

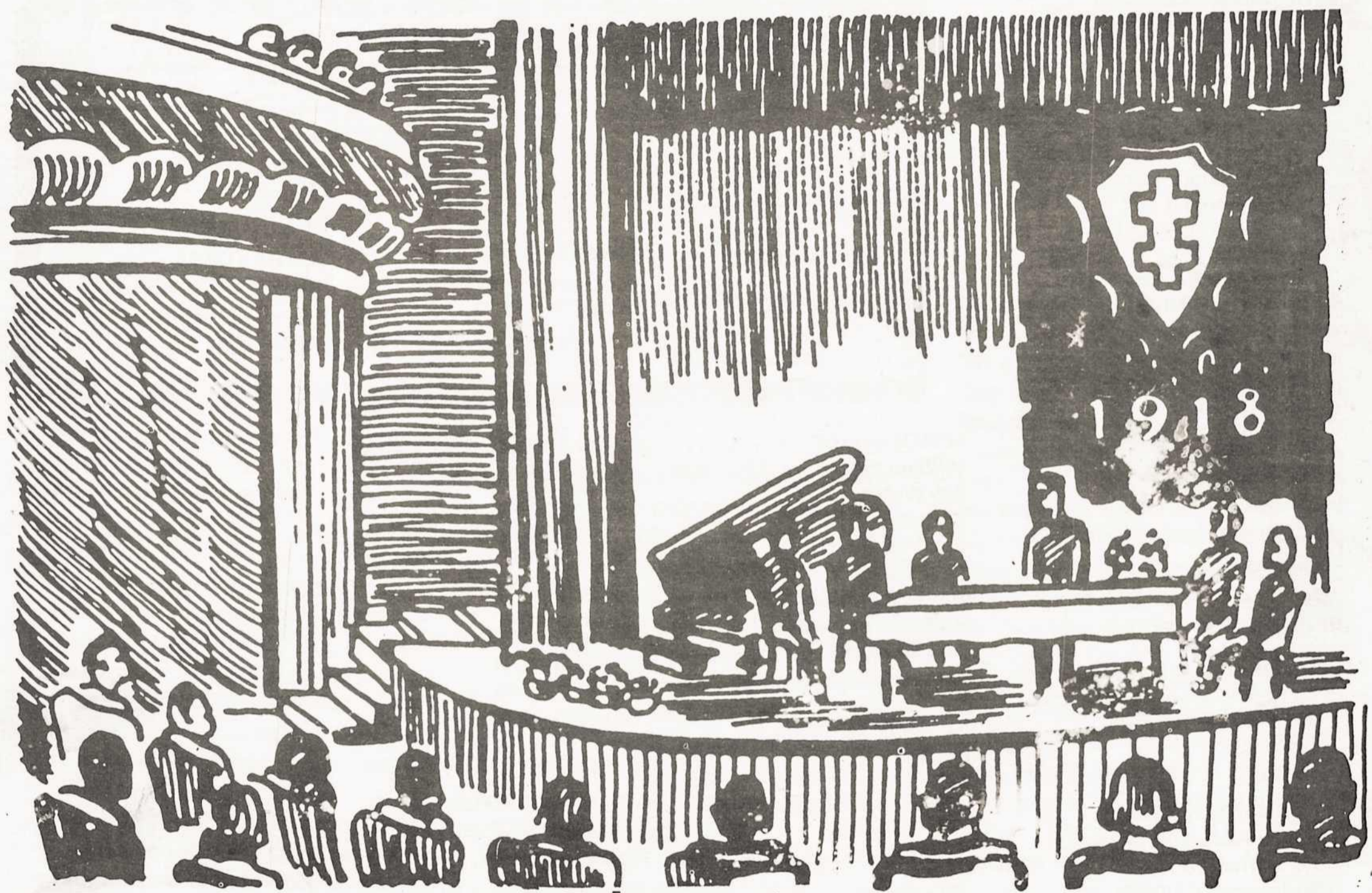
The KNIGHT

VYTYIS

1986
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**THE KNIGHTS
 OF LITHUANIA**

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February 16
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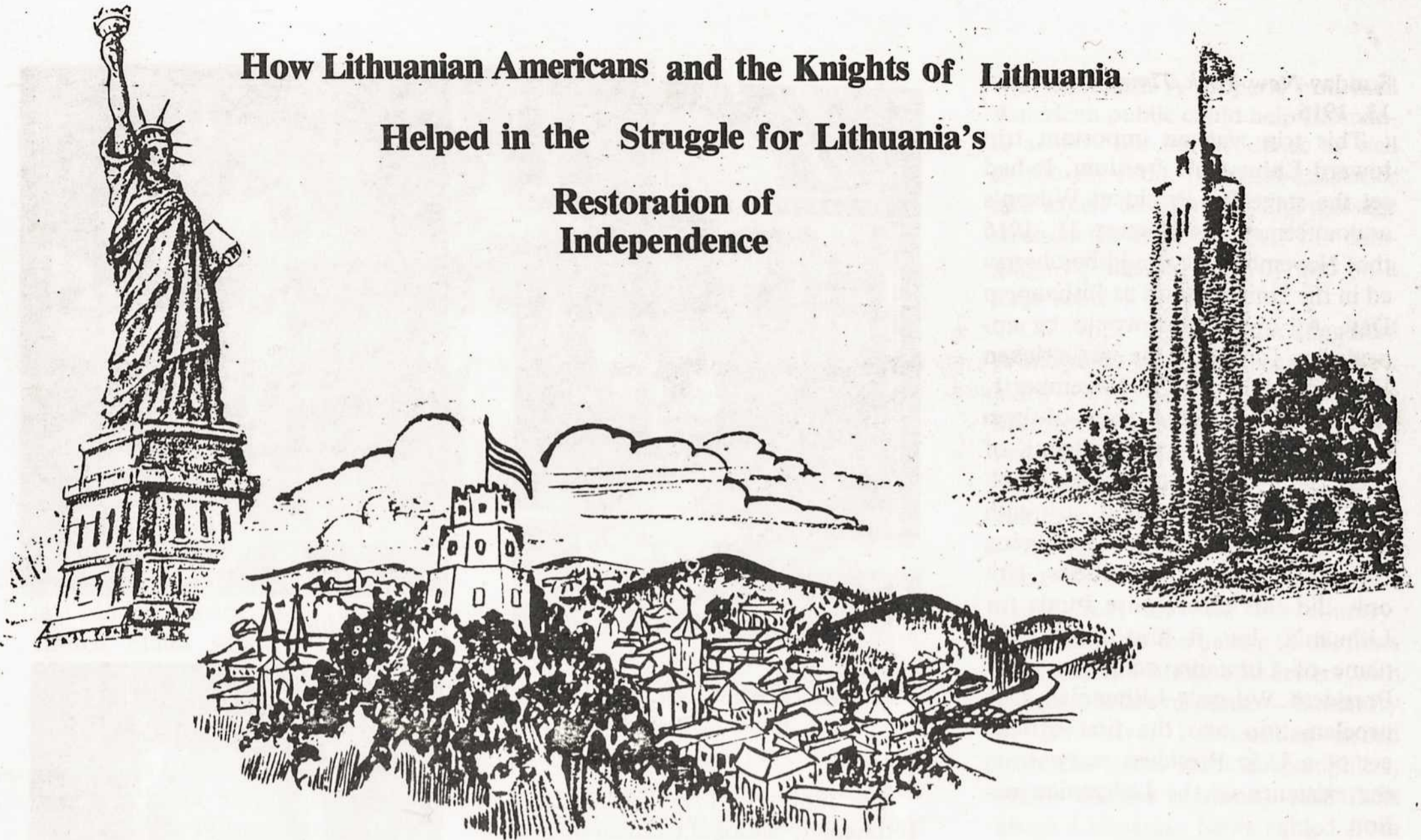
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How Lithuanian Americans and the Knights of Lithuania Helped in the Struggle for Lithuania's Restoration of Independence



When World War I erupted in August 1914 it became obvious that Lithuania would be among the first to support loss of lives and property. This news stirred deep emotions in the American Lithuanian community.

Members of the K of L had just returned from their 2nd national convention in Brockton, Mass. At the Convention, members had ratified the organization's constitution. Now they would fully come to realize the motto and purpose of their organization. Members of their organization would play significant roles in establishing independence in their native Lithuania.

Help, immediate and long range, was needed for war-stricken Lithuania. The Lithuanian American communities developed plans to deliver aid to Lithuania and also to assist and strengthen the efforts for Lithuania's independence. American Catholic Lithuanians were the most

numerous and therefore the most involved in this struggle. They established a National Fund to finance both relief and political activity. Solicitation of funds developed into an educational enterprise, spreading political enlightenment and kindling patriotism among the masses. K of L member, Kasys Pakštas served as trustee of the National Fund from 1914-1916. From 1916-1918 he also served as secretary and information director. Pakštas said, "One had to go everywhere, seek out the stray Lithuanian and awaken his national conscience. The fund was not only a charitable organization, but also the school of lofty patriotism."

With the approval of the American government and the German Embassy in Washington, the Rev. Dr. Vincas Bartuška and K of L member Dr. Julius J. Bielskis were sent to Lithuania to explore the economic and political situation and

to confer with Lithuania's leaders on the country's political future. They left on March 17, 1916. In Lithuania they met with local Lithuanian leaders in Kaunas, Vilkaviškis, Naumištis and Vilnius. In Vilnius, they were met by Dr. Jonas Basanavičius and other distinguished Lithuanian leaders and intellectuals. They discussed immediate problems in Lithuania and how to overcome the obstacles that lay in the path to Lithuania's freedom. Before returning home, the two delegates were also able to participate in an international conference in Lausanne, Switzerland. They reported on the conditions they had found in Lithuania.

Rev. Bartuška and Dr. Bielskis returned to New York on August 9. Their account of the trip — the devastation of Lithuania, the German occupation, the Polish efforts to have Lithuania joined to Poland, Lithuania's determination for independence was published in the

Sunday *New York Times* on August 13, 1916.

This trip was an important trip toward Lithuania's freedom. It had set the stage for President Wilson's announcement on August 31, 1916 that November 1st would be observed in the United States as Lithuanian Day. All Americans would be appealed to for aid to the war stricken Lithuanian nation. On November 1, thousand of collectors, most of them young people, and among them K of L'ers, poured into the streets, a collection box in hand and a sash with the inscription "For Suffering Lithuania" across their chests. Not only did this effort raise funds for Lithuania, but it also spread the name of Lithuania across the land. President Wilson's Lithuanian Day proclamation was the first official act of a U.S. President recognizing the existence of the Lithuanian nation.

The need to inform the world of the trials of oppressed and war-torn Lithuania and its people's burning desire to regain their freedom had been recognized. The first organized Information Center of which Lithuanian Americans availed themselves was the Lithuanian Information Bureau in Lausanne, Switzerland. This had been in operation since 1911 and was headed by Juozas Gabrys. K of L'ers were familiar with this individual because he had addressed their convention in 1914. Plans were made for an Information Bureau in the United States. However, until such an office could be established dedicated individuals took matters into their own hands. In June 1916 Knight Thomas Shamis, of Kingston, PA, began publishing his own informational journal about Lithuania. It was called the "Lithuanian Booster"; it was later renamed "Lithuania" in 1924. This 22-page monthly, besides containing news and history included patriotic poetry and had particular stores on Lithuania's demand for freedom.



Dr. Julius J. Bielskis,

On June 15, 1917 the Catholic Lithuanian National Council opened its Lithuanian Information Bureau in Washington. K of L member Dr. Julius Bielskis was the bureau director. Through this bureau, Lithuanian aspirations were made known to U.S. government agencies, members of Congress and the American press. From this office came the needed memoranda, as well as texts of resolutions and other helpful guidance for the Lithuanian colonies in their political activities.

The Lithuanian Information Bureau in Washington and in Switzerland had a difficult time in obtaining information from Lithuania. In the fall of 1917, Lithuania, under German occupation, was severely restricted as to the type of meetings held, resolutions adopted and pronouncements made. When the Lithuanian Council in Vilnius on February 16, 1918 proclaimed the nation's full independence, with all previous ties to other nations severed, the German military government refused permission to publish the declaration. Foreign governments learned about



Jonas K. Milius



Prof. Kazys Pakstas

the historic act only after a considerable lapse of time.

On May 3, 1918 a Lithuanian delegation met with President Wilson. Lithuanian Information Bureau attorney, Balys Mastauskas, was able to arrange this meeting because he had numerous governmental acquaintances. Prior to joining the bureau he had served as assistant state's attorney in Illinois.

Rev. Jonas J. Jakaitis, pastor of St. Casimir's Church, Worcester, MA and Spiritual Advisor of C-26, was spokesman for the delegation. He presented President Wilson with



Council 16, St. George's Parish, Chicago collected over \$500. for the Lithuanian Fund.

a request that the United States extend formal recognition of Lithuania's independence and that the United States support Lithuania's participation in the upcoming Paris Peace Conference. Although the President expressed agreement with the national aims of the Lithuanian people he made no commitment.

President Wilson had limited knowledge of Russia. Although he and his secretary of state expressed their hatred of Bolshevism, they felt the Russian people were basically trustworthy and dedicated to peace. The Bolshevik regime would pass and the country would experience a revival. Despite the fact that in his Fourteen Points Wilson explicitly separated Poland and Finland from the main body of the Russian empire, now he held firm to the idea of Russia's indivisibility. The official policy regarding Lithuania became a wait-and-see attitude.

No such policy was held by the Russians. On December 12, 1918, the Red Army invaded Lithuania. In less than a month they had control of Vilnius. The three Baltic nations sent a desperate appeal for help to the Allied countries at the Paris Peace Conference.

To bolster this appeal an American delegation had been sent to Paris by the Lithuanian American Council. The delegation included Tomas Norus, Jonas S.

Lopatto, Rev. Jonas Žilius (Žilinskis), Julius Kaupas, Kazys Česnulis and Bronius K. Balutis. Theirs was the difficult task of lobbying Lithuania's right to independence. Balys Mastauskas had also joined the delegation.

On February 14, 1919 the delegation dispatched a message to their colleagues in Washington... "Hope for Lithuania's independence must be encouraged by constant support of President Wilson's expressed principles... The principle of self-determination of nations means a free Lithuania". The message also stated that Lithuanian affairs were little known or understood in Paris. The need for a world wide propaganda campaign, emanating from America,

was expressed. A properly informed American public could help Lithuania achieve her independence as well as provide food, financial assistance and expert advisement. The message stressed the necessity that the campaign be handled expertly and on a large scale.

On April 23, 1919 the suggested propaganda campaign began in New York City. Carl Byoir, Associate Director General of the Committee on Public Information agreed to undertake the project. His staff included several dozen writers and journalists. Clipping bureaus supplied the office with Lithuanian news items from all over the country. Depending on the nature of the news received, the office sent letters with an appropriate response — laudatory or corrective. Publications issued from the center included pamphlets, maps, albums crammed with facts about Lithuania. News cabled from Paris and Lithuania was edited and distributed among press agencies.

At the same time Lithuanian Americans elsewhere were collecting signatures zealously on a petition which pleaded for the recognition of independent Lithuania.

The Lithuanian delegation's protests at the Peace Conference opened the way to a series of investigations.



A million signatures pleading for the recognition of independent Lithuania were presented to Pres. Harding in 1921.

Letters from America also influenced the Conference's actions.

At the time when the petitions were being circulated and the information campaign being launched, a Chicago attorney, John Bordan, Bagdžiūnas) came up with the imaginative idea of making a bell, modelled after the American Liberty Bell, and presented it to Lithuania. The plan was approved by a conference of Chicago Lithuanian organizations. A St. Louis firm was engaged to cast a 4-foot high, 1000-pound bell.

On June 9, 1919, in Chicago, the bell was unveiled and rung for the first time. Its sole ornamentation was the figure of a Lithuanian Knight and the inscription composed by Bronius K. Balutis.

“O skambink per amžius vaikams
Lietuvos, Kad laisvės nevertas,
kas negina jos.”

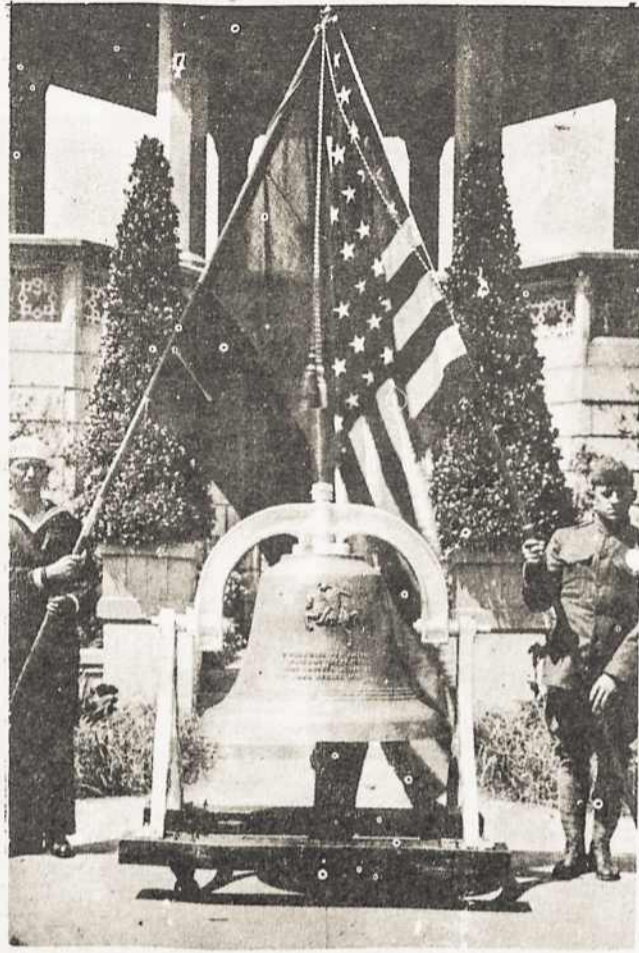
(O, ring through the ages to the children of Lithuania, That he is unworthy of freedom who does not defend it)

On the opposite side was inscribed that the bell was for Lithuania, from a convention of Lithuanians in America and the dates June 9, 10, 11, 1919.

On August 15, 1920, after the bell returned from a year-long tour around the country, the Lithuanian Liberty Bell was entrusted to the care of Jonas Veleišis, a member of the Lithuanian Mission to America. On February 16, 1922 it pealed its first greeting from the tower of the War Museum in Kaunas.

Unfortunately difficulties continued to grow in war-begotten Lithuania. While the Lithuanian army was involved with the Bolsheviks, the country was also being invaded by joint Russian-German forces, led by the adventurer Bermond-Avalov. The Poles occupied the southern and eastern parts of Lithuania from Gardinas to Vilnius.

Plans began to develop in America to create a Lithuanian legion, which



Lithuanian Liberty Bell

would go to the aid of Lithuania when needed. Early in 1919 this idea of Lithuanian volunteers developed into a distinct possibility. K of L'er Jonas K. Milius, a former lieutenant in the U.S.A.F., called together a group of young men, most of them Knights of Lithuania, at the editorial offices of GARSAS in Brooklyn, for a conference on the matter. It was decided to form an organization of volunteers, which became known as Freedom Guards, to undergo training and be ready for action in Lithuania.

News of the development moved the Lithuanian communities. Branches of Freedom Guards sprang up almost everywhere. Thousands joined the ranks and reported regularly for drill and maneuvers. Where there were no experienced army men available, the movement revolved about the K of L, who had introduced military training as part of their organizational activity.

Also among the attempts of Lithuanians in America to help the defense of Lithuania against her foes was the venture of organizing a U.S. Lithuanian brigade. The U.S. govern-

ment disapproved of a "U.S." military formation to serve abroad. However the idea of a "Lithuanian" brigade was more acceptable. This brigade was strongly encouraged by the Lithuanian government and its representatives at the Paris Peace Conference.

A retired U.S. artillery captain, William M. Swarthout, became interested in the brigade. Working with the authority of the Lithuanian delegation in Paris and the Lithuanian Executive Committee in Washington, Swarthout established a Lithuanian War Mission in Washington. Swarthout never lacked for volunteers for the brigade but he was unable to secure 6000 passports for the volunteer army unit of Lithuanian-Americans to travel to Lithuania. U.S. authorities, pressured by Russian diplomats, denied the passports.

Nevertheless at the end of 1919, a 19-man unit of American soldiers did arrive in Lithuania. In the group was K of L President-Captain Julius J. Bielsis. Many others found their own way to Lithuania. Despite the fact that the original concept of the Lithuanian-American Brigade failed to materialize as planned, several hundred Lithuanians from the U.S. took part in the wars for Lithuania's independence.

A very revered name among those that served the Lithuanian people in their struggle for freedom is that of Lt. Samuel J. Harris, a descendant of an old and respected family in whose honor the capital of Pennsylvania is named. Harris joined the Lithuanian army because of his desire to defend a small nation's independence. He died putting down the rebellion of a group of soldiers, incited by Bolshevik agitation, in Kaunas on February 23, 1920. His body was brought back to America and lies buried in the Arlington Cemetery. A monument was erected in his honor by American Lithuanians.

Despite the efforts of Lithuanian Americans, the United States remained indifferent to the Baltic nations' appeal for self-determination. Although this stance was especially painful and discouraging to Lithuanian-Americans they continued in their endeavors. The Lithuanian Councils and their Joint Executive Committee continued to beseege American officials with requests and demands for strengthening ties with Lithuania and to give Lithuania official recognition. Some progress was made. The embargo on currency and certain wares lifted, postal service with Lithuania was established. On January 7, 1920 Dr. Matas Vinikas, chairman of the Executive Committee, was notified that his appointment by the Lithuanian Provisional Government to be in charge of the issuance of visas had been approved by the U.S. State Department. By this action, Vinikas was "invested" with consular powers.

The struggle for U.S. recognition of Lithuania never ebbed. The gathering of petitions, meetings with government officials, demonstrations continued. A persistent stream of information about Lithuania was given to the English-language press and government officials.

The Presidential election in November 1920 saw a change in power and a potential for change in attitude regarding U.S. recognition of Lithuania.

On May 30, 1921, a 6-man Lithuanian delegation met with the new president, Warren G. Harding and Secretary of State Charles Hughes. Dr. Enoch Klimas, as spokesman, expressed his appeal for U.S. recognition of Lithuania and presented the president with the petition containing a million signatures.

The effect of the new Harding administration began to be felt in Washington. Russian ambassador Bakhmetev resigned because of the new president. He had been a major factor in the U.S.'s slow action to

recognize Lithuania. Shortly after Bakhmetev's resignation, Secretary of State Hughes drew up a memorandum to reconsider the recognition of Lithuania.

Newspapers and organizations, congressmen and scholars, Lithuanians and the general public all joined to press the State Department to recognize the rebirth of an old and deserving nation.

On July 28, 1922 Secretary of State Hughes sent word that Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia had been granted "de jure" recognition by the

United States.

In Lithuania, the Lithuanian Foreign Minister, Vladas Jurgutis, upon receiving the information hurried to the Seimas (parliament) then in session. The news brought the assembly to their feet and cheers for America.

In 1922 the K of L National Convention was held in Detroit, August 21-28. Dr. Valdemaras Čarneckis, Lithuanian ambassador to the U.S., participated in the sessions. He thanked the K of L for their service to the Republic of Lithuania.



Laiškas Tėvynei

Ačiū už laišką, močiute tėvyne,
Džiaugiuos, kad dar šiaip taip laikais,
Turėki viltį - ateis gadyne
Lietuviai vaikščios laisvais takais.

Rašai, kad tau daug ko trūksta,
Mašinų, maisto, butų gerų,
Sakai, kad nėra gražiojo kaimo,
Ir neberasčiau tėvo namų.

Rašai, - pasiilgai manęs ir Algio,
Birutės, Petro ir Onos,
Labai norėtum dar išvyst trispalvę,
Ir, kad nemėgsti raudonos spalvos.

Vytė Opolonija Žiaušienė

Norėtum, kad tavo vaikai, galėtų
Keliauti laisvai, po visus kraštus,
Kad būtų dori ir sąžiningi,
Dažnai lankytų, Dievo namus.

Tikėk manim, mano brangioji,
Būk stipri, sveika, - nesusilenk,
Nušvis gražus, laisvas rytojus,
Tik gerai laikykis ir ilgai gyvenk.

CULTURAL CORNER

“Lietuva Tėvyne Mūsų”

Anna Klizas Wargo

In this month of February, as we commemorate the short-lived independence of Lithuania, let us reflect on the Lithuanian National Anthem.

It was written in 1898 by Dr. Vincas Kudirka during those forty years of darkness when Russia banned the printed word aiming to destroy the Lithuanian Nation's cultural life. It was first published in “Varpas” the underground journal which Kudirka founded and edited. He wrote both words and music.

The first lines of the hymn, “Lietuva Tėvyne Mūsų, Tu Didvyrių Žeme,” describe Lithuania as the homeland of Lithuanians, a land of heroes. As we continue, “Iš praeities Tavo Sūnūs, Te stiprybę semia,” this shows the spirit, the strength and the pride of the people. Next, “Tegul tavo vaikai eina, Vien takais dorybės,” Let your children walk a path of virtue, keeping the highest ideals of life; “Tegul dirba tavo naudai ir žmonių gėrybei,” Let us work for the best interest of the Lithuanian Nation and the good of the people. “Tegul saulė Lietuvos, tamsumus prašalina, ir šviesa, ir tiesa mūs žingsnius telydi,” Let the sun of Lithuania shine through all

the dark clouds, let the light and the truth lead us. Finally, “Tegul meilė Lietuvos, dega mūsų širdyse, Vardan tos, Lietuvos, vienybė težydi”, Let the love of Lithuania burn deep within our hearts, let us stand united for Lithuania.

There are only fifty words in this anthem but they are powerful. They do not speak of war or conquest but of heroes and integrity. They state a wish that Lithuania become a source of enlightenment, defeat ignorance and be a stronghold of truth and justice. These words urge patriotism and national unity.

“Lietuva Tėvynė Mūsų” was adopted as the Lithuanian National Anthem at the conclusion of the Lithuanian National Conference at Kaunas on Jan. 21, 1919. Today in Soviet occupied Lithuania, this hymn is banned. Those of us who deeply love our Lithuanian heritage should sing this with great pride and respect.

This year, as we pray that Lithuania will one day again have her freedom and independence, let us think of the meaning of these words. These few lines show the beauty, the culture and the integrity of the Lithuanian Nation.



LIETUVOS HIMNAS

**Lietuva, tėvyne mūsų,
Tu didvyrių žemė,
iš praeities Tavo sūnūs
te stiprybę semia.**

**Tegul Tavo vaikai eina
vien takais dorybės,
tegul dirba Tavo naudai
ir žmonių gėrybei.**

**Tegul saulė Lietuvos
tamsumus prašalina,
ir šviesa ir tiesa
mūs žingsnius telydi.**

**Tegul meilė Lietuvos
dega mūsų širdyse,
vardan tos Lietuvos
vienybė težydi.**

REASONS TO BE PROUD OF



March to Siluva

LITHUANIA'S YOUTH

Read the Chronicles of the Catholic Church in Lithuania to find truly amazing revelations. You will learn of the courage displayed by the young in defending their Catholic faith. You will read that they openly confess their faith in God regardless of the persecution which inevitably follows such manifestations. They are living examples for our American youth when confronted with temptations in a lax society.

Soviet officials in Lithuania have every means at their disposal to combat the faithful. They have army, the militia, the radio, the press, large sums of money for propaganda purposes, yet in spite of all the pressures, religious revival is increasing throughout the nation.

Determined to save Lithuania through prayer and penance, Lithuanian teen-agers and young adults go barefoot, like pilgrims of old, to the Shrine of the Virgin at Siluva. They go to the Hill of Calvary where they leave behind them hand-made crosses as signs of their deep Christian

faith. But what irony! The occupant fears these crosses. He sends the militia, the police, to remove them so that none of the roads or fields would be marked with a cross, a sign of Christian witness.

In the Chronicles of the Catholic Church we find evidence that Lithuania's heroic sons and daughters have chosen to walk a martyr's road, a road of hardship, to remain faithful to the traditions of their parents, to their ethnicity, and to the deep faith of the nation. It is also evident that their determination to regain freedom for their nation has not slackened.

Every means of propaganda have been used throughout the years to impose the lie that Lithuania is Soviet, that the nation is willing to be part of the Soviet Union, yet to this day the nation's children commemorate Lithuania's Declaration of Independence on February 16th.

On that special anniversary they repeat the words of their national anthem — many times silently — as a

fervent prayer for their nation. They go to the cemetery to seek out the graves of the Partisans to place on them bouquets of flowers. The deeds of the brave partisans are not forgotten. They eloquently remind the living of their sacrifices for Lithuania's freedom. They stir the young and encourage them to walk in their heroic footsteps.

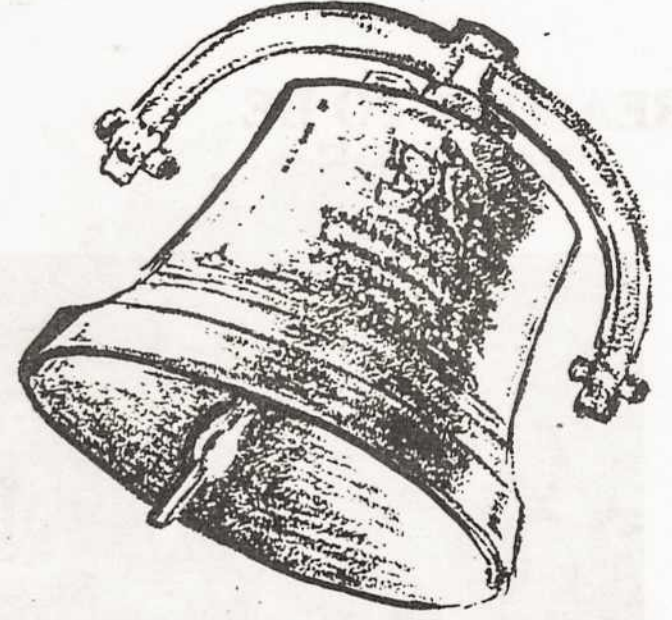
The tri-colored Lithuanian flag — yellow, green and red — when hoisted high on a pole or hung from a tree, remains fluttering in the breeze until noticed by the occupant. Then much effort is expended by the police to remove the offending sight. Or when the national colors are displayed in a classroom or hall an uproar and much fuss by the atheistic professors make it a crime to reveal one's love for God and nation.

We know that these acts require courage and determination, yet they are performed by the youth of Lithuania who refuse to be enslaved. To renounce their faith, their freedom, and their ethnicity is to

betray their true identity. According to the words inscribed on their bell of liberty, the youth of Lithuania believe that "he is not worthy of freedom who does not defend it." These words remain as an incentive to them as long as tyranny and oppression continue to enslave people.

There is much we Lithuanian-Americans can learn from the heroic examples of Lithuania's youth. If we lived in Lithuania today, would we have the strength of character and the high ideals, the faith and determination that they reveal? We have every reason to be proud of Lithuanian's youth and to pray that freedom will soon be theirs.

O skambink per amžius
vaikams Lietuvos,
Tas laisvės nevertas
kas negina jos.



O ring through the ages
to the children of Lithuania,
That he is unworthy of freedom
who does not defend it.

CALL HER BY NAME: LIETUVA

Alive, surging, a land flooding the earth
With love and warmth,
Like the sea, she leans upon it
toward the West.

She comes over the hill and through the vales,
The forests, lakes and rivers,
Bringing to man his work, his rest,
His joys and love,
His care and pain.

Like a woman of a village,
Never having seen the Sea,
She stops on the shores of the Baltic
Shading her eyes
With her hands.

She gazes at the endless expanse
Of the earth,
And of the spirit of man.
She sees in them
All the fears, hopes, wars and plagues
With which history evolved
Throughout the earth.

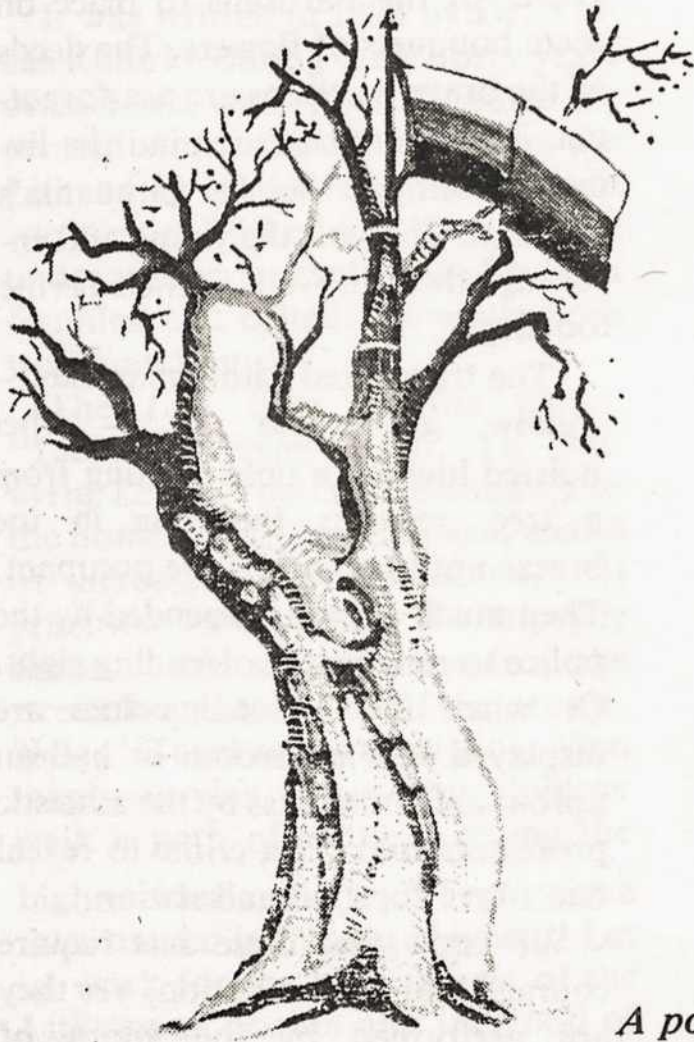
As such she could be
The mother of us all.

When she smiles,
Children utter, "Mama."

When she caresses,
A youth whispers, "I love you."

When she cries,
We die.

Or live
Unworthy of her tears.



A poem from the peoples' poet, Justinas Marcinkevičius, translated from Lithuanian by Sister Virginia Marie Vytell, CJC.



KUR BĖGA ŠEŠUPĖ

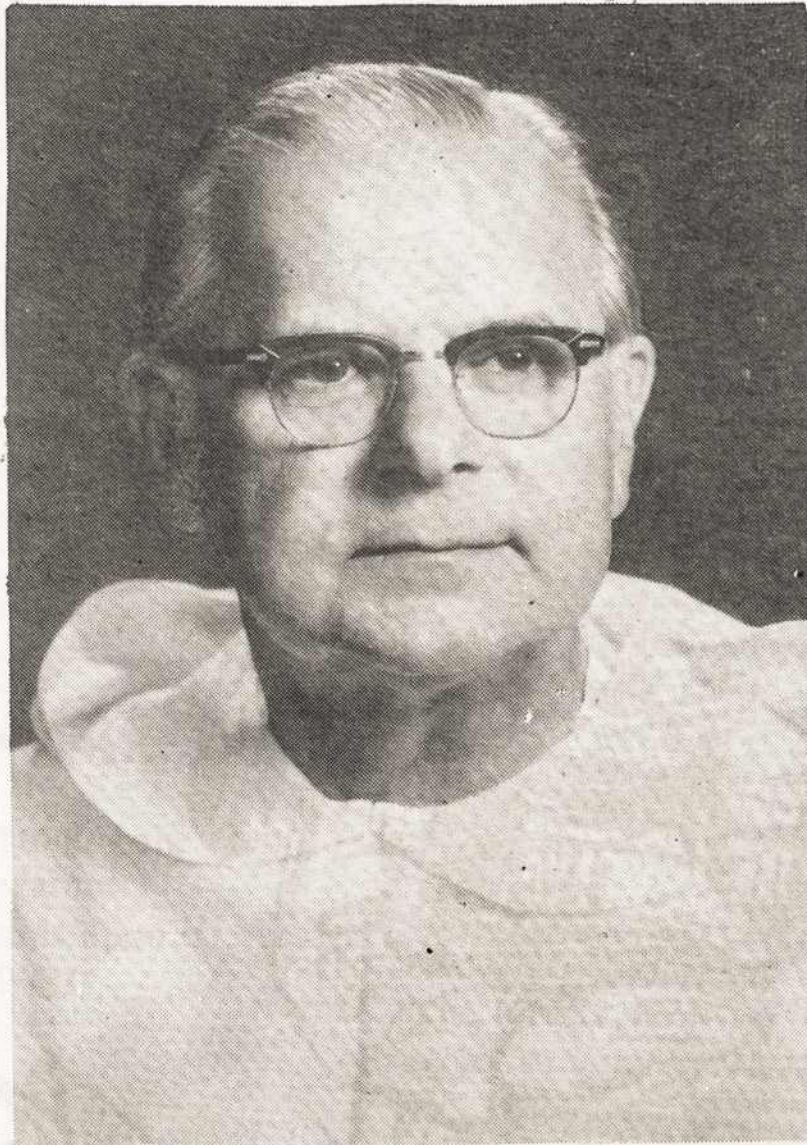
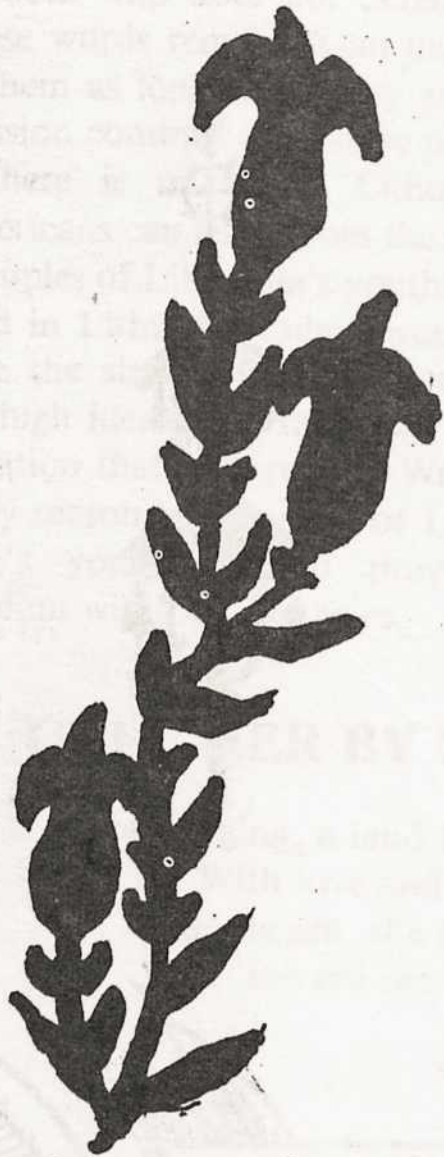
Maironis

Kur bėga Šešupė, kur Nemunas teka,
 Tai mūsų tėvynė, graži Lietuva;
 Čia broliai artojai lietuviškai šneka,
 Čia skamba po kaimus Birutės daina.

Bėkit, bėkit mūsų upės į marias giliausias!
 Ir skambėkit mūsų dainos po šalis plačiausias!

MAIRONIS

REV. ANTHONY A. JURGELAITIS, O.P.
CANDIDATE FOR HONORARY MEMBERSHIP



In accordance with the 72nd Knights of Lithuania Convention Re. Anthony A. Jurgelaitis has been proposed as a candidate for the highest award the Knights of Lithuania may confer, Honorary Membership.

Who is Rev. Anthony A. Jurgelaitis, O.P.?

Anthony Jurgelaitis was born in S. Mass., June 9, 1917 and was baptized at St. Peter's. His early schooling was in the Boston public school system. Not forgetting his Lithuanian heritage, Anthony attended Lithuanian summer school for nine years. Due to his proficiency he was invited to teach at the school for one year. During his teenage years at St. Peter's, he was a member of the choir, dramatic society, and often invited to speak at various events. To illustrate, at one Independence Day Commemoration (February 16), he presented a Lithuanian poem entitled "a Conversation between the Poet and Lithuania", a poem of 220 verses from memory. After finishing his grade school years he enrolled in Boston Latin School.

While in high school he joined the Knights of Lithuania council-17, S. Boston. He continued his participation in dramatics, but embarked on a new endeavor-writing. His articles and translations began to appear

in Darbininkas. He continued his involvement in K of L activities until his graduation from high school.

Believing he had a vocation to the priesthood, he entered Providence College in 1935 and began his preparation to enter the Order of Friars Preachers, the Dominicans. After two years he was sent to the Dominican Novitiate in Kentucky; after this, he began his studies of Philosophy in River Forest, ILL. He was awarded his Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1940. Following this he was assigned an additional year of philosophical studies in Somerset, Ohio. From 1941-1944, he studied theology at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. In 1944 he was ordained to the holy priesthood.

In Washington, D.C. he received the degree of Lector and Licentiate of Sacred Theology, which confers upon the individual the right to teach the Sacred Sciences in any Catholic Seminary or University. The next four years were spent in Lima, Peru where Fr. Anthony pursued graduate studies in Spanish at the Pontifical Catholic Univ. of Peru. Upon receiving his Doctorate Degree he went to the Dominican Republic where he studied at the oldest University in the Western

hemisphere, the Univ. of Santo Domingo. Completing this, he was assigned to Providence College in 1949.

From 1949 to the present Fr. Anthony has held a variety of academic and Administrative positions at Providence College. Among them are, Professor of Spanish, Chairman of Dept. of Foreign Languages, Rank and Tenure Committee, Speaker at the Baccalaureate Mass, and Dean of Discipline. In addition, during the summers, he was assigned to preach retreats to Religious Sisters in Lithuanian and English. During these years he renewed his activities in the Knights of Lithuania by becoming a member of Council-103, Providence. Of note in 1958-59, he prepared a series of religious bulletins entitled "Know Your Faith" which was distributed as a monthly religious activity to all council members. Also, in cooperation with members of Council 103, he presented the first cultural and informational program observing Lithuanian Independence Day on Channel 10 T.V. Fr. Anthony was becoming an active regular participant in district and national conventions. In recognition of his work for the Knights of Lithuania, Fr. Anthony was awarded the Fourth Degree in Maspeth, NY in 1975. Because of his many contributions to the K of L, the 1975 National Convention Spiritual Advisor; the American-Lithuanian Roman Catholic Priests League approved the request. During the decade of his tenure, Fr. Anthony became more active in the spiritual and other activities of the national organization. He was chairman of the constitutional revision committee. He renewed his literary activities by writing articles for the Vytis now approaching close to 100 articles of spiritual and cultural themes. Some of his many projects were: specially prepared programs by Fr. Anthony to commemorate "The Year of the Lithuanian Parish"; to hasten the "Beatification of Archbishop George

Matulaitis" (sending 13,000 signatures to Holy Father), and the special commemorative program in honor of the Five Hundredth Anniversary of St. Casimir's Death" Fr. Anthony composed a special K of L prayer to St. Casimir to foster devotion to the patron saint of Lithuania and the Knights of Lithuania.

Continuing his activities for the K of L, he composed a special wake service in both Lithuanian and English to pay final respect to deceased members of the K of L. In demand as a preacher and public speaker, Fr. Anthony has given retreats and spoken to various districts and councils concerning Lithuanian spiritual and cultural affairs. He is a member of the Lithuanian Catholic Academy of Sciences.

Also to be noted, Fr. Anthony's ability as a speaker and commentator has been heard over station WBET-Brockton "Liberty Bell Program" each Sunday for two years. This special program developed by Fr. Anthony and program director Mr. Viseinis, was awarded First Prize sponsored by the Lithuanian-American Community.

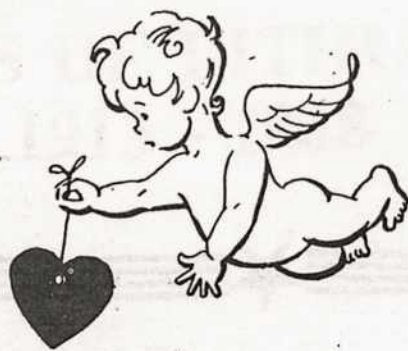
In May, 1985 Providence College Alumni honored Fr. Anthony Jurgelaitis with the "Professor of the Year"; award for 35 years of service.

During Fr. Anthony's tenure as Spiritual Advisor, delegates to the national conventions have remembered and been touched by the opening sermons by him. These activities are indicative of Fr. Anthony's involvement as a Knights of Lithuania member and its Spiritual Advisor.

These credentials eminently qualify Rev. Anthony A. Jurgelaitis, O.P. to receive Honorary Membership at the 1986 National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania.

William Piacentini
Bertha Stoskus
Victor Mathieu

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.

NATIONAL HEROS WE HONOR THIS MONTH

... Of Religion and Morality



"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness - these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked, Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

GEORGE WASHINGTON, from his
"Farewell Address" - 1796

... Of Liberty and Tyranny ...

"The world has never had a good definition of the word liberty, and the American people, just now, are much in want of one. We all declare for liberty, but in using the same word we do not all mean the same thing. With some the word liberty may mean for each man to do as he pleases with himself, and the product of his labor; while with others the same word may mean for some men to do as they please with other men and the product of other men's labor. Here are two, not only different, but incompatable things, called by the same name - liberty. And it follows that each of the things is, by the respective parties, called by two different and incompatible names - liberty and tyranny.

The shepherd drives the wolf from the sheep's throat, for which the sheep thanks the shepherd as a liberator, while the wolf denounces him for the same act as the destroyer of liberty, especially as the sheep was a black one. Plainly the sheep and the wolf are not agreed upon a definition of the word liberty, and precisely the same difference prevails today among us human creatures, even in the North, and all professing to love liberty. Hence we behold the processes by which thousands are daily passing from under the yoke of bondage, hailed by some as the advance of liberty, and bewailed by others as the destruction of all liberty"

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, from his
Baltimore Address, 1864





OFICIALUS SKYRIUS

OFFICIAL NEWS



Open Letter and Questionnaire to the K. of L. Membership:

In these final months of writing the narrative of the Knights, it is impossible to engage in much more travel to obtain oral history, though time permitting, I still hope to reach some of the longtime members in the Boston area for an interview. It would have been an honor to make visits with some of our veterans elsewhere such as: Helen Shields, Stanley Pieza, Konstant Savickas, and Joseph Boley. As time runs out, it is clear to me that I will have to make use of a general appeal, especially to these and many other giants of the association. Your replies will be much appreciated.

Though this survey is not a scientific, highly reliable method to obtain some answers, I hope to gain at least some impressions to integrate into my findings thus far. Several major and prolonged issues have absorbed much time throughout the history of the K. of L. You are invited to shed some light on these issues by taking a few moments of time to reflect on your sentiments and experiences. Please send your completed form by April 20, 1985 to:

Rev. William Wolkovich
36 St. George Rectory
Norwood, MA 02062

To record your answers, kindly use a separate sheet of paper (8½x11), writing on one side only, typing if possible. Perhaps some remarks will be used as quotations. Do you give permission to use your name for quotations?

YES NO

Otherwise, quotations will be used without attribution.

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA JUBILEE 1913 - 1988

RESPONDENT'S NAME

ADDRESS

AGE

NUMBER OF YEARS IN K. OF L.

POSITIONS HELD IN K. OF L.

TELEPHONE

1. At times, lack of support or even opposition to the K. of L. on the part of the clergy has impeded success. What has been your experience in this regard?

2. Interethnic marriages have been a source of much past controversy. What was your original attitude on this topic? Have you changed your thinking over a period of time? (e.g. opposed, tolerant, favorable). Why?

3. Another major dispute has centered on language retention. Do you hold that speaking or reading Lithuanian (or both) is essential to maintaining a genuine sense of ethnicity? Any change of view from early days to present?

4. Very few Displaced Persons joined the K. of L. Likewise, relations were not always cordial between Lithuanians (and Lithuanian-Americans) and the newcomers. In your view, what were the reasons? What were the shortcomings on both sides?

5. The famous non-Lithuanian, Swiss-born, Juozas Eretas, was a great admirer of the Lithuanian heritage and an intense scholar of things Lithuanian. Yet by the K. of L. constitution, he could not have been a member. What is your opinion about restricting interested non-Lithuanians to second-class "associate" status? Is this essential for the good of the organization, or should there be a more liberal policy?

6. Keeping in mind the goals of the K. of L., which of them, in your estimation, have been successfully achieved, and which have been reached poorly, or not at all?

7. If you had full authority to make a single change in the K. of L. what would that change be? To put it differently, what one adjustment do you regard as most important?

8. Finally, from your experience or knowledge of the past, or both — which members, in your opinion, have contributed the most to the K. of L.? Name a few, both laity and clergy. Explain. Is there anyone in particular, you believe has not received proper recognition?

A very special Lithuanian "AČIŪ"



Mr. Frank Petrauskas
President, Supreme Council
Knights of Lithuania

Dear Frank:

We of Council 50 are pleased to donate to the Supreme Council a sum of one thousand six hundred dollars (\$1600.00) as a result of our successful National Convention held in August, 1985 in New Haven, Connecticut.

Vytiskai,
Frank J. Peterson
President, C-50

The KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC. is a newly-organized endowment fund of the K of L. Its capital will remain intact while its interest will be used for special charitable, cultural and educational purposes of the K of L.

Help it grow . . . with your contribution of \$100.00 or more, which will entitle you to membership in the Foundation. Send your investment in the K of L future TODAY.

Write to this address also, to learn how to include the Foundation in your will.



KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.
234 SUNLIT DRIVE
WATCHUNG, NEW JERSEY 07060

- I hereby donate to the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC. the sum of \$_____ (Minimum - \$100.00)
- I have included the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC. in my Last Will and Testament.
- Please send me more information about the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

COUNCIL _____

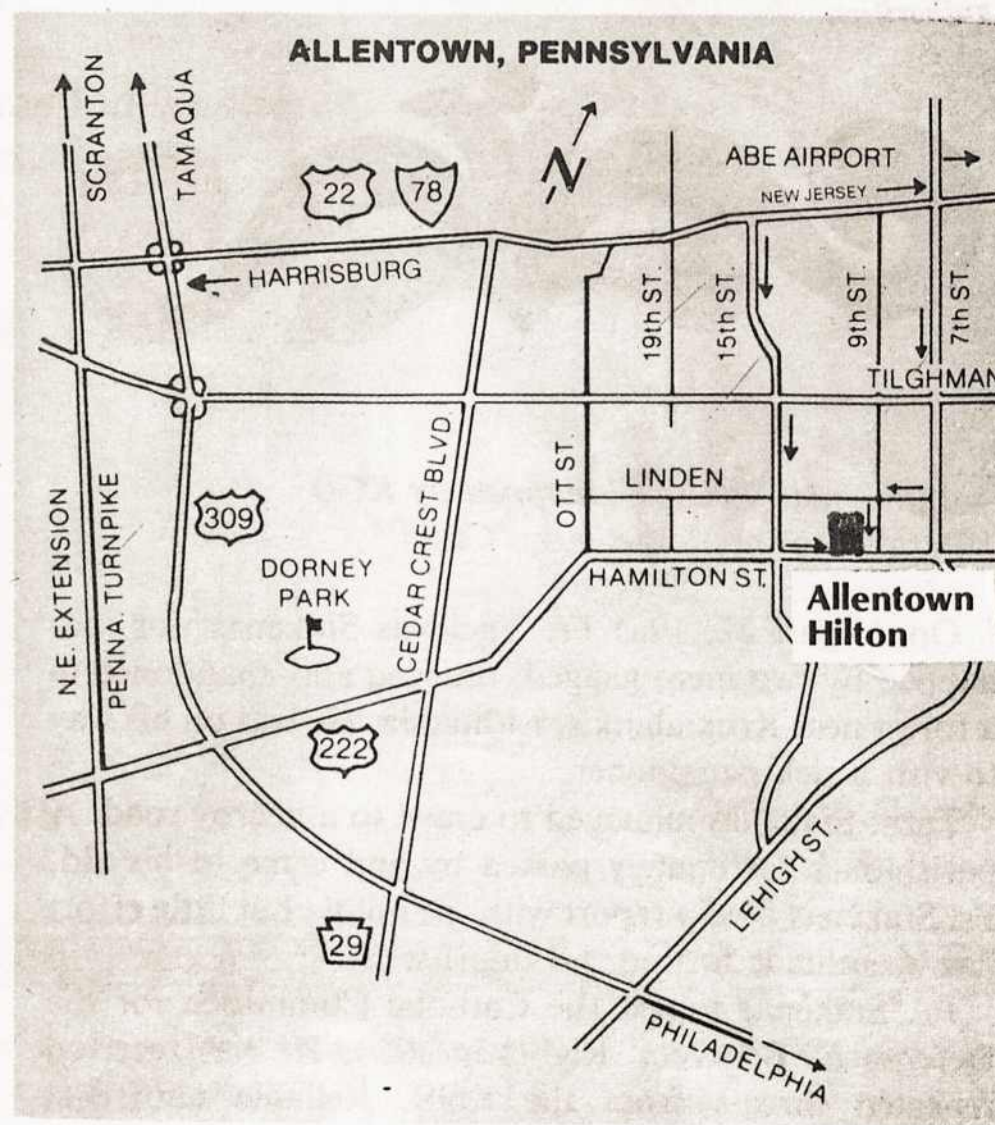
Please make all checks payable to:
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIAN FOUNDATION, INC.

Note: The Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation, chartered in the State of Illinois. Tax-expemt status pending.

73rd NATIONAL KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA CONVENTION

AUGUST 7-10, 1986

THE ALLENTOWN HOTEL HILTON



The Allentown Hilton Hotel is located on Hamilton Mall in Allentown's exciting center city shopping-theater-business district. The Mall has over 100 shops and services in a park-like setting spread out over a mile of canopied sidewalks lined with trees, fountains, and planters.

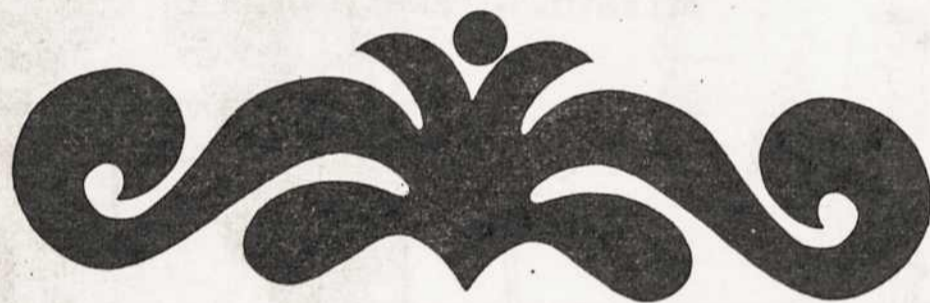
Featured throughout the hotel are internationally renowned works of art with paintings and sculptures by noted artists such as LeRoy Neiman, Norman Rockwell, Pablo Picasso and Alexander Calder.

LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS BRIEFS...

Sadunas Family Threatened with Eviction



Jonas Sadunas, his wife and daughter face eviction by Soviet authorities.



—Lithuanian Priest Kidnapped by KGB “Parallel to the Popieluszko Case?”

On August 22, 1985 Fr. Vaclovas Stakėnas was kidnapped by two men, gagged, dragged and abandoned in a forest near Krokialaukis, Lithuania. He was on his way to visit a sick parishioner.

Fran. Stakėnas managed to crawl to a nearby road. A parishioner fortunately passed by and came to his aid. Fr. Stakėnas filed a report with the militia but little effort has been made to find the culprits.

Fr. Stakėnas joined the Catholic Committee for the Defense of Believers' Rights in 1980. He has received repeated threats from the KGB. Reliable unofficial sources from Lithuania charge that the violence was planned or condoned by the authorities.

WRITE TO: OLEG A. TROYANOVSKY
Soviet Ambassador to the United Nations
United Nations Plaza
New York, New York

Ask him to investigate the harrassment of Fr. Stakėnas who is simply fulfilling his priestly duties. Remind him that the Soviet Constitution and the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights guarantees Fr. Stakėnas' freedom of religion.

Plans are underway to evict the Sadunas family from their apartment in Vilnius. Their apartment, bought by the family fifteen years ago, is registered in the name of Nijole Sadunaite. Sadunaite, together with her brother and his family, had lived there until 1982, at which time she went into hiding to avoid a second arrest for anti-Soviet activity.

If an eviction were to occur, the Sadunas family would most likely not be allowed to continue living in Vilnius, where visiting tourists would certainly try to help them in their plight.

In addition, their eviction would help prepare a criminal case against Nijole. She would be considered a vagrant by the State, which also labels one anti-Soviet and subject to punishment by law.

WRITE TO: Commissioner Dodie Livingston

Administration for Children, Youth and Families
U.S. Office of Human Development Services
200 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

ask them to write to Soviet authorities expressing their concern for the Sadunaite family. (Enclose addresses of Soviet Ambassador to the United States; to the United Nations and that of Mikhail Gorbachev).



Charter members of the Catholic Committee for the Defense of Believers' Rights. Fr. Stakenas joined the Committee in 1980.



JUNIORS CORNER

Have a "Press Conference." Question a Lithuanian boy or girl about Lithuania. Have a discussion: "What can I tell my friends about Lithuania?" Use the questions written below.

1. Where is Lithuania?
2. Is Lithuania independent?
3. Why is February 16th important?
4. Was it the first time that Lithuania was independent?
5. Was Lithuania independent for only 22 years?
6. How old is Lithuania?
7. How old is the United States?
8. What are the colors of the Lithuanian flag?
9. Are you Lithuanian?



Aš esu lietuvis

Žodž. St. Džiugo
Muz. J. Bertulio

Aš e-su lie - tu - vis, Lie - tu - vos sū - nus. Aš ži - nau gar -
bin - gus jos lai - kus se - nus. My - liu Ne - mu - nę - li, Ne - ris jo duk -
ra, o prie jos sos - ti - nę Lie - tu - vos tik - ra.



NAUJOJI DIENA (A New Day)

Move the užuolaidos (curtains), look out the langas (windows) and - Labas rytas! (good morning!)

Pirmiausia, nusiplauk rankas ir veidą (First, wash your hands and face), paskui išsivalyk dantis (then clean your teeth), susišukuok plaukus (comb your hair), ir pasiklok lovą (and fix your bed). Apsirenk (Dress up), užsidėk marškinius ir kelnes (put on your shirt and slacks).

Dabar laikas pusryčių (Now it's time for breakfast).

PUSRYČIŲ VALGIAI — Breakfast food

šalta vaisių surka	cold fruit juice
šilti javainiai	warm cereal
gruzdinta duona	toast
marmeladas, uogienė	jam
kepti kiaušiniai	fried eggs
klevo sirupas	syrup

vafelis	waffle
šaltas pienas	cold milk
grietinė	cream
gruzdintuvas	toaster
sviestas	butter
lašinukai	bacon
blynai	pancakes
medus	honey
karšta kakava	hot cocoa



C-100 Juniors learn the art of Lithuanian straw ornament making (Dan Jasewicz, Joe Kot, Beatrice Jasewicz and Charles Jasewicz)



Videocassettes

DOCUMENTARY FILMS FROM LITHUANIA

“LITUANIKOS” SPARNAIS — The tragic pioneering flight across the Atlantic of the two Lithuanian-Americans Darius and Girenas

ŠIMTAMEČIU GODOS — Interviews with men and women in Lithuania who are over one hundred years old

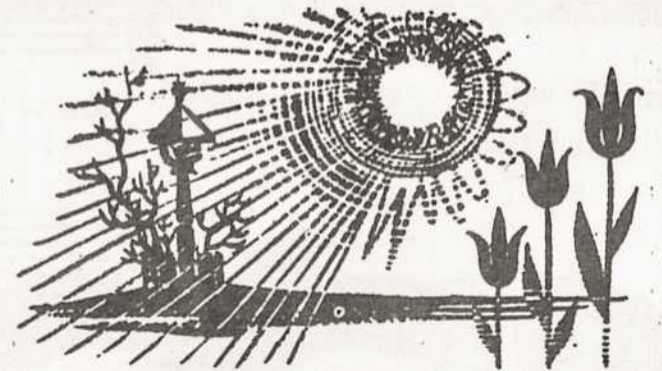
ŠVENTĖN — Preparations for a Lithuanian folk song festival

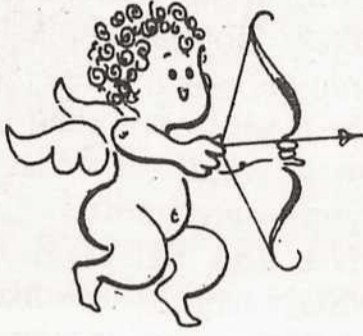
GYVENU SAVO SAPNĄ — young Canadian-Lithuanians visit Lithuania and discuss their impressions

IEVA SIMONAITYTĖ — Portrait of a Lithuanian writer as she reminisces about her life

IEŠKOM KLAKSONŲ — Antique car buffs in Lithuania, with background music by Sabaniauskas, a popular Lithuanian singer of the 1930's

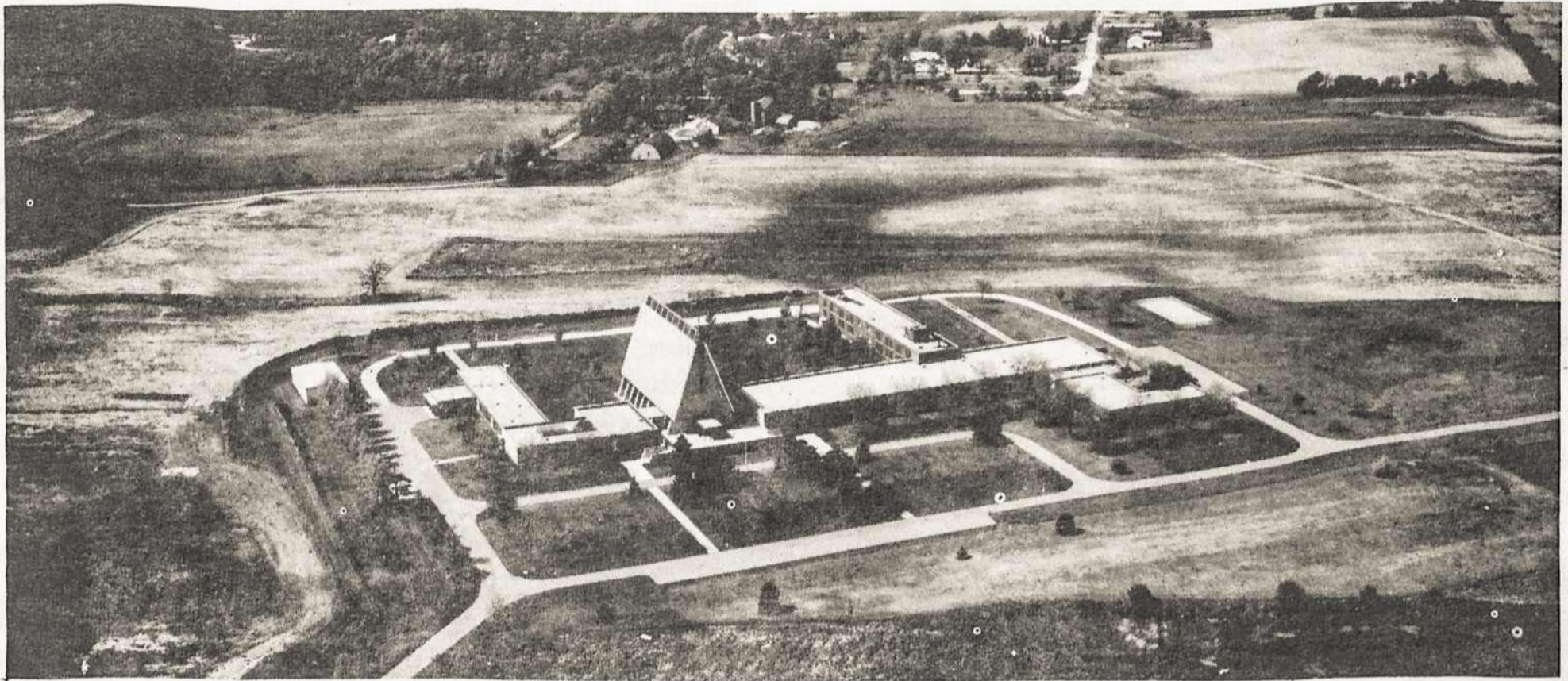
All films are in black-and-white, 20 min. long.
\$29.95 per film — \$39.95 with English subtitles
(Please add \$2.50 per videocassette for mailing costs)
Make out checks or money orders to: **IVI**
INTERNATIONAL VIDEO INSTITUTE, INC.
Dept. 110, c/o Juozas Kazlas





LITHUANIANS IN THE NEWS

Edited by RUTH KAZLAUSKAS



Future World Lithuanian Center

"The Observer" reports that a New York based Lithuanian investment group, Litas Investing, has purchased the former DeAndreis Seminary and its surrounding acreage in Lemont, Illinois, southwest of Chicago, for a proposed World Lithuanian Center.

Plans are for a portion of the seminary facilities to be utilized as a Lithuanian Community Center, with the farm land to be developed into varied housing developments. Immediate concerns are for a facility for religious services, as well as for weekend schools and other community activities.

As the United Nations celebrated its 40th anniversary last October, STASYS GOSTAUTAS looked back 23 years to the time he covered the assembly as a cub reporter for United Press International and major South American newspapers, reported "The Daily Transcript", Massachusetts, Norwood-Walpole Edition.

In the early 1960s he relayed news from New York City to South America. He was 23 when he began reporting on the U.N. That was just after the Cuban missile crisis. He described the Cold-War atmosphere in the U.N. at that time as very tense.

He said working for the wire service put him under a lot of stress because of the pressure of constant deadlines around the world.

Gostautas has continued writing and has contributed major articles and essays on art, politics and literature to numerous journals and magazines in South America. He has lived in South America, Eastern and Western Europe.

He now lives in Westwood and owns and operates The Wine Cellar, in Dedham, Mass., a liquor store specializing in wines in the Dedham Mall.

An article about Stasys Gostautas can be found in the Encyclopedia Lituanica.



Theresa Balciunas, Grace Johnson and Aldona Balciunas show some of the Lithuanian Christmas ornaments that were used to decorate the Lithuanian tree at the Governor's Mansion.



Aldona Balciunas decorates the Lithuanian tree in the Governor's mansion, Madison, Wis.

On December 6th the "Kenosha News", Kenosha, Wis., featured an article interview with THERESA BALCIUNAS, president of Council 38, Kenosha.

Each year at the Milwaukee Holiday Folk Fair, representatives of several ethnic groups are selected to decorate a Christmas tree in the tradition of their country at the governor's mansion in Madison, Wis. This was the first year the Lithuanians were invited.

Members of C-38 ALDONA and BIRUTE BALCIUNAS and GRACE JOHNSON went to Madison to decorate their tree. Aldona and Birute, junior members, are daughters of Theresa Balciunas and the late Dr. Vitoldas Balciunas.

On December 7th, Theresa demonstrated the art of making straw ornaments at the Milwaukee Public Museum, and it was well attended.

Another article in the "Kenosha News" reported that K of L Kenosha Council 38 was well represented at the Holiday Folk Fair held at Milwaukee's MECCA on Nov. 22, 23 and 24. Theresa Balciunas was general chairman of the Lithuanian exhibition and BILL CANTWELL was chairman of the sidewalk cafe where Lithuanian cuisine was featured.

STANLEY MILASIUS was chairman of the dance group. Young people from Wisconsin and Illinois participated.

MARY ANN MARION was chairman of the World Mart where handmade items were sold, and Aldona Balciunas was chairman of the cultural exhibit.

* * * * *

Rev. Dr. JOSEPH PRUNSKIS, Chicago, Ill., was awarded the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture's Humanitarian Award of 1985, at the Museum's 18th Annual Award Dinner on Sunday, November 24th, in the Gold Coast Room of the Drake Hotel in Chicago.

Father Prunskis is a frequent contributor of articles to the "Vytis", and last year donated the generous sum of \$1,000 to enhance the cultural aspects of the "Vytis".

Father Prunskis, journalist and author of numerous books and over 10,000 articles for newspapers and journals, is Director of Information for the Lithuanian American Council in Chicago.

* * * * *

THOMAS D. VALINCY (VALINCIUS) is head of "Productivity", his own industrial consulting firm in Cleveland, Ohio.

Listed in Who's Who in America, he was editor and co-author of "A Practical Guide to Production and Inventory Control and What Really Works". He has recently completed another book, "Floating Your Boat Through Personal and Career Development," published by Carlton Press, Inc., New York, N.Y.

Mr. Valincy is the nephew of Mr. and Mrs. JONAS MILAS, members of the Cleveland, Ohio Seniors.



Superintendent Laimutis A. Nargelenas, Illinois State Police, presents Chicago Bears' Walter Payton with honorary state trooper award.

The "Chicago Sun-Times" on November 27th pictured WALTER PAYTON, Running Back for the Chicago Bears Football Team, being presented with a plaque bearing his number by LAIMUTIS A. NARGELNAS the 1985 Man of the Year Award at the Lithuanian National Scholarship Award Banquet.

Superintendent Nargelenas has been with the Department of Law Enforcement for sixteen years. In his current assignment he is responsible for the direction, control, discipline and conduct of approximately 1,523 police officers and 526 civilian personnel. He is a graduate of the Northwestern University Traffic Institute and holds a Masters of Arts Degree in Legal Studies from Sangamon State University. He is currently working toward his Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Education.

* * * * *

Noted in "Sandara", Chicago, Ill. — PRANAS PRANCKEVICIUS of Chicago, an employee of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regional office in Chicago, had just finished taking water pollution samples in the Detroit River on July 13th. With him were two EPA contract employees. They were heading for shore in their 21-foot boat when they spotted a similar boat dead in the water.

The boat was in mid-channel and there was a huge freighter bearing down on it. The EPA craft hurried over choppy water to the disabled boat and found two Royal Canadian Mounted Policemen paddling furiously. The Mounties threw a short line to the EPA crew, which quickly pulled them to safety. Moments later, the freighter chugged past them only 30 feet away.

The Detroit River, at that point, separates downtown Detroit, Mich. and downtown Windsor, Ont. Someone on the Canadian shore observed all of this and there was a photographer and reporter from the Windsor Star waiting for them at the Windsor Marina.

The Mounties were on a training exercise when their outboard motor got stuck in reverse gear. Except for rope burns, a few bruised arms and other minor injuries, they were O.K.

Pranckevicius, who has been with EPA's Great Lakes National program Office since 1984, is an environmental protection specialist who was taking part in a joint EPA-Canadian study.

Besides PRANAS PRANCKEVICIUS, there are about a dozen other Americans of Lithuanian descent working for U.S. EPA Region V, which comprises the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio.

The Regional Administrator is VALDAS V. ADAMKUS, who has been in this post since 1981.

Other Lithuanian-Americans in U.S. EPA Region V include VACYS J. SAULYS, chief of Remedial Programs Staff; BERNARD C. TARULIS, chief of the Administrative Management Section; BIRUTE A. BULOTA, chief of the Graphic Arts Staff; Computer Specialist JON A. ABRAYTIS; Supervisory Life Scientist-Engineer JONAS DIKINIS; Environmental Protection Specialist ARUNAS K. DRAUGELIS; Environmental Scientist ANTHONY A. KIZLAUSKAS; Writer-Editor R. JOHN RAPSYS; and Supervisory Environmental Engineer-Scientist CHARLES B. SLAUSTAS.

Although Lithuanian-Americans work for numerous Federal agencies, U.S. EPA Region V probably has more Lithuanian-Americans than any other Federal agency's regional office.

* * * * *

Pijus Guoba
Died November 20, 1985
Member C-29, Newark, NJ

IN MEMORIAM
Please remember in
your prayers...

Peter Maleckas
Died August 20, 1985
Member C-29, Newark, NJ



VYČIAI VEIKIA



COUNCIL ACTIVITIES



Edited by HELEN CHESKO, 1000 E. Pine St., Mahanoy City, PA 17948



MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

C-63 — Lehigh Valley

Albert V. Klizas was sworn in for a second term as president of Lehigh Valley Council 63. Klizas served as the organization's first president in 1982-84. He replaced Len Barcousky.

Other officers include his wife, Jeanette D. Klizas, recording secretary; Joseph F. Ogint, vice president; Robert J. Klova, treasurer and Jane Lutick, financial secretary. Trustees include Adolf Klova, Anthony J. Sockel, John F. Lushis and Jacob W. Zansitis.

Committee chairpersons include Barcousky, public relations; Joseph Simmons, Lithuanian affairs; Ann S. Pettit, cultural; Mary Sabol, ritual; Mary Sockel, sunshine and Valeria Smickle, hospitality.

The officers were sworn in during a covered-dish supper held in St. Michael's Church Parish Hall, Easton. Dora Lushis coordinated the dinner.

The Lehigh Valley Council has about 100 members from around the Lehigh Valley.

Lithuanian folk customs dictate that Christmas Eve fast should extend until the first evening star appears in the sky. As delicious aromas filled the parish hall of St. Michael's, members and their guests could not wait that long. They were recreating Kucios, the traditional meatless meal of 12 or more dishes eaten on Christmas Eve.

Almost 60 Knights and friends attended the annual event on December 8. The Rev. Thomas J. Benestad, administrator of St. Michael's, offered the opening prayer.



Al Klizas, president C-63 Lehigh Valley.

Joseph Ogint and Mary Sabor co-chaired the dinner. They were assisted by President Klizas.

Others who helped with cooking and serving were Andrew Sabol, Walentyna Ogint, Jeanette Klizas, Len Barcousky, Leo & Trudy Meshauk, Dora Lushis, Sophia

Pfeiffer, Violet Price, Valeria Smickel, Mary Good, Madeline Slopik, Mary Sockel and Louise Stefan.

Kučios is traditionally celebrated in the home. Ogint said the council's early recreation was designed to encourage members to celebrate again on Christmas Eve.

The tables were set with white cloths and the head table was decorated with a wooden cross. At each place were "plotkeles." At the head table was one empty place, set aside for the unexpected guest whose birth is being celebrated.

The menu was a combination of traditional and contemporary foods. The main course was flounder; the desserts included chocolate chip cookies. The dinner began with bowls of steaming beet soup. A long buffet included prunes, representing the rough road of life; peas, tears; boiled potatoes, humble and uneventful lives and sauerkraut, the mix of sweet and sour in life.

There were also herring, steamed barley, red cabbage salad, mushroom salad and poppyseed and nut roll.

Council trustee Anthony Sockel passed among members, offering them thimblefuls of "krupnikas," the spicy holiday cordial.

Len Barcousky



C-74 — Scranton

Our council had a Halloween party at St. Joseph's Church Hall. We had a parade, musical band and the Good Ship Lollypop. The costumes were great.

President Laske was dressed as a Hawaiian girl. Joining her were Agatha Sueta as the bird lady; Marcell Kikaitis, Dutch girl; Helen Roginski, princess; Margaret Laibinas, bag lady.

Irene Shimkus was a jolly clown. Jerry & Mary Costello were priest and nun. Impersonating male characters were Ruth Yanish as Charlie Chaplin; Patsy Simms, the gay cablero; Anna Patelunas, coal miner; Ann Lisowski, ex-president Nixon. Raggedy Ann was present in the person of Ann Galenas. And, of course, our Jean Kavelinas was the cook who was supervised by Hippie Helen Romeika. Gertrude Romeika masqueraded as the high-priced painter who was harrassed by the Masked Marvel, Josephine Profkas.

Our gentlemen were attired as follows: Ed Lewis, the bum; Casimir Yanish, a mad Mexican and Frank Shimkus, Irish elf.

Richard Laske danced to the accompaniment of Rose Sanches, as Katrina, the ballerina.

This was an appreciation party for all who worked during the year. A good time was had by all.

Martha Brack

C-100 — Amsterdam

A Lithuanian Mass was celebrated by Rev. R. K. Baltch for deceased members on November 11. Readings were by Polly Ziausys. Vice President Gobis read the list of deceased which totaled 25. President and Mrs. Radzevich brought the gift offerings.

Our meeting followed in the Social Center. MAD Lithuanian affairs chairman, Bernice Aviza, reported that 24 students are attending the Lithuanian class at Hudson Valley Conn College. Alger & Joan Bagdonas and Bernice are par-



C-74 Scranton hosted the Mid-Atlantic District meeting. Standing are Bernice Aviza, Vytis Editor; Larry Janonis, MAD President. Seated: Marie Laske, C-74 President; Richard Laske, C-74 Trustee; Adele Dauzickas, MAD Recording Secretary and John Adomenas, President C-110 Maspeth.

ticipating. Genute Baranauskas is teaching the course.

Junior Counselor Regina Kot noted that a large contingent of juniors attended the Festival of Nations in Albany in November. They included Ken & Richard, Charles & Daniel Jasewicz, Joe Kot, Joe & Judianne Nikstenas, Kelly Olson and Kristin Olechowski. Helping Bernice were Polly Ziausys, Gerry Drenzek, Ed & Genute Baranauskas and Junior Kristin Olechowski. Many of our council members attended. Seen by your reporter were Anthony & Ann Radzevich, William & Beatrice Jasewicz, Steve & Adeline Raila and Gene Gobis.

The Syracuse Festival of Nations was visited by Regina Hartvigas, Regina Kot, Junior Joe Kot and Gene Gobis. The Lithuanian booth was doing an excellent job in selling potato pancakes. Amsterdams renewed acquaintances with the Syracuse K of L's.

The Lazdynas Dancers of Rochester under the direction of Jadvyga Regina performed at both the Syracuse and Albany Festivals.

Father Baltch spoke of his recent trip to Lithuania. he said there were so many K of L's that it seemed like a mini convention. Besides Frank Peterson and his wife, Helen



National President Frank Petrauskas with C-100 Junior Joe Kot and National Cultural Chairlady Regina Kot at Syracuse Festival of Nations.



Harold Tice, Irene Tice and Jennie Burimaukas enjoy themselves at C-100's Kūčios.

Chesko and Helen Shields were among the K of L'ers making the trip — not to forget our council members Sadie Dzekciorius and son Algimantas. Father brought us some of his beautiful souvenirs.

Our Cultural Chairmen, Steve & Adeline Raila, videotaped the Lazdynas Dancers. This was part of the evening's program.

We thank Betty Kuzmich and Mary Stanionis, refreshment committee, for a most delicious array of food. Bernice Aviza brought some Lithuanian food from the festival to add to the goodies served.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to John & Agnes Rokit in the recent loss of John's sister, Eleanora Tatara and to Jean Maldutis and Edith Orante in the passing of their sister-in-law, Hazel Margaret Shatas. May their souls rest in peace!

SMILE & SPARKLE

C-110 — Maspeth

Lithuanian Independence Day 1986, commemorating the 68th anniversary of the re-establishment of Lithuania as a republic and the 735th anniversary of the founding of the Lithuanian state, will receive recognition in a singular manner. New York City's Mayor Ed Koch as well as Councilman Walter Ward and other dignitaries will present C-110's delegation, led by John Adomenas, a proclamation in recognition of this special day. On this occasion the flag of Free Lithuania will fly over the City Hall of New York City. Al Marcel, an aide to Walter Ward, arranged this ceremony.

December began with our annual Christmas party. President John Adomenas coordinated the details on this fun occasion. John thanks all who participated behind the scenes. Our caterers were Adele & Louise Dauzickas, Mary Gilbert, May Johnson, Lottie Ulrich, Tony & Helen Yakaitis and Walter Klosis. Many thanks, too, to Joe Thomas for his audio contribution and superb musical talent.



Gene Gobis, Tony Radzevich, Steve Raila, Vince Rossi and friend enjoy C-100's Christmas party.

Our Christmas party had a festive air. It was good to see one of our life members, Dalia Raziunas, whose bakery makes the best Lithuanian bread. Whirling on the dance floor were Pete & Jean Yuskevich, Muriel & John Lekstutis, Sophie & Tony Kamage, Ed & Fran Jakatt, All & Stasia Kraujalis, Ann & Wally Bartkus, Evelyn & Igni Wallace and Al & Charlotte Marcel. We also had the pleasure of the company of Louise Meloro, Fran & Tony Migliore, Helen Robinson, Helen Venis, Amy Girdauskas, Mary Baltrus, Helen Janis, Helen Jambor, Theresa & George Dagus, Helen Matulonis, Helen Zeder, the Resavages, the Rusinises and others.

Congratulations to Al Marcel and his new bride, Charlotte. Get well wishes to Al Shults. Welcome new members: Mary Shalins, Julie Kowrak, Ona Fleming, Elvira Vileniskas and Erna Milukas.

Su meile —
Brenda Bell — Razickas

C-118 — Hazleton

Council 118 opened the fall season with newly-elected President Dorish Shanahon presiding.

Members of the council participated in the Living Rosary held in conjunction with Forty Hours Devotion. Each participant carried a votive candle, courtesy Father Skitzki, our spiritual advisor. John Lapinsky was chairman for the refreshments which were served to



Santa (Ed Bablin) presents Charles Karbocius with one of the grand prizes awarded at C-100's Christmas party.

parishioners after services. Julia Solonoski wore an original which was recently brought from Lithuania. It added a special touch to the ceremony. Nellie Bayoras and Dorothy Banos of the Pittston council were our guests.

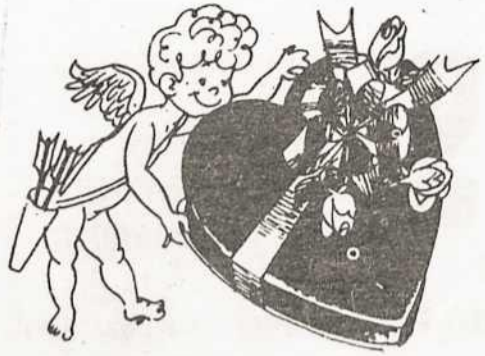
Albert Launikonis discussed the point system for the Third Degree and reported that several members might be eligible in 1986.

Marie Alansky chaired our first Chinese Auction which was a great success. All the members had a good time working and enjoyed the day. Hopefully, we will have more.

Valeria and Joe Dancho reported on their great vacation to Lithuania. They were happy to see their families and friends again. The nicest news was hearing that our adopted parish was doing well.

Alma Launikonis





NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

C-103 — Providence

'Tis the season to be merry! What an auspicious start our council has experienced. On December 1, we joined Norwood, South Boston and Host Council 1 of Brockton in the annual Kucios at the Frances and George Bumila Facility in Raynham, MA.

The Kucios narration was given by Father Jurgelaitis. The observance was superb in all respects. Fourteen of our members were present.

Several members participated and attended the NED meeting, chaired by President Al Jaraitis prior to the Kucios. Unfortunately time is too short for consideration of all items on the proposed agenda. Balance of items will be aired at the January meeting in Worcester.

Sunday, December 8, our annual Christmas party was held at the Greenville Inn with 42 members and guests present. Highlight of the evening was the singing of Lithuanian and English Christmas carols by the students of the Lithuanian Language Class at Providence College. The director of the chorus was Father Jurgelaitis. Our dedicated and talented accordionist Susan Gudcauskas accompanied them.

Un Ami De Lituanie



MID-AMERICA DISTRICT

The District members remembered Lithuania in special prayers throughout the day during the District's Day of Prayer for the Church in Lithuania.

Our Annual Mass for Deceased Members and families was held in conjunction with a special Day of Recollection. Our hosts were the Marian Fathers and the event was held in their beautiful chapel in Chicago. We express our appreciation to the good fathers, especially Rev. Peter Cibulskis, Rev. Vaskas, Bro. Tadas Margis & Bro. Vincent Svingilas. Our Natl. Spir. Adv. the Rev. Anthony J. Jurelaitis OP of Providence RI was the moderator of "The Lord's Day". Everyone found the day most rewarding and we owe a great debt of gratitude to Father and the organizers. Our congratulations to: chairladies Estelle Rogers/Julie Zakarka & their committee: Al Zakarka, Paul/Susan Binkis, Irene Sankus, Algerd Brazis, Mary Juzenas, Eleanor Kasputis, Sabina Klatt & K of L friends: John Henson, Rose Negrelli & Josephine Morgan.

Father Jurgelaitis also celebrated the Memorial Mass in the Marian Chapel with Mary Juzenas (Cantor), Mary Kincius (reader), Eleanor Kasputis/Dutchie Uuknis (ushers), Algerd Brazis/Estelle Rogers (Communion gifts). The day's events also included a delicious luncheon served in the Marian diningroom.

Fahter's hosts during the weekend were: the Sisters of St. Casimir Motherhouse & Chaplain, Al/Julie Zakarka (who hosted a special 40th Anniversary dinner for Father); Dutchie Yuknis, Ellie Kasputis (who



hosted the farewell party); & Estelle Rogers (escort-supreme). Everyone awaits Father's return to Chicago and our next day of recollection.

Prior to the Winter meeting of the District, Pres. Al Brazis called a Bd. of Directors' meeting (hostess Irene Sankus) to discuss activities and make plans for the coming months. One of the most important decisions was the selection of His Excellency Bishop Vincentas Brizgys as the recipient of our "Award of Distinction" which will be presented during our 26th Annual "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet on Sun. Feb. 23rd, Martinique Grandballroom.

The Winter Quarterly Business Meeting of the District was held on Sat., Nov. 30th, with C-36 of Brighton Park as our hosts. The meeting, held in Immaculate Conception Parish Hall, was well attended and all Dist. business was conducted. Following the meeting, a 1st and 2nd Degree Ritual Presentation was conducted by Chairlady Ann-Marie Kassel, Rev. Fabian Kereilis, Albert Zakarka, Irene Sankus, Terry Strolia & Albert Dagus. We were most pleased to have the Pastor Msgr. D. A. Mozeris greet the delegates. The next meeting will be held in conjunction with our St. Casimir's Day Commemoration and will be hosted by C-13 Chicago.

Our K of L Dancers and Young Adults Council 13 enacted a "Lithuanian Kūčios" during the Museum of Science & Industry Christmas Around the World Pageant. Our dancers with Frank Zapolis as their leader continue to represent us at various Lithuanian and civic events.

C-112
 MRS. JOSEPHINE DAUZVARDIS
 CONSULATE OF LITHUANIA
 6147 S. ARTESIAN
 CHICAGO, IL 60629

VYTIS

Scottie Zukas
 5112 S. Mayfield
 Chicago, IL 60638

Return requested

Address Correction Requested

Another recent performance was at the International Folk Fair at Donnelley Hall in Chicago.

District Juniors, under the leadership of V-P Maria Deksnis and Julie Zakarka met recently in the Zakarka home. Elections were held, plans were made for the coming year, and a great time was had by all. If you have any youngsters interested in joining, please contact Maria.

Following the annual ALTAS meeting, a banquet and commemorative program was held on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the death of Leonard Simutis Sr. The musical tribute was directed by Prof. Leonard Simutis Jr., and sung by Algerd Brazis. Saulius Kuprys read the tribute to the well remembered Leonardas Simutis. Many K of L members were in attendance.

Father Adolph Stašys, K of L member formerly from Chicago and now of St. Petersburg, Fla., also attended the ALTAS event and afterwards was royally entertained by K of L friends.

The K of L Choir and District hosted the reception which introduced the new cassette "The Seven Last Words of Christ". It was beautiful to hear and we think everyone will want their own copy. Contact AnnMarie Kassel for details.

iks.



K OF L CALENDAR

MARCH

- 2 C-110, Maspeth ST. CASIMIR'S DAY MASS AND BRUNCH, Transfiguration Church, Maspeth
- 9 Mid-Atlantic District ST. CASIMIR'S COMMUNION BREAKFAST AND MEETING, Frackville, PA Hosts-C-144, Anthracite
- 15 SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING Allentown, PA

APRIL

- 19-20 LITHUANIAN FAIR Transfiguration Church Hall Maspeth, NY

JUNE

- 1 Mid-Atlantic District 70th ANNIVERSARY DINNER & DANCE Transfiguration Church Hall Maspeth, NY
- 8 Mid-Atlantic District SPRING CONVENTION, Forest City, Pa Hosts: C-46, Forest City

AUGUST 7-10, 1986
 73rd National Convention
 Allentown Hilton
 Allentown, PA

- 24 Northeastern United States Pilgrimage for the Suffering Church in Lithuania, Auriesville, NY