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The Knights
of Lithuania

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THE KNIGHT
VYTIS

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IF MY SURNAME WERE JOGAILAITIS

Writing an article about Saint Casimir is like "rushing in where angels fear to tread." If my surname were Jogailaitis (Saint Casimir's family name), it would have been easy: I could have traced my genealogy back to Casimir Jogailaitis, Senior (Saint Casimir's father) and could have found enough material to write about the life and times and accomplishments of my great, great, great - 21 times great Uncle Casimir. I calculated that I would be a nephew, 21 times removed from my Uncle Saint Casimir. He lived from 1458 to 1484, which would be about 21 generations ago. But,

I am not a Jogailaitis, I am not descended from any of his five brothers and I do not have any three or four attempts to write a thorough biography of Saint Casimir. Much of that material has been synthesized in the pamphlet "Saint Casimir" by Father Albert Contons, Honorary K of L member and former Spiritual Advisor.

Father Contons used material provided in Lithuanian by Alekna, Suziedelis and Ivinskis, who complained that there is a scarcity of historical records relating to our saint. This scarcity of materials must be blamed in part on Emperor Charles V of Spain, because it

secret information from the family archives. I have to depend upon the meager biographical information available about so great a saint.

It seems that there were only his soldiers who sacked and pillaged Rome, set it afire and thus destroyed many valuable documents that were gathered and filed for the beatification and canonization of our Lithuanian Saint.

Having no new facts, I will have to limit this article to analyzing what we have and drawing some conclusions.

Suppose we have the historical fact that a Latin poem, **Omni die dic Mariae**, was found in his casket, when it was opened at his canonization. In thinking about this we can safely draw the conclusion that he had a special love and devotion to Mary: either he himself instructed someone to place it in his casket, or someone who knew of his devotion did this to point out his love for Mary.



Can we find some biographical bits and pieces that would permit us to make some conclusions about Saint Casimir that would have special meaning for us?

Let's try and see what we can come up with.

From history we know that Casimir Jogailaitis, King of Poland and Lithuania, married Elizabeth of Austria. They were a couple who believed in planned parenthood. Please notice the small "p's". Their beautiful family planning resulted in a family of 12 children: six boys and six girls. How is that for equal numbers and equal rights for the boys and girls in the family?

Casimir was the second oldest son. As the family was growing up, Queen Elizabeth began making plans to make every son a king and every daughter a queen, as far as this was possible. Her plans succeeded very well. Except for one daughter who died in infancy, all her children attained kingly or princely crowns. Let see how she tried to place her son Casimir on a kingly throne.

When Elizabeth's brother, the King of Hungary, died, she was next in line. However, since she was already Queen of Poland and Lithuania, she could not become Queen of Hungary. So she proposed that her son Casimir be given the crown. There was opposition to this in Hungary, So Elizabeth persuaded her husband Casimir to send an army to Hungary and place young Casimir on the throne by force. The King agreed, formed an army and sent Casimir Junior along to assume the crown. Casimir was about 13 years old at the time. Off he rode with the generals and nobles and soldiers to become King of Hungary.

The records show that the expedition failed. It seems that King Casimir did not send along enough money to pay the soldiers. It became a case of "No pay, no fight." The soldiers deserted and the Hungarians with their greater numbers turned back the Lithuanian candidate.

The teen-aged Casimir must have been disappointed at this defeat, even though it was not his fault. But he did not let this failure undermine his courage or character. Some biographers point out that this failure was a stepping stone to greater things. Young Casimir became more mature in his outlook. He lost interest in power politics, in kingly crowns. He set himself on the way to gain a heavenly one.

At this point we can draw our first significant conclusion: Saint Casimir learned by bitter experience, by the disappointment of defeat, not to be discouraged, but to go on to greater and nobler things.

Returning again to the dusty pages of the chronicles, we come upon a few more bits and pieces of information. Saint Casimir used to give frequent alms to the poor from his princely allowance. He would send food out to the hungry from his own table. He would visit and console the sick. From the doc-

uments burned by the Spanish soldiers we could amass volumes of the good that he did for his neighbor. And these deeds would be labeled HEROIC CHARITY, without which no one can ever be canonized and declared a saint.

We would find instances of Casimir's love for solitude and reading, especially the Sacred Scriptures.

Now, why would a Prince be doing things like this in a palace full of fun and games, of banquets and parties and balls?

Why, simply, to learn more about God. Young as he was, Casimir clearly understood that to love someone you have to know him (or her). This reading and thinking about God and Christ and the Blessed Mother, led him to fall in love ... with God.

As we flip the pages of the chronicles, we notice, time and time again, instances in which the Prince deliberately kept his distance from the temptations that abound-

Šv. Kazimieras, V. Stančikaitės paveikslas



ed in the palace, especially the temptations connected with "wine, women and song". The Prince would abruptly walk away from a group that was about to launch into risqué stories or jokes. He would turn his back on the face of a pretty girl, who might be tugging at his sleeve, or playfully trying to grasp the lapels of his elegant jacket. And then there were the conversations with his mother, in which she would be reprimanding him for being too aloof with Princess X or Princess Y, either of whom would make him an excellent and loving wife. We can almost hear young Casimir saying (very politely, of course,) "please, Mom, bug off, will you? I'm not interested in girls. I don't want to get married." This incident, to be sure, is not history. But there is a record of his own words to his doctor, who urged him to ease on his harsh penances, take it easy, find a wife and get married. Casimir's well known words were: "I'd rather die, than soil my soul..."

Perhaps, now we can formulate our second significant conclusion. Saint Casimir knew how to love, in the most perfect meaning of the word. Through chastity he showed a perfect love for himself, for his body and soul. He would not, before marriage, yield to any sexual temptation. He would not get married, because his love was totally given to God and marriage would somehow weaken that commitment. Not that marriage was bad, but that his commitment and marriage could not dwell together in his soul.

Other documents record Casimir's love for prayer and practice of penance. Palace servants would come upon him deep in prayer, oblivious of their comings and goings. Night watchmen of the city would see him going to the Cathedral at dawn, waiting for the church doors to be opened for early

morning Mass. There are declarations revealing Casimir's private austerities, sleeping on the floor instead of the soft bed, his fastings and so on.

And why would a Prince be so devoted to prayer and penance? The answer is: so that he could become a perfect person. Prayer would make him more dependent upon God. Through prayer he could obtain from God all the good gifts that lead to living a full life, including the spiritual aspect, which is sometimes overlooked as being a necessary part of the total human personality. For Casimir, prayer and penance made up his Christian vitality.

So, our final conclusion must be:

Saint Casimir knew how to live.

Our quick glance at highlights in the life of Saint Casimir leads us to believe that in our Christian way of life a pauper (like you and I) can become a Prince, if we know where to look for the crown that never loses its luster; if we know how to live with due attention to prayer and penance, if we know how to love ourselves through chastity and God through charity.

Saint Casimir Jogailaitis, our K of L Patron, our Lithuanian pride and joy is telling us something this year, the 497th anniversary of his death.

Can you guess what it is?

— Fr. A.A. Jurgelaitis, O.P.



**The VYTIS Staff extends sincere sympathy to Associate Editor ALDONA RYAN
on the death of her son - in law
and to National Treasurer TERESA TRAINIS on the death of her mother
May they rest in peace.**

**SOME IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS EVENTS
IN LITHUANIA
1970-1980
SISTER ONA MIKAILAITE (Putnam, CT)**

***A key to the following events:** In obedience to Communist Party command, in 1970 the KGB organized a huge new division. Its purpose: to annihilate intellectual dissent, to stop the upsurge of religious faith, to suppress nationalism among ethnic minorities, to silence the Russian **Chronicle of Current Events** and similar underground publications.

1970-71 Several Lithuanian priests arrested, tried and sentenced for teaching children religion in church — Fr. Zdebskis, Seskevicius and others. A public outcry protests injustice. Fellow priests write letters of protest to Soviet gov't.

1972, March The **Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania** appears. First issues report on priests' unjust trials.

1972, Easter Memorandum by Lithuanian Catholics protesting religious discrimination and persecution reaches the United Nations. It is signed by over 17,000 people. KGB reacts immediately, searching for authors and organizers.

1972, May In Kaunas Romas Kalanta immolates himself for religious and political freedom. His funeral sparks large demonstration of students and workers. Hundreds are arrested. KGB cracks down on anti-Soviet activity in Kaunas.

1972 Atheist lecturer bewails the fact that during first half of 1972 only 58 people visited the Museum of Atheism in Vilnius. There are over 30,000 students in Vilnius!



The Roman Catholic cathedral of Vilnius, converted by the communists into a museum of art and into a concert hall. The relics of the most beloved Lithuanian saint - St. Casimir - had to be removed from the chapel of the cathedral.

1972 New edition of New Testament printed. 10,000 copies for the entire country. Larger parishes allowed 10-20 copies, smaller ones - 2-3. On the average every Lithuanian Catholic is allowed 1 page of the New Testament.



1973 Hill of Crosses near Siauliai is raided and crosses destroyed.

1973 KGB tries to stamp out the **Chronicle**: registration of typewriters is required, wave of searches and interrogation follows. **Chronicle** reports interrogation, search and harassment of 29 persons. Several are arrested.

1974, March Five persons tried and sentenced for anti-Soviet activity and distribution of banned religious literature. Interrogations continue and so does the **Chronicle**!

1974, Aug. Nijole Sadunaite is arrested and imprisoned.

1974 **Chronicle** reports that this year 17,800 Lithuanians received sacrament of Confirmation, most of them young people.



Nijolė Sadūnaitė

1975, Dec. Sergei Kovaliov flown to Vilnius and tried for anti-Soviet activity. He was a member of Russian human rights group. 174 dissidents (including Andrei Sakharov) from 15 cities petition for his release. He is sentenced to 7 years in strict regime labor camp and 3 years exile.

1976 Soviet gov't comes out with new Regulations for Religious groups — severe restrictions on religious activity, especially curtailing priests' activities.

KGB makes especially strong efforts to recruit seminarians to work for them, although this is continual. Goal: to spy on and blackmail or demoralized active and respected priests.

1976, Nov. Irish Catholics announce gift to Lithuanian Catholics — a statue of the Madonna to be brought to Vilnius. Soviet gov't will not allow statue into the country.

1977, March Four prisoners in Siberian labor camps (Plumpa and Kovaliov among them) send telegram to President Jimmy Carter thanking him for stand on human rights.

1977, April Group formed in Vilnius to monitor Soviet transgressions of Helsinki Agreement. It produces a report for Belgrade Committee on the religious situation in Lithuania.

1974, Nov. Hill of Crosses has been filled with crosses once more, is devastated again. Within a couple of days — nine new crosses appear.

1974, Dec. Five Lithuanians are tried and sentenced for distribution of banned religious literature, especially the **Chronicle**. P. Plumpa gets stiffest sentence — years in labor camp.

1974, Dec. Russian human rights activist Sergei Kovaliov is arrested. He was an editor of the **Chronicle of Current Events** in Russia.

1975 Brezhnev signs Helsinki Agreement, guaranteeing human rights.

1975, June Nijole Sadunaite tried and sentenced for reproducing and distributing the Lithuanian **Chronicle**.

1975 Mindaugas Tamonis (35), chemical engineer and expert on restoration of monuments twice forced into psychiatric hospital. Finally found killed on train tracks. He publicly proclaimed anti-Soviet views and refused to restore Soviet monuments in Lithuania.





St. George Church, Šiauliai, Lithuania interior after "mysterious" fire which burned while fireman stood by and watched.

- 1977, July Three more Lithuanians tried and sentenced for involvement with the **Chronicle**.
- 1977 In July and Sept. petitions signed by 270 priests sent to Brezhnev asking that new Soviet Constitution clearly state freedom of conscience and of religion.
- 1977, Aug. Youth pilgrimage to Our Lady of Siluva reaches huge numbers — about 1,000. This has become annual traditions since 1975. Young people travel on foot saying the rosary in atonement for sin. KGB efforts to stop march are useless.
- 1978 Newly appointed representative of Council for Affairs of Religious Sects, Anilionis, announces that he will get rid of the Lithuanian **Chronicle** by 1980.
- 1978 Chronicle reports unexplained deaths of two prominent and active Lithuanian Catholics. Stalinist measures are being used!
- 1978, July Viktoras Petkus, human rights activist and member of Helsinki group is arrested, tried and sentenced. Gets 10 years in labor camps and 5 years exile.
- 1978, Nov. A committee of 5 priests organized to defend rights of believers. Its existence announced in Moscow during a press conference for foreign journalists. Committee (TTG) writes a letter to Pope John Paul II explaining its goals and asking for his blessing.
- 1978, Dec. Series of protest documents written and signed by many Lithuanian priests against unjust Regulations for Religious Groups. Blatant disregard of freedom of religion.
- 1979, March Catholics of Klaipeda request Soviet Secretary General to have their church returned. Church built by the faithful in 1961, confiscated by the communists and made into a concert hall. Petition signed by 10,000.
- 1979, Mar. 19...7th anniversary of the **Chronicle**...
- 1979, April Death of Rev. Karolis Garuckas, SJ., very active and prominent member of Helsinki group.
- 1979, June Pope John Paul II visits Poland, but no Lithuanians are allowed to see him in person. Many people watch the visit on TV. Even the communists are impressed by the reception Pope gets in Poland.
- 1979, July 10th Anniversary of Catholic organization for young people, Friends of the Eucharist. Membership continually increasing. This group responsible for pilgrimages to Siluva.
- 1980 (Summer) In Lithuania many people under interrogation because of **Chronicle**. Chronicle reports 10 persons awaiting trial. In Russia severe repression of dissidents in preparation for Moscow Olympics.
- 1980, July N. Saduanite returns to Vilnius.
- 1980 Report reaches West that 15 Lithuanians in Afghanistan shot for refusing to participate in Soviet invasion. Crackdown against **Chronicle** intensified. Eight new underground publications have appeared since publication of Chronicle in 1972. Soviet repression of Russian dissidents makes getting **Chronicle** out of the Soviet Union very hard.

VIKTORAS PETKUS - A DEDICATED FIGHTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Fr. Joseph Prunskis

Among the prominent Lithuanians currently imprisoned in Soviet jails is a fighter for human rights, Viktoras Petkus. He was so resolute in his endeavour that he even became one of the five members of the Lithuanian Public Group To Promote Implementation of the Helsinki Agreements. Victor Petkus is a leading spokesman against Soviet repression in Lithuania and, therefore, became a prisoner of conscience.

Petkus was born in 1929 to a poor family of small farmers in the Raseiniai area. For activity in a catholic youth organization, Ateitininkai, he was arrested in 1947 and sentenced to a 10-year term in prison. For an attempt to escape from the concentration camp ten more years of punishment were added, however as a minor, after the death of Stalin in 1953, he was released.

He completed high school and then attended the University of Vilnius where he studied literature and the Lithuanian language. He was arrested again in 1957, this time being accused of possessing anti-Soviet literature. As such even a collection of poems by Jurgis Baltrusaitis was named, published 5 years before the revolution - in 1912. He was condemned to a 6 year sentence.

After completion of his term he was released in 1963. As a former political prisoner he had difficulties obtaining work. He was accepted to work as a church sextant; later he managed to get a position as a hospital attendant.

Petkus became an expert in Lithuanian literature and collected massive bibliography on Lithuanian poets. He attracted a wide circle of young Lithuanians who were interested in religion and Lithuanian literature. They were constantly



shadowed by the KGB and questioned about Petkus.

Many Lithuanians were using his library. He accumulated the largest files of Lithuanian poetry. He wrote some studies about Lithuanian literature but unfortunately, did not have the opportunity for publication. He organized an underground magazine, "The Archives of the Lithuanian Culture," preparing all the material for the issue, but KGB confiscated it.

In 1976 V. Petkus became a member of the "Committee to Promote the Implementation of the Helsinki Agreement," especially concerning human rights. On December 1, 1976 in Moscow during a press conference he announced to foreign correspondents the formation of such a group and stated that Lithuania was, on June 15, 1940, occupied by force by the Soviet Union.

This led to his arrest on August 23, 1977. He was falsely accused of immorality. The court did not permit him to have his own witnesses. During his trial a group of patriotic young people, as a sign of sympathy, were holding flowers in their hands and praying the rosary. Jadvyga Petkeviciene, who was a witness, gave him a rose, which was immediately confiscated by the police. But Petkeviciene dared to

pronounce: "Glory to you, son. You are offering your freedom for our rights."

Petkus was sentenced to a 10 year term in prison and 5 years of exile. He was placed in the Vladimir jail, where the jail warden, Ugodin, beat him with his fists in the face, and where he was thrown to the ground, kicked and beaten with rubber sticks.

When the Vladimir jail was closed, Petkus was transferred to the Cistopol jail, a three story building with 43 rooms for about 300 people. Life for Petkus in jail is especially difficult because of numerous restrictions.

His great sacrifice for human rights became internationally known. A member of the Moscow Helsinki group, Liudmila Aleksiejeva, stated that his life was dedicated to the service of his native land and to the Church.

Latvian dissident, Victors Kalnins, who managed to emigrate to the West, published a statement that Petkus was condemned unjustly. He did not break any law. The Helsinki group in Lithuania is not unlawful even according to Soviet law, said Kalnins.

Amnesty International became interested in the fate of V. Petkus. Congressman E. Derwinski and other members of Congress, as well as members of the USA delegation in Madrid, made statements concerning the unjust punishment of Petkus, and congressman Cardiss Collins from Chicago even proposed a resolution that Petkus, as well as other members of Helsinki group, would be nominated for the Nobel Prize.

The latest address of V. Petkus is:
618263 Perm Obl.
Chusovskoj Rn.
Pos. Kucheno
Ucr. SS-389/36-2
USSR

ATMINTINI PASIŽYMĖJĘ ASMENYS

Iš Lietuvos į JAV atvykę jauni, energingi žmonės įsijungė į A.L.R.K. Susivienijimą, Federaciją ir Lietuvos Vyčių organizaciją. Jie per spaudą, literatūrą ir paskaitomis ragino lietuvius jungtis į bendrą veiklą. Parapijose steigė mokyklas, knygynus, dramos-teatro ratelius ir chorus.

Tėvų didžiausias rūpestis buvo, kad jų vaikai būtų mokomi tikėjimo ir lietuvių kalbos. Pirmieji mokytojai buvo kunigai, vargonininkai ir studentai, vėliau Šv. Kazimiero Seselės.

Lietuvių visuomenei daug dirbo *Leonardas Šimutis*, „Garso“ redaktorius, o vėliau ilgametis *Draugo* redaktorius. *L. Šimutis* buvo geras kalbėtojas, organizatorius ir poetas—(Silelis).



Mykolas Norkūnas, Lietuvos Vyčių organizacijos įkūrėjas.



Nikodemus Kulys

Kazimieras Jonaitis, Vyties redaktorius, poetas. Daug eilėraščių parašęs ir išspausdinęs. Jo eilės buvo mėgiamos parengimuose. *K. Jonaitis* buvo vaistininkas.

Amerikos Lietuvių Vargonininkų Sąjunga ir *Lietuvos Vyčių Organizacija* jungėsi į darbą su jaunimu.

Komp. Alexandras Aleksis Vyčių organizacijai parašė *Vyčių Himną*—maršo tempu. Skambūs ir gražūs žodžiai, atitinka vyčių obakį—Dievui ir Tėvynei. Už tokią brangią dovaną, vyčiai paaukštino kompozitorių į **GARBĖS NARIUS**. Prof. *A. Aleksis* pirmutinis sudarė Chicagos apskrities Vyčių chorą ir jam sėkmingai vadovavo. Jis patarė visiems vargonininkams steigti vyčių chorus.

Matas Zujus, Vyties redaktorius, vėliau Susivienijimo laikraščio „Garso“ redaktorius ligi pat mirties. Jis buvo ir kitų laikraščių bendradarbis.

Pranas Gudas daug metų buvo „Darbininko“ laikraščio redaktorius. Jis buvo labai drąsus kalbėtojas. Sakydavo: čia kalba nebrudas, bet Gudas!

Ignas Sakalas jau Clevelande buvo pasižymėjęs lietuviška veikla. Atvykęs į Chicagą ilgai redagavo *Draugą*. Jis labai mėgo darbuotis su jaunimu—vyčiais. Sakydavo: garsinkite vyčių vardą, kaip vištelė garsinasi padėjusi kiaušinį.



Komp. Antans Pocius, antrasis Vyčių choro vedėjas-mokytojas. Jam į pagelbą atėjo solistai-tės: *Marijona Janušauskienė*, *Ona Pocienė*, operos artistė, *Leokadija Sabonienė*, smuikininkė, *Justas Kudirka*, operos artistas, *Kostas Sabonis*, baritonas, *Anicetas Šlapeilis*, bosas, *Vladas Daukša*, tenoras. Komp. A. Pocius su tokia galinga solistų ir choro balsų jėga išpildė Sasnausko kantatą „Broliai“, lengvą operą „Karnavilio Varpai“. Pocienė-Žermina dainavo— „Žiūrėkit čia ir aplink ir samdykit jei patink“. Dvi operetės „Klaipėdos Julė“ ir „Sylvija“ buvo pakartotos važinėjant po kitas kolonijas.

Varg. J. J. Saučiūnas, Kingston, Pa. suorganizavo Dainos draugijos chorą iš apylinkės parapijų jaunimo. Choras pasižymėjo festivaliuose ir minint Vasario 16-tąją.



Vyčių organizacijoje pelnę pagarbą šie veikėjai: *Juozas Bulevičius*, *Juozas Sadauskas*, *Pranas Gudelis*, *Albert Kasselis*, *Adelė Gabalienė*. Visi paminėti asmenys buvo Dievo apdovanoti sveikata ir drąsa darbuotis Tėvynės Lietuvos naudai.



GĖLĖS LIAUDIES MEDICINOJE



Antrojo pasaulinio karo metu, kai pradėjo stigti vaistų, vokiečiai rimtoms žaizdoms gydyti naudojo medetką (lotyniškai *Calendula*, anglai vadina *Marigold*).

Arabai mėgsta medetkos duoti arkliais, gal dėl to tie jų gyvuliai tokie budrūs ir miklūs.

Žmonės geria medetkos arbatą (uncija žiedų į litrą vandens). Jei

turi rūpesčių dėl odos ligų, gerk tris ar keturis kartus per dieną po stikliuką tokios arbatos. Tymais sergantiems vaikams duotina po stiklinę kasdien.

Toksai skystis gali būti dedamas prie išsiplėtusių venų.

Ant medetkos lapų užpiltas skystis labai padeda, jei juo nusiplauni pavargusias kojas.

COOK'S CORNER

by Mary Lucas



LENTEN RECIPES

GRATED POTATO DUMPLINGS BULVINIAI CEPELINAI (KUKULIAI)

- 8 medium potatoes
- 1 t. salt
- ¼ t. pepper
- 1 stick butter
- 4 boiled potatoes
- 2 eggs
- 1 medium onion (chopped)
- sour cream (optional)

Peel and grate the 8 potatoes. Strain through a cloth, squeezing out excess liquid. Add the mashed, boiled potatoes, salt, pepper and the beaten eggs. Combine thoroughly. Pat this mixture into oblongs about 2" by 3". Drop into boiling water. Boil about 20 to 25 minutes. Fry onion in butter until golden. Remove dumplings with slotted spoon onto heated platter. Pour over the onion-butter mixture. Serve with salted sour cream if desired. Serves 6.

This makes a hearty Lenten dish.

TUNA CHOP SUEY

In a Dutch oven, melt 1 stick butter. Add 1½ cups celery (cut on the diagonal and 1 cup onion (cut in slivers). Fry on medium heat until almost tender.

Add:

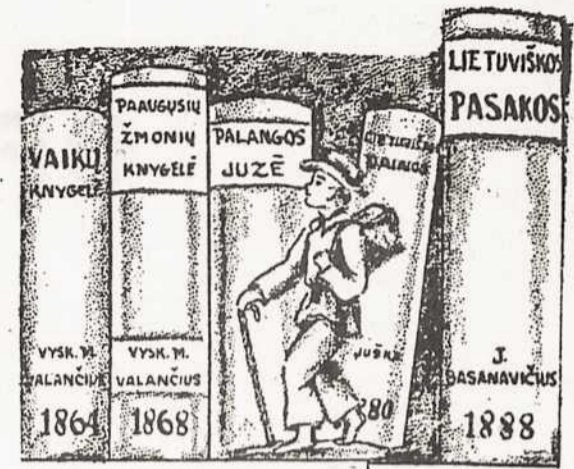
- 1 can bean sprouts and liquid
- 1 can sliced mushrooms and liquid
- 1 T. chopped pimiento
- 1 can Solid Pack Tuna (drained)

Mix all ingredients well and boil for about 15 minutes. In a cup, mix 3 T. cornstarch with ¾ cup water. Pour over all and cook until thickened. Lastly, add soy sauce, pepper and salt to taste. Serve with rice. Pass Chinese crisp noodles for topping.

This Lenten dish could pass for chicken chop suey.



BOOK EXHIBITS AND FALSIFIED HISTORY



If you, as a tourist visited Lithuania recently, you might have been invited to the Book Fair at the Art Exhibition Hall in Vilnius.

You would have seen a truly beautiful exhibit of books and book illustrations published in Lithuania.

The signs outside and overhead proclaim: "62nd Anniversary of the establishment of Soviet Lithuania".

If you are intelligent, as I think you are, you would shake your head in amazement. You would remember that the Russians invaded Lithuania in 1940. 1940 to 1980 is 40 years. How come they claim 60 years?

You would say to yourself this just does not make sense. And it doesn't.

Here's the explanation.

Sixty years ago, that was in 1918, a few hundred Lithuanians, inspired by the Russian Revolution, formed a Lithuanian Communist party with the express purpose of overthrowing the Lithuanian government which had declared its independence on February 16th of that year. The Communist government in Moscow supported the Lithuanian Communists. On December 22, 1918, the Soviet government issued a decree signed by Lenin which... and I quote... "recognized the independence of the Soviet Republic of Lithuania... headed by comrade Mickevičius-Kapsukas".

Lenin was misinformed. There was no Soviet Republic of Lithuania in 1918.

And even if it did exist... even for an hour... the Peace Treaty

between Lithuania and the Soviet Union, signed in Moscow on July 12, 1920, abolished it.

These are the words of that Treaty: (The Soviet Government) "recognizes without reservation the sovereign rights and independence of the Lithuanian State and FOR ALL TIME ABANDONS all the sovereign rights of Russia over the Lithuanian people and their territories".

From 1918 to 1940 Lithuania was free and independent and not a Soviet Republic! These 24 years must be subtracted from the 62 years which the Soviets claim.

It is our hope and prayer that Lithuania will never see the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Soviet regime.

— A.A.J.



To The Clouds Above Our Fatherland's Fields

—From *In Siberia a Dying Partizan's Sighs*.

translated by Antonia M. Wackell

As I lie in the vastness of undulating meadows
I look at you, a cloud unrestricted,
At your bottomless blue,
At your inconceivable depths.

Toward these rugged fields you approach,
Perhaps, wet with moisture from Neman's bordering meadows,
You bring to me the kisses of our native fields
With rain you strengthen the dream of freedom...

OFICIALUS SKYRIUS

OFFICIAL NEWS

ST. CASIMIR AND OUR LADY OF SILUVA

The Knights of Lithuania recently republished two very interesting and important booklets, featuring some important facts of interest to the Faithful of Lithuanian descent...and as so, to all Knights of Lithuania. The booklets, entitled *The Life of St. Casimir*, and *Our Lady of Siluva* are based on those prepared and published earlier, by Rev. Albert Contons and Rev. John C. Jutt (RIP), resp., and were updated and revised by Rev. A. Jurgelaitis and Rev. C. Pugevicius. H.M. Anthony Young graciously donated a generous sum for the *Our Lady of Siluva* booklet publication, to make it more readily available to all members.

Both booklets are available for a token sum of \$.50 each. A quantity discount of 10% is given for orders of 50-100, and 20% for orders of over 100. The booklets are pocket size, and make easy and interesting reading. Why not order some for yourself, your council, your friends,

today. To obtain your order, please write to:
Mrs. Barbara Kartanowicz
106-49 97th St.
Ozone Park, N.Y. 11417

IN MEMORIAM

Please remember in your prayers

LOUIS PRASMANTAS

Member, C-96
Dayton, OH
died Dec., 1980

JOSEPH S. MATACHINSKAS

Member, C-17 Srs.
So. Boston, MA
died Dec. 19, 1980

MYKOLAS CIBAS

Member, C-12
Manhattan, NY
died Nov. 5, 1980

STANLEY URBONAS

Member, C-29
Newark, NJ
died Jan. 24, 1981

JUNIORS CORNER

C-100—JR

Amsterdam, N.Y.

At our October meeting, which was also our Halloween party, we had the election of officers and various other positions. These are our results for the 1980-81 term:

President: Michael Mikolaitis
(unanimously)

V. President: Stanley Rimkunas

Secretary: Beatrice Jasewicz
(unanimously)

Treasurer: Gerry Drienzak

Sgt.-at-Arms: Billy Saikal
Lithuanian Affairs Committee:

Joanny & Beatrice Jasewicz,
Michael Mikolaitis, and Rina Hartvigas.

Congratulations to all!

We would also like to congratulate Lisa Saikal for being the recipient of a first place \$750 Kof L Scholarship.

We're proud of you Lisa!

This year's membership drive was a rather successful one here in Amsterdam. All in all, we have acquired four new members: Joanny,

Beatrice, Kenny & Ricky Jasewicz. We're glad to have you aboard!

We also had a very successful ceramic snowman raffle. Gerry Drienzak made the snowman and we added \$133 to our treasury.

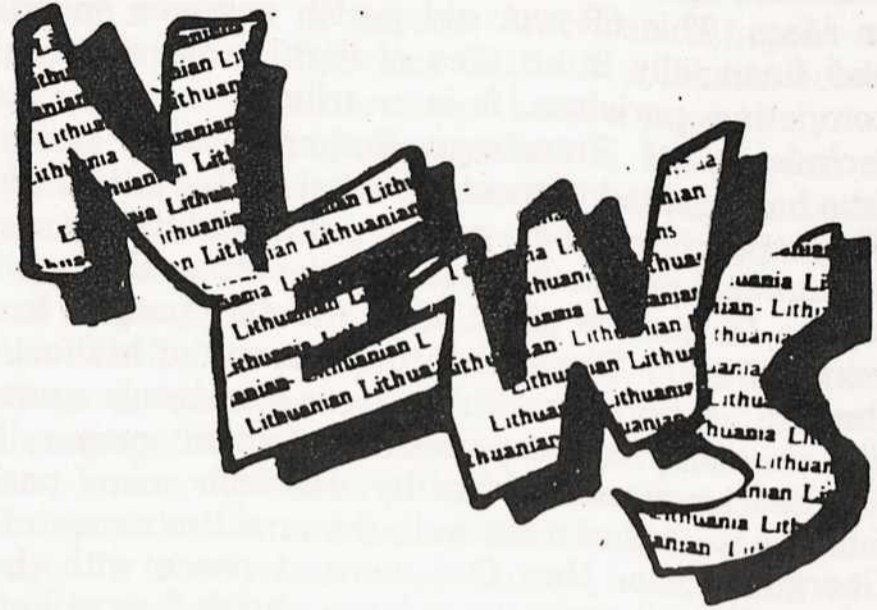
Michael Mikolaitis had the idea for a Lithuanian Day display on February 16th which, entitled: "Lithuania — Past and Present". It attracted a good many people and we're sure it was worth their time.

And on a slightly different note, we the C-100 Juniors would like to wish everyone a very happy and prosperous new year!

Rina

Lithuanians in The

Edited by RUTH KAZLAUSKAS



Our Lady of Vilnius Church interior

On Sunday, October 19, 1980, Our Lady of Vilnius Church, New York, New York, commemorated its 75th Anniversary. Principal celebrant of the Concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving was the Most Rev. Joseph M. Pernicone, Retired Auxiliary Bishop of New York, with former Priests of Our Lady of Vilnius as Concelebrants. Liturgical Music for the Mass was sung by the Parish Choir under the direction of Director and Organist Michael Cibus.

Dinner Chairman for the Diamond Jubilee Dinner was Helen Shields, H.M., C-3, and Master of Ceremonies was Dr. Jack Stukas, H.M., C-29

Our Lady of Vilnius Church was founded in 1905 under the direction of Founder-pastor, Rev. Joseph Shestokas to meet the spiritual needs of the newly arrived Lithuanian immigrants in New York. As far back as 1885, Lithuanians in the New York City and Brooklyn areas were seeking priests to minister to their needs. Although the mission work among the Lithuanians was organized in 1905, the church edifice became a reality in 1911. After the death of Father Shestokas in 1937, a non-Lithuanian priest, the late Peter J. Lambe, administered the parish. The absence of a Lithuanian priest gave rise to the gravest kind of concern for the spiritual life of the Lithuanians in this metropolitan area, and the parish neared extinction. Through the united efforts of many dedicated parishioners and devoted friends, Rev. George A. Gurinskas was assigned to Our Lady of Vilnius in 1942. Father Gurinskas, 80, is retired and lives in Mastic Beach, N.Y. On September 1, 1980, Rev. John A. Bida was appointed as the Administrator pro tempore of Our Lady of Vilna Church. Long Live Our Lady of Vilnius Parish!

In a downtown Utica, New York, neighborhood flourishes tiny St. George Church, a small parish of roughly 100 families of Lithuanian descent and of another 100 families unregistered but who regularly come to Mass. This 69-year old parish survives spiritually and financially in an area of high crime and against competing parishes. It is a tribute to the pastoral techniques of Franciscan Father Simeon Rukstalis who has adapted to meet the needs of his unique flock. The rapport between pastor and faithful is a major reason the parish has remained strong through the years. He has a great love for the people in his parish. Father Simeon expresses many of his feelings through his homilies, which stress Franciscan concepts like simplicity, quiet personal reflection, prayer, biblical teaching and spirituality. He feels many parishioners have found a home in the small environs of St. George because they feel more at peace with themselves. "We'll never be a large parish," says Father Simeon, "but our people have a vitality and strength which gives us life." And a religious priest who gives himself -- totally.



Nursing aide Mary Riordan with Julia Urban and her book.

MICHELLE TESSIER, former Easthampton, Mass. "Junior Miss", works as press secretary to U.S. Rep. Silvio Conte in his Washington, D.C. office. Occasionally Miss Tessier writes speeches which Conte delivers. The occasion might be a couples' 50th wedding anniversary, the Easthampton High School graduation, a celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day. "I'm half Lithuanian," she says, "so I'm the office's expert on Eastern European speeches."



Father Simeon Rukstalis.

The Long Island, New York, "Newsday", featured an article last October about JULIA URBAN who has written an autobiography. "The Smile and The Cry; Memoirs of a Lithuanian Woman." Even though Mrs. Urban has lost both of her legs, her disposition is good. She is a happy person, loves people, and has discovered the joys of writing. Working from her bed at the Park Nursing Home in Rockaway Park, the 75-year old widow, whose legs were amputated because of diabetes-related gangrene, spends much of her time writing on a legal pad longhand, remembering stories from her childhood and committing them to paper. First she wrote her memoirs and had them published. Now she is busy preserving elements of Lithuanian folklore that she fears may be lost to posterity. So far, she has collected about a dozen children's stories which were told to her by her aunt when Mrs. Urban was a small child in the Lithuanian Village of Adomarina.





Millionaire JOHN ADOMAYTIS, who struck it rich in the Illinois State Lottery in 1976, continues to deliver meals on wheels in the Home Delivered Meals Program at Holy Cross Hospital in Chicago. The retired printer has been volunteering once a week for four years. Here he is shown with fellow hospital workers, Mrs. Lucille Meyer, home care coordinator; and Sister Felicita, S.S.C., home care volunteer. Life for Mr. Adomaytis has changed very little since winning the state lottery. There have been no wild spending sprees, no extended vacations to far-off land, not even a new car. He spends his time in usual ways, working around the house, reading books and enjoying one of his favorite hobbies, hooking rugs. He has put nearly all of the winnings received so far into the bank for some future use, carefully contemplating a trip next year to visit relatives and friends in his home state of South Dakota, as well as others in Iowa, New York and Pennsylvania. For those people who have always wanted to make or win a million, Mr. Adomaytis has some advice. "Try and try again, but don't get too addicted." He continues to buy a few lottery tickets each week, and he has even won a few dollars here and there since he struck it rich four years ago.



Making Christmas ornaments (left to right) Sally Miller, Ada Sinkwitz, Mary Lucas, Diana Kavalauskas.

JANINA BUCMYS, a K of L Associate member married to a Lithuanian, Ildelfons Bucmys, member of C-96, Dayton, was mentioned in an article written by Aldona Ryan for the Dayton Daily News recently. Janina was part of a group of Latvian-American refugees who gathered at the Edelweiss Club for a double celebration. They get together three times a year. In June for outdoor event that is very traditional, the Latvian rites of St. John's Eve; in November they celebrate Latvia's greatest holiday Independence Day; and in December they have an American Christmas with Latvian songs and poems by their children. To help them celebrate their 62nd anniversary of independence they invited a group of eight women from Detroit called "Dziesma," who sang of their childhood, youth and home across the sea. Janina remembered her days in Europe after she fled from Latvia and before she came to Dayton. She said, "I traveled all over Europe with some of the women singing for us tonight. It is a very beautiful evening for me. It is about my homeland and it seems like I am at home again."



REV. ANTHONY ZAKARAUSKAS, Spiritual Advisor, Illinois-Indiana District, is pictured with 15th Ward Alderman Frank Brady and Chicago's mayor Jane Byrne after giving the invocation at one of the City of Chicago's Council meetings.

An article about the art of making straw Christmas ornaments was featured in the Dayton Daily News last December, By-Line ALDONA RYAN, Daily News Special Writer, (Associate Editor, "Vytis"). In preparing for Christmas, a group of Lithuanian-Americans, under the sponsorship of the knights of Lithuania, met at Holy Cross Church, Dayton, once a week for three months to learn the art of making decorations out of straws. Many in the group have learned the art so they can teach their children how to carry the Lithuanian traditions. The article illustrated the various ways the ornaments are made and emphasized the pride these Lithuanian-Americans have in their heritage. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that the Dayton Daily News has a circulation of 220,000 and is the largest paper in southern Ohio.

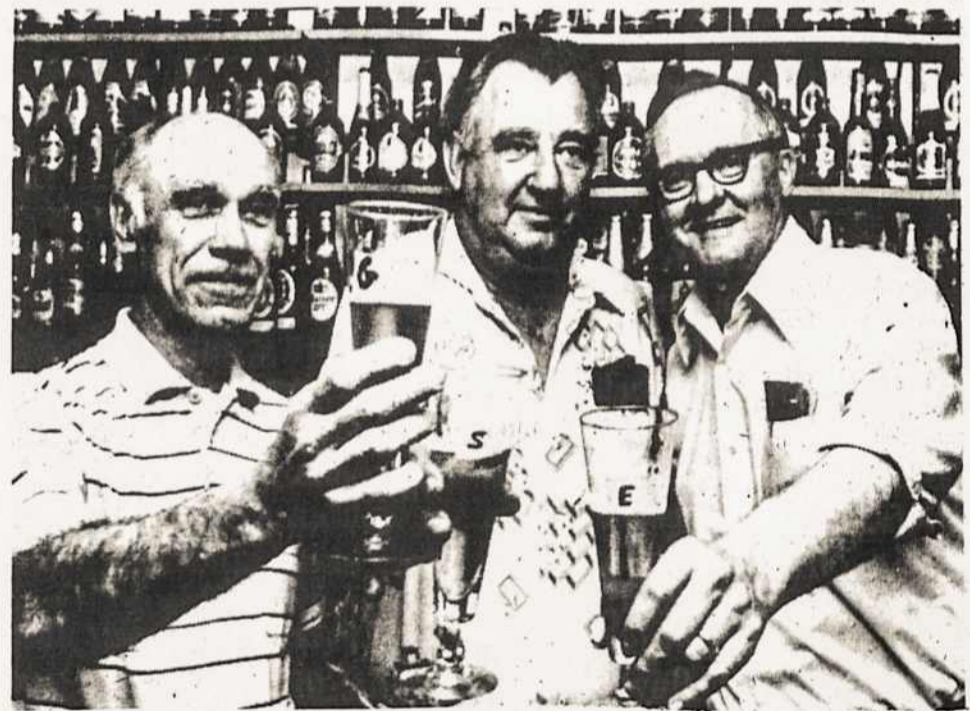
Ex-Bear DICK BUTKUS, the meanest, toughest, best middle line-backer ever to play football, the all-everything defensive star of the Chicago Bears who also was known as Super Grouch for his habit of terrorizing writers as well as quarterbacks, is a mellow man these days. Maybe it's because of the peaceful life he lives on his 29-acre farm in central Florida. Maybe it's because he's growing older and the fierceness of competition is a memory. He has become the Mr. Nice Guy in his public life that many people say he always was in his private life. He does such things as speaking to youths at reformatories and participating in spiritual retreats at prisons in Florida. His main interest is Nautilus Sports Medical Industries, for which he will make instructional films and tapes on fitness aimed at the cable television market. He was in Chicago recently as part of a Thorn Apple Valley promotion.



A scholarly study of the golden beverage - beer - is conducted every Tuesday night by three Maryland men, 53-year old childhood friends, trying to circle the globe by sipping from all of the world's beers. So far, they have tasted 1,244 beers from 62 countries. Their aim is to taste 2,000 beers from 100 nations. The three men are Eddie Budelis, Gordon Matulonis, and Casimir Razulis, who have nicknamed themselves Gulp, Sip and Evalute, respectively. They log their evaluations of sip in notebooks and index all the beers by taste. The walls of the den in Matulonis' Eldersburg home are lined from floor to ceiling with empty reminders of their thirsty work. The three, all first generation Lithuanians, don't agree on everything, but say with some degree of harmony that German beer is tops.



LEONDAS J. GALINSKAS, member of C-79, Southfield, Michigan, was recently presented with the Order of St. Sebastian Medal, the highest award that the Catholic War Veterans of the U.S.A. can bestow upon one of its members. The award, based on service to God, Country and Home, was given to Leondas at the National Convention of the Catholic War Veterans, Dunes Hotel, in Las Vegas, Nevada. He is a three-time past department commander and a life member of the organization.



Eddie Budelis, Gordon Matulonis and Casimir Razulis get ready for another night of beer tasting.



K OF L CALENDAR

M A R C H

- 1 C-50, New Haven COMMUNION BREAKFAST, St. Casimir's Church and Hall, 10:30 Mass.
- 1 C-143, Pittston; COMMUNION BREAKFAST, St. Casimir Church Hall, Pittston, PA
- 8 MAD ST. CASIMIR'S DAY COMMUNION BREAKFAST and DISTRICT CONVENTION. 11:00 A.M. Mass, Braekfast and Meeting immediately afterward, Our Lady of Vilnius Church and Hall, Manhaftan, N.Y.

A P R I L

- 25 C-143, Pittston, Easter Dinner Dance. St. Casimir Church Hall, Pittston; PA
- 26 NEF SPRING CONVENTION, Westfield, MA, C-30, Hosts

M A Y

- 16-1. "MEMORIES OF LITHUANIA" LITHUANIAN HOUR 40th ANNIVERSARY and 2000-th BROADCAST CELEBRATION. Sat. - Concert, featuring VAIVA Ensemble of Chicago, Lithuanian Cultural Center, Brooklyn, N.Y. Sun. - Banquet, after 12:00 Mass, Holy Trinity Church and Hall.
Dr. Jack J. Stukas, H.M., Director, cordially invites all K of L-ers to attend.

- 17 MCD CONVENTION and MIDWEST BOWLING TOURNAMENT, DuBois, PA
C-86, Hosts

A U G U S T

- 15 67th ANNUAL LITHUANIAN DAY CELEBRATION, Barnesville, PA
Hosts - Antracite Council 144
- 19-23 68th NATIONAL KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA CONVENTION, University of Scranton, Scranton, PA. Hosted by Councils 46, Forest City, 74, Scranton and) 143, Pittston

O C T O B E R

- 14-15 MCD FALL CONVENTION and PILGRIMAGE, Cleveland, OH
C-25, Hosts

Vyčiai Veikia



Council Activities

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



**MID-ATLANTIC
DISTRICT**

C-12 — NEW YORK, N.Y.

November and December proved to be merry months for our council. Our Crazy Hat Dance, or Kvaišų Kepurių Šokiai, proved to be most enjoyable. The Christmas party was a barrel of laughs, also. But somehow, speaking about fun happenings at this time seem a little strange to us. We planned to write about so many happy times, but somehow, our thoughts were elsewhere. We could have written about the funny little trispalves kepuraites which our talented ladies had crocheted, — or about the most original “kasyčių hat” worn and created by Helen Matthews. (Move over, Bo Derek!) Or we could mention the most delicious food, a most vital part of any party. We almost didn't taste these delicacies; it was only through the ingenuity of our own Father John Bida and his band of merry helpers that the party

was saved. A big thanks, also, to the Zupka family for the beautiful flowers which graced every corner of the hall.

Merry was the word for our Christmas party. It also had all the necessary ingredients. There were the wall-to-wall kids and the jolly Santa, played so elegantly by our own Pres. Joe Sleder. On a more serious note, there was the Kučių stalas so beautifully prepared by Millie Pietz, who could not attend due to the illness of her mother.

But we can't dwell on words like jolly, merry or fun. The council's “fun” was clouded by a veil of mourning — the organist of Our Lady of Vilnius parish, our dear faithful member and friend, a most talented musician — Mykolas Cibas — passed away on Nov. 5. His great talent enhanced all our activities. Now the choir, the chorus and the organ are silent. He will be missed. It was his “lietuviškumas” which endeared him to all who knew him. Seldom did he utter a word in English. At each meeting he made himself understood in Lithuanian, whether vocally or instrumentally.

Mūsų visa kuopa lidi su Jumis, p. Čibiene. Per šį trumpą laiką, mes jau jo labai pasigendame. Galvojant apie mielą Mykolą, mum ateina šie Bernardo Braždžionio žodžiai, kuriuos norim Jums dedikuoti, p. Čibienė:

„Kartais valandos šviesios ir tyros,
Kaip šilkinio šaltinio malda.
Kartas gaudžios, kaip ašaros byra,
Lyg nebūtų šviesiau niekados.”

A.A. mielas Mykolai Čibai!

Dalia

C-29 — NEWARK, N.J.

After the 12 o'clock Mass on Dec. 14, our council successfully held their annual Christmas Party. Holy Trinity Hall was beautifully decorated by a few devoted, ambitious and creative members. Chairlady Rose Zukauskas welcomed everyone to the party, followed by a prayer by Msgr. John Sharnus. The party began with cocktails, punch and a variety of hors d'oeuvres. The buffet table looked beautiful and everything was sumptuous, especially all of the delicious homebaked “goodies” that many members brought in.

The committee sincerely thanks all the members that helped in any way and/or donated to the raffle, and all of the members and their guests for attending.

Rita Grazulis

C-100 — AMSTERDAM, N.Y.

A Lithuanian Mass for our council's deceased members was held Nov. 10, offered by our spiritual advisor, Rev. Robert K. Baltch. He was assisted by Jr. members Michael Mikolaitis, Gerard Drenzek and Stanley Rimkus. The readings were given by Polly Ziausys and Anthony J. Radzevich. Gene Gobis read the names of our deceased members. They are: Charles Maldutis, Josephine Nikstenas, William McCune (Auciunas), Attorney Anthony C. Stokna (past Nat'l Legal Advisor), Anna Yunker, Prof. Joseph Olsauskas, Frances Drzewicki, Eleanore Baranauskas, Pauline Urban, Mi-

chael Kerbelis, Louis Allen, Matthew Kazlauskas, Eugene Dylong, and 3rd Ward Supervisor Joseph Valikonis. A large group attended the solemn services, including Jr. Correspondent Rima Hartvigas.

The regular business meeting followed with opening prayers by Rev. A. Grigaitis. Secy. Eleanor Olechowski read the minutes, and Sophie Olbie gave the treasurer's report. Cultural Co-Chm. Regina Kot read a most interesting article on the Lithuanian Wedding, — from ancient times to the present. Pres. Anthony Radzevich had come across some material on Lithuanians in Scotland, which he shared with us. He stated that approximately 7 to 8 thousand settled near Glasgow around 1885. Prior to World War I, a large number were sent back to Lithuania to fight in the war. However, they have again enlarged; they now even have a Lithuanian club.

After the meeting, refreshments were served by Agnes Rokit, Jennie Kensell, Annacetta Guzielek, Frances DiBart and Helen Dylong. *Ačiū jums labai už tokį skanų pavaišini-
mą!*

Polly Ziausys and Peter Hayes attended the Festival of Nations held in Syracuse Nov. 8-9. The Syracuse council had the Lithuanian booth, where they specialized in selling potato pancakes.

Our annual Christmas banquet was held Dec. 14 at Bovee's Brick Oven. Master of Ceremonies was Jack Sweet. The invocation was given by Rev. Baltch. This was followed by the old Lithuanian custom of breaking of the wafer (plotkele). After dinner, Santa Claus presented everyone with a gift. Congratulations to our Fran DiBart for an excellent job in portraying Santa Claus. Father Baltch accompanied the members on the piano and led them in the singing of Lithuanian and English Christmas carols. John Whelley continued as the accompanist and a

large group of carolers surrounded him and sang and sang and sang . . .

Six new members were welcomed to our council: Anthony & Sadie Alexander, Paul & Aldona Abeling, and Stanley & Bernice Urban. Attending from out-of-town were Rev. Peter Jonaitis (Gloversville), Ed Baranauskas (Scheneectady), Betty Kuzmich (Scotia), Bernice Aviza (Albany), and Algimantas & Anele Dzekciorius (So. Bethlehem). Al and Anele were presented a gift for traveling the longest distance.

Banquet Chm. Agnes Rokit thanked her committee of Helen Hugo, Jennie Kensell, and Mary Sweet, for the beautiful Christmas favors which the girls made. Also serving on the committee were Jack Sweet, John Rokit, and Willard Kensell. Many thanks to the committee for an excellent job. *Širdingai ačiū!*

The Lithuanian Day Commemoration took place Feb. 14. Volunteering to serve on the committee were Rev. Baltch, Anthony Radzevich, Gene Gobis, Sophie Olbie, Polly Ziausys and Regina Kot.

Smile & Sparkle

C-110 — MASPETH, N.Y.

Santa Claus showed up at the council's December meeting. He led in the singing of traditional Christmas Hymns in *Lietuviškai ir Angelskai*, ably assisted by the strong voices of Father Raila, Iggy Walles, and the hundred others that were present. Santa was pleased with the friendliness of the membership and was awed by the abundance and variety of food and liquid refreshment. He extends a special thanks to his helper for that evening, Adele Dausickas, who assisted him in the distribution of gifts.

In addition to Santa, we were honored to have the president of the Mid-Atlantic District, Larry Janonis, and his wife, present.

A very special thank-you to Chm. Fran Migliore, and all his diligent workers, whose coordinated efforts were responsible for another successful *Kūčios* held Dec. 21. The parish hall was filled to capacity, and everyone in attendance had nothing but good comments about the abundance of food provided by the committee and the excellent program provided by Father Raila and Marion Skabeikis. The *Kūčios* committee chaired by Fran Miglore consisted of Muriel Lekstutis, Stella Strepeikis, John Kuchinskas, Anne Adomenas, Adele Keraga, Helen Yukaitis, Stasia Kraujalis, and Louise and Adele Dausickas. A special thanks to John Adomenas, who did a lot of leg work for the committee.

Did you know that the Nemunas River is 650 miles long? It flows from Klaipėda, a Lithuanian harbor on the Baltic Sea, to the city of Alytus in south-east Lithuania.

We are pleased to welcome Adele Percodan into our fold.

The council meets at 8 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at Transfiguration Hall in Maspeth. We also attend the 11 a.m. Mass at Transfiguration Church on the third Sunday of each month.

Peter Yuskevich

C-140 - SYRACUSE, N.Y.

At our November meeting we discussed, among other matters, the 1981 K of L Nat'l Convention to be held in Scranton, Pa. It looks like there will be a large turnout from Syracuse. At least half of our members are originally from Pennsylvania, and specifically, the Scranton area. The enthusiasm is beginning to build, so look out, Scranton, for an invasion from the North.

The following were elected to serve our council for the '81 term: Spiritual Advisor Rev. Bernard Garstka, Pres. Frank Petrauskas, 1st V.P. Catherine Brandt, 2nd V.P. Joseph Marcaitis, 3rd V.P. & Lith. Affairs Chm. Katherine Cravetts, Secy. Marge Migonis, Fin.

Secy. Victor Johnson, Trustees Cassie & John Stanley, Ritual Chm. John Johnson, Spiritual Program Chm. Mary Zutant, and Cultural Chm. Marija Vizgaitis.

Our council's Christmas party was a gala affair. We all attended Mass celebrated by Father Garstka, followed by a most delicious covered-dish dinner with plenty of good food and drink. Later all enjoyed a sing-along with carols and other songs, and gifts were exchanged. The gal who put all of this together was our very able Veronica Sutkus. Many thanks.

Among others attending our party were Holly & Dave Peterson and their young daughter Christine. Also enjoying themselves were Chris & Jim Czyz with their young daughter Jennifer. We were surprised to learn that Christine and Jennifer were born on the same day, just one hour apart!

We leave you with this thought: There are four varieties in society — the lovers, the ambitious, observers, and fools. The fools are the happiest.

Pusbrolis

C-146 — HARRISBURG, PA.

In June, Capitol Trailways of Pennsylvania gave free American flags to the first 20 clubs, service organizations, and businesses that requested them. Their president, Richard J. Maguire, explained, "We want to see flags everywhere on the fourth of July. Donating these 36 x 60 flags is our way of showing our appreciation for our way of live. It may sound kind of old fashioned, but when you see America the way we do....traveling by bus through small towns, countrysides, vacation spots, you develop a real strong feeling — almost a protectiveness and certainly a great pride." Our council requested one of the flags, and when it was presented, a photo was taken and published in the Harrisburg newspaper, The Patriot, on June 30.

Council members prayed for their persecuted brothers and sisters in Lithuania during Mass on Sept. 27



Members of C-146 Harrisburg, PA

at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Mechanicsburg, Pa. Rev. Daniel Menniti was the celebrant.

Frances Boyle



Frances Boyle accepting flag on behalf of C-136 from Capital Trailways Karl Leshner, honoring America's 204th birthday

C-147 — ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.

Since our council was having their December meeting so close to Christmas, the committee decided to make it an early Christmas Eve "Kūčias", and invited all members to bring their spouses. Most of them turned out and made it a very enjoyable evening.

Amongst our members there were several long time K of L's visiting from other States, including Msgr. Rev. Dr. Balčiūnas from Putnam, Conn.; Rev. Dr. Gidziunas, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Rev. Dr. Grabys, Watervliet, N.Y.; Rev. Dr. F. Čyba, Albany, N.Y.; and our locals, Msgr. J. Balkūnas, Rev. Kęstutis Butkus, and our spiritual advisor, Father J. Gasiunas.

Our council is growing by leaps and bounds, and as an example, four new members were installed on this occasion, namely: Emilia Rakauskas, Marija Peteraitis, Bronius & Genovaite Bakas, and Elzbieta & Victoras Augustas just transferred here from C-25 in Cleveland, Ohio.



The social part of our evening started with Rev. Kęstutis Butkus saying a prayer. Pres. Anthony Mazeika then introduced Victoria Kleiva, who rendered a very appropriate reading for the evening, which put everybody in the spirit of what Christmas is all about. Kazys Kleiva, master of ceremonies, presented Grazina Jasinskas, who led all of us in singing Lithuanian Christmas carols.

The tables were set with traditional Christmas Eve foods, which were deliciously prepared by Victoria Kleiva and Alena Bacevičius, with the assistance of Terese Liutkus, Maria Zigaitis and Ursula Eidietis.

Combining a bit of business with our pleasure, Msgr. Dr. Balčiūnas spoke on the importance of keeping up the good work of ALKA in Putnam, Conn., from falling behind in its sincere efforts to keep the Lithuanian Heritage alive, by accumulating as much history, past and present, in the archives set up there for that purpose. After his talk, our good member (life-time member) Jonas Valauskas presented Msgr. Dr. Balčiūnas with a check for \$2,000, and the promise of another check of \$3,000 in the near future. What a wonderful Christmas present for ALKA!

The evening ended with more Christmas carols, and a lot of warm greetings and friendliness. We all left with a feeling of "Peace on earth and good will toward men."

H. Vilnis



NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

C-10 — ATHOL-GARDNER, MASS.

On Dec. 7, two of our couples, Charles & Blanche Genaitis of Gardner, and Stan & Alice Perekslis of Packard Heights, Orange, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversaries with a special Mass celebrated in St. Francis Church, Athol. Concelebrants were the pastor, the Rev. Justin Steponaitis, and the Rev. Peter Stravinskas of New Jersey. A beautiful procession with the entire altar boy group preceded the Mass. Following the Mass, the couples were honored at a reception in the church rectory given by our council members.

Charles Genaitis and the former Blanche Jonaitis were married Nov. 9, 1940, in Sacred Heart Church by the late Rev. Hogan. They are the parents of two children, Lillian Erickson of Bothell, Wash. and Richard Genaitis of Stoneham, and five grandchildren. Charles is a retired school teacher and Blanche is a substitute teacher in the Gardner area.

Stan Perekslis and the former Alice Jusionis were married in St. George's Church, Norwood, on Nov. 11, 1940. They are the parents of two children. They are active members of St. Francis parish and are owners of Stan's Supermarket in Athol, and are a well known couple in the area.

We, of C-10, wish the Genaitis' and the Perekslis' many more years of happy wedded life and God's choicest blessings.

On Christmas Eve, the Gardner News carried a large photo and write-up of the Lithuanian Christmas tree at the Wisnauskas home. It had a beautiful write-up on our Kūčios and the original straw ornaments that were made by Bronė

and Howie Beaudette. It was great publicity for the Lithuanians.

Again this year, the Gardner Museum held an ethnic Holiday Festival that featured holiday displays of the various ethnic groups that make up the Gardner population. The Lithuanian display was done by Bronė Wisnauskas and Howie Beaudette. Included in the display were typical Lithuanian foods that no other group displayed. Howie gave a straw ornament demonstration. The display was on for two weeks and was visited by 650 persons who signed the registry. Very little interest was shown by the local Lithuanians and our own K of L. The non-Lithuanians showed much interest, and Bronė is still receiving calls from Americans and Poles on our customs, decorations, and display.

Katherine Hassett from Fitchburg has been laid up with an illness. We all wish her a real speedy recovery.

During the month of March, let's all remember our patron St. Casimir.

Vincukas

SR. C-17 — SO. BOSTON, MASS.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of one of our esteemed members, Joseph S. Matachinskas, on December 19. He leaves his wife Mary (Masionis); one daughter, Sister Mary Ann, SSND; and two sons, Joseph Peter and John Anthony. Joseph was a retired Lt. Colonel, U.S. Army. Many of you will remember him as our toastmaster for the K of L National Convention's Saturday night Banquet held in Boston in August of last year.

May his soul rest in peace. He will be remembered in our prayers.

Joseph White



C-26 — WORCESTER, MASS.

In March we honored our patron, St. Casimir, with a special Mass, followed by the annual St. Casimir Parish dinner. We congratulate all who claim our beloved Saint's patronage: members of our parish, our council, the entire Knights of Lithuania and, last but not least, the Sisters of St. Casimir, the St. Casimir Province of Marian Fathers, and all who have been baptised Casimir.

This last Christmas party was one of the best ever! Green, blue, yellow and white lights and pine boughs transformed our church hall into an exquisite Christmas wonderland. Ann Walinsky and Dorothy Seilius were responsible for this visual treat. Following the delicious Yuletide menu prepared and served by Rita Pinkus, Ann Bender, Adele Degutis, Virginia Cummings and Marion Racicot, Christmas gifts were exchanged and carols were sung. Attendance was very good and a memory scan brings to mind the presence of Paula & Joe Bunevith and children, Ann & Vincent Grazulis, Leonard & Ruth Ramsdell and son Lenny, Bill & Ann Leseman, Mildred & Charles Lapinkas and Millie's dad, Bill Karas, Tony Morkunas, Linda & Ray Boswell; and many more. Our spiritual advisor, Father Benj. Uzdavinis, MIC, was with us, but the pastor, Father Anthony Miciunas, MIC, was home at the rectory with a visitor, the Bangkok Flu!

Out of sight, out of mind, or so it would seem: Bob Krusas was vacationing in Las Vegas at the time we boasted of having three policemen members! With an apology, we correct this. Bob is our fourth! John Ridick is one of the firefighter retirees and we send him our best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement. Incidentally, John & Ann Ridick's daughter, Sister Joyce Ridick, S.S.C., spent Christmas with her family. Sister Joyce, a

clinical psychologist stationed in Rome, Italy, was once a secretary on our council's executive board. Also home for the Christmas holiday with her family was Sister M. Jeanette, S.S.C., who is superior at St. Joan of Arc School in Aberdeen, Md. Our own Father Ben is Sister Jeanette's brother. Ralph Seilius was home before Christmas and left after New Year's Day, having a long holiday with his parents. Ralph is a student at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado. Margie Ranucci Stidsen, once a very active K of L'er, now residing in Florida, was in Worcester to spend the holidays with her children and their families. It was most pleasant for us all to renew acquaintances with old and dear friends at this most sentimental season of the year.

Of course, Kazys Adomavicius and his wife, and Francis (Algis) Glodas, were at Maironis Park's New Year's Party. They are the "vladzia"! In addition, others celebrating were Adele & Francis Degutis, Albin & Frances Nockunas, Charles & Frances Kulakusky, Virginia & Withold Ivaska, Peter & Donna Ivaska, Rita Karpicus and her escort, John & Eleanor Gadilauskas, and Ann & Steve Walinsky. Ann Walinsky took her place at the piano just at midnight to lead the throng in the singing of the American and Lithuanian National Anthems.

Their children accompanied Ellie & Steve Walinsky, Carol & Bill Grigas and Barbara & GJoe Godek for a New Year's celebration on the Boston Common. The unique and various entertainment for children and adults there made these couples decide to make a family celebration of saying goodbye to 1980 and hello to 1981!

But the holidays were not happy for all. Geraldine Tagman's dear mother, Mrs. Eva Thompson, died just before Christmas. Throughout her adult life, Mrs. Thompson was

a faithful parish worker. We will miss her very, very much. To Geraldine and the other members of her family, we offer heartfelt and prayerful condolences.

Each council member receives an agenda just prior to the monthly meeting. It's informative, nicely composed, and a delight to read. We should have figured out that the author of the council's monthly communication is none other than our own Ann Bender.

Dzukele

C-103 — PROVIDENCE, R.I.

Our K of L members had a month's mind Mass offered on Dec. 19 for our pastor and spiritual advisor, Father Vaclovas Martinus, who died on Nov. 18. Pray for him. The greatest gift of all came on Christmas Eve at midnight Mass, a letter from the Most Reverend Louis E. Gelineau, Bishop of Providence, announcing the appointment of Rev. Valdemar M. Cukuras of Norwich, Conn. as administrator of St. Casimir's Lithuanian Parish in Providence effective Jan. 2. We gratefully thank Bishop Reilly of Norwich, Conn. for helping and granting the assignment of Father Cukuras to St. Casimir's. The parishioners, our K of L members, and the Lithuanian Heritage sub-committee welcome our new pastor and spiritual advisor.

The Rhode Island Lithuanian Heritage Committee and the K of L jointly had a presentation of Lithuanian books to the Providence Public Library and also an exhibit of Lithuanian artifacts on Feb. 14, to keep our culture, heritage and traditions alive in commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day, Feb. 16.

Helen Denisewich



ILLINOIS-INDIANA
DISTRICT

"Memories of Lithuania"





Illinois-Indiana District members Pres. Vincent Samaska, Irene Sankus, Gerry Mack, Emily Petraitis & Algerd Brazis attend reception honoring C-36 Member John Paukstis (center)



MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT

C-79 — SOUTHFIELD, MICH.

Great euphoria ushered in the New Year as the Michigan Wolverines produced a victory at the Rose Bowl football classic on New Year's Day.

However, we have been watching some other special events — like many of our young Lithuanians who have been making news with some established records and fantastic performances. Former Jr.

member, Ralph Valatka, who is Southfield's Repertory producing director, opened the "Gonzo Theater" at the Northland Inn in Southfield. "Gonzo Theater," an original music satire takes its name from Gunter Thompson's term "Gonzo Journalism." This theater was originally developed in Nashville, Tenn., where Valatka was a member of the cast. He plans to develop Detroit "Gonzo Theater" in the same tradition. Ralph is the son of member Ann Valatka and the late Ralph, Sr.

Steve Banonis, nephew of John & Monica Banion, is making a good family name in ice hockey. Steve's father, Vince Banonis, starred in football — NFL, Chicago Cardinals, and Detroit Lions. Steve was featured in the Sports Section of the Free Press. He holds the all-time goal-scoring record at Ferris and is one of the Bulldogs' tri-captains. His father, Vince, who is termed the "Large Lithuanian," is a Michigan Sports Hall of Famer.

Danguole Jurgutis, who was honored with "artist of the month" in the Farmington Artists' Club, exhibited her first one-woman show in Chicago. Paintings from her series "Images" which were featured in the Farmington Observer were shown for the first time in the Farmington Hills Library. She expresses personal feelings, and finds she en-

joys putting these personal feelings on canvas which are carried out strongest in her "Images" series. The award-winning artist's most recent award was the first prize given in the Ford Centennial Show for her impressionistic piece called "Renaissance".

Installation of officers was the prime item on the agenda for the December meeting. Due to the absence of Spiritual Advisor Father Kris, our new Honorary Member, Anthony Dainus, had the honor of conducting the installation. The new officers for 1981 are: Spiritual Advisor Fr. V. Krisciunevicius, Pres. Frank J. Zager, 1st V.P. Maggie Smailis, 2nd V.P. Helen Tucker, Rec. Sec. Ruth Grasha, Fin. Sec. Jos. Chaps, Treas. Jeanne Yakstys, Corresp. Sec. Sophie Zager, Trustees Chester Nashlon & Jos. Yakstys, and Sgt.-at-Arms Geo. Kase. Serving on committees are: Lith. Affairs - Julia Belickas, Cultural - Stella Hotra, Catholic Action - Helen Tucker, Ritual - Bertha Janus, Social - Eleanore Grasha, Vytis - Sophie Zager, Public Relations - Tony Dainus, Rosary Chain - Stella Hotra & Violet Panavas, and Sunshine Chm. Marge Nashlon. Congratulations! We hope that all will serve the council with much success and good health.

We were the "good guys" again this Christmas when our council contributed to the Capuchin Fathers who do great work by serving the needy. Also, we made a neat contribution toward the New Building Fund for improvement and air-conditioning of the Divine Providence Cultural Center.

There was a mixture of sadness, with the "merry" Christmas for the Frank Zager's during the holidays. Sophie's cousin, Leo Vincunas, died suddenly during a family gathering Christmas Eve, in Atlanta, Ga. He is the son of member Mrs. Mary Vincunas, and was a faithful reader of the Vytis magazine, enjoying the various articles. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his beloved wife Marge, his two daughters Bonnie Lavoie and Gasil Schulte, and his dear mother Mary Vincunas.

Amzina atilsi suteik Leo, Viespatie, ir amzinoji sviesa jam tesviecia. Tegul jis ilsisi ramybeje per amzius.

In our fast-moving society of super-sophisticated communication, do we ever stop to listen? Many of us often suffer from a shortage of listeners. Sometimes, we can detest ourselves (including yours truly) for not taking a moment to listen — to advice, expertise, to wisdom, to experience — or even to “feel sorry”. Just take a moment or two to listen.

SOFFI

C-96 - DAYTON, OHIO

Through arrangements made by Mary Lucas, the ladies of the council had a most enjoyable Christmas dinner out on Dec. 15. It was a fun evening. It was good to see Polly Pietrzak, Lauretta Pand and Aldona Drukteinis. We don't see enough of you. Come join us at more functions to see what you have been missing.

Religious Chm. Elinor Sluzas made all arrangements for our annual Christmas caroling on Dec. 21

to the shut-ins and older parishioners of Holy Cross. When the day came, Elinor was down with the flu, so her sister, Mary Ann Blum, took charge, leading us to the many homes with gifts and songs. The weather was great and people were looking forward to seeing us. This is one charitable project we do each year and we come away gaining so much...the smiles, the warmth we receive is worth it all.

We had two members who drove 1200 miles just to get here in time to take part in the caroling, — Jerry & Cathy Roberts of Homestead Air Force Base, Fla. Cathy was really hoping Jerry could get off so they could get here in time for this council function. Does this put some of the local members to shame who did not participate?

Following the caroling, Social Chm. Judy Petrokas, with her committee of John & Joyce Berczelly, Chris Mantz and Rita Ambrose, hosted a supper at her home, sponsored by the council. What a great finish to a very inspiring day!

Out-of-town members visiting

families and friends here for the holidays were Tony & Pat Alexander from Torrington, Conn.; Joe & Ann Boeke & family, Grand Rapids, Mich.; and Jerry & Cathy Roberts & family, Homestead, Fla. It was good to see all of them.

Charles & Sarah Petkus and family have joined our list of out-of-town members. We also 'lost' two junior members by this move, Danny & Benjie Petkus. All are not making Tampa, Fla. their home.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Andy August and family on the loss of their mother, Mrs. Anna August. Mrs. August was 91 years old and a charter member of Holy Cross Parish. Our deepest sympathies go to Aldona & Joe Ryan on the loss of their son-in-law, Jerome Bedrowsky. Some of you may remember Jerry when he was a council member. Jerry had made all the musical arrangements for Fr. Titas Narbutas' funeral Mass; he was an accomplished organist and composer. May their souls rest in peace.

Fran Petkus

IN MEMORIAM

How carefully we choose our friends. Some are casual friends, perhaps people we work with. More than likely our friends are Lithuanian who attend the same church and belong to the Knights of Lithuania. Basically we are very selective.

Suddenly, a very dear friend, Longinas (Louie) Prasmantas was called by our heavenly Father, to come home. It was a time of great sorrow for his wife Kitty and children, Joseph, Jon, Sharon and Julie. And, unexpectedly, there was a void in our Dayton Council #96.

How does one console the unconsoleable?

It was a time to touch, to hold, to cry and to pour out our love for one another. We also were privileged to see an uncommon gathering of hundreds of people whose lives Louie touched. Louie was a kind and unpretentious person, who found good



Third Degree Member
Longinas Prasmantas

in everyone and often made excuses for the shortcomings of others. He, like the rest of us was not perfect, but he, unlike many of us, called every man his friend. His friends were from the local bar, the Lithuanian Club, the church, the Post Office where he worked, the council, and people he met from every walk of life. All came to share with Kitty and her children, untold stories about Louie and how he touched their lives.

On the morning of the funeral, the North Dayton Post Office closed for an hour and his co-workers, in suits and blue uniforms, filed past his casket in silent tribute to their “friend” Louie. “The measure of your living, are the friends you have made,” and Louie lived a life filled with friends.

He will be missed by all of us, but we will never forget our friend... Louie Prasmantas. Rest in peace.

Elinor Sluzas

LITHUANIAN INFORMATION &
CENTER
5620 S CLAREMONT AVE
CHICAGO, IL 60636

VYTIS

2524 W. 45 St.
Chicago, IL 60632

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C-102 — DETROIT, MICH.

Our 10th Annual Christmas Kucios was held again this year in the beautiful home of Bob and Vince Boris. We were proud to have a con-celebrated Mass officiated by our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Stan, assisted by Fr. George. Fr. George is from Pittsburgh, Pa. and is the Chaplain at Mt. Carmel Hospital in Detroit. The Mass was beautiful, and since everyone was in good voice, more Christmas carols were sung than usual. The potluck supper was hosted by Ann Uznis and Donna Bunikis. Since Fr. Stan missed the kugele last year, there appeared five baking dishes, and no one had to fight for the last piece. The torte dessert baked by Angela Buksnis, was the most delicious yet. It is always nice to have Vince Boris home at this time of year for this special occasion. It is also nice to see the Klucen family. Vytalia Viskalis came from Lansing, bringing Lithuanian guests to enjoy this hap-

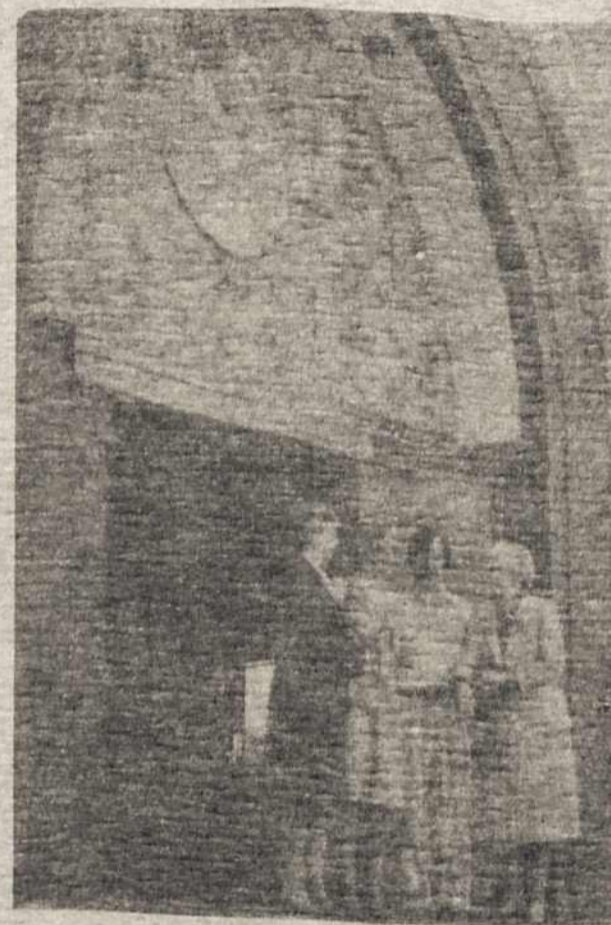
py gathering.

Donna & Frank Bunikis returned from a visit in California with daughter Margie and son-in-law Jeff Krieg. Jeff and Margie are former members, and Margie a former Madam President of our council.

Congratulations to Terry & Ray Medonis on their 30th Wedding Anniversary. A beautiful weekend at the Ren Cen in Detroit, was a gift from their five children. Congratulations, too, on the birth of their second grandson, the handsome child of son Ray and daughter-in-law Ann.

Mid-West Bowlers, beware! Chris Kurzyniec of C-139, and Marge Nashlon of C-79, have bowled 244 games in our league so far this year, with Chris bowling a 637 series. Our bowling league has grown by two teams this year and everyone is enjoying the competition.

Mariute



Donna Bunikis, daughter Margie, son-in-law Jeff Krieg & Mrs. Krieg visit Lithuanian Church in Los Angeles



MIDWEST BOWLING TOURNAMENT
MAY 16 - 17, 1981
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MCD CONVENTION MAY 16