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the KNIGHT **VYTTIS**

1980

**The Knights
of Lithuania**

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the KNIGHT
VYTIS

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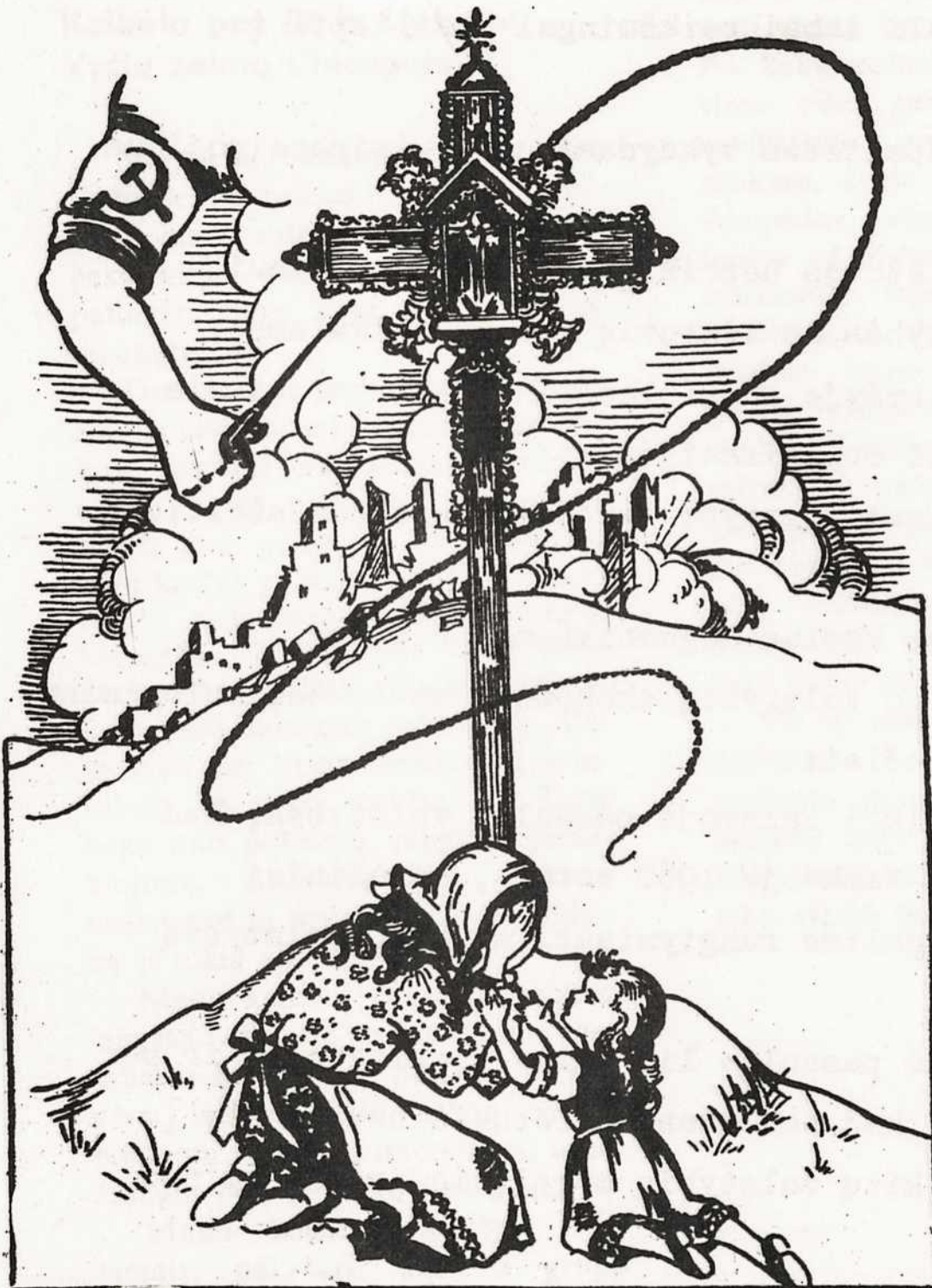
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LITHUANIA



Lithuania —

I am angry at
a force that stripped
you of your virtue!!
and your cry was reverberated
by echoes around the earth.

Now —

the cries are eerily silent!!
only eyes mirrored unspoken passions,
and pain endured silently.

Messages —

are received across the sea
of your muteness and lack of strength.
and the forgotten forlorn.

Oh! Sorrowful Mother,
they are without arms!!

Doubt —

Shadows grown
out of proportion
that prompted
the sun to lose itself.

The moon was blood,
the stars! Oh! Where are they?
an ache that never ended
my soul is in exile
as God is hidden!

Hope —

As I am a "child of God"
I must look at the radiant sun.
Weep no more, Lithuania,
It too shall shine on you once more.

Mary Beers

Lithuanian Class of
Park Forest, IL

VYRIAUSIAS LIETUVOS IŠLAISVINIMO KOMITETAS
SUPREME COMMITTEE FOR THE LIBERATION OF LITHUANIA

ATSIŠAUKIMAS

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 202/667-1980

1980 m. sausio mėn. 17 d.

Mieli lietuviai,

Šiandieniniai tarptautiniai įvykiai iššaukti Sovietų Sąjungos okupacijos Afganistano ir revoliucinė, Sovietų Sąjungos sukurstyta anarchija Irane, stipriai sukrėtė laisvąjį pasaulį ir gali labai reikšmingai atsiliepti į Lietuvos laisvės siekimus.

Vyriausias Lietuvos Išlaisvinimo Komitetas vykdydamas savo įsipareigojimus skelbia:

1. VLIKas deda visas pastangas Lietuvos nepriklausomybės atstatymui. Jo paskirtis yra atstovauti Lietuvos valstybės ir lietuvių tautos reikalams;
2. VLIKas siekia dirbti artimame ryšyje su Diplomatine Tarnyba, visais patriotiškų tikslų lietuviams ir visomis organizacijomis;
3. Savo tėvų išlaikytą Lietuvių Tautos gyvybę lietuvis perduoda ateities kartoms, kad amžinai gintume Lietuvą;
4. VLIKas smerkia Sovietų Sąjungos kėslus Afganistane ir kitur, ir pritardamas JAV ir kitų laisvojo pasaulio valstybių ekonominiams ir technologiniams boikotams, jungiasi prie šio žygio sekančiai:
 - a. Deda visas pastangas paveikti laisvojo pasaulio valstybes, kad jos nedalyvautų olimpinuose žaidimuose Maskvoje 1980 metais, moraliniai pasmerkdamos Sovietų Sąjungą, nes kaip galima rungtyniauti su kitų valstybių okupantu.
 - b. Apeliuoja į visus laisvojo pasaulio lietuvis tiesioginiai ir per kraštų lietuvių organizacijų vadovybes, kad nei vienas lietuvis nevažiuotų į okupuotą Lietuvą, tuo prisidėdami prie kitų valstybių moralinio ir ekonominio boikotavimo.
 - c. Šio moralinio ir ekonominio boikoto sėkmingui atsiekimui VLIKas kreipiasi į visas lietuvių organizacijų vadovybes, lietuvišką spaudą ir radiją prašydamas paremti šį VLIKo atsišaukimą.
5. Tautinis solidarumas yra aukščiausia tautinė dorybė. Tik vieningas visų lietuvių įsijungimas į šią VLIKo akciją duos laukiamų išdavų.

Lietuva ir lietuvių tauta reikalauja kiekvieno lietuvio pagalbos.

VYRIAUSIAS LIETUVOS IŠLAISVINIMO KOMITETAS

LIETUVIS DISIDENTAS ROMAS GIEDRA

KALBA LIETUVOS VYČIAMS

Vasario 16-tos šventės proga pasiskaitykite Romo Giedros žodžius apie dabartinę Lietuvos padėtį

Kalbėta per 66-tą Lietuvos Vyčių seimą Chicagoje

Šiandieną, būdamas 66 Lietuvos Vyčių seimo svečias ir pasinaudodamas man suteikta proga noriu pasveikinti visus susirinkusius ir palinkėti jiems ir jų veiklai gražių rezultatų.

Dar visai ne taip seniai mudu su žmona atvykome į Jungtines Amerikos Valstijas nuolatiniam gyvenimui. Tai aš padariau visiškai ne todėl, kad nemėgstu savo krašto, savo tautos ar ieškočiau kokių nors toli siekiančių išskaičiavimų. Daugelis iš jūsų arba Jūsų tėvai atvyko todėl, kad tikėjose Amerikoje rasti laisvesnį gyvenimą. Čia važiavo tie, kurie suėdavo į konfliktus su caro valdžia, tie kurie bėgo nuo politinių, religinių persekiojimų, nes Amerika niekada neatsisakė jų priimti. Užtat šiandieną ji tokia stipri ir laisva.

Mano kelias į Ameriką nebuvo lengvas. Tai ir suprantama, nes šalis, iš kurios man pasisekė išvykti nėra laisva. Toje šalyje viskas pajungta valstybės interesams, todėl žmogui beveik nieko nebelieka.

Mano kelias prasidėjo 1962 metais, pavasarį, kai su grupe draugų — Jastrausku Antanu, Mikalausku Albinu ir Kojeliu Henriku bandėme pasinaudoti Klaipėdos aerouoste esančiu keturviečiu lėktuviuku ir tokiu būdu nusukti į Švediją. Kadangi šiame dešimtmetyje užsienyje lėktuvų grobimai labai nepopuliarūs, noriu paaikškinti išsamiau. Mūsų bandymo pabėgti lėktuvu jokių būdu negalima vadinti lėktuvo nuvarymu — hijacking —

nes lėktuvas buvo be žmonių. Jis buvo panaudotas tik kaip transportacijos priemonė, nes niekas nebuvo šantažuojamas ir grobiamas už įkaitą. Lėktuvu pasinaudoti mums taip ir nepavyko, nes negalėjome rasti slapto benzino bako kranelio. Po kelių pakartotinių bandymų ir visos eilės gan aštrių nuotykių, atsidūrėme sovietinio teisėtumo rankose, kurie po keturių mėnesių Klaipėdos mieste aukščiausiam teisme už uždarytų durų nuteisė mus sunkiomis bausmėmis su turto konfiskacija. Jastrauskas ir Mikalauskas buvo nuteisti 12 metų griežto režimo su turto konfiskacija, o aš ir Kojelis po 10 metų griežto režimo su turto konfiskacija. Man atžvilgiu bausmė buvo pati griežčiausia, nes nepilnamečiams nėra didesnės bausmės kaip 10 metų. 1962 m. balandžio mėnesį man buvo tik 17 metų.

Po to sekė lageris, kuriame aš praleidau 5 metus, nes mamos prašymu man kaip nepilnamečiui bausmė buvo sumažinta iki pusės. Man pasisekė, nes mano draugams teko atbūti iki galo.

Išėjęs į taip vadinamą laisvę, metus laiko buvau, kaip nestojęs į pasitaisymo kelią, laikomas namų arešte. Nuo 9 val. vakaro iki 6 val. ryto neturėjau teisės išeiti iš namų, kartą savaitėje privalėjau registruotis vietinės milicijos skyriuje ir niekur be atskiro leidimo iš miesto išvykti neturėjau teisės.

Tačiau ir po metų arešto nebuvo tos laisvės, apie kurią galvojau prieš išeidamas iš kalėjimo, nes man buvo taikomas atskiras pasų režimas, taip vadinami pasų nuostatai. Žmogus, kuriam pritaikomi pasų nuostatai, neturi teisės gyventi taip vadinamuose režiminiuose miestuose.

Pakeitęs visą eilę darbų, įstojau mokytis į Klaipėdos politechnikumą, kurį baigiau 1973 metais techniko-elektriko specialybę, bet dirbti pagal šią specialybę nedirbau, nes nenorėjau savęs surišti su visais tais apribojimais, kurie sektų pakeitus darbą. Dirbant bet kokį vadovaujantį darbą reikia rodyti visus lojalumo pavyzdžius, visada lankyti demonstracijas, įvairius susirinkimus, būti uoliu šeštadieninių talkų talkininku, t.y. dirbti veltui. Aš



Lydia ir Romas Giedrai L.V. Seime

visuose tokiuose renginiuose nedalyvaudavau ir nesiruošiau dalyvauti, todėl dirbau tose pačiose pareigose iki išvykimo į užsienį — dirbau darbininku.

Paskutiniaisiais metais dalinai gelbėdamasis nuo nuobodulio, dalinai atlikdamas savo pareigą, o ir klausydamas savo sąžinės balso įsijungiau į pagrindinę spaudą. Nuo tada vėl atsinaujino konfliktai su saugumo organais. Nepriklausomai nuo savo veiklos pagrindžio spaudoje, dėjaus pastangas išvykti iš sovietų sąjungos, nes per daug gerai supratau kas man gresia artimiausioje ateityje. Po paskutinio rimto — 3 dienų „pokalbio“ — su atsakingais saugumo darbuotojais nebeliko jokių abejonių, kad gyvenant tą gyvenimą, kurį aš įpratau gyventi ir be kurio jau nebegalėjau apsieiti, dienos jau suskaitytos.

1978 metų pavasarį man aiškiai pasakė — šiandieną mes tavęs dar neteisime, nes nenorime bereikalingo triukšmo, bet kai tu pateksi pas mus su panašiais įkalčiais, dar kartą, žinok, kas tavęs laukia: septyni metai lagerio ir penki tremties.

Dabar, kai sovietų sąjunga pasiliko už vandenyno ir tardytojo pranašystės laikinai nustojo jėgos, aš galiu pradėti gyventi laisvai ir laimingai. Tačiau kaip aš gerai, laimingai ir laisvai begyvenčiau, kiek man bebūtų geri. Amerikos žmonės, vis tiek aš negalėsiu pamiršti savo tautos ir tėvynės, nes šiandieną, kaip jau ne vieną kartą istorijoje, prieš mūsų tautą yra iškilusios didelės problemos. Kaip ilgai mes sugebėsime atsispirti, išsilaikyti lietuviški dvasioje, kiek dar ilgai mummyse degs noras ir toškimas tą procesą pailginti.

Dabartinėje tarybų sąjungoje formaliai nėra draudžiamas nei lietuviškas raštas, nei kalba, bet po to, kai visiškai išnyks lietuviškastautinis turinys iš mūsų tautos kultūros, bus pakeista ir jos forma, tauta nustos egzistavusi kaip tauta, bet vis tiek turės mažumą, kuri turėtų visiškai prisiliesti į naują ben-

druomenę, kurioje nebebus nei latvių, nei lietuvių, nei estų, nei armėnų, nei ukrainiečių ar kitų imperijos tautų, o liks tik sovietinis žmogus, kuris kalbės rusų kalba. Ir nors naujas sovietinis žmogus kalbės rusiškai, bet rusų tauta taip pat išnyks. Tą grėsmę visoms Sovietų sąjungos tautoms daugelis ima šiandieną suprasti ir stengiasi sulaukyti sovietizacijos-nutautinimo procesą visomis galimomis priemonėmis, nekreipdami dėmesio į savo asmeninį gyvenimą. Jie supranta, kad bet kokioje kovoje, bet kokiame žaidime su ugnimi yra rizika nudegti, bet tas žinojimas jų neatbaido. Iškilusios problemos verčia mus visus susimąstyti ir suprasti laikmečio svarbą ir asmeninę atsakomybę. Pagrindžio patarlė sako: kas padarys, jei ne mes. Kada tai daryti, jei nedabar. Aš manau, kad šią išmintingą patarlę pravartu įsidėmėti kiekvienam lietuviui.

Lietuvis gali būti tikru lietuviu, jei jis yra įsisaugojęs lietuviybės idėją.

Kuo ši idėja pasireškia asmeniui ir kuo ji pasireškia per bendruomenę?

Mano supratimu lietuviybės idėja kiekvienam iš mūsų yra daugiau negu kalba, negu priklausymas tautai, tai ne atitinkama geografinė mąstysena ar genetinis paveldėjimas, lietuviybė tai pasaulėžiūra, lituanocentristinė mąstysena, kuri negalėtų gyvuoti be tikėjimo. Tikėjimo į nepereinamas vertybes, paremtas tautos tradicijomis, jos atminimais apie praeitį ir mintimis apie ateitį.

Tokiu, manau, pagrindu lietuviybės idėja turėtų pasireikšti per bendruomenę. Ji turėtų būti ta kristalizuojanti jėga, ta vienijanti trauka, apie kurios centrą susiburtų visi tikri lietuviai. Lietuviybės idėja neturi nieko bendro su partinėmis dogmomis, kurios operuoja laikinomis savokomis ir kintamomis vertybėmis. Lietuviybės idėja turi turėti neišnykstamą liekamą vertę, nes kol ji bus gyva tautoje, tol bus gyva ir tauta. Jeigu ji bus visaapimanti,

globalinė, kaip žydų svajonė apie pažadėtąją žemę, kuri padėjo surinkti iš diasporos savo vaikus ir atstatyti valstybę, tai niekas jai negali grėsti, nei persekiojimas, nei laikas. Tokios tautos liks nemarios, o jei liks tauta, jei liks idėja, tai bus sukurta ir visuomeninė-politinė ir ekonominė struktūra.

Todėl dabar reikia ne partinių programų ar gražių ir beverčių deklaracijų, bet tikėjimo. Tikėjimo, kad tu darai teisingai ir kad pasirinktas kelias yra tikras.

Pakeliui į Ameriką aš nuogastavau, kad galiu neberasti tos dvasios, kuri visada lydėjo Amerikos lietuvius. Man atrodė, kad amerikietiškas gyvenimas jau ištrynė ją iš lietuvių sąmonės, tačiau laimei aš klydau.

Vienas tarp mane sutikusių žmonių aerouoste išskleidė visus abejojimus. Žmogus gimęs Amerikoje ne tik kad neužmiršo savo tėvų kalbos, bet savo stebinančia energija ir entuziazmu daro viską, kad Lietuva atgautų savo okupanto pamintą orumą. Tas žmogus Jokūbas Stukas. Žmogus didelės erudicijos ir gabumų. Kitas pavyzdys jo žmona Loreta Stukienė, kuri ir pakvietė mus į šį seimą. Tačiau geriausias akivaizdžiausias pavyzdys — tai šis seimas. . . Tai žmonės, kurie susirinko į šią salę. Daugelis jų gimė jau išėivijoje, daugumas pamiršo lietuvių kalbą, bet lietuviybės idėja dar gyva jų krūtinėse.

Laikas eina ir jeigu neįvyks kokių nors svarbių pasaulinių įvykių, tai emigracija iš Lietuvos bus labai maža ir negalės paveikti jau prasidėjusio proceso. Vieną kartą, pasikeis kita, kurie jau bus nutolę nuo tų idėjų, kuriomis gyveno tėvai. Asimiliacijos procesas vis labiau ir labiau veiks išėivijos masę, todėl jau dabar turi būti atkreiptas dėmesys į Lietuvos vyčių veiklos patirtį. Lietuvos vyčiai išlaikę laiko egzaminą ir gali tuo didžiuotis.

Kitas ne mažesnis klausimas, kuris laikui bėgant nepraras savo aktualumo, tai ryšiai su Lietuva. Kas metai didėja ekskursijų skaičius, ir nors laikas, kurį jos praleidžia

Lietuvoje ir vietos, kuriose juos leidžia buvoti yra ribotos, bet vis vien ir tokia bendravimo forma sukelia savų rūpesčių.

Aš manau, kad reikia visiškai atmesti kaip absurdišką ir kvailą tą tvirtinimą, kad pats tokių ekskursijų faktas jau reiškia kapituliaciją ar dar juokingiau, kad per tas 5 dienas ekskursantą gali atversti į komunistų tikėjimą. Jeigu jau kyla tokios nepagrįstos prielaidos, tai ką turime kalbėti apie nuolatinius gyventojus, kurie gyvena jau ketvirtą dešimtmetį komunistų propagandos įtakoje. Kaip matome Lietuvoje netrūksta tikrų patriotų.

Kitas klausimas, ką laikyti bendravimo objektu ir kur nuvykus gauti tikrą informaciją.

Tam yra akys ir ausys. Ieškokite ir rasite, klauskite ir jums bus atsakyta ir nebijokite laisvai išreikšti savo nuomonę, nes kiek man teko girdėti dar būnant Lietuvoje apie atvykėlius iš Amerikos atsiliepia kaip apie nepagrįstai įsibauginusius. Netikėkite, kad tie, kurie sudarinėja jūsų maršrutus yra suinteresuoti duoti objektyvią informaciją. Jie stengiasi tik parodyti nudailintą fasadą. Tiesą sužinosite tik bendraudami su neoficialiais asmenimis.

Daugeliui tur būt įdomu, kaip galima būtų padėti tiems Lietuvoje, kurie yra persekiojami už savo įsitikinimus ir ištikimybę savo tautai ir katalikų bažnyčiai. Suprantama, kad aš negaliu duoti jokių receptų, nes viskas, priklauso nuo laiko ir aplinkybių. Saugumo taktika irgi keičiasi, jie stengiasi tokią pagalbą apriboti ir jei iki galo jos neįmanoma apriboti, tai nors kontroliuoti, žinoti kas, kur ir kaip. Gali būti trys pagalbos rūšys — materialinė, moralinė ir dvasinė. Materialinė pagalba turėtų būti teikiama tiems, kurie jos tikrai yra reikalingi, o tokiu yra nemaža. Kas liečia šį punktą, tai vien tik kalbų neužtenka, tenka dalį savo materialinio gerbūvio — mažyte dalį, — paaukoti tiems, kurie yra persekiojami už savo tautą ir bažnyčią, tiems kurie

kenčia lageriuose, kalėjimuose ir tremtyse. Daugelis paklaus, kur rasti tokių žmonių vardus ir pavardes. Rasti jas labai sunku, nes nėra kompetentingo informacijos centro.

Moralinė parama yra gana žymi. Galiu tvirtinti, kad tos paramos dėka ne vienas išvengė beprotnamio ir kalėjimo ir ne vienam pavyko išvykti į užsienį. Saugumo ir partijos bei vyriausybės funkcionieriai gana jautriai reaguoja į pasaulio viešąją nuomonę. Jiems labai norisi išlaikyti savo veidą. Moralinė parama per spaudą, radiją pasiekia ir Lietuvos gyventojus, suteikdama naujų jėgų kovai už žmogaus, tautos ir bažnyčios teises.

Dvasinė pagalba ateis per jūsų maldas ir krikščionišką gyvenimą. Jei Sibiro glūdumoje, karceryje uždarytas kalinys žinos, kad už jį meldžiasi ir juo rūpinasi, jis lengviau iškęs visus pasityčiojimus. Žmogui sunku būti vienam, tik

pasijutęs dalimi didelės bendruomenės, jis sugebės likti žmogumi.

Lietuvoje ir visoje Sovietų sąjungoje vyksta fenomenalūs dalykai. Žmones pabunda atsinaujinę per kančias ir pažeminimus. Jie rodo drąsumo ir moralinio tyrumo pavyzdžius ir kada nors bus didelis įkvėpimo, šaltinis visko pertekusiems vakarams. Jei to nebus, jei vakarai liks kurti ir nesupras tų naujų kankinių ir didvyrių, tai Dievo rūstybė ištiks ir juos.

Bet aš tikiu ir mes visi šia susirinkę tikime, kad kur mes bebūtume, niekada neužmiršime tų, kurie už tautą, Dievą ir Tėvynę duoda save prikalti prie kryžiaus. Kaip gėdos simbolis kryžius tapo šventumo simboliu, taip tie išalkę ir nuplyšę Gulago kaliniai taps mūsų tautos pasididžiavimu.

Baigdamas dar kartą iš visos širdies linkiu Lietuvos Vyčiams ir toliau dirbti Dievo ir tautos labui.

Ačiū!



On Feb. 16

THOUGHTS ON BEING LITHUANIAN



Aš esu Kazimieras-Kenneth John Stewart, iš Švento Charles Borromeo Seminarijos ir Švento Andriejaus Parapijos Philadelphijoje. Tikrai man yra labai malonu būti čia šiandieną su jumis Švento Kazimiero parapijoje. Tai yra parapija kurioje gyveno mano šeima atvykusi iš Lietuvos. Man yra didelė garbė šiandieną kalbėti su jumis apie lietuvių tautinę kultūrą Amerikoje.

My names speak for themselves, I am both Lithuanian and Scot. My first name is both Kenneth and



Kazimieras in order to honor both parties in my family. My blood, my heritage, my birthrights come from these two beautiful lands. These are what makes me who I am. But since I was a child I was especially raised by my mother's family, Matukai. From them a deep and strong love for Lithuania was nurtured. From my earliest years I was steeped in the pride of who I was. Lietuvis. I was as a child who loses his mother at his birth. He has never known his mother, yet he knows her through his heart. She gave him that heart. She gave him his blood, life and all that he is. And he is of her. In a way he is her. As he grows he wants to know more and more about her. It then seems as if they had been together forever. He loves her without ever meeting her.

And so my love for Lietuva. I of course, was born here. Here I have freedom, although now morally limited by a country that legally permits and aids such anti-freedom acts as the murder of the unborn, abortion. But nevertheless I have freedom of religion, press, speech, dissent, etc. This nation is a great land because it is created of many different freedom loving people of many different cultures. But my blood and heritage flow from Lithuania. I love that heritage and more every year. I am not forgetting this country but because I am the fruit of hundreds of years of work and love and heroism in Lithuania, of spilt blood and pain in her soil, of her traditions, because of these I am here.

Before the 1960's, America taught that she was a melting pot.

I remember being in public grade school and being told that I lived in this big melting pot where everything goes in differently and comes out the same. My teachers, however, never said what that was supposed to be. So naturally, I had this picture of a big blob of melted down men and women. Everyone had gone into this big pot differently — dressed in their national clothing, singing and dancing their own songs in their own languages. Then the pot was tipped over and all that came out was an unhappy dull mess. There was no more music, no more differences. Everyone was now the same — and that was nothing. And all of these faceless people just stood around, very unhappy and after awhile very angry, because they were bored with life. And not being interested in life, themselves or each other, there began to be hate and discord.

When I was in school the other kids said that we spoke funny at my house and they joked about our funny names. They said that we did foreign things but that we would soon grow out of these ways and become Americanized and "normal". In our neighborhood there were a lot of American Protestants who said that the part of my family that was Catholic was un-American because the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church were trying to take over the world and America. These were silly, non-rational ideas but nevertheless they occupied many minds and still do. To be an American meant that one was to reject his blood and heritage and become Anglosized.

But we are not a melting pot and ethically, morally and Christianly speaking, we had better not try to be. For the melting pot ideology is established by one group of people over another in order to conform those other groups to their way of thinking and living. Hitler, you will remember, attempted this on a grand and severe scale. I am not saying that we have a Hitler, at least not in this nation, but our way is a subtle process of methodic prejudice. This places one ethnicity above and against another. A man or a group must not and may not be melted to whom his melter would have him be. He must be permitted to pursue that which makes him freely what and who he is. The United States has favored one language over the rest and although one tongue is necessary to run the government, the other languages cannot be allowed to be pressed out of existence. And so we see people sneering at people who might have an Eastern European or Italian accent. That person is more often than not looked down upon, thought to be dumb or just cute (which is a popular way of mocking a person out of existence). Schools teach only certain chosen and accepted cultures such as French, German and Spanish languages or English and Spanish history. How often have you ever heard of Lithuanian, Polish, Ukrainian or Greek being offered in our high schools, or Russian or Lithuanian history?

This whole man made melting pot system has led to a terrible insecurity for individuals and finally for the whole nation. The system has to be destroyed before it causes more hatred and violence. Even if it is unconscious, each of us has suffered by the loss of our dignity and our total person. A "cultural democracy" or a stew pot must be created in place of the melting pot. In such system each man is considered as he is and is encouraged to develop his own tradition and culture and his pride

in them. This not only helps the individual but effects positively the whole nation of peoples. In a stew pot, all the vegetables go in and come out differently but on the way out each item better flavors each of the others and also the entire stew. In the case of the nation, all benefit from each culture's unique flavor.

The common or melting pot nation has produced an artificial culture where no one knows who he is or how he fits in with others. It has not allowed for the traditions and ethnicity of the person and their development — those things which make that person more than a robot performing a job and observing a television. A "cultural democracy" seeks to develop the full human person. It proclaims equality, but not that some people or cultures are "more equal" than others.

According to psychological, sociological and, I might add, Theological data, it is wrong to say that a person or an immigrant only appreciate their native customs and language. People are formed from their language, traditions and

customs. These are what makes me who I am. If I no longer have traditions and customs that have been with me and my people then there is a great sense of loss, of emptiness. My entire identity as an individual is wrapped up within my culture, within the history of my particular people. No man stands alone but only within, whether he likes it or not, his culture.

Theologically speaking, God creates a person — you and me, not a computer or a meaningless slave. And He creates each of us within and from a society of people with common religious beliefs and practices, goals, traditions, loves, customs, language and history. Without even realizing it, the person is formed from all these tightly entwined ribbons of culture. He becomes a continuation of hundreds of years of history and heritage.

This connection can especially be seen in what sociologists today call the third generation phenomenon. That is, members of the third generation in America rebel against their parents by becoming



involved in their ancestral culture which their parents have tried to completely reject. And thus it seems that many inter-generational disputes are due unconsciously to a young person's search for his identity within a culture — how he fits into history. He rejects a lost and melted personality with its fruits of uncertainty and emptiness.

Recently I heard the story of a New England High school student. His Lithuanian grandfather had died and the boy decided that he wanted to learn Lithuanian. He thus went to a Lithuanian Saturday school and was put in among the first graders where he looked rather silly. Then asked why he wanted to go through such work and embarrassment he replied that he was doing so because he had never gotten to know his grandfather. He had never been able to really speak with him or really love him. He wanted to know who that man was. His death made him wonder. And he wanted to know his grandmother. After a while the boy developed in the language and became very active in many Lithuanian activities. He not only realized who his grandparents were, but he also discovered who he himself was. He was all this culture, all this history, just as were his grandparents. He was a "Lietuvis". Even though his parents had put aside their culture in their attempt to be melted into America, it was still part of the boy's blood. His dead grandfather awoke life in him — an awareness that he was somebody and able to mature himself in all the aspects of his life. He was not a rootless individual unrelated to anyone else. But he was a person and a personal part of a drama still taking place. His Lithuanian blood was the blood spilt in the 1300's with Gediminas or later with Vytautas or the blood of Šv. Kazimieras. His blood was spilt in 1940 and till this day in Lithuania for his human rights and for God God was moving

among this people as He does with every people and the boy was bound up with that holy history. Though he wasn't born there he had to know Lietuva more and to love her.

This is how I feel. This is what I believe and with many peoples of all cultures: Black, Spanish, Ukrainian, Italian and Lithuanian. I am a Lietuvis. I am my Fatherland. I am part of my people and because of my pride I can respect the culture of others.

And Lietuva? She is a beautiful land to have as a heritage. Her people have always been a peaceful and agricultural people. They have loved art and music and nature above all. And when under Jogaila and Vytautas the land became Christian, they had little trouble finding God in peace and in the beauty of God's created nature and world. They were always persecuted but always refused to give up their peace and culture and language — to this day.

My roots are deep in this history. I met the mother who gave me birth and was almost melted away. Our distance has not kept this love of my blood and my

people from blossoming. And this heritage has shown me my place in this society. It has shown me to respect and admire others' cultures and heritages in order to bring about peace and good will.

And my place in the history of Lithuania? To work and pray for her for I am her child. To work for her freedom and dignity and for dignity for all men. To fight for my people's rights and happiness because it is my blood that is being spilt now — it is my life that others want to choke out. I am a Lietuvis, one with my people everywhere now, in the past and to come. Can I — can we, betray our blood, our people, our heritage? Through each of us, our blood and people are kept forever alive.

Tegul Meilė Lietuvos
Dega mūsų širdyse.
Vardan tos Lietuvos,
Vienybė težydi.

Amen

Kenneth-Kazimieras
John Stewart
Kovo 7, 1976



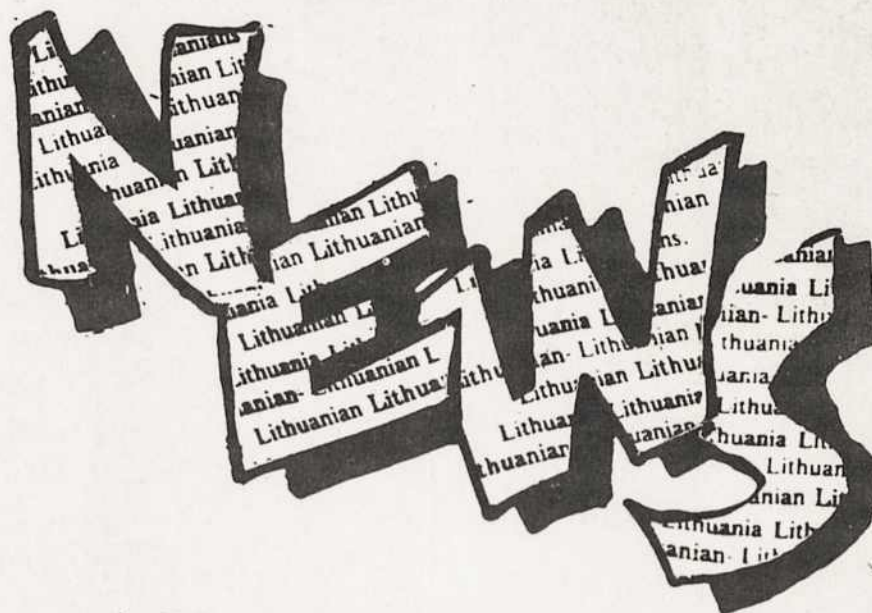
Lithuanians in The

**MEET YOUR NEW
"Lithuanians in the News" EDITOR**



RUTH KAZLAUSKAS, was educated at Nativity B.V.M. School, St. Casimir Academy and Loyola University Evening School. Ruth first joined the K of L's because of her brother, Leonard, who then directed the K of L Choir. She met her husband, Edward, in the choir and was active until the raising of four children and working part time took up most of her time. Now that the children are grown and well on their way to their own careers she works full time as a personnel secretary and administrative assistant at A. Epstein and Sons International, Inc., an architectural and engineering firm. Ruth and Ed rejoined the K of L's - Council 36, Chicago, two years ago.

Ruth is the daughter of the late Leonard Šimutis, Sr. Honorary Member who was a pioneer in the Knights of Lithuania, and who spent most of his life active in major Lithuanian activities. Ruth rejoined the K of L in an effort to keep the memory and work of her father alive. With her work as editor of "Lithuanians in the News", as well as secretary of C-36, and Lithuanian Affairs Chairman of the IID, she is truly a credit to her famous father.



Edited by RUTH KAZLAUSKAS

ALGERD J. RUDIS has been the set designer and constructor of the Monterey Jazz Festival in Monterey, California, for the past 18 years. Rudis, who studied at the Art Institute in Chicago, is the brother of the HON. JOSEPHINE DAUZVARDIS (K of L H.M. also), and is employed at TV Station KGO, San Francisco, in a similar capacity.



DIANNE DRUMSTAS and JOSEPH YANULAITIS, both of C-3, Philadelphia, presented the first book and a \$400 check for the newly created Lithuanian Cultural Center of the Delaware Valley to VYTAS BAGDONAVICIUS, Remodeling Chairman. This Center will be located in the Lithuanian Music Hall Association building. The fund raising committee is composed of eight K of L's from C-3 and several other interested participants from the Philadelphia and New Jersey area, with Dianne Drumstas as Chairman. The Center is scheduled to open sometime in April 1980.

Pictured, left to right, Vytas Bagdonavicius, Dianne Drumstas, and Joseph Yanulaitis.



Postmaster Jean Majauskas puts stamp on outgoing Christmas mail.

A special place to mail your Christmas cards is the post office in Bethlehem, Connecticut. For generations people have been coming to this small New England village to have their cards hand stamped with a Bethlehem postmark. The postmaster of this historical old town is JEAN MAJAUSKAS.

* * *

In the September 1979 issue of the Reader's Digest appeared a five page article by TED J. RAKSTIS, a free lance writer from Coloma, Mich. entitled "The Poisoning of Michigan". It is the story of "the ecological tragedy" that followed as poisoned feed was distributed and sold to cattle farms. Rakstis, a former native Chicagoan, has written articles for the Chicago Tribune Magazine, Pageant, Coronet, Cosmopolitan, Saturday Evening Post, Chicago Magazine, The Rotarian, The Elks Magazine and many others. He is one of 12 Michigan members of the American Society of Journalists and Authors Inc. which has 500 members around the world.

* * *

The Second annual version of "A Christmas Carol" was presented by the Goodman Theater of the Art Institute of Chicago in December. A Chicago Sun-Times review states "Once again the endearing and engaging mark of director TONY MOCKUS is upon it". This big, warm and wondrous production will hopefully remain a cornerstone of the Christmas season at the Goodman Theater.



The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture held its first annual dinner dance at the K of L Hall, Chicago, on December 8th to start off the 1979 Christmas season. Entertainment was provided by the K of L dancers under the direction of FRANK ZAPOLIS, C-112, and a music program directed by FAUSTAS STROLIA, C-36. A delicious homemade Lithuanian gourmet dinner was prepared by ANETA STROPIS and decorations were provided by NINA URBONAS. Pictured with Nina is ROBERT BALZEKAS, son of STANLEY BALZEKAS, JR., C-36.



On Christmas Day, the Museum's Lithuanian Christmas tree and its intricate ornaments were featured on WBBM-TV (Chicago's CBS Channel 2). Pictured are Helen Pius, Director of the Museum's Lithuanian Straw Ornament classes, and Bob Wallace, WBBM-TV's anchorman, during the taping of the Christmas show.

Helen's Olde Lantern is something of a landmark in Blue Island, Illinois. The focal point of this two-story Victorian structure is an 1890's mirrored bar of carved wood built by the Schlitz Brewing Company at the turn-of-the-century. Highly polished mirrors reflect the spirit of the room with its collection of Tiffany shades. HELEN SADUNAS' restaurant is fashioned after an old-time saloon with the waitresses in can-can red serving the fancy before and after dinner drinks and homestyle cuisine. A favorite selection is the roast duckling with sauerkraut which reflects Helen's Lithuanian heritage.

* * *

CASIMIR G. OKSAS, member of C-112, Chicago, has been appointed to a three year term as Jury Commissioner of Cook County. His duties involve the selection and qualification of prospective jurors for all of the courts within the Cook County judicial system. Oksas is a Director of the Lithuanian Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Lithuanian Executives Club.



A full menu of coffee drinks created by Helen Sadunas top of the evening at Helen's Olde Lantern in Blue Island

* * *



MEMORIES OF ... Illinois-Indiana District's Annual "Memories of Lithuania." Pictured: the late John G. Evans, banquet chairman and committee member for many years; Rev. Peter Cinikus, MIC "Draugas" administrator and spiritual advisor of the Chicago Seniors; along with previous recipients of the HD's Award of Distinction - the Honorable Josephine Dauz-

vardis, Consul General of Lithuania in Chicago and Honorary Member of the K of L; Algerd Brazis, IID president; Mrs. Mary Rudis, Nat'l Pres. of BALF; Dr. Joseph Jerome, former pres. of the L.R.C.F.; Aldona Daukus, directress of the Sophie Barcus Radio Programs; and Dr. Leonas Kriauceliunas.

Photo: Jonas Kuprys

ONE MAN'S DREAM FULFILLED...

A NEW LITHUANIAN CROSS IN ANSONIA

Kestutis Svelnys is the Artist, Craftsman, Designer and Builder of the Wayside Shrine which stands majestically beside St. Anthony's Church on 199 North Main St., Ansonia, Conn. Rt. 115. Kestutis came to America with his wife Donna, and daughter, Lillian as a displaced person. He and his family made their home in Ansonia, and became members of St. Anthony's Parish. Kestutis and Donna joined the Knights of Lithuania, C-135 Ansonia, as soon as they were settled.

Lithuania culture and heritage surrounded Kestutis. He and his wife Donna, attended every Lithuania affair in the state, and if the affair called for Lithuanian customs, that's what they were. Both speak English fluently, but use Lithuanian whenever reasonable and possible.

Kestutis joined the Parish Council and the Mens Club of St. Anthony's Church as he wasn't going to be left out of anything Lithuanian. When Lithuanian Independence Day rolled around in February and no flag was available, Kestutis bought one, and with the help of the Parish Council set up a program where the Lithuanian flag flew over the city on that day. Through his suggestion and perseverance, the first adult education class in Conversational Lithuanian was held at the local High School. It was so popular that two classes were formed.

He built the stands and bought the American and Lithuanian flags that stand on each side of the altar in St. Anthony Church. He created a Vytis emblem which hangs on the wall in the church hall. He has created many original plaques memorializing the story of the wolves of Vilnius. Candelsticks in the shape of the Coat of Arms of King Gediminas adorn the table at K of L meetings, as does a beautiful carving of a Lithuanian family which Kestutis displays at Lithuanian Cultural Exhibits.

Kestutis' talents were recognized by the Parish Council years ago. A Wayside Cross was suggested, but never pursued. The Wayside Shrine is as Lithuanian as the nation itself. During the 18th century, after the Lithuanians finally accepted the Catholic Christian Faith, they felt the need for visible expression. Many Lithuanians were fine woodcarvers, and they chose to express their devotion to Christianity in the form of crosses. Pope St. Pius X, impressed with the Lithuanian's love for the Mother of God, referred to Lithuania as "Mary's Land." Some symbol of the blessed Mother was a

popular part of many Wayside Shrines. Shrines appeared everywhere. The Lithuanian nation was sometimes referred to as "The Land of the Crosses" or "The Nation of Wayside Shrines."

Under invasion and rule of atheistic Russia, Wayside Crosses and Shrines were bulldozed to the ground and buried. The peasants, despite threats and imprisonments, replaced their wayside shrines whenever possible, as fast as they were knocked down. The wayside shrines have become symbols of hope and freedom for Lithuanians.

When a piece of land adjacent to St. Anthony's became available the parish made plans for its purchase.



Father Raymond B. Yuskauskas, pastor and spiritual advisor to C-135 suggested that it would be an ideal spot for a wayside shrine. The Parish Council picked up the suggestion and commissioned Kestutis, who was now pensioned from his regular job as a machinist, to build a scale model, with the understanding that he would undertake the construction of the real thing if approved by the Council and Father Ray.

The model captured the hearts of the Council and especially that of Father Ray. (Father Ray received the model from Kestutis as a gift at a testimonial dinner honoring him on the twentieth year of his ordination.) Kestutis explained its features. It is made of cedar and maple, two hard woods known to withstand years of exposure. On the front and rear of the base of the cross is the Coat of Arms of the Grand Duke Gediminas. On the sides of the base there is a symbolic depiction of the Sacred Host and the hands of the Catholic Priest. This refers to the core of our Catholic worship, the Sacrifice of the Mass and the dignity of the Catholic priesthood.

In the center of the cross, is carved a replica of the painting of the Mother of Our Lord at "Aysris Varti" or the "Gate of Dawn" in Vilnius. Below this is a carving of the Ruta, the Lithuanian National flower. The twelve projections (Tulips) emanating from around the intersection of the cross symbolize the twelve apostles. The ornate fence surrounding the Wayside Shrine typifies the style of woodwork so often found decorating the Lithuanian home and yard. Each side of the fence has a five-pointed star representing the freedom of America. The cross would stand twenty-three feet high.

The model was exhibited in the church proper for two weeks. Father Ray asked for donations to help defray expenses. The response that the parishioners and friends of St. Anthony's and Father Ray gave, was more than adequate to pay for not only the cross but also the concrete base. Using only basic tools, Kestutis constructed the Wayside Cross in his driveway, over which he erected a plastic tunnel which would permit him to work during inclement weather. The better part of a year went by before Kestutis finished this work of art.

Transporting this ornate creation to its base, a quarter of a mile away, became a problem. Moving it by truck or on casters would surely jar and break some of the delicate carvings. It was decided to carry the cross. This method would utilize the human springs in the arms and legs of the transporters. It took the strength of 30 men to carry the 28 foot shrine. Ironically, Father Ray observed, and without planning any rest stops, the men stopped three times to rest before reaching the base of the cross.

With Ansonia police cars clearing the way, Father

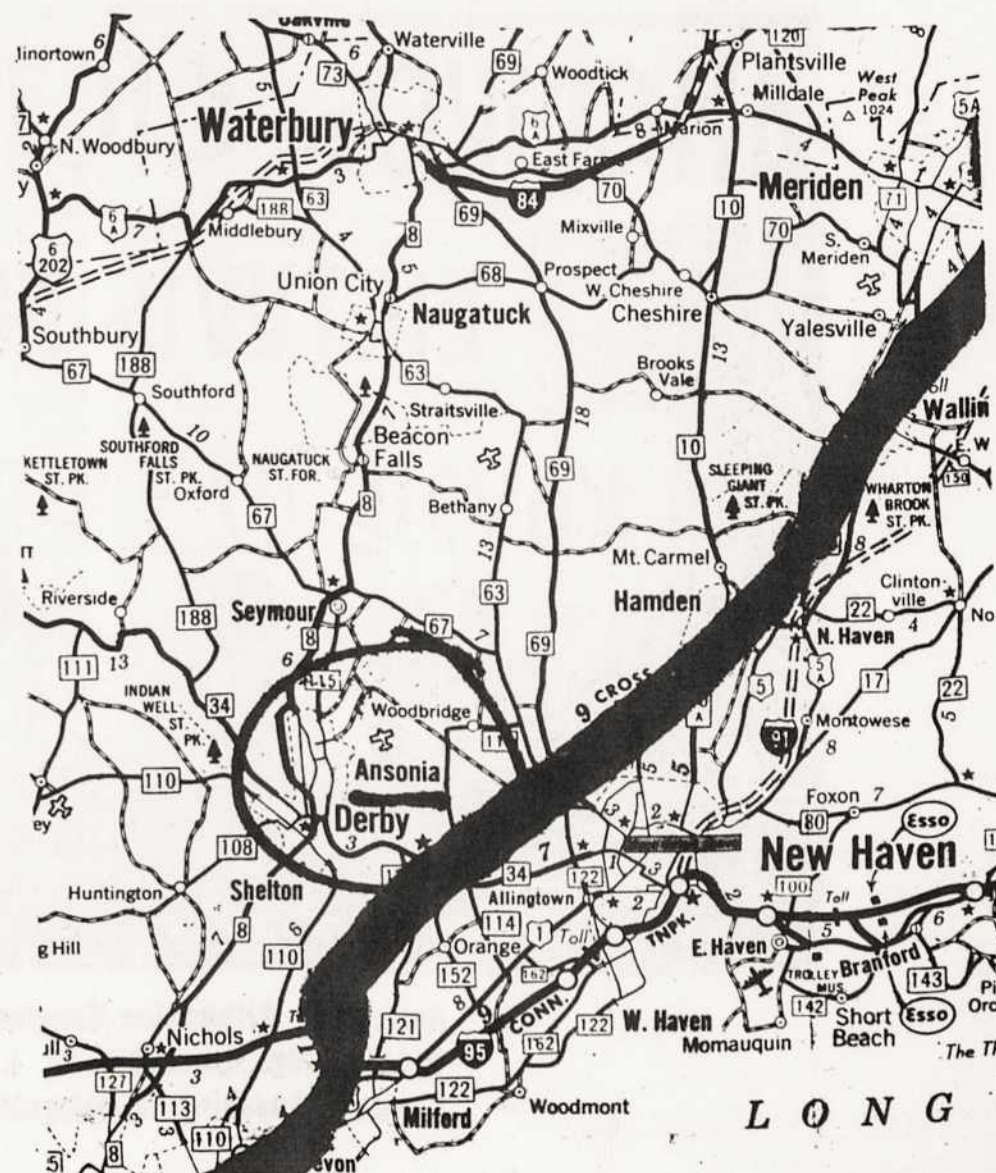
Raymond Yuskauskas, followed by women in native Lithuanian dress, led the men carrying the cross who were flanked by altar boys in bright red cassocks. Parishioners and friends wanting to take part in the procession followed in an orderly manner. At the church, a crane was waiting to hoist the cross into a waiting concrete base. Church bells pealed and the waiting crowd broke into cheers, as the cross was carefully righted into position. This occurred on Tuesday, July 18, 1978.

The dedication was held on Sunday, September 24, 1978 at 3 P.M. A Mass of the Holy Cross was celebrated at the foot of the shrine. The Lithuanian Wayside Shrine is dedicated to:

The Founders of St. Anthony Parish
Our dedicated workers and benefactors
The persecuted Church and Nation of Lithuania
Our beloved United States of America
under the title of "Ausros Vartu," the "Gate of Dawn," heralding Christ, the Light of the World.

Note: When traveling through Connecticut, be sure to stop in Ansonia, located approximately 12 miles from New Haven, Bridgeport, or Waterbury on Rt. 115. The Wayside Shrine stands beside St. Anthony Church at 199 North Main St., Ansonia.

Stanley A. Twerian
C-135 Public Relations



Kof L-ers attend... AMERICAN - LITHUANIAN CONGRESS

by St. Vaitkus & L.I. Stukas

Every five years, Lithuanian Americans from various organizations join together to discuss topics of concern to all who are active in the fight for Lithuania's freedom and the preservation of her culture. Naturally, the Knights of Lithuania were also represented at this occasion ... the NINTH AMERICAN-LITHUANIAN CONGRESS, held at the Hollenden House, Cleveland, Ohio, Oct. 13-14, 1979.

Official K of L delegates included Stanley Vaitkus, Loretta Stukas, Irene K. Sankus, Ann Marie Kassel, Phil Skabeikis and Rev. Casimir Pugevicius. Some of the other K of Lers attending were Bishop V. Brizgys, Dr. Jack Stukas, Dr.

Leonas Kriaucialius, Rev. S. Stasys, Vyto Yucius, Kazys Kleva, Antoinette Naujelis, and others.

K of L President P. Skabeikis, in his greetings to the Congress, stressed the need for unity, and also urged organization representatives to strive more to include in their activity those Lithuanians who do not speak Lithuanian but who are interested in Lithuania's cause.

The Congress included several outstanding speakers and some lively discussion, as well as Lithuanian culture, prayer and a renewal of friendships.

Dr. Kazys Sidlauskas, president of the American Lithuanian Council gave the welcoming address and

spoke of the Council's work for Lithuania's cause of freedom. Anicietas Simutis, Consul General of Lithuania at New York, gave an impressive talk on such topics as the Helsinki Accords, Lithuania's freedom, the work of various other ethnic groups, and the Chicago Lithuanians.

One of the most inspiring talks was that of Dr. Kazys Bobelis, president of the Supreme Committee to Liberate Lithuania. He hit hard on the Belgrade-Hamburg-Madrid Conferences. The Helsinki Final Act, NATO, SALT II and HRC 147, now HCR200 were also covered thoroughly. Equally in-



American - Lithuanian Congress, Oct. 13-14, Cleveland, Presidium I. to r.: K. Bobelis, Alg. Kasulaitis, Dr. J. Valaitis, Bishop A. Deksnys, Consul Gen. An. Simutis. Speaking is delegate Paul Dargis. (Photo - C. Genutis)

teresting was the talk given by Romas Giedra, redent dissident, who recounted his ordeal in leaving his native Lithuania, and presented new and practical advice in continuing the fight for Lithuania's freedom from Communism.

Resolutions passed by the Congress included:

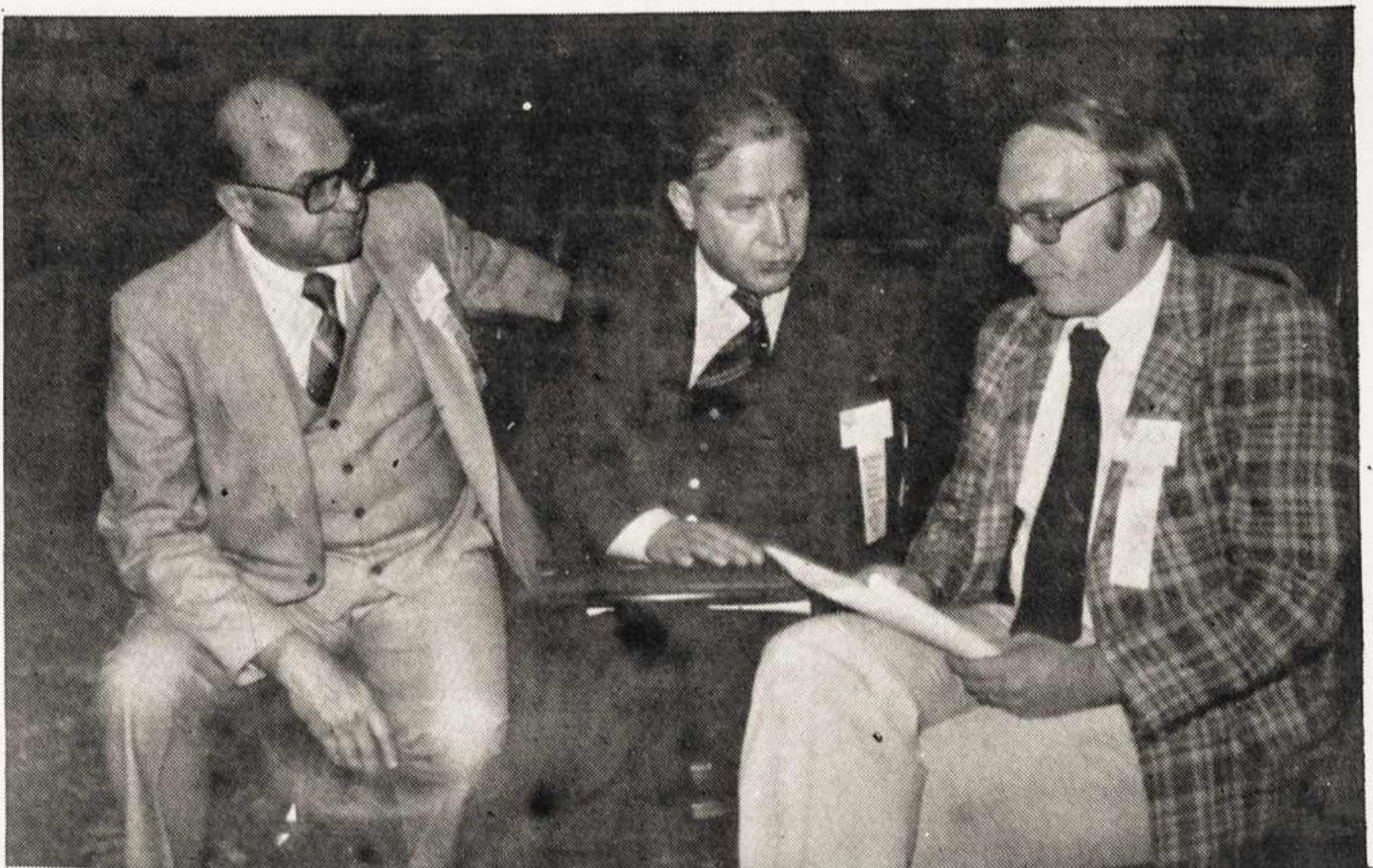
- sending greetings and support to our suffering brothers and sisters in Lithuania, especially to the 45 Baltic signators for Human Rights,
- encouraging private contact with Lithuania, with care not to hurt the cause of freedom,
- thanking Pope John Paul II for his expressed interest in Lithuania,
- thanking President Carter for his stand on Human Rights and asking for his support in the Baltic Issue at Madrid,
- encouraging Lithuanian youth in the USA to participate more fully in political activity and in letter-writing to defend and publicize Lithuania's name,
- urging all to support HCR 147 by writing to their Congressmen about it,
- urging the USA government to support cessation of persecution of dissidents by the USSR.

Not all was political activity at the Congress. On Saturday night, delegates and guests gathered for an elegant banquet and dance. Entertainment included an exciting concert of opera excerpts by the famous Ciurlionis Ensemble, directed by A. Mikulskis.

Sunday morning, delegates, guests and local Lithuanians as well as interested non-Lithuanians filled St. John Cathedral, where a Lithuanian Mass was con-celebrated by Bishop Brizgys and Bishop Deksnys. Again, the Ciurlionis Ensemble, dressed in Lithuanian costumes provided music for the Mass, singing a Lithuanian Mass accompanied by native Kankles.



Ciurlionis Ensemble entertains during American - Lithuanian Congress Banquet.
(Photo V. Bacevicius)



At the Congress: H.M. Jack Stukas, Dr. Kazys Bobelis (President of VLIKAS), Phil Skabeikis, K of L. President

The concensus of those K of L-ers attending is that the Congress was indeed a huge success and future participation in such events is highly recommended. The Congress was

truly worthy of its motto "Lietuvis neparvargs kovoję uz Lietuvos laisve"... "The Lithuanian will not tire in the fight for Lithuania's freedom."

OFICIALUS SKYRIUS

OFFICIAL NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Let me take this opportunity to extend to all K of L members and their families my very best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year. At this time of renewal let us be mindful of one thing; although the K of L's part of God's work may be small, it is nevertheless sacred because it is ours. As we enter the 1980's, let us rededicate ourselves to the goals of the Knights of Lithuania and pledge even greater effort and sacrifice towards their attainment.

This February 16th, brings with it the 62nd Anniversary of the Restoration of Independence to the republic of Lithuania. How does and how should the K of L become a part of the commemoration?

In larger communities where there is a tradition of formal commemoration ceremonies sponsored by ALTAS or Bendruomene, the local K of L should insure that it is represented, either in program or committee work. Don't forget to make it known that you are a K of L. In communities where circumstances do not permit meaningful K of L participation, and I do recognize that there are some, some alternative should be provided. This important milestone does not have to be met with a barrage of rhetoric, but should be an opportunity to take a look at how Lithuania struggled

towards independence, how history denied her that right, and why the struggle must be renewed again today. This can be achieved during a council meeting or some special ceremony in conjunction with Mass. The manner should reflect your community's particular needs and employ its particular talents.

In communities, where there is no tradition of formal observance, the local K of L Council should take the initiative to set the precedents, always trying to include all the community's Lithuanian elements whenever possible.

The February commemorations are usually opportunities to solicit funds to help in the restoration of Lithuania's independence. The K of L is also involved in this effort. This month I ask that all councils and individual members make some donation to our Lithuanian Affairs Committee to further its work. By all means also make the requested donation to the traditional organizations, but don't forget the organization that represents YOU, first and foremost, the Knights of Lithuania.

Philip Skabeikis
National President



KAS MES ESAME?

Who are you? Are you a professional, part-time secretary, an accountant, student, factory worker, company officer, servant of God in a religious order, parent or grandparent? Your job more likely than not fits your individuality and your interests. But I am now going to ask another question. Who are we? We collectively make up a group called Lithuanians. No, this is not our religion as is incorrectly believed but our heritage - a unifying bond among ourselves.

With the Bicentennial three, almost four years ago, everyone searched for his or her ethnic roots. I can remember when Bobby Vinton started publicizing the

fact that he is Polish, and hearing someone remark, "I always thought he was Italian." We who are lucky enough to have the freedoms given us in the United States must realize the responsibilities that go along with these freedoms. Since we have these freedoms are we going to freely let our "Lithuanianism" pass unnoticed through our fingers? Will we take full advantage of our freedom of speech and correct others' lack of knowledge about the situation in Soviet occupied Lithuania today?

The Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania reports the "details of the denial of human rights, par-

ticularly in matters of conscience and religion, in Societ-occupied Lithuania." Do we care enough about our brother and sister Lithuanians to help? Possibly many people have just thought that they have "done enough" for the cause of Lithuania, they have served as committeemembers or chairpersons. But when is our obligation fulfilled? Never, never is our obligation to Lithuania fulfilled until religious freedom is restored and each of us can celebrate the Eucharist with our brothers, sisters, cousins and God-children in Lithuania freely and openly.

While glancing at the various advertisements on the subway I noticed an ad paid for by Hadassah, a Jewish women's organization. This ad simply stated that Hadassah is a group of 300,00 strong. Well, Lithuanians are not unified in that number, but that is not the point. The Chronicle is our advertisement of the persecution we are spiritually suffering with our family in Lithuania today.

I hope that each of us does not try to camouflage his or her ethnicity, which happens a little too often in this

melting pot society we live in. But rather we should unify to help the Lithuanians who suffer today. So when we are asked "Who are We?", we will answer - a District, a Council, a Lithuanian proud of our heritage actively participating in aiding the Catholic Church in Lithuania. Let each and every one of us be worthy of the first time thanks we the Vyciai received in the Chronicle. Send your Council and your personal contributions payable to "L.C.R.A." to me, Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid Co-ordinator:

William A. Sidtis
59-44 57 Road
Maspeth, N.Y. 11378
(21) 894-9072

On behalf of the persecuted of Lithuania, I'd like to thank the following for their donation to L.C.R.A.

Anonymous \$5.00
Mr. John J. Sidtis \$10.00



ATTENTION ALL FINANCIAL SECRETARIES

Please note that dues for all members are due on or before Jan. 1, 1980. Newly elected Council Financial Secretaries should begin collecting membership dues immediately. Dues are \$8.00 per year. Additional members of the same household, not receiving VYTIS, pay \$4.00 per year. Married couples pay \$12.00 upon joining and \$8.00 per year thereafter.

To insure your members receiving their VYTIS promptly, please include members' addresses with their dues. All dues and address changes and corrections should go to:

Mrs. Ann Marie Kassel
7336-2 Winthrop Way
Downers Grove, Ill. 60515

OFFICER ROSTERS

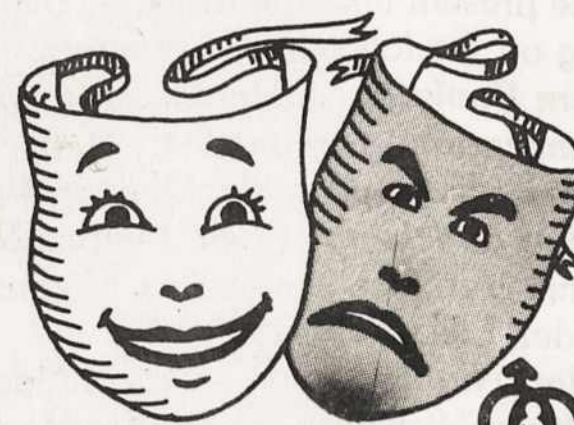
Who are your leader? Keep the Supreme Council informed!


Immediately after the election of new officers, PLEASE send the names and addresses of ALL your council officers to the National Recording Secretary:

Ms. Anna Klizas Wargo
125 S. Morris St.
St. Clair, Pa. 17970

VYTIS THANK YOU

The Vytis Staff and the Supreme Council express their sincerest thanks to Antonia Wackell for her generous donation of \$10.00, to help defray part of the expense of publishing VYTIS



You play the 
leading role
in our fight against
birth defects
support
MARCH OF DIMES

THIS SPACE CONTRIBUTED BY THE PUBLISHER

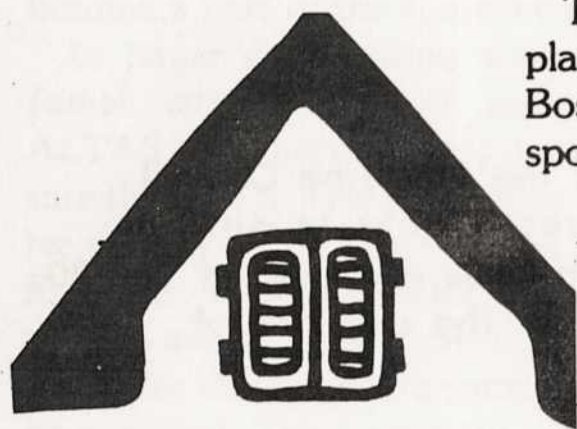
CONVENTION NEWS

**One if by clam,
two if by sea.**



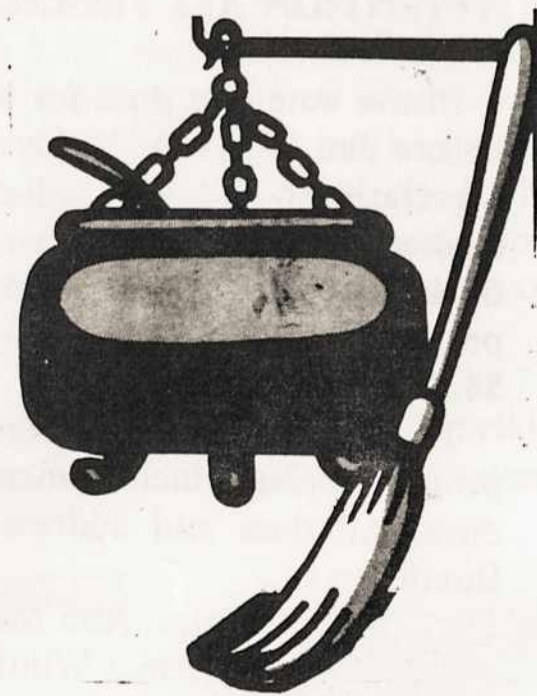
HOWEVER YOU COME... BOSTON AWAITS YOU!

The Knights of Lithuania 67th National Convention planning committees are off to a busy start. The South Boston K of L Council 17 and 17 Seniors together are sponsoring the coming convention.



DATE: August 6th to 10th, 1980

**LOCATION: Boston Park Plaza Hotel
Arlington St. at Park Square
Boston, Mass. 02117**



At the present time the following members are already working on the following committees:

Program Book: Alexander Chaplik, John Olevitz

Pre-Convention Committee: Betty Balaconis, Lou Mikalonis, Alice Opanesets, Eleanor Wassall

Thursday Luncheon: Adele Martus, Mary Martus, Lou Mikalonis, Veronica Ivanauskas, Mildred Daniels, Regina Alexander, Lillian Vallis

Thursday Night: Daniel Averka, Aldona Kropas, Ann White, Mary Mickevich, Alexander Moriarty

Friday Night: John Olevitz, Alexander Akule, Frank Markuns, Joseph Balaconis, John Skricki, Betty Skricki

Saturday Night Banquet: Alexander Akule, Mary Martus, Adele Martus, Aldona Keaney, Patricia Akule, Eleanor Wassall, Frank Markuns, Virginia Markuns

Sunday Brunch: Anne Voveris, Anne Narkevich, Veronica Aluza

Publicity: English - Larry Svelnis, John Norinkavich, Mary Martus, Regina Alexander, Adele Martus, Phil Carter, Bill Gorski

Publicity: Lithuanian - Povilas Zickus, Daniel Averka

Transportation: Frank Markuns

Miscellaneous Committees: Securing Tickets, Badges, etc. - Lou Mikalonis, Eleanor Wassall, Josephine Satkevich, Patricia Akule

A well-known polka orchestra has already been signed up for the Friday Night social at the Boston Park Plaze — it is the Ray Henry Orchestra. All the committees are meeting regularly and busily planning a great convention.

A NEW PROJECT: A NEW HOPE

Sister M. Margaret

Forty-four years ago, in 1936, the first five sisters of the Immaculate Conception arrived in the USA and began their work in very modest conditions. They came to America at the request of the Marian Fathers and provided domestic help at Marianapolis in Thompson, Connecticut, which was then a college for boys. When a few more sisters arrived, they also went to work at the Marian Fathers' Seminary in Hinsdale, Illinois. A few years later, the sisters bought a house of their own - Villa Maria in Thompson - and were officially accepted by the bishop. The tiny community grew and a novitiate was opened.

The aim of these courageous young sisters who left their own country to come to the United States, was to fulfill their vocation to serve Christ and labor for the good of the Church, according to the ideal set forth by the founder of the Community in Lithuania, archbishop George Matulaitis. All they had was a deep faith and a firm hope that God was leading them into a new land with good purpose. As it turned out, this branch of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception became the representative of the Community in the free world.

Like all young and enthusiastic people, full of energy and eager to do good, these "pioneers" set themselves to the tasks at hand without much thought for tomorrow. Forthcoming events proved to be fateful. In

Lithuania the varied and rapidly expanding apostolate of the Community, then numbering over 200, came to a sudden end when the communists occupied the country. They confiscated the sisters' press, deprived the Community of all its possessions and officially dissolved it.

When the war ended, the great exodus of Lithuanian and other refugees began. The small group of sisters who had established themselves in the USA, turned their attention to helping these people and their families.

In time, their apostolate grew and spread in ever-widening circles. New plans and projects took root. When the sisters could no longer house all the children who came for summer camp to their Motherhouse in Putnam, Connecticut, they bought some land in Vermont and established Camp Neringa. This camp has been in operation for ten years now (Camp Immaculata for girls was held for 26 summers in Putnam.). These sisters were not only the first to organize summer camps for Lithuanian children, but, when Camp Neringa was opened in 1970, it began with a session for English speaking children. This session has become very successful and there is always a long waiting list. The three camping sessions combined, about 350 children yearly. Some come from as far away as Florida and Colorado.

The Matulaitis Nursing Home, which celebrated its tenth anniversary last year, came into being much the



Sister M. Augusta and Sister M. Margaret with a sketch of the new building now under construction at Putnam, Connecticut

same way. It was a response to a felt need. Villa Maria and the adjoining St. Joseph's house in Thompson, had been converted to a Rest Home for the elderly. However, many applicants could not be accommodated and better medical care and facilities were badly needed. Such a large project seemed utterly beyond the order's means at the time. Yet, with the help of God and of many, many good people, the dream was realized.

Meanwhile, the sisters had also opened two houses in Canada, in Toronto and Montreal where there were large Lithuanian parishes. The sisters began teaching catechism, preparing children for first communion and confirmation and later branched out into various kinds of parish work. Day care centers were begun to help harried families and also to provide centers for youth work.

Each new project brought much uncertainty and anxiety. Their numbers were few and resources pitifully small. And yet, building after building went up to serve people in need. The sisters have always tried to help Lithuanians and those of Lithuanian descent first of all, but all their houses are open to anyone in need.

Remembering these past achievements despite all obstacles, it is with joy and hope that these dedicated sisters look forward to the future. They have now begun construction of a new convent and spiritual center at Putnam, Connecticut. The old building which housed the Motherhouse for many years, was purchased in the autumn of 1943. But new facilities are badly needed, as their work expands. Perhaps you will ask: "Is it worth our while to maintain this Lithuanian cultural and religious center in Putnam?" Many things of value are concentrated in the present old and unsafe building: a printing press, a large library with its excellent collection of Lithuanian books, a folk-art section also open to all



The first sisters who arrived in the US from Lithuania in 1936: standing - Sr. Apolonia and Sr. Tarcisia; sitting - Sr. Consolata and Sr. Aloysa who is American-born and has been Superior of the Community in the US has passed away and is buried in the sisters' cemetery.

visitors. This place also includes all the order's administrative offices and the publication office of "Eglute," the only Lithuanian children's magazine in the free world. Some of the older sisters live here, and the sisters would dearly love to improve conditions for them, so that they may continue to help with the apostolic work of the Community. There is no retirement age for these sisters - God's time is their time!

For the past two years the Sisters have been diligently working out plans for a new building. It consists of about 15 rooms for the sisters, a new library, a Lithuanian museum, dining facilities for groups from 20 to 200, administration offices. During the past few years, an ever-growing volume of people visit the complex. They now accommodate several retreat groups, both Lithuanian and English-speaking; various organizations have their celebrations and gatherings here; they open their doors to young people for weekend workshops and religious discussion groups. They need room for all these people!

If you are interested in the work of this Community, which has been in existence for 61 years, or would like more information about this new building project, please write: Sister M. Margaret, Immaculate Conception Convent, Putnam, CT 06260. Many Vyciai have visited the grounds in the summer on the occasion of the annual Lithuanian Friendship Day. We hope that in the future many more of you will come to share the wonderful Lithuanian religious and cultural heritage that God has given us. Pope John Paul II has said that he prays for Lithuania every day and in Chicago he encouraged all Lithuanians to preserve their traditions. We hope to maintain this spirit and to build a center and a shrine for this purpose. Your support will be sincerely appreciated.



Some of the guests at one of the Lithuanian Friendship days held annually on the sisters' convent grounds during the month of July. Left to right: Fr. Stasys Yla, Sister M. Aloysa, Governor Ella Grasso, Bishop Daniel Reilly, Fr. V. Cukuras and Mr. V. Zakaras

JUNIORS CORNER

C-144 Jrs. Minersville

The October meeting of the Minersville Junior Knights (Anthracite C-144) featured an amber display and a talk on amber. Fr. John Luksys, pastor of St. Francis also spoke about his Lithuanian experiences.

We also participated in the performance "Coal County Blues" sponsored by the Sch. County Arts and Ethnic Center at Pottsville High School October 21. We danced folk dances in our new costumes.

At the November meeting we began to make the Lithuanian paper straw tree decorations. And we also learned grace before meals in Lithuanian for Thanksgiving.

December 3rd we learned about

"Kucios" and the Lithuanian Christmas customs. The Krusnoski family donated our tree which we decorated with our handmade straw ornaments. The tree is in St. Francis School library. Under the tree is the cradle for baby Jesus. For each good deed we do before Christmas, we put a piece of straw in the cradle to make a soft bed for Jesus. Srs. M. Regis, our principal, and Srs. Helen and Lourda and other teachers supervise this project.

Terese

C-110 Jr.—Maspeth, NY

The December meeting was held at the office of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid. New members were introduced: Brian Criegan and

Laura Adomitis. Elections were held:

Marija Stungurys - President
Leo Stungurys - Vice-President
Anthony Ambrosini - Secretary
Mark Adomitis-Lith. Affairs Chr.
Laura Adomitis-VYTIS Corres.

The Juniors worked at C-110's Annual Kucios celebration which was a success as usual. The Juniors sold arts and crafts of all kinds and sold homebaked goods. This was done to raise money for the Juniors to attend this year's convention to be held in Boston. Those in attendance were Leo and Marija Stungurys, Brian Criegan, Laura and Mark Adomitis, and Counselor Bill Sidtis.

Laura Adomitis



Minersville C-144 Jr. Knights performing at Pottsville H.S.
"Coal County Blues" in new costumes

K of L ADDITION

FEBRUARY

- 17 IID ANNUAL MEMORIES OF LITHUANIA BANQUET,
Martinique Restaurant, Evergreen Park, IL

MARCH

- 2 C-29, NEWARK, ST. CASIMIR'S DAY CELEBRATION,
Holy Trinity Church and Hall, Newark, N.J.
- 9 MAD ANNUAL COMMUNION BREAKFAST AND MEETING
Transfiguration Church and Hall, Maspeth, N.Y., Hosts: C-110,
Maspeth
- 22 SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING, So. Boston, Mass.

APRIL

- 12 C-110, MASPETH, SPRING DANCE
Transfiguration Hall, Maspeth, N.Y.
- 27 NED SPRING CONVENTION, Our Lady of Vilnius Church,
So. Worcester, Mass., Hosts: C-116, So. Worcester
- 27 C-144, Anthracite, GINTARAS FOLK DANCE PROGRAM
St. Clair, Pa.

MAY

- 16-18 MIDWEST BOWLING TOURNAMENT
Cleveland, Ohio, Hosts: C-25, Cleveland

AUGUST

- 6-10 67th NATIONAL CONVENTION, Boston Plaza Hotel
Park Square, Boston, Mass. C-17 and C-17 Srs. Hosts
- 17 66th ANNUAL LITHUANIAN DAY, Barnesville, PA, C-144 Hosts

The Legend of Saint Valentine

According to legend, the Valentine takes its name from a young Christian priest who lived in ancient Rome. Like so many of the early Christians, Valentine had been imprisoned because of his faith . . . Often and longingly he thought of his loved ones and wanted to assure them of his well-being and of his love for them . . . Beyond his cell window, just within reach, grew a cluster of violets. He picked some of the heart-shaped leaves and pricked them with the words, "Remember your Valentine," and sent them off by a friendly dove . . . On the next day, and the next, he sent more messages that simply said, "I love you." Thus did the Valentine have its beginning. And so it has been through the ages . . . those who love, remember . . . and send Valentines to express their love.





SNOW

Whenever a snowflake leaves the sky,
It turns to say Goodbye.
Goodbye dear clouds so cool and gray,
Then lightly travels on its way.

Snow is fluffy and white,
But too much snow will sting you and bite.
Looking through the window to where it lies,
It is beautiful in the early sunrise.

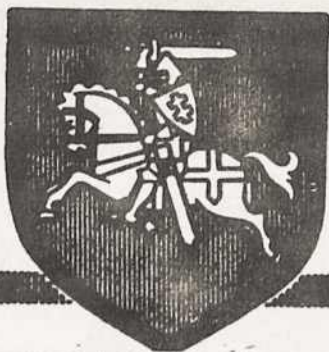
It is soft like the down of an eider duck,
In it motorists must be careful or they'll get stuck.
Snowflakes are heavenly soft indeed,
They cover so much you can't see a weed.

As they melt they fill the rivers and lakes,
You've got to admire those little flakes.
They can drive you mad, and worry you, too,
But I also agree they're beautiful, don't you?

By Pranas Paliokas
Wash. D.C. C-142

*Poem inspired by great snowstorm experienced by Washington, D.C. on
Feb. 18-19 of last year.*

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.

Something of everything was captured at the Mid-Central Dist. Conference and Pilgrimage in DuBois, Pa. on the weekend of Oct. 20-21. From the time of arrival - to the meeting - to the socials - to the pilgrimage - to the farewells, there was a feeling of great friendship. We execute a low bow in the direction of C-86 for their excellent hospitality and well-planned activities that prevailed throughout the event. Our delegates, Bertha Janus, Helen Tucker, Magdalena Smailis and Frank & Sophie Zager, came home with nothing but glowing reports. Labai aciu, C-86 Pres. B. Radzevich and members.

Music was the key ingredient that soothed the nerves and tested the patience of many Detroiters and suburbanites who wrestled with their cars from slipping and sliding during a snowstorm on Dec. 1. This

was the evening they drove to the Cultural Center of Divine Providence for the concert performance of "Sekminių Vainikas" by the Jaunimo Choro.

Vida Gogelis, daughter of Kazys & Estelle Gogelis, was among the choral group who performed. The program under the direction of Stasys Slizys was great. Though bad weather delayed the start of the program, the music was delightful and the performers outdid themselves in their talents.

For months they have worked hard to reach their goal. The work, however, is not entirely completed. Their purpose for whatever activity they have in mind is to keep the youth together actively, culturally and socially. There are parents in the background, striving to help morally and financially. There are others milling around to savor the wonder of it all. This wonder is generated by an increasing membership and popularity of the group. They have performed in Toronto, Tillsonburg and elsewhere, under S. Slizys, J. Pusdesris & Galina Gobiene.

Some of the K of L's who attended the concert were Violet & Joe Panavas, Maggie Smailis, and Helen Tucker. Karen Panavas, who is a member of the group, was unable to participate due to a heavy school load. The Frank Zagers were on their way to the concert, but were waylaid by the unkind act of Mother Nature in finding themselves waiting to be towed out of a snowbank due to icy road conditions.

Beautiful weather was in store Nov. 24 for a dinner party for friends and family which climaxed the 40th anniversary celebration of Adline & Bernie Vitkus. The couple's three children, the Bernard Vitkus', the Leonard Vitkus', and the Wm. Milligan's (Barbara) hosted the lovely party at the Berkley Veteran Post. More than 75 guests gathered from as far away as Pa., Ill., Ohio, Kalamazoo, Mich. and other areas. The music of the Tempo Toner's Band kept everyone hopping with such numbers as the "Orange Blossom Express" and other group dances. In his earlier days, Bernie served as chief pastry chef for the Dodge Family when they were yachting during the summer season. "Ilgiausu Metu" to the wonderful couple!

Alice & Tony Repshas returned from a memorable trip to Hawaii and California where they visited friends and relatives. However, it was cold when they got back, so they didn't waste any time in leaving for the sunshine in Florida. Vicki Chepelonis is back after visiting friends in Florida.

Much gratitude to those regular members who help prepare coffee and help out during our K of L Sundays for the parish. They are Mike Vale, Mr. & Mrs. Geo. Kase, Vera Tulauskas, Helen Tucker, Estelle Gogelis, and Frank & Sophie Zager.

The hostesses for the November social, Bertha Janus and Alice Burt, rendered a gourmet buffet table laden with stuffed tomatoes (low calorie) and a variety of other

homemade treats. Our grateful thanks!

The Dec. 5 meeting hosted by Helen Tucker and Sophie Zager enhanced a Christmas setting for the social following the meeting. December has always been a busy and tiring month. This year, in order to get into the spirit of giving, our council made their annual contribution to the Capuchin Fathers for distribution of food and clothing to the poor and needy.

Again this year, we need YOUR help, financial and physical. Remember, we are a fraternal-charitable organization. This is an opportunity for each and every member to participate in truly charitable acts in the name of the Knights of Lithuania!

SOFFI

C-25 - Cleveland, Ohio

Council officers for 1980 are as follows: Pres. Gene Kunsitis, V.P. William Jakubs, Rec. Secy. Ursula Kunsitis, Fin. Secy. Adele Svet, Treas. Jim Thompson, Trustees Betty August & Alvina Luiza, and Sgt-at-Arms Nellie Arunski. Here's to a successful and prosperous new year! Our thanks to Betty & Vic August and Alvina Luiza, past Pres., V.P. and Rec. Secy., for their sincere endeavor and hard work. Their efforts were most appreciated.

Our members were deeply saddened by the untimely death of Evelyn Andrulis on Oct. 28. Evelyn was the wife of John Andrulis, the mother of five and grandmother of six. She was a member of our council since 1960. She was the proud recipient of the 4th Degree on Aug. 21, 1977 at the Nat'l Convention held in Providence, R.I. Evelyn was one of the principal organizers of the DuBois Council in 1976. She attended numerous Nat'l Conventions, was past Council Treas., served on various committees, hosted



Cleveland Srs. 3rd Degree Recipients with Father B. Ivanauskas, St. George's Church



Cleveland Srs. 3rd Degree Recipients, Ursula Gaizutis, Kazimiera Titas, Jule Salasevicius and Nellie Arunshi, MCD Ritual Chairman

many parties, and was a terrific baker, dancer and bowler. Our sincerest condolences are extended to John and his family.

A good number of our members attended the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. George's Church on Oct. 7 and received Holy Communion in a body in support of the Friends of the Eucharist movement in union with our brothers and sisters in Lithuania.

Congratulations to Nellie Arunski who was re-elected M.C. Dist.

Ritual Chm. and to Victor August who was elected Dist. Trustee at the Oct. Dist. Meeting in DuBois. Our council would like to thank C-86 for their wonderful hospitality and congeniality in hosting the M.C. Dist. Pilgrimage & Meeting. We were most impressed.

Vic & Betty August were presented with a new grandchild Aug. 20 by daughter Mary and son-in-law Anthony Vitale. Daughter 2nd Lt. Lauren Parsons is also to be congratulated on her 3-year medical scholarship award!

Fall vacations were enjoyed by Gene & Ursula Kunsitis who spent a week frolicking on Myrtle Beach, S.C. Charlie & Nelda Machutas visited friends in Jacksonville, Fla. with stops at St. Augustine and Disney World. Agnes & Bruno Bartkus came back from Las Vegas after seeing some great shows and trying their luck at the casinos.

Congratulations to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church and Pastor Rev. G. Kijauskas, and retired Pastor Rev. Joseph Angelaitis, on its Golden Jubilee celebrated Nov. 25.

The following members were installed on June 3: 1st Degree - Ben & Grace Derus; 2nd Degree - Connie Burns, Joseph Laukiavich, Eleanore & Frank Lucas; Assoc. 1st Degree - Agnes Bartkus & Doris Laukiavich; and Assoc. 2nd Degree - Joanna Shigo. Congratulations to all!

Happy New Year, everyone, and the very best for 1980!

Urs

C-96 - Dayton, Ohio

Hopefully, everyone has survived the Holiday Season in fine style with minimum hassle from Old Man Winter. Prayerfully you were blessed with the true Spirit of Christmas and looking forward to a healthy, prosperous 1980.

Through the combined efforts of

our council's Cultural Chm. Ada Sinkwitz, and our well-known accordionist Cecelia Lisankis, much publicity was written up on traditions of Lithuanian Christmas. Suburban newspapers carried very interesting articles telling about our Kucia and the making of Lithuanian straw ornaments. Because of Cecelia's volunteer work at Miami Valley Hospital, she and Mary Lucas, at the time Ada Sinkwitz was hospitalized, demonstrated the making of Lithuanian straw ornaments at the hospital's "Christmas in the Valley" Bazaar.

In conjunction with the season, Elinor Sluzas and Rita Ambrose were co-chairmen for our annual participation in Dayton's Festival Program at the Winter's Tower. Lithuanian straw ornament classes were held at the church hall. Elinor, Rita, Kitty Prasmantas, Sally Miller and Ray & Mildred Steinbrunner donated treats to these classes. Ray designed a special tool which speeded up the cutting of the straw.

Moving up from the ranks of Juniors to the regular council is Joey Mantz. The Mantz family is already active and we know Joey will continue the tradition. Welcome to the council!

In conjunction with the Nov. meeting, Cultural Chm. Ada Sinkwitz had a beautiful display of her amber collection. We give a pat on the back to our Lithuanian Affairs Chm. Stefanija Rastikis whose reports have been extensive, interesting, and many times heart-rendering with sincerity.

Chris Mantz & Rita Ambrose are congratulated for the fine results of the Jr.'s Holiday Bake Sale of Nov. 17-18. Winners in the bake sale were Eugenia Geras & Jack Zilinkas. Congratulations to Ed Sluzas for another fine performance. Ed played the part of Edic in Sinclair Community College's theatre presentation of "Tango" by Slawomir Mrozek.

Joining Chm. Joyce Berczelly with Telephone Squad duties for this term are Janina Bucmys, Joan Kavalauskas, Chris & Eleanor Mantz, Patty Moreikas, Veronica Omlor and Josephine Zilinkas. This group is a very vital artery in helping our council function in a smooth flowing manner for many activities. It is a committee many times not given the recognition it so deservedly earns.

Rev. Vaclovas Katarskis & Eloise Berczelly will be working with Chm. Fran Petkus on the council's Ritual Committee. Stefanija Rastikis will continue handling the Lithuanian publication of material sent out by Fran. Kitty Prasmantas, who has taken on the position of Bulletin Editor for the council, is congratulated for the fine job she did with her first edition.

Ray Steinbrunner, chairman of our special MCD Project Fund, gave his annual report at the Nov. meeting. The following were happy recipients in 1978-79: Eloise Berczelly, Rita Ambrose, Fr. Walter, Frances Mikalauskas, Annadel Miller, Sally Miller, Bea Noreikas, Fran Petkus (2x), Cathy Roberts & Mildred Steinbrunner (2x).

Newly-elected Nat'l Vice Pres. in charge of Seniors, HM Stan Vaitkus had the pleasure of attending the S.C. meeting of Dec. 1 in N.Y.C. Stan brought back reports of the meeting to the council.

We are happy that Ada Sinkwitz's hospital stay was a short one and that she is doing fine. Speedy recovery wishes are sent to Sophie Bitner following surgery. Formerly of Detroit C-79, Sophie is now a member of our council.

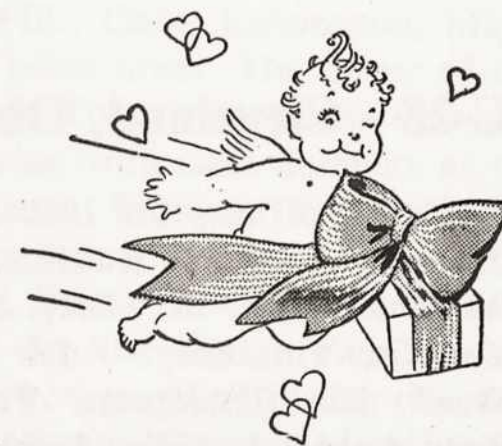
We offer special prayers for the mothers of Amelia August (Helen Cekun), Fran Vangas (Bertha Radmiskis), Andy August (Anna August) & Aldona Drukteinis (Marija Gudaitis) and the mothers of all our members. We pray that God will continue to keep them in

his special care.

It was sad to hear of the vandalism of the St. Francis Shrine, in Lithuanian motif, located in the back yard of HM Mary Lucas. George Mikalauskas, designer and builder, stated it was damaged beyond repair.

Our members joining in with the Cincinnati members supporting them on the occasion of their International Folk Festival were Steponas Bucmys and Al & Albina Wallis. The Lithuanian booth, under the chairmanship of Maria Fettig, again received an award under the title of "Best Use of Natural Resources."

Fran Petkus



NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

C-10 - Athol-Gardner, Ma.

Our council elected the following slate of officers for 1980: Spiritual Advisor Rev. Justin Steponaitis, Pres. William Wisnauskas, V.P. Howard Beaudette, Treas. Nellie Melaika, Fin. Secy. Leonard Davidonis, Rec. Secy. Charles Genaitis, Council Photographer Leonard Davidonis, Cultural Chmn. Brone Wisnauskas, Telephone Chmn. Blanche Genaitis.

Following the annual meeting that was held at the home of Al & Pauline Rodski in Gardner, a lunch was served. Thank you folks!

The council made plans with Fr. Steponaitis for the annual Feb. 16 celebration.

Mary Gavronsky was elected secy-treas. of the L.S. Starrett 25 Year Club. Frank Anoris was presented with a 40-year award at the L.S. Starrett Co. and retired at the end of '79. Good luck, Frank, and many years of retired happiness.

An article appeared in the Athol Daily News about the origin of hamburgers. It stated that the hamburger is named for the city of Hamburg, Germany, however, the Germans did not invent it. They became acquainted with the dish during the Middle Ages when traveling merchants from Hamburg returned from the Baltic lands with the idea. So it seems that it could have come from Lithuania.

Nell Melaika recently accepted a position with the L.S. Starrett Co. in Athol. Good luck, Nell.

Gardener Lithuanians were well represented at an ethnic Christmas showing that received good coverage in the local newspaper. A Lithuanian Christmas tree and exhibit was featured at the Gardner museum from Dec. 1-14. Blanche & Charles Genaitis and Brone Wisnauskas did a fine job.

Thought for the Month: This being the month of February, say a prayer for the persecuted church in Lithuania.

Vincukas

Srs. C-103-Providence, RI

The Seniors held their Christmas party Dec. 2 at Club 44. Forty people attended the festive evening. Lithuanian and English carols were sung. Tom Halloran presented jewelry items to all the charming ladies. Bette Ciuryla, Agnes Waitonis, and Helen Denesevich were the organizers of the party. John Walaskas' attractive Lithuanian Christmas tree ornaments were the center of everyone's attention.

Our members joined with the parish choir in entertaining the young-at-heart at Matulaitis Nursing Home in Putnam, Conn. on Dec. 16.

Nat'l Pres. Philip Skabeikis presided at the Supreme Council Executive meeting held in N.Y.C. at Our Lady of Vilnius Parish in the Rev. Gauronskas Hall. Biruta & John Stoskus joined Theresa & Al Trainis from Fairfield, Conn. for the trip to New York, and the fruitful meeting.

Anthony & Helen Gudaczauskas spent Dec. 1 in New York City. They did some Christmas shopping and attended a Christmas performance at Rockefeller Center.

The Most Rev. Justinas Stulgaitis ordained Father Vaclovas Martinkus on April 24, 1935 in Lithuania. Father is planning to celebrate his Sacerdotal Jubilee with his brother priests at St. Casimir's Church in Providence.

Juozas Laucka celebrated a special birthday on Jan. 23. He became 70 years young. Juozas is well-known the world over for his endeavors in behalf of Lithuania's fight for freedom. His brother Balys was a schoolmate of John Stoskus at Marianapolis in Thompson, Conn.

Albert Johnson, City Editor of the Providence Journal and Bulletin, recently completed 50 years of journalism, all with the same newspaper. He was feted on this special event by his many friends in the news media. His wife, the former Ann Grigalavicius, is an active member of the Lithuanian Heritage Subcommittee of Rhode Island.

Dr. John & Biruta Cunningham attended a medical convention in Hawaii.

Ruta Krecioch, Bette Ciuryla, John Walaska, and Birute Stoskus attended the NED Executive Board Meeting in Worcester, Mass. It was well attended by the other district

officers. Following the meeting, officers and guests enjoyed a delicious "pot luck" supper.

Hilda Sharkey from Rehoboth, Mass. is our most recent enrollee. She formerly lived in the state of New York. We extend a K of L welcome to her.

Remember Lithuania's needs with a special prayer on Feb. 16.

J.A.S.



**MID-ATLANTIC
DISTRICT**

C-100 - Amsterdam, N.Y.

Alger & Joan Bagdan hosted the Sept. meeting. Opening prayers were led by Father Baltch. Pres. Anthony Radzevich called for the reading of the minutes by Nellie Liberis and the treasurer's report by Sophie Olbie.

A summation of the June outing held at the summer residence of Dr. & Mrs. Adam Kindar in Galway, N.Y. was given by Gene Gobis.

The Nat'l Convention held in Chicago in August was attended by 15 of our members. A detailed account of the business sessions and activities were given by Gene Gobis. Additional comments were made by Pres. Radzevich, his wife Ann, Willard & Jennie Kensell, Sophie Olbie, Regina Kot and Ed Baranauskas. Also attending were Mary Stanionis, Betty Kuzmich, John Kot, Mary & Jack Sweet and Sadie & Charles Karbocius.

Our council feted the M.A. Dist.

It's Leap Year



Meeting on Oct. 14 at St. Casimir's Social Center. All members attended an Oct. 1 meeting where final plans were made for the convention. Preceding that meeting, Father Baltch celebrated a 7 p.m. Lithuanian Mass in St. Casimir's Church. The convention meeting convened at 1 p.m. Pres. Tony Radzevich and V.P. Gene Gobis co-chaired the event with Al Luzinas assisting. The Food Committee consisted of Helen Hugo, Ann Radzevich and Polly Ziausys. Jack Sweet chaired the Refreshment Committee, assisted by Bill Burimaskas, Walt Malkowicz, Al Luzinas and John Whelly. All members participated.

In light of Leo Dansevitch's statement at our meeting that the present officers were doing an excellent job and they should continue to serve for another year, his views were shared by everyone present. Our officers will continue to be: Pres. Anthony J. Radzevich, V.P. Gene Gobis, Treas. Sophie Olbie, Secy. Nellie Liberis, Sgts-at-Arms Peter Sargalis, Walter Rusilas and Charles Karbocius, Lith Affairs Chm. Edward Baranauskas, Ritual Chm. Mary Stanionis, and Cultural Committee Regina Kot & Polly Ziausys.

Rev. Baltch spoke briefly on his recent trip to Lithuania and Poland. In Poland he visited Warsaw, Krakow, and saw the famous Black Madonna. In Lithuania his tour included Vilnius, Kaunas, the famous

summer resort Palanga, Panevezys, Maletai, etc. He visited the University of Vilnius which is celebrating its 400th year and he attended the Lithuanian Opera. Father offered Mass at the Ausros Vartu Chapel in Vilnius. He remarked that the songs sung during Mass were by Faustas Strolia.

Refreshments after the meeting were served by Alger & Joan Bagdan, Frances DiBart, Annacetta Guzielek, Helen Dylong, Edna Luzinas, Helen Hugo, Tony & Ann Radzevich, Susan Dansevitch, Polly Ziausys, Irene Damphier, Gene Gobis, and John & Milly Whelly.

It was good to see Joe Valikonis with wife, Ginny. Joe has been on our sick list. Welcome back, Joe!

Smile & Sparkle

C-140 - Syracuse, N.Y.

We had a lot of activity this past summer and fall and will attempt to give a brief synopsis.

We traveled to Utica on May 20 and participated in a Mass at St. George's Lithuanian Church. The celebrant was Father Simeon Rukstalis. Four of our members from the Utica area, Anne & Walt Guentert and Della & Joe Marcaitis, treated us to a delicious buffet in the church hall. We also shared and celebrated the birthday of our eldest member, Mrs. Antoinette Dzwonkas, with much cake and singing. She is a most lovely lady.

Our first picnic of the summer was held at the home of Joe & Della Marcaitis in Westmoreland on July 15. Much fun was had by all with plenty of good eating, drinking, swimming, games and just good old-fashioned visiting. Joe and Della were fine hosts.

Some of our members attended Lithuanian Day at Barnesville on Aug. 12 and reported a good time, despite the rain. Bernice Mikatavage

and her committee deserve much praise for their hard work.

On the same day a few of our members attended Lithuanian Day at Auriesville Shrine which is always a beautiful experience. It's a shame both events have to fall on the same day.

Council Pres. Frank Petrauskas and daughter Joan Marie were our delegates to the Nat'l Convention in Chicago. They reported a fine time with much accomplished at the sessions and on the social level. The spiritual portion was very impressive, leaving one with a good exciting feeling.

While in Chicago, Frank Petrauskas was asked by the Lithuanian American Council, Inc. to be their "igaliotinis" or representative in Syracuse.

Our Baltic States Picnic was well attended on the beautiful day of Sept. 9. It's good to mix with our Estonian and Latvian neighbors.

We participated in the Captive Nations Proclamation signing in Ju-



ly and the Rally in September at Le-Moyne College.

The Festival of Nations weekend was another gala attraction. Our Lithuanian booth was a tremendous success with Chm. Victor Johnson at the controls. Marge Migonis had charge of decorating the booth and Catherine Brandt was in charge of the food. Both gals are hard workers and it showed in our success. Another big plus was Annie Margalis from Minersville and her beautiful display of eggs, straw ornaments, and stump mushroom etchings. She was ably assisted by Ann Marie Litkowsky. The two of them, in their most friendly fashion, answered many questions.

We beat our old potato pancake record. This year we used 56 gallons of batter. Our new 3 foot electric grill helped to keep the lines shorter as we could keep a much more rapid pace. We are known far and wide as "the potato pancake people."

Our closing thought: There are three kinds of people - those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who have no idea what happens.

Pusbrolis

C-110 - Maspeth, N.Y.

Our guest speaker at the Nov. meeting, Rev. Sharp, gave us an insight to the world's major religions, including the Islamic faith which is so much in the newspapers these days. The Islamic faith was formed about 575 A.D. and there are about five hundred million followers. He spoke about the world's twelve great religions and gave his views on the meaning of religion. It was a most informative presentation for which we express our thanks.

Thirty members of our council attended N.Y. C-12's Dinner-Dance on Nov. 3. They reported a full house, a well-run affair and a good

time. The music, provided by Joe Thomas, was excellent. Joe is playing at our Spring Polka Dance on Apr. 12.

The First Degree was granted to the following members on Nov. 7: Helen Atkocius, Adele Aquilino, Joseph Boza, Malvina Chereck, Mary Johnson, Anthony & Josephine Kajris, Albert & Malfalda Kuchinskas (Assoc.), Jean Mactulis, Julia Matulewich, Florence Mickilowski (Assoc.), Aldona Plekis, Alfonso & Anna Stripeikis, Maria Stungurys, Mary Szesesny, Helen Venis, Igni & Evelyn Walles and Peter Yuskevich.

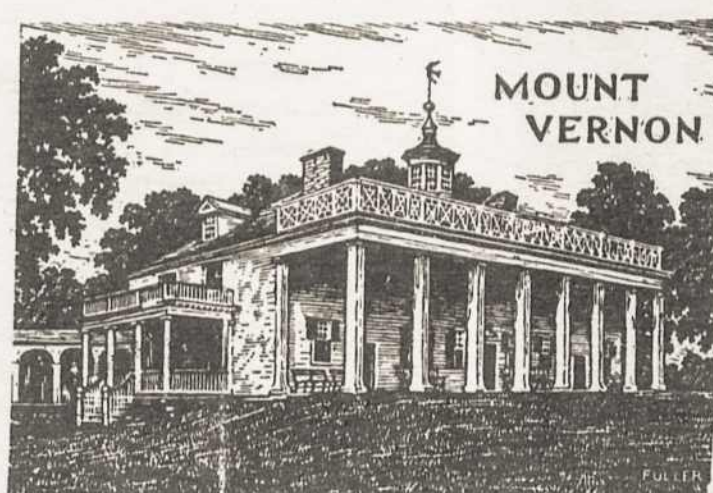
The winner of the Junior raffle, Mary York, donated the prize money to the Jr.'s Convention Fund. They are most appreciative.

Our Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Stasys Raila, looks forward to increased attendance at the 11 a.m. Mass every third Sunday of the month at Transfiguration Church.

A date to look forward to is Mar. 9, when we will host the St. Casimir's Communion Brunch and Mini-MAD Convention. Chairman for the affair is Kazmieras Vainius.

We now have a suggestion box. Please share your ideas and thoughts by writing them down and placing them in the box.

The December meeting was a Christmas Party. The food brought in by the members was plentiful and delicious. Santa Claus arrived in time to distribute the gifts. Florence Mikalauskas played all our favorite Lithuanian tunes on her accordion



while Father Raila and others sang along. For those who could not make the meeting, they missed an enjoyable evening.

Peter Yuskevich

C-29 — Newark, N.J.

Happy New Year Vyciai! Our congratulations are extended to our long time, active member Anna Pocius, who this past August was honored as Honorary Member in the Moteru Sajunga. We're proud of you Anna! Also, Adele Urbonas has been doing a terrific job of collecting stamps, eye glasses, old gold, and old dentures for the Missionaries. Adele really had us all in stitches when at the November meeting, she graciously thanked every one who had donated and especially to those who had donated their teeth. So, if any one has anything, send it down to Newark.

Now for this month's hints. Many food stores have been bagging food items in plastic tote bags. Useful and disposable baby's bibs can be made by cutting off the handles and making holes for baby's head and arms. Very useful for grandma as well as mommy. Baggy nylon stockings? Just wet your hands in warm water and starting from the ankles, rub your damp hands up your leg. This will make them fit better. Until next time...

D.D.

IN MEMORIAM

Please remember
in your prayers...

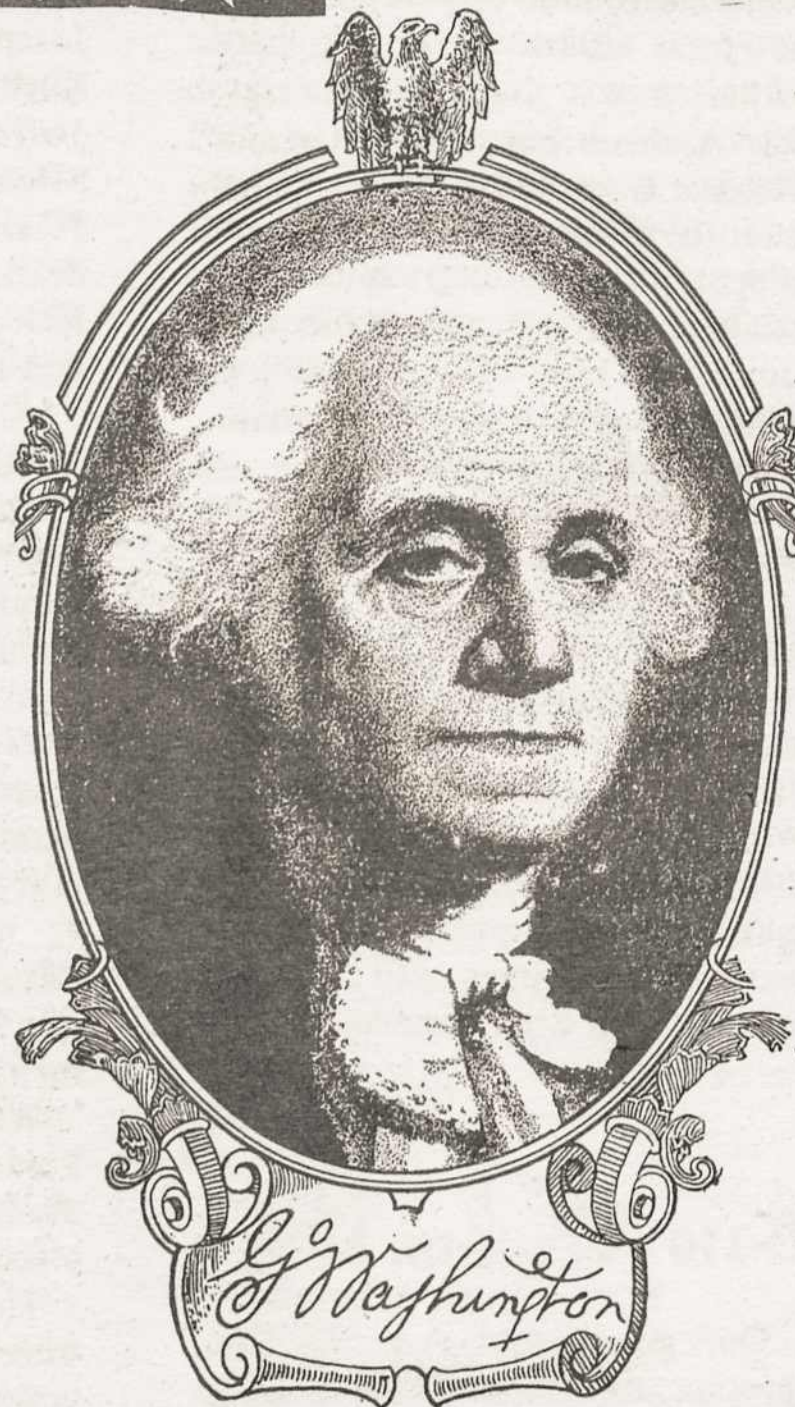
WILLIAM ADAMS
C-79, Southfield, Mich.
Died December 24, 1979

VYTIS2524 W. 45 St.
Chicago, IL. 60632Return Requested
Address Correction RequestedDRAUGAS
1545 W. 63RD ST.
CHICAGO, ILL. 60629


GEORGE WASHINGTON

George Washington - Born in Popes Creek, Virginia on Feb. 22, 1732. During this month of February we salute George Washington, the First President, for his perseverance and courage to win freedom for our great nation.

George Washington, delivering his Farewell Address, said that his invocation would forever be "That your Union and brotherly affection may be perpetual; that the free Constitution which is the work of your hands, may be sacredly maintained; that its administration in every department may be stamped with wisdom and virtue; that, in fine, the happiness of the people of these States, under the auspices of liberty, may be made complete..."



Abraham Lincoln
said:

HONESTY...I have always wanted to deal with everyone I meet candidly and honestly. If I have made any assertion not warranted by facts, and it is pointed out to me, I will withdraw it cheerfully.

COMPASSION...I can only say that I have acted upon my best convictions, without selfishness or malice, and that by the help of God I shall continue to do so.

ACCOMPLISHMENT...He who does something at the head of one regiment will eclipse him who does nothing at the head of a hundred.

LIBERTY...Let every man remember that to violate the law is to trample on the blood of his father, and to tear that charter of his own and his children's liberty.

SUCCESS...We can succeed only by concert. It is not "can any of us imagine better?" but, "can we all do better?"

MOTIVES...Ready are we all to cry out and ascribe motives when our toes are pinched.