's Annual Captive Nation's Week Program. Host nationality this year was the Polish community of Dayton. Elinor Sluzas, Aldona Ryan and Joe Gečas did have an active part in this special program.

What can we say to the 65th Natl. Conv. hosts, C-140 Syracuse! This small council, one of our newer ones, took on the tremendous project of hosting the Convention, and we from Dayton extend our sincere thanks for the royal, down-home treatment they gave us. Everything seemed to run so smoothly that time just moved on from one event to the next with no confusion or problems. Our delegates, Eloise Berczelly, Eleanor Mantz, George & Frances Mikalauskas, Bea Noreikas and Fran Petkus came home with nothing but praise. They found the sessions, especially the panels, not only informative but most interesting. Aldona Ryan was a delegate from the MCD.



Our council's guests, Pat Zelinkas Alexander, Mike J., Alice & Mary Petkus, Michael F. Petkus, Joe Ryan, Ted Sluzas and HM Stanley Vaitkus, were pleased they took part in all they did. Again, we thank C-140 for everything!

Special congratulations goes to George Mikalauskas on being conferred with the Order of St. Casimir, Fourth Degree Award, at Sunday's Mass by Bishop Vincentas Brizgys. Mary Agnes Mikalauskas became our council's second member to be awarded the K of L Scholastic Scholarship. Congratulations! Fran Petkus was voted in to remain on the Supreme Ritual Committee. Our council is especially grateful to the Honorary Membership Committee and the delegates for accepting Mike F. Petkus as an Honorary Member posthumously with this special acknowledgement taking place in Chicago, 1979.

Congratulations to Rick Corady, taking on a managerial position at a food chain upon his graduation from HS. Also, congratulations to Mary Agnes Mikalauskas upon her HS graduation. Mary Agnes will be putting her K of L Scholarship to use at Wright State Univ. majoring in Chemistry.

Congratulations to Jerri & Cathy Roberts, our N.C. members, on the birth of their second son, Scott Allen. Happy grandparents are Joe & Eleanor Mantz, now with a total of 4 grandchildren. Good to see that after being hospitalized, Bea Noreikas came out with a clean slate. Our prayers are sent to our Hialeah, Fla. member, Peter Petkus, that good health is on the way. Congratulations to Stan & Helen Vaitkus on the occasion of their 25th Wedding Anniversary!

Our members were most pleased that their Resolution, requesting the Knights do their share by looking into ways to ensure the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington is preserved, was approved at the Convention and a committee

formed for this special project.

Holy Cross Parish of Dayton set aside May 19 as Lithuanian Prayer Day in our community.

Barbara Klevinsky of C-112 couldn't believe that some of us from Dayton would drive to Chicago just to eat at a Lithuanian restaurant. But that is exactly what Eloise & John Berczelly, Bea Noreikas, Fran Petkus and Ted Sluzas did recently. This was quite a treat, as was reading the article in the Chicago Tribune about the Lithuanian community of Chicago.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to husband, Albert, sons and family of Marian Owen who passed away on Aug. 27. Marian took her illness in stride as a true Christian. Eternal Rest grant unto her, O Lord.

Fran Petkus

#### C-19 - PITTSBURGH, PA.

With the end of a very busy summer of 1978, we approach the Fall and Winter season with many plans of new activities.

To reminisce briefly: In March, a bus load of Lithuanian class members and Knights of Lithuania took a trip to Cleveland to enjoy "Kaziuko Mugė". This affair displayed and sold Arts and Crafts made by Lithuanian girl and boy scouts. They also staged a Lithuanian song festival featuring pre-schoolers and young teens. We were also welcomed at a beautiful Lithuanian Restaurant on arrival in Cleveland. Lithuanian motif was displayed throughout the restaurant, and the food was "just like mother used to prepare".

In April and May many rehearsals took place at St. Casimir's hall for singing and dancing to take part in the Folk Festival at the Civic Arena. This yearly affair is sponsored by many ethnic groups. The stage setting was in honor of celebrating a Saints Day with gala festivities.

In June, the Knights of Lithuania celebrated their quarterly Communion at St. Anthony's Lithuanian Church in Bridgeville, with

brunch at Tonidale Restaurant in Oakdale. At this affair, Father Karaveckas bestowed the 1st degree on Mary DiMarco.

Also in June, we went to Uniontown to fete Simas Kudirka, where he was guest speaker, and also where he sold and autographed his book "For Those Still at Sea". Before the Banquet, the Lithuanian class members and the Knights of Lithuania took part in singing and dancing.

On June 30, July 1, and 2nd, we were on the road again. This time we went to Toronto, Canada, with two bus loads to enjoy the "Fifth Lithuanian Song Festival".

We have had several nice meetings at members' homes. On July 12, a meeting was held at Andy Rozger and his sister Albina Ewalt's home, where we were served a delicious Lithuanian meal. At this meeting delegates were elected to cover the Convention sessions in Syracuse. We also enjoyed Albina's world-wide doll collection. Most of these were gifts obtained by Andy through his many travels.

On August 9, a pleasant garden meeting was held at Mildred Chinik's home with food and refreshments. Plans for a trip to Washington, D.C. were discussed.

On August 16, many K of L's and friends traveled to the Convention in Syracuse, going by air, car, and even by bus. Sisters Francesca and Alverna sold colored Easter eggs, and the

money was donated to the Lithuanian Affairs Committee. Sister Francesca also made five Lithuanian costumes for Syracuse members for which she was recognized. This convention was very well attended and indeed well organized by their committees. Ačiū, ačiū. The K of L membership was reported to be on the increase.

At the invitation of Eva M. Migonis, we traveled to Washington, D.C. on Sept. 9. A Reception was held at Georgetown University to meet prominent people. We also enjoyed a tour of Washington.

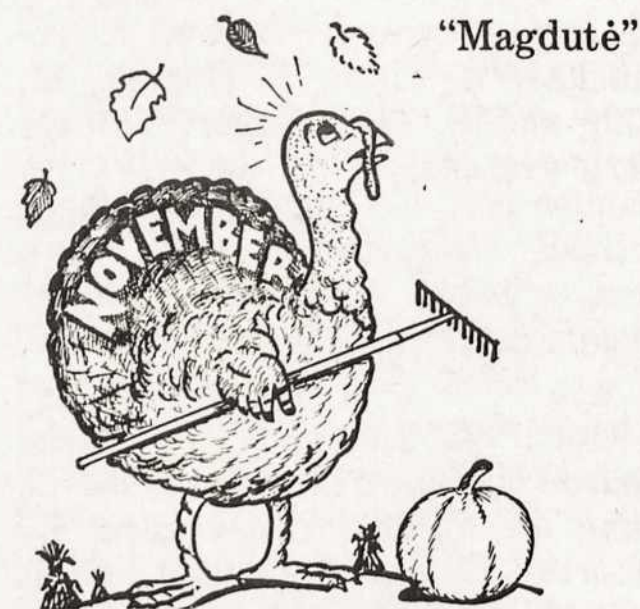
We attended the Franciscan Monastery and the highlight of the trip was at the Shrine of Immaculate Conception, where at the altar of Our Lady of Šiluva, Mass was celebrated by Father Casimir Pugevičius in Lithuanian and Lithuanian hymns were sung. After the Mass, we were on our way back to Pittsburgh.

Condolences are extended to Mary DiMarco and Margaret Papeaka on the loss of their brother, Constant Papeaka, who passed away on August 22. Also condolences are extended to Sisters Francesca and Alverna on the loss of their brother, Bolis Walls, who passed away on September 13.

Even though we have but 48 members, five or six of these joined our group very recently. You see, we have been busy. Some of our members are unable to take part in many events.

We are now in the process of elections, and will list members as they are elected.

At this time, may we as Pittsburgh K of L's wish all our friends and members of Knights of Lithuania a very Blessed and prosperous year in 1979.



**ILLINOIS-INDIANA  
DISTRICT**

The June Quarterly Business Meeting was held in the K of L Bldg. After the business portion of the evening, conducted by Pres. Frank Zapolis, hostesses Gerry Mack and Monica Kasper served a



delicious treat and all enjoyed the evening.

Lithuanians and more Lithuanians were seen at White Sox Park in June for the first Lithuanian Day at the Park. Our Chicago Juniors performed Lithuanian dances and Al Brazis sang both the American and Lithuanian anthems. A personal opinion — it was THE best rendition ever of the "Star Spangled Banner". Vince Samaska, president of the Lithuanian Chamber of Commerce and sponsors of the event, was also the coordinator for the day's activities.

Condolences to the family of George Jonikas, who passed away in July after a long and lingering illness. George was a former IID president and member of C-112.

The K of L was well represented at the 5th "Dainų Šventė" (Song Festival) held in Toronto, Canada, by our K of L Choir and C-36-112 Juniors. Faustas Strolia was one of the song festival's directors (Childrens' Chorus) and received many accolades for his untiring and brilliant efforts. His enthusiasm in working with young people is truly inspirational.

In order to raise funds to help defray expenses for the "Dainų Šventė", the K of L Choir held a

picnic at the K of L Bldg. and Garden. Everyone enjoyed themselves with this talented group.

No Captive Nations Parade was scheduled this year due to the construction of the new State Street Mall, but Captive Nations Week was commemorated at the Daley Civic Center Plaza with a Vigil on Friday evening and a Rally on Saturday. The K of L — IID was represented with our colors (led by Sgt-at-Arms Jerome Jankus) and with participation by many members.

The IID K of L Day Picnic was again held on July 4 at the K of L Bldg. & Garden. A capacity crowd helped to make the event very successful, both socially and financially. Kudos to Chairman Vince Samaska and his committee — Irene Sankus as treasurer and catch-all; Al Brazis, bar coordinator; Gerry Mack, prize booth; Ann Marie Kassel, Juniors Booth; and Estelle Rogers, Raffle. Other committee members and workers were Joe Laurinaitis, Clemente Vidzius, Jerome Jankus, Antanas Brokevicius, Sally Chernius, Edward/Ruth Kazlauskas, Jonas Kernagis, Frank/Veronica Kilkus, Lucille Kilkus, Sabina

Klatt, Irene Norushis, Bernice Pupinek, Tekla Stroga, Stephanie/Antanas Jonutis, Prudencija Bickus, Dell Zunas, Aldona Brazis, Al/Ruth Dagus, Monica Kasper, Eleanore Laurin, Gerrie Mockus, Harry Petraitis, Kazys Rozanskis, Al/Julie Zakarka, D-G Commander Martikonis.

Our sincere appreciation to the generous donors — St. Anthony Savings (Joe Gribauskas), Evans Funeral Home, Chicago Savings, Argo Savings, Midland Savings, Standard Savings, Clearing Bank, the Kazlauskas', the Kilkus', the Macks, etc., etc., who are always supporters of the K of L.

The Annual Golf Outing was again held in conjunction with the Lithuanian Chamber of Commerce at the beautiful Palos Country Club. Chamber pres. Vince Samaska informs us that the K of L winners were Dave Gaides and Dolores Rupp.

Chicagoans attending the 1978 Natl. Conv. hosted by C-140 of Syracuse, NY reported that a grand time was had by all. IID delegates were Ann Marie Kassel and Irene Sankus. Ann Marie served on the Nominating Committee, Terry Strolia, the Resolutions Committee, and Ed Krivickas, as Sgt-at-Arms.

Reelected or elected to serve on the Supreme Council were Ann Marie Kassel, 1st Natl. Vice Pres. in charge of Jrs.; Theresa Strolia, Natl. Fin. Secy.; Faustas Strolia, Lithuanian Language Coordinator. Eleanore Laurin continues to represent our district on the Honorary Membership Committee. Congratulations to all. We know they will continue to make the members of the IID proud of their involvement on the national level of our organization. We are looking forward to the time when more IID members attend conventions and serve as national officers.

Date to Remember — August 16 - 19, 1979, National Convention, Chicago, Ill. Convention Headquarters: Radisson - Chicago Hotel on the magnificent mile of North Michigan.



*Dainų Šventė, Toronto, 1978. K of L Choir, Chicago, participating.*

*Photo - L. Meilus*

## C-112 - CHICAGO, ILL.

The final business meeting before our summer hiatus was held in June of the Nativity BVM Parish Hall. Pres. Al Zakarka conducted an efficient meeting and our hostesses Gerrie Mockus and Julie Zakarka prepared a delicious repast for the socializing that followed.

The Board Members continued to meet whenever necessary to conduct the business of the council and to formulate plans for the fall season. The July board meeting was held in the home of Ruth & Al Dagis, and the Sept. meeting hosts were Julie & Al Zakarka.

Condolences to Stephanie Simo- nelis and her family on the death of her brother, George Jonikas. George was a long time member of our council and participated in many of our activities. We will miss his smiling personality and his musical talents.

Our condolences also to Dr. Aldona Simkus and her family on the death of her beloved mother.

A Big Welcome is extended to new members Salomeja Daulys, Ona Naureckas, Birute Pumputis,

Ann & Louis Riley, John & Nancy Rudis, and Marie Tomiak.

Birute Pumputis, who rejoined the council but has always been an active member of our K of L Choir, recently left to begin her medical studies in Florida. As a farewell gift to the K of L, she conducted a medical seminar on the C.P.R. method. We wish her great success in her new venture.

Arlington Park Race Track seemed to be the summer meeting place for many of our members. Among the happy winners were John Chaplin, Gerrie Mockus and son Robert, Estelle Rogers, Julie & Al Zakarka, Ruth & Al Dagis, Irene Sankus, Red Cibulskis and Al Kachinskis.

Again, our council members were prominent on the committee and as workers for the IID's annual K of L Day Picnic traditionally held on July 4, K of L Bldg & Garden. Among the hard-working committee were members Al Brazis, Irene Sankus, Gerry Mack, Estelle Rogers, and Harry Petraitis. Doing their share the day of the picnic were Monica Kasper, Aldona Brazis, Prudy Bickus, Dell Zunas, Sally Daulys, Ona Naurec-

kas, Kazys Rozanskis, Eleanore Laurin, Al & Ruth Dagis, Gerrie Mockus, and Al & Julie Zakarka.

We missed the smiling personality of our council secretary, Sophie Nieminski, who became ill and was hospitalized that day. She has since recovered and is back with us.

Many, many of our members were enjoying the 'goodies' at State Senator Frank Savickas' Cocktail Reception at the Condessa Del Mar complex. The happy K of L contingent was led by Stanley & Stella Molis.

Our summer outing was a Bar-B-Que at the home of Gerrie & Al Mockus. The hostess was delightful, the food delicious, the host very liberal with the serving of liquid refreshments, the entertainers (Julie Z - Ruth D - Al Shulicke) entertaining, and the guests were singing along and enjoying the entire evening in between raindrops with good friends and fellow K of L members.

Congratulations to Al & Aldona Brazis on being the lovely parents of the bride when daughter Marilyn married on Sept. 23.

Our council was represented at the Natl. Conv. in Syracuse by the one-and-only Eddie Krivickas, who is becoming "Mr. National Convention Sgt-at-Arms". As usual he did a most admirable job and, of course, was Mr. Congeniality as he busily invited one and all to the 1979 Convention in Chicago.

iks



*Edward M. Pocius, DDS*

*Sons of Edward & Anele Pocius, C-112 Chicago. Edward is in private practice in Channahon, Ill. and Richard, a former K of L Dancer, graduated with a degree in Business Administration.*

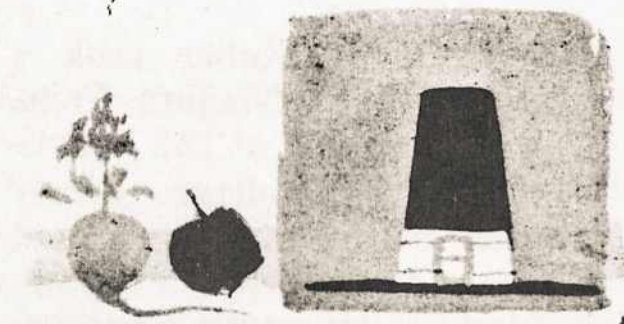


*Richard Pocius*

## DID YOU MISS THE

CHRISTMAS AD  
DEADLINE?  
GREET YOUR  
FRIENDS WITH  
NEW YEAR'S CHEER

## VIA VYTIS



## MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

C-144 - ANTHRACITE, PA.

Spring and summer went fast for our council. Mary Koons had a very beautiful Lithuanian program for Mother's Day in May for which we are grateful to Mary and to Radio Station WPPA, Pottsville. Then came the Greater Pottsville Area Downtown Fair in which the Lithuanian stand was again a great success, thanks to Anne Sikora and her committee.

In June our Lithuanian classes ended and we had a very nice graduation. Afterward, Father Bartkus, Msgr. Neverauskas, and Father Jarasunas treated the graduates to a pizza party. Then came the Schuylkill Co. of the Arts Ethnic Festival at the Schuylkill Campus of Penn. State Univ., and once again the Lithuanian display was an outstanding success. Annie Morgalis' demonstration of "Margučiai" is most popular as are Anna Lesky's straw decorations. The affair was opened with entertainment by our Jr. Knights "Marijos Varpeliai" singing and dancing Lithuanian folk songs and dances, and everyone loved them. The foodstand under the chairmanship of Adele Laurinaitis was one of the most popular at the Fair.

Our spiritual advisor, Father Al Bartkus, was transferred from St. Casimir's Parish, St. Clair, to Annunciation Parish, Frackville. The people at St. Casimir's had a lovely farewell party for Father Al to show their love and appreciation.

In July we had our family picnic at St. George's Grove. Chief cooks Vic & Evelyn Prep were Class A Hosts and everyone had a good time.

Once again we had an excellent bus trip under the able directorship of Elsie Kosmisky. We had four beautiful days in Toronto, Canada, for the "Dainų Šventė" and the World games. Elsie really outdid herself in preparing an exceptional trip. For all who attended, we say "Širdingai Ačiū" to Elsie for a terrific trip.

In between all this activity, the council was preparing for the 64th

Annual Lithuanian Day at Lakewood. Anne Wargo was again chairman for this Aug. 13 affair with Stanley Vaicaitis as co-chairman. The committee worked very hard, and the proceeds will be used for the publication of the "Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania". Lithuanian Day was a beautiful sun-shining day, and the thousands of people that came to the park enjoyed it all. Guest



C-144 Presentation of gifts to Chairman and Co-Chairman of Lithuanian Day. L. to †. Nell Klizas, Treas., Bernice Mikatavage, Pres.; Anne Klizas Wargo, Chairman; Stanley Vaičaitis, Co-chairman.



C-144 "Marijos Varpeliai" perform at PA Lithuanian Day.

speaker was Simas Kudirka, with entertainment by the Kalvelis National Lithuanian Folkloric Dance Group from Baltimore, and everyone enjoyed the singing of the New York Men's Octet and our own Mamie Pieri and Valeria Delaney. Saturday evening's Mass at St. Clair was beautiful as was Sunday's Mass at Shenandoah. Our thanks to all our fellow Knights who attended, and to all our friends who gave us moral as well as financial support.

Many thanks to Father Matthew Jarasunas for the beautiful all-Lithuanian Mass held the last Sunday of each month at Our Lady of Siluva Church, Maizeville, at 12 noon. What with our beautiful K of L choir under the directorship of Stanley Vaicaitis, with Wilhemina Verbitsky at the organ, and with the beautiful work done by Joseph Yenulaitis, we wish every one of our fellow Knights could attend this awe-inspiring service.

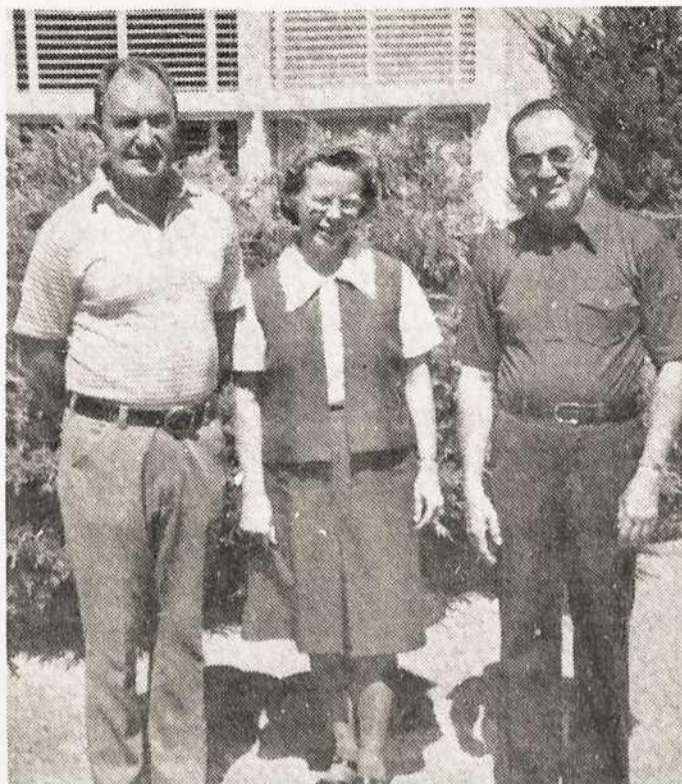
Syracuse Natl. Conv. delegates were Pres. Bernice Mikatavage, Clem Kosmisky, Anne Wargo, Esther Bartashus, Helen Chesko, Helen Smulkstis, Anne Marie Kithkowski, Annie Margalis, Alma Linder, Evelyn Prep and Msgr. Neverauskas. Alternates were Al Mikatavage, Margaret Zelonis, Eleanor Vaicaitis, Elsie Kosmisky and Anna Butts. Stanley Vaicaitis represented the M.A.D.

Ona

#### C-109 - GREAT NECK, N.Y.

All have had a relaxing summer and we now look forward to a season of fall activity. Since our members are scattered in various communities and are active in projects therein, it has been difficult to get together for K of L purposes. However, a new season, and soon a new year, hopefully, will bring promising results.

Millie & Charlie Rogers are active in the New Hyde Park Sr. Citizen's group. They spent a week with this group in the Catskills, in Granite, N.Y. During a day's picnic at the Brauer House, Pomona,



*C-109 Great Neck, N.Y. member Joseph Zukas with Sr. M. Immaculata, OSF, and Msgr. Luiz Marques Barbosa of Brazil, vacationing at Franciscan Monastery, Kennebunkport, Me.*

N.Y., Millie & Charlie won the poker prize. Millie, as a Columbiette, also works at their weekly Bingo games.

The Bill Bernatovich family vacationed in the Adirondack Mts. at the Riding Hy Dude Ranch in Warrensburg, N.Y. They cruised Lake George and enjoyed the beautiful surroundings. Rita's birthday was celebrated Sept. 28.



*Texas Leonardas Andriekus, OFM, and C-41 Brooklyn, N.Y. member Eugenija Karpus at Franciscan Guest House, Kennebunkport, Me.*

Mary & Tony Kober took a leisurely drive to Niagara Falls, N.Y., and marveled at the beautiful colors of fall foliage. Nancy joined them later for a weekend at the Lafayette N.Y. Apple Festival. They found it interesting passing through the small quaint N.Y. State towns that are often missed while taking the super-highways.

The Zukas family enjoyed a week at the Franciscan Monastery in Kennebunkport, Me. It was their pleasure to meet vacationing Msgr. Luiz Marques Barbosa and Sister M. Immaculata, OSF, of Brazil. Sister (Adele Miltenis) was a parishioner of St. George's Parish, Brooklyn, N.Y., and studied at St. Francis Academy in Pittsburgh, Pa. She taught in Maspeth and Amsterdam, N.Y., and though Genie Gobis of C-100 was not in her class, Sister remembers her as a student in the school. Msgr. Barbosa spoke several languages, and Sister, who spoke Portuguese fluently, hasn't forgotten her Lithuanian. It was also good to see C-41 Brooklyn, N.Y. member Eugenia Karpus recuperating and looking well after again being hospitalized during the winter. Jeannie has had serious illness, and is slowly regaining her strength. God is good, and we pray that she will overcome all weaknesses. Nepasiduok, Jeannie!

Al & Starsy Wesey vacationed in Rumford, Me., and expect to return there, visiting with Star's family, for the Thanksgiving holidays. Al will also try to get in some hunting in them thar woods.

Anne Martens, our member residing in California, celebrated her birthday on Oct. 5. Anne had friends Lou Ann & Phil Rutha visiting with her in the spring.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to former (charter) member, Jane (Glatke) Schwarz, whose husband Bob recently passed away. He was a good Catholic and a fine man; we pray his soul is at peace.

We wish all our K of L friends and their families a very happy and joyful Thanksgiving.

## C-12 - NEW YORK, N.Y.

During the summer months and vacation time, members scattered throughout the United States on holidays and some relaxed abroad. Others attended the K of L Natl. Conv. in Syracuse as well as Lithuanian Day at Lakewood Park in Barnesville, Pa. Our regular monthly meetings were suspended until the Fall months. We mention a few regional matters that may be of interest to members of other councils.

There was a commemorative ceremony at Lituanica Square in Brooklyn on July 15 honoring the memory of airmen Darius and Girenas who perished in their attempt at a non-stop New York to Kaunas flight a few generations ago. Principal speaker was Vytas Radzivanas who outlined the events of the 1930's before and after the tragic venture and thanked Mrs. Brone Spudiene, head of the memorial committee who works very hard to perpetuate this annual ritual.

During Captive Nations week that started on July 16, there was a very large turnout in N.Y.C. on opening day. People gathered at 59th St. & Fifth Ave. and proceeded to St. Patrick's Cathedral where services were held for the

living and deceased European ethnic groups, victims of tyranny and persecution. There was a spirited parade up Fifth Ave. and then music and native songs in Central Park.

Congratulations are in order for two outstanding personalities. Rev. Jonas Pakalniškis is the new pastor of Annunciation Church in Brooklyn and Vitas Gerulaitis was the winner of the Invitational Tennis Tournament at Forest Hills. Vitas, despite displaying his enormous talents in Wimbledon, Forest Hills, Texas and Las Vegas, somehow found time to give a few free lessons to eager youngsters in a Queens County public park. He and his father also distributed several hundred tennis racquets to the delighted children.

The latest Stallone movie F.I.S.T. is well-worth viewing. It is based on the life-style of labor leader Jimmy Hoffa, who, like Winthrop Rockefeller, was smart enough to marry a Lithuanian girl. The wedding scene is particularly impressive with the gals in native costume and wearing amber necklaces. The music at the reception will be recognized by every K of L member who ever attended a Lithuanian dance or picnic. Try to see the film when it's in your neighborhood.

The Vet

## C-110 - MASPETH, N.Y.

At our Fall meeting, five new members were introduced by John Adomenas: Alice & John Krauciunas, Ann Pachesa, Helen Wanson and Frank Yuskevich. Fr. Stasys Raila was welcomed as our new Spiritual Advisor. Fr. John Pakalniškis has been transferred to Pastorship of Annunciation Parish in Brooklyn. We thank Father John for his patience, cooperation and encouragement.

Our members congratulate Phil Skabeikis who was elected Natl. Pres.; John Adomenas now 2nd V.P. in charge of Membership; Fourth Degree Members Fr. John Pakalniškis and Marian Skabeikis; Third Degree, Fr. Casimir Pugevičius; John Adomenas on the Membership Award; and Bill Sidtis who was awarded a \$500. college scholarship.

A donation of \$100. was made to the Wayside Shrine recently erected at the Cultural Center in Brooklyn.

New council officers for '78-79 are: Pres. John Adomenas; Vice Pres. John Sidtis; Secy. Pat Danowski; Treas. Nellie Skabeikis; Fin. Secy. John Oliva; Vytis Correspondent Ann Sidtis; Cultural Chm. Mary Stungurys; Ritual Chm. Ann Adomenas with assistants. Nellie Skabeikis, Ann



Members of C-110, Maspeth, N.Y. Seated front row (l to r): Cultural Chm. Marija Stungurys, Secy. Pat Danowski, Pres. John Adomenas, Vice Pres. John Sidtis, Treas. Nellie Skabeikis and Fin. Secy. John Oliva.

Oliva and Marian Skabeikis; Lithuanian Affairs, Bro. George Petkavage; Junior Counselor Bill Sidtis; and Spiritual Director Fr. Stasys Raila.

Our 4th Annual Kūčios will be celebrated Dec. 17, starting with the 11 a.m. Mass. Chairman is John Sidtis. As is the tradition, twelve courses (different foods) will be served.

Congratulations to John Sidtis Jr. on his Ph.D. in Neuro-Psychology. John will continue post-doctoral studies at Cornell University in N.Y.C.

Our members participated in the Tautos Šventė celebrated Sept. 10 during the 11 a.m. Mass at Transfiguration Church.

A.S.



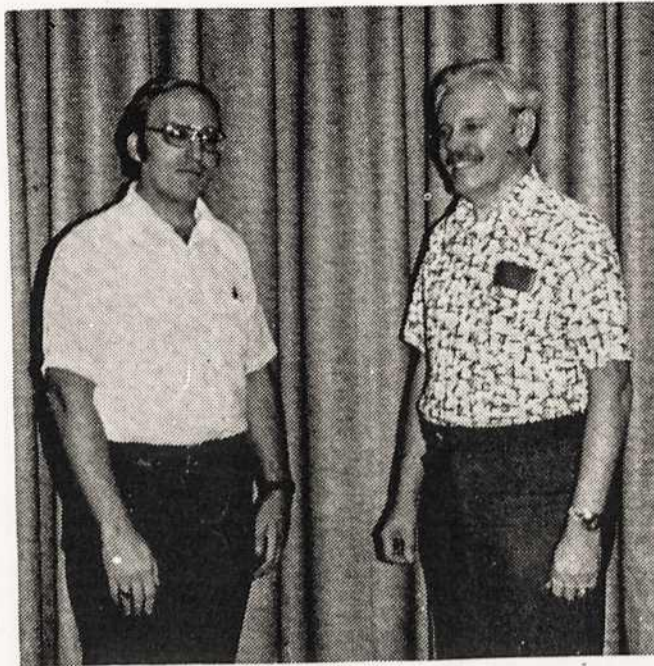
## NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

### C-10 - ATHOL-GARDNER, MASS.

Our council held their annual barbecue at Frank Anoris' camp on White's Pond on July 2. Members and guests were busy throughout the day, cooking their food, swimming, reminiscing about past events, and breaking in the Kusmeskus' new boat and water skis. Since it was the weekend of the 4th, we're sorry some of the gang couldn't make it. It was good to see the Kusmeskus and Rodski families.

Father Steponaitis spent a two-week vacation in Lithuania and Russia during June. He did get to spend a day in his home parish of Sintautai. Father returned with much to tell us all.

Condolences are extended to Frank Anoris and Tina Piragis on the death of their stepmother, Emily Anoris. Our members attended the wake and funeral on July 14, with Mass in St. Francis Church, Athol. Condolences are



*National Pres. Phil Skabeikis &  
John Adomenas, Pres. of C-110  
Maspeth, N.Y.*

also extended to Brone Wisnauskas on the loss of her mother, Viktorija Savulis, who died in Poland as a result of burns that destroyed their home. A memorial Mass was celebrated in St. Francis Church on July 22 with many of our members in attendance. May their souls rest in peace.

Brone & Bill Wisnauskas entertained her brother, Pranas from Olecko, Poland, for 45 days. His first impressions of the USA were very good. He was surprised that food was available in the markets all the time, and that there was no waiting in lines.

Blanche & Charlie Genaitis were busy during the summer attending all the Lithuanian picnics. Also seen were Dr. Henry Gailiunas and his mother, Lennie Davidonis, and Clara Zetkousky.

The grounds of St. Francis Parish were beautiful this summer, all due to Fr. Stepie's green thumb and hard work.

The N.E. Dist. held their annual Family Day Picnic at the Lithuanian Grove in Gardner on July 30.

The area press have given much publicity lately on Lithuanian dissidents, and talks that Simas Kudirka gave in Concord, N.H. and at the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception picnic in Putnam, Conn.

Mary Marsh of Gardner, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Marsh,

was graduated on May 20 from Anna Maria College in Paxton. She received her B.A. Degree and plans to attend graduate school to study for her Master's in counseling psychology.

Micky Marsh is recuperating well from a recent operation at the Peter Brigham Hosp. in Boston.

The Athol Daily News carried a large photo and write-up on the front page showing Marija Sulsis presenting a bouquet of flowers to Officer James Kuzmeskus of the Brattleboro Vt. Police Dept. The article stated, "If the officer looks familiar to you, it's because he is the spitting image of his first cousins, Alec & Paul Kuzmeskus of Ray's Pharmacy on Exchange Street".

Vincukas

### C-26 - WORCESTER, MASS.

We welcome into our council two new members, Antoinette & Joseph Ivaska. Congratulations to Janice Abdelnour and her husband on the birth of their baby daughter last April. And, we're happy to tell you that Mrs. Nell Thompson is fine after summer hospitalization for a bout with pneumonia. Francis Ginkus had his share of illness but he, too, is fine now.

Father John Bacevicius, OFM, was retreatmaster for the NED Annual Retreat last June in Kennebunkport, Me. at the Franciscan Monastery. Retreatants from our council numbered eight: Rita Pinkus, Rose Chestnut, Helen Gillus, Anne Bucinskas, Antoinette & Joe Evaska and Adele & Francis Degutis.

Rose Chestnut's brother and Adele Tagman's father died this past summer and we join in offering these girls and their families our heartfelt sympathies.

The Ritual Committee with their usual diligent research concentration have made it possible for the following to be awarded their Second Degrees: Arthur Racicot, Bart & Marion March, Stephen Walinsky Sr., and Ruth & Leonard Ramsdell. Receiving Third De-

grees were Mary Duggan, Rose Chestnut and Ann Walinsky. Fourth Degrees at the Syracuse Natl. Conv. were awarded to Marion Racicot, Anne Bucinkas and Francis Degutis.

Generally, the same people work for each council affair and rather than list them separately as various activities are described, we name them here collectively: Ann Bender, Ann Bucinkas, Rose Chestnut, Adele & Francis Degutis, Mary Duggan, Helen Gillus, Ed & Rasa Grigaitis, Bill & Carol Grigas, Anne Grazulis, Joe Ivaska, Agnes Law, Ruth & Lenny Ramsdell, Ginny Leleikis, Al & Dorothy Seilius, and Marion Shapiro. The chairpersons listed below are especially responsible for chairing some very successful projects for the Council. Marion Racicot and Rita Pinkus co-chaired the council picnic held last June at Maironis Park. The spaghetti supper held in the spring was planned by Ellie & Steve Walinsky, Jr. The pastrami supper held in June was chaired by Ann & Steve Walinsky, Sr. Shish-ka-bob was the feature of the July meeting hosted by Ellie & Steve Walinsky Jr. at their West Millbury residence. The Grigas and Walinsky younger set provided entertainment proper for the Nation's Independence Day celebration. Rita & Ted Pinkus hosted the August meeting with a chicken barbecue at their Rutland summer home. Assisting Rita and Ted were their son-in-law and daughter, Tony & Alena Birch, who were here from Philadelphia with their children for a few week's vacation. These chairpeople certainly put their best foot forward in providing delicious fare, pleasant companionship with friends, in delightful environments.

Our two Sister-members, Sisters Ignata and Laurene, SSC, support, advise and take part in our activities in that special way of Sisters. Sadly, we've just learned that Sister Laurene has been given a new assignment and while we'll truly miss Sister, we wish her well.



Sister Laurene won the Easter Bonnet contest for creating the funniest chapeaux! Remember?

Our pastor, Father Anthony Miciunas, MIC, and his assistant, our spiritual advisor, Father Benj. Uzdavinis, MIC, are ever-present to provide facilities, advice, a helping hand, whatever we need at the moment. So, when we scan the roster of our council's membership, we realize we are one very fortunate council. There are those who can't for one reason or another work on committees and so their names are rarely published. But these heroes and heroines support each affair with their attendance and their donations.

For those we never see, we'll need to exercise a little missionary zeal and attract them to "our fold". Our president, Rita Pinkus, promises that this is exactly the aim of the new Executive Board for the '78-79 term. The new Board, which was installed at the dinner dance on Oct. 14, consists of the following: Rita Pinkus, Pres.; Steve Walinsky, Sr., Vice Pres.; Rasa Grigaitis, Recy. Secy.; Marion Racicot, Fin. Secy.; Steve Walinsky, Jr., Treas.; Virginia Leleikis, Auditor; Lith. Affairs chairperson will be Mildred Lapinskas. Congratulations to all!

We of C-26 are proud of the K of L honors bestowed upon Lith. Cons. Josephine Dauzvardis, and we congratulate this Worcester native! We are SO proud to boast that Mrs. Dauzvardis once lived near our St. Casimir's Church. *Ilgiausiu Metu!*

Betty Shimkus and her children sat proudly nearby as Father Miciunas welcomed the Grafton Hill Post, led by Dan Shimkus, to our church for their annual Memorial Day Mass.

Rita Pinkus announces that the Cultural chairpersons for the new term will be Mary Duggan and Marion Shapiro. Ritual Committee members will be Marion Racicot and Adele Degutis.

Iki sekančio numerio, su Diev!  
Dzūkelė

C-103 - PROVIDENCE, R.I.

Helen Gudasczauskas was taken to Kent County Hosp. where she received a pacemaker. It is good to see Helen recovered enough to enjoy her new grandson and able to take a trip to Colorado.

Rita Wilkens spent her silver wedding anniversary in the hospital. However, arrangements were made for her to join Ed at a surprise anniversary reception.

John & Irene Walaska gained two daughters-in-law this year. Their son John Jr. was married in June, and Mark in September. John and Irene were treated to a vacation trip to California by son John.

The NED annual retreat at Kennebunkport, Me., was attended by Vinnie & Bette Ciuryla, John & Irene Walaska, and Ruth & Gene Krecioch.

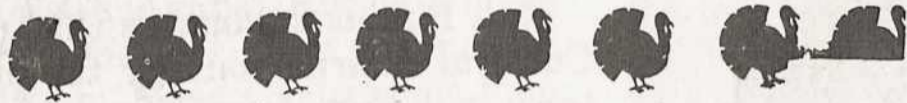
A Prayer Day for Lithuania sponsored by the council was very well attended. Fr. A. Jurgelaitis was homilist and the Benediction service conducted by Fr. V. Martinkus.

Irene Landanski and John Walaska were approved by the Natl. Ritual Comm. to receive the 4th Degree. Since they were unable to attend the Natl. Conv. in Syracuse, arrangements were made for them to receive their degrees at the NED Fall Conv. in Lawrence, Mass.

Regina Krecioch completed her special studies at the Sorbonne in Paris. Her sister Ann flew to Paris,

VYTIS	2524 W. 45 St. Chicago, IL. 60632
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and the two visited various European countries.

Bette & Vinnie Ciuryla flew to California to attend the wedding of their niece and godchild. Bette's brother, Dr. William Osmanski of Chicago, was installed into the R.I. Heritage Hall of Fame. Dr. Osmanski was an outstanding football player at Holy Cross College in Worcester, and played professional football for the Chicago Bears.

Fr. A. Jurgelaitis and Bertha & John Stoskus attended the well-organized 65th Natl. Conv. in Syracuse. C-140 once again proved that dedicated people in small numbers can perform excellently.

Marcilla Krecioch, our Jr.'s Council Pres. was awarded a \$500. Scholarship at the Convention.

Fr. Jurgelaitis and John Stoskus were most pleasantly surprised when Natl. Conv. Chm. Frank Petrauskas presented them with candles of yellow, green and red for their help to his committee.

Dorothy Kapiskas spent some time at Our Lady of Fatima Hosp. in August. It won't take her long to be back in the swing of things.

Jean Coughlin entertained the Lithuanian Heritage Comm. and K of L members at her home in Newport "Stone Tower Court". The occasion was to welcome Nellie Lesiak's daughter from Poland.

Jack & Bert Cunningham spent the summer at Little Compton. Helen Seraichekas did a great deal of entertaining at her home in Narragansett.

It rained on Vic Mathieu's Bristol 4th of July Parade, but there is always next year.

JAS

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