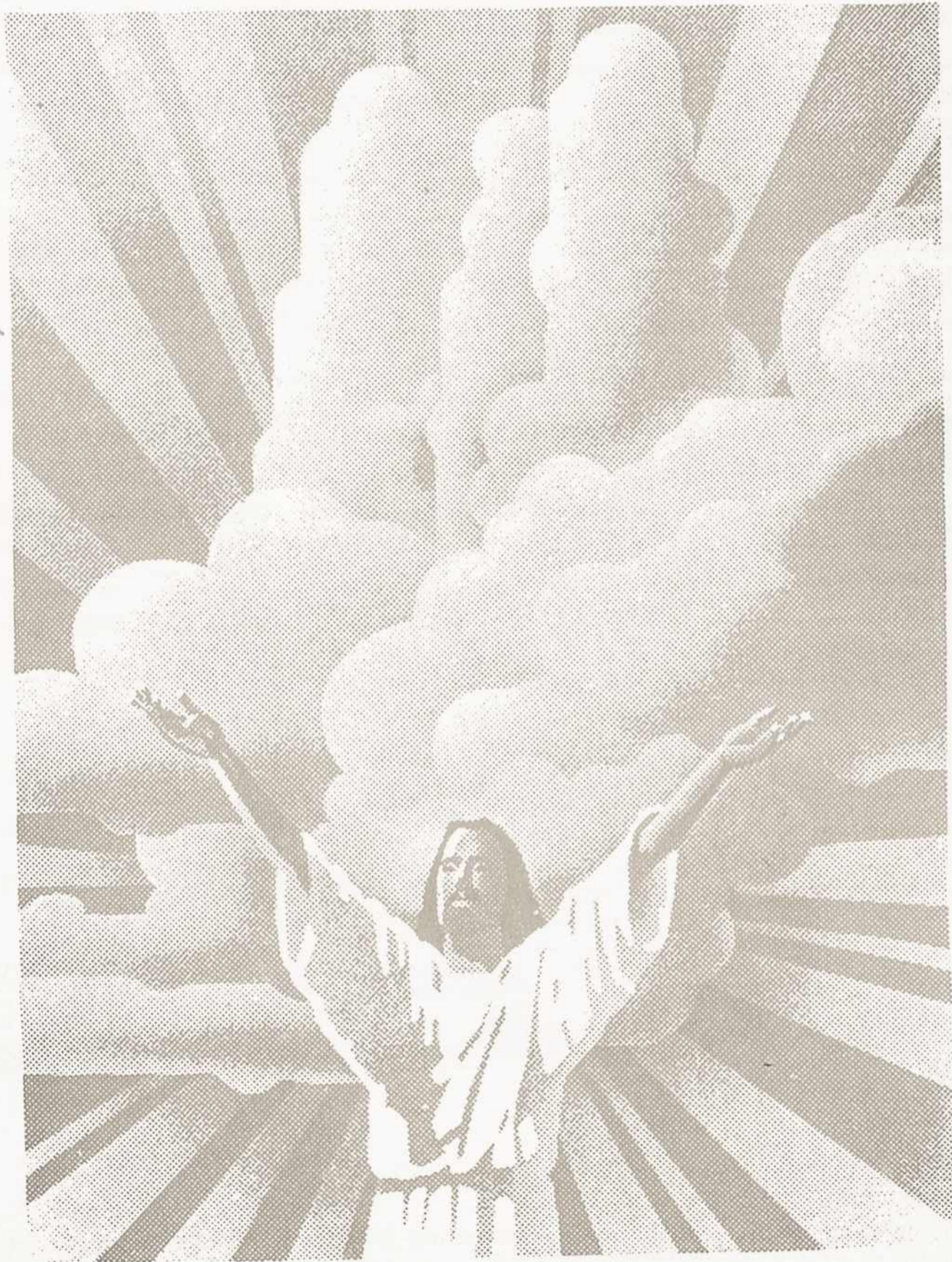

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Linksmų Šv. Velykų - Happy Easter

VYTIS

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LITHUANIAN EASTER CUSTOMS

Leo Venckus

EASTER is the most important of the Lithuanian spring festivals celebrated on the first Sunday after the date of the full moon that occurs on or after March 21. The word Easter in Lithuanian is Velykos, a loan from the Byelorussian "veliki" (great). It coincided with the old Lithuanian spring festival. Right up to the beginning of this century, Lithuanian farmers would begin to prepare for spring work in the fields around Easter.

LALAUNINKAI (from lalėti, lalauti - "to talk loudly"). This was the name given to boys and usually unmarried men who would go from home to home singing, delivering orations and asking for Easter eggs. This custom survived in Dzukija up to WW II.

The lalauninkai, usually a group of from 8 to 14 men and boys with a fiddler or a harmonica player among them, would begin to meet at the end of Lent to rehearse. Girls and women would color Easter eggs to give to the lalauninkai.

They would begin their rounds on the evening of Easter Sunday and finish the next morning before dawn. The custom was to visit the outlying farms and villages, beginning with their own village. People would go to bed early on that night and wait for them to come around.

The lalauninkai would approach a window quietly and one of them would shout out: Garbė Jėzui Kristui (Praised be Jesus Christ). The response from inside the house would be: Per amžius, Amen. (For ever, Amen). After the greeting, one of the lalauninkai would say: "Woman of the house, permit us to cheer up your home and the small children". Then the following dialogue would take place, with the farmer asking:

Q. *Where are you from?*

A. *From the town of Galilee.*

Q. *Whom are you looking for?*

A. *Jesus, the Nazarene.*

Q. *So where will you find Him?*

A. *We will not find HIM here, only praise HIM.*

Farmer: *In that case, please praise HIM.*

After this, all the lalauninkai would sing a hymn and then an oration would be delivered by the one, chosen to be the "Orator":

We are young boys, like the flowering bushes and fragrant leaves in a garden. We wander all over the world looking for the Lord Jesus Christ. We have not found HIM, but we praise HIM. For the praise that we give HIM, we ask you to give us something. Nothing much: three scores of eggs, a side of bacon, a bottle of vodka and some cheese on a plate. Please give, don't be stingy, so that there'll be something to thank you for.

After the "oration" the farmer or his wife would bring out some eggs either in a bowl or on a plate. The lalauninkai would thank them profusely, saying, for example: *May your hens lay two or three eggs every day. May your crop grow heavy and may the world envy your wealth.* If, on the other hand, the farmer did not receive the lalauninkai properly, he would be showered with abuse.

Where there were unmarried young women, the lalauninkai would follow a somewhat different procedure. They would begin in the same manner, that is, with a hymn and an oration, but then ask the farmer and his wife:

Father, mother, perhaps you have some green rūta, some white lilies? ("zalia rūtele, balta lelijėle") (Both the rūta (rue) and the lily are symbols of female virginity in Lithuanian folk culture).

Usually the mother would then respond with: *"Mano ženteliai, sakalėliai (my sons-in-law, my falcons) you cause the green rūta to dry up and the lilies to wither"*.

The orator would then answer: *Ne motinėle, brangi širdelė (no mother, dear heart) we are the sons of good parents and not acquainted with bad deeds"*.

If the girls inside wanted it and the parents agreed, the lalauninkai would be invited inside the house. A light would be lit and the lalauninkai would sing a "Lalinka", a kind of love song, wishing the girls an early marriage.

And so the lalauninkai would return to where they came from, tired and hoarse, but happy. The eggs would be divided equally amongst them and then everyone would go home to a well-earned rest.

OTHER CUSTOMS; Remembrance of the dead. It was commonly believed that the souls of the dead were abroad on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Therefore, no one should speak ill of the dead. It used to be a custom (in Veisiejai) on Easter Sunday morning to put three spoonfuls of food under the table for those departed souls, whom no one remembered. On Easter morning they would go to the cemetery to visit the dead, placing eggs on a child's grave. (I happen to know someone living in Brockton, MA who up to recent years stuck to a similar pagan custom: He, together with some of his pals, used to visit the cemetery in Brockton on Easter Sunday, say a short prayer, then pull out a bottle of whiskey, each of them having a drink and then pour a glass of whiskey on the grave of his departed buddy. Mes taveš niekad nepamiršim. L.V.)

SWINGING on swings. Besides egg-tapping and egg rolling, another very popular form of merrymaking on the second day of Easter was swinging on swings. These swings were

specially constructed and put up either in a barn or outside, between two trees. It was usually young men who were doing the swinging, the girls sitting on the swings and screaming when it got too high. This was done not only for fun, but also in the belief that the young woman who swung the highest, would have the tallest flax. The men were rewarded for their services with decorated Easter eggs and a smile, that was more appreciated than an egg.

Another custom still in practice at the end of the 19th century in the Zemaitija and Klaipėda regions, was that of striking the sleeping with a birch switch (*velykauti*). For that, we used to cut a few young branches of a birch tree, bring them into the house and keep them in lukewarm water. After a couple of weeks, the

branches would be budding and soon have small green leaves.

In the morning of the second day of Easter, making sure to find the girls still in bed, young boys, sometimes grown men, would go from house to house with green birch switches in hand hoping to be able to strike the sleeping beauties or at least their bare feet and collecting Easter eggs for it. For the boys, this was no easy task, because neither the girls nor their parents liked to be sprinkled with cold water while sleeping (another custom) or being found in bed by the boys. L.V.

The above column on Lithuanian Easter Customs appeared in the Lithuanian Museum Review of Jan.-Feb. 1978 (except a few lines that have my initials L. V.) issued by the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago, and taken from a book "Lithuanian Customs and Traditions" by Romas Kinka and published by the Museum.

MARGUČIAI or EASTER EGGS

Stella Matulonis, C-110 Maspeth, NY

The egg has been regarded as a symbol and source of life in many countries throughout history. Various cultures have worshipped the egg and have associated symbolic meanings to it. The egg has been worshipped as a gift from the sun, as a moon God, and as a powerful deity; it was believed to be a charm, offering protection against evil spirits, accidents, sickness and death. The earliest mention of decorated egg shells in Lithuania is found in 16th century documents. Up to the 20th century, the Lithuanian peasant believed in the mystical powers of the egg; that the Easter egg could predict the turn of human fortune; the outcome of a farmer's harvest and livestock breeding. The farmers believed that the Easter egg had power to avert misfortune. Thus, the Lithuanian nation contributed actively to both the mythology and the art form of the Easter egg. The colored egg Lithuanian feast days are Easter and St. George's Day and myth and tradition surround the egg ceremonies of these two days.

It was believed that when eggs were dyed, additional powers as well as meaning were attached to the symbolism of the egg. For example, red color was believed to protect a person from evil spirits. Also, the patterns used in the egg design decoration symbolized the sun, moon, stars, nature, love, devotion and so

on. Thus, each pattern and color had its own symbolic meaning. In addition, the person decorating the egg could have his or her own meaning attached to the symbols. Thus, the Lithuanian Easter egg, not only expressed a personal feeling, but it was also rooted in Lithuanian folklore and national tradition. The Lithu-

anian was able to express his or her own artistic ability, desires and hopes in the creation of a design on this very fragile medium, the egg shell.

These designs and their symbolic meanings were retained from year to year in the Lithuanian memory and passed on to the younger generation by word of mouth when the eggs were decorated on the two days of a year. It is only in this century that Lithuanian historians have begun to take note of the history and tradition of the Lithuanian

Easter egg by studying and documenting this art form.

In Lithuania, the Saturday before Easter Sunday, was a busy one with the tasks of house cleaning, cooking, baking and the decoration of Easter eggs taking place in this order. The job of coloring the Margučiai, or Easter eggs, was eagerly awaited and looked forward with great anticipation, especially by the children of the household.

The art of coloring the Easter egg was assigned to young



"Margučiai" by Brone Wisniauskas

people who imitated or were instructed by their elders. In this way, the age-old tradition was carried on from generation to generation. Since Easter eggs in Lithuania were not preserved either in their natural state or thru pictures, the egg decorators had to remember patterns from year to year. Coloring and patterning the Easter egg was the child's first instruction into the art world. Visual memory has been the sole source of information of the many thousands of egg design patterns.

Before the eggs could be dyed and decorated, both the dyes and eggs had to be prepared.

To obtain colors for the dyes, skins of onions were boiled in water. Vegetables like beets and grasses were also boiled and the colored liquids used. Vinegar, salt, alum, beet juice, and sauerkraut juice were added. Roots, berries, herbs, nuts, flowers and bark of the tree were also used to obtain various colors for use in egg dying.

The eggs could be hard boiled and then colored and decorated. Or, a person would blow out the contents of the egg by making a small hole in each end and holding the egg to the mouth, blowing gently into the egg and allowing the contents to fall into a bowl.

It can take from 3 to 10 hours to prepare, design and decorate an egg. No two eggs are ever alike and they are decorated in one of the following ways:

The scratch - carved method: The egg is plunged into colored liquid or dye, and the design is scratched, carved or engraved with a knife onto the shell. This method was used by the ancient Lithuanians, who used bones, stones and other sharp objects to carve out the design. Today, a knife or razor blade is used.

The Wax Resist Technique: Molten bees wax on a pinhead is transferred to the egg in a design. Once all the wax is applied, the egg is placed into a dye. After the egg is dry, the wax is removed with a warm cloth. The areas under the wax are then white on a background of color.

Designs on Lithuanian eggs are usually small and delicate and cover the egg in accordance to traditional design. The designs consist of zigzags, starbursts, suns, fans, fir trees and flowers. The Lithuanians, as pagans, worshipped nature and they brought this regard to this native craft. Later, Christian designs like the cross and lily were included.

After the eggs were colored and decorated, they were placed into baskets and then taken with the other Easter foods by the adults in the family to the vigil services in church to be blessed. These services lasted the whole night long and into Easter morning.

On Easter Sunday, there was always a large platter of decorated eggs on the table. These eggs were served for breakfast and they were also a part of the "Velykių stalas". When visitors arrived, each would take an egg, as would the host. They would crack egg against egg for good luck and fortune. Then the eggs were peeled, topped with strong horse radish and eaten. Merry making and socializing among the adults always followed, while the children busied themselves with egg games.

While in modern times we are losing many of the myths and traditions linked to the Easter egg, the art will long remain as a living example of Lithuanian folklore. The Easter egg is deeply rooted in national tradition. The egg, as a gift, has symbolic and artistic values, rather than material value even in today's times.



Leonard Simutis

15th Anniversary - † April 17, 1975

VELYKŲ RYTAS

Velykų rytas — Aleliuja!
Išaušo giedras ir smagus.
Paukšteliai girioje dainuoja —
Ramus, ramus yra žmogus!

Saulutės spinduliai banguoja —
Pavasarielis jau čia pat!
Gamta atgijusi žaliuoja —
Artojas žemę arti žad!

Giedok džiaugsmingai — Aleliuja!
Į dangų kilki maldomis,
Nes Kristus mirtį nugalėjo —
Naujoms gyvenam viltimis!

Jau kėlės Kristus — Aleliuja!
Jau išganyta žmonija!
Gadynę Viešpats skelbia naują —
Sutraukti pančiais, vergija!

Marija gieda — Aleliuja!
Fžiaugsmu pripildyta širdis —
Sūnaus brangiausiojo maldauja
Atleisti nuodėmes, kaltes!

Smagu, smagu, mums — Aleliuja!
Tušti yr Viešpaties kapai ...
"Jis kėlės — Jo čia jau nebėra"
Griausmingai skambina varpai!

Ilgesio Valandėles

A VISIT TO THE VILNIUS CATHEDRAL

Edward Baranauskas

Many of us who visited Lithuania, undoubtedly, marveled at the beauty of Vilnius, both the old and the new sections of the city, and of its most famous landmark, the Cathedral. Both are rich in history and like the Lithuanian nation, most of it, unfortunately, is tragic.

The Vilnius Cathedral was the first one built in Lithuania and it was erected on the site of a pagan sanctuary. It was founded by King Jogaila in 1387 at the time Lithuania was christianized.

Vytautas the Great ruled Lithuania from 1392 until his death in 1430. His first wife, Grand Princess Anne, passed away in 1418 and was buried in the Cathedral at the altar of St. Michael. Fate dealt a cruel blow to the Cathedral a year later when it was destroyed by fire, together with several other buildings. Vytautas had it rebuilt soon after and was laid to rest there, also after his death.

Tragedy struck Vilnius a century later when a greater fire destroyed about two-thirds of the city including the Cathedral. A new and a much more elaborately decorated Cathedral was rebuilt and completed a few years later. As luck would have it, another disastrous fire broke out in Vilnius in 1610 and destroyed the greater part of the city including several thousand houses, many churches and severely damaged the Cathedral. The structure underwent extensive repairs and in 1623, Italian architects began the construction of an addition to the Cathedral to honor Saint Casimir. This Chapel was dedicated in 1636 after its completion.

Before the city had time to recover from that great fire, the army from Moscow invaded Lithuania in 1655, occupied Vilnius, plundered and devastated the city with a fire that raged unchecked for 17 days.

The palaces were ransacked, as well as the crypts of the churches. The cathedral, only recently rebuilt, sustained extensive damage to its interior and exterior, and most of the chapels, altars, tombstones and paintings were lost. The coffin of Vytautas the Great disappeared and his remains have never been found. The coffin containing the relics of St. Casimir were hidden by the Lithuanians and was saved from harm. Both the Cathedral and St. Casimir's Chapel underwent alterations and repairs for many years.

It is interesting to note that St. Casimir did not enjoy a prolonged period of peace and rest for his coffin was once again moved to safety during the Great Northern War (1701-1721) when the Swedish Army, under King Charles XII, entered Vilnius in 1703. The city suffered by the plundering hostile soldiers and a plague and famine resulted in the deaths of about a third of its population. The Swedes retreated from Lithuania after they were defeated by the armies of the famous Russian

Czar, Peter the Great, at the famed battle of Poltava. Life in the city returned to normal only in the middle of the 18th century. From the time of the Great Northern War, Russia kept an army in Lithuania, interfered in the internal affairs of the country and finally annexed Lithuania in 1795.

The wall which surrounded the city of Vilnius was pulled down by the occupying Russian forces in 1800-1803 and only the Gate of Dawn (Aušros Vartai) with the Chapel of the Madonna was left standing.

Ignacy Massalski (Lithuanian: Masalskis), the Bishop of Vilnius, commissioned the noted architect Laurynas Stuoka-Gucevičius in 1786 to rebuild the Cathedral and he gave it its present classical appearance which today is a major landmark in the city. However, he never lived to see the completion of his work for it was finished after his death in 1798 by the architect Michael Szulc.

The three statues which graced the top of the front side of the Cathedral was made by the sculptor Karolis Jelskis, following the plan of Laurynas Stuoka-Gucevičius.

Saint Casimir's Chapel was built not only to honor the Patron of Lithuania but also to serve as a mausoleum for members of the royal family. The crypt became the resting place for the heart of King Ladislas IV, who died in 1648. It was he who saw the Chapel to its completion and dedication in 1636 after his father King Sigismund III (Sigismund Vasa) provided most of the funds for the start of its construction.

When cracks were discovered in the walls of the Cathedral in 1931-1932, an investigation of its substructure was required with the intention of strengthening them. It was then that the remains of some of the members of the royal family were discovered in a sealed crypt under the main altar. They were King Alexander, brother of St. Casimir, who died in 1506 and the wives of King Sigismund II (Sigismund Augustus), Queen Elizabeth (died 1545) and Queen Barbara (died 1551). Their remains were moved and placed in a specially prepared crypt under St. Casimir's Chapel.

Another dark period in the history of the Cathedral occurred during the years following the end of World War II when it was closed by the Soviet authorities. Years of deliberate neglect followed and the Cathedral became a haven for rodents, pigeons and thieves. Much was destroyed, even some of its valuable paintings.

The three statues atop the front of the Cathedral were removed in 1952. The coffin containing the relics of St. Casimir were removed secretly a year later by the faithful and transferred to the Church of Sts. Peter and Paul in the Antakalnis section of Vilnius.

(Cont'd Page 8)

LET MY PEOPLE GO

Leo Venckus

Never before since the occupation by the Red Army in 1940 has Lithuania been so much in the forefront of the World's media and the News network as recently, when the president of the Soviet Union himself decided to visit Lithuania and use either his charming persuasion or simply "brainwash" and, if necessary, warn and threaten those unruly ethnics not to go separate ways, but remain within the USSR.

But the Lithuanian leaders V. Landsbergis (Sajūdis) and A. Brazauskas (LCP) supported by most of their countrymen, just like Moses and Aaron in biblical times when confronting Egypt's Pharaoh, were firm in their resolutions and demanded from Mikhail Gorbachev: Let Our People Go.

Gorbachev is really concerned: if the Baltic States become independent, the badly run-down economy of the Soviet Union will suffer even more. But that is not the only reason. His status, his office and his senses of responsibility, combined with his fear of being toppled by the "old guard" won't allow him to let Lithuania go free. If he allows this to happen, the other 14 non-Russian republics might be encouraged to follow suit. Therefore, Gorbachev wants to ensure the Soviet Union's grandeur. To avoid its collapse, Gorby argues something like this:

Look, what you propose to do is insane. To separate yourself from the Soviet Union is not in your own best interest because you simply would be unable to sustain yourself. You would perish. I am your friend and I can't let this happen to you, since that would destroy not only you, my friends and comrades, but also my 'Glasnost' and 'Perestroika'. However, if you stay with the USSR as I hope you will, all of you will have work, bread and security.

The Lithuanians listened politely but remained firm and did not budge. So Gorbachev threatened: if you separate yourself, it will cost you dearly, more than your little country Lithuania, which is being supported by "matka Rossia", could afford to pay. We have built many factories in Lithuania which can not be dismantled and taken back to Russia. For this property, for buildings, improved roads, electricity works and other installations as well as the specialists who run these installations, Lithuania would have to pay back fantastic amounts of money to the Soviet Union. You would also have to pay the cost of repatriation for the many thousands of Russians who then would be left without work and would have to be resettled. Ai-ya-yaih.

Good thing you mentioned reparation, Gorby. Every stick has two ends (Lithuanian proverb: lazda turi du galus). We, too, have some demands and can present them to you. Remember that the survivors of the Jewish Holocaust have received and

Israel is still receiving compensation for their surviving people from West Germany in generous amounts. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, likewise, are entitled to receive reparations and compensations from the Soviet Union, and this will need some hard negotiation.

Although a small country, Lithuania's economy was in excellent shape. There were no food lines in front of our stores. On the contrary! Lithuania exported all sorts of agricultural products such as grain, flax, livestock, timber, plywood, as well as meat and dairy products, etc. in great quantities and thus was able to pay for the import of foreign goods not available in Lithuania. It was the Soviets who destroyed everything: they nationalized, stole or destroyed farms, forests, peoples homes and savings, banks, businesses and all private enterprise. People who worked hard and saved for their future, lost everything.

But material goods can be replaced in time. Irreplaceable, however, is the loss of human life. It can never be compensated by worthless roubles or any other moneys. Then, how much should Lithuania bill the Soviet Union for the thousands and thousands of innocent people that were arrested, suffered under torture and were finally killed? How much for the families that were deported to Siberia or the survivors? Or those, who in order to save their lives, had to leave their country into the unknown and whose homes, belongings and all assets were then confiscated and claimed by the Communists? How much for depriving people, not criminals, of their liberty, freedom of religion and the pursuit of happiness or for destroying the future of families with children on whose support aging parents depend. Growing up in Gulags or DP concentration camps, these children were deprived of suitable education which would have been available to them in their homeland Lithuania, were it not for the forcible occupation by the Soviets.

No, Mr. Gorbachev, we, too, can set up a list of demands. Then we shall see who owes what to whom.

Having received such or similar answers, the president of the Soviet Union will eventually have to come to the conclusion that the Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are, indeed, different from the other ethnic republics: they have a legitimate right to demand political and economical freedom because their annexation in 1940 was, as is now known by the whole world, cruel and illegal. It was the result of the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop pact. All this was done by Communist comrades, we Lithuanians never invited.

We, Lithuanians, living abroad admire and support the firmness and determination of the present leaders in Lithuania. They do not threaten anybody with riots or violence. They just

(Continued Page 9)

LITHUANIA: Standing Alone Again

By Father Joseph A. Anderlonis, *The Catholic Standard and Times*

As a Catholic priest whose earliest religious memories are of hymns and prayers in the ancient tones of my Lithuanian ancestry, I find it increasingly difficult these days to keep up with the stream of information, primitively printed newspapers, and first-time visitors eagerly coming out of the Baltic to our shores. And with all of this, one experiences a distinct and uplifting confidence in regard to political independence, not just for Lithuania but for its sister Baltic republics of Latvia and Estonia.

Already, Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of *perestroika* and *glasnost*, designed to modernize the Soviet state, has opened up these closed societies economically and religiously to a degree that not even the most radical seer would have predicted just three short years ago. Last summer visiting the meticulously restored Baroque chapel of Lithuania's Patron, the princely Saint Casimir, in Vilnius Cathedral (recently returned to the Church), I was impressed by the optimistic attitude of those I spoke with about the future course of events. Poignantly, a Lithuanian priest remarked to me, "The Lord Himself has come to rouse us, just as He did the daughter of Jairus." My confrere's choice of the example of the young girl, instead of the obvious figure of Lazarus, I thought rather intriguing.

All over the country, a visitor from outside, such as myself, could sense the air of dizzying excitement and the bursting forth of a proud national consciousness, so long suppressed and hidden, but never totally extinguished, Lithuania's tri-color flag and the Vytis knight emblem, symbols of the nation's past, strictly banned with several legal penalties, decorate everything from sweaters to stationery.

In Vilnius and Kaunas, the two chief cities, street signs once again display ancient Lithuanian names rather than the identity of 19th century Russian poets and politicians. Archaeologists and architectural workers can be seen doing painstaking restoration in the old Vilnius ghetto and in the harbor quarters of Klaipeda, where the building style reveals the town's Germanic connection. And miracle of miracles — driving through a country village in Zemaitija, one notices the rather incredible sight of young mothers in a stone-walled churchyard waiting expectantly for their children to finish Saturday morning catechism class.

"We have awoken from a terrible sleep," a pensioner-farmer told me, "and it can't be real." The term Lithuanians use to describe this transforming revival is not the counterpart of Gorbachev's *perestroika*, but rather a phrase that conveys the human depth of what each Lithuanian feels within—*Lietuva atgimstančia*, Lithuania being born again. A new life, a new chance.

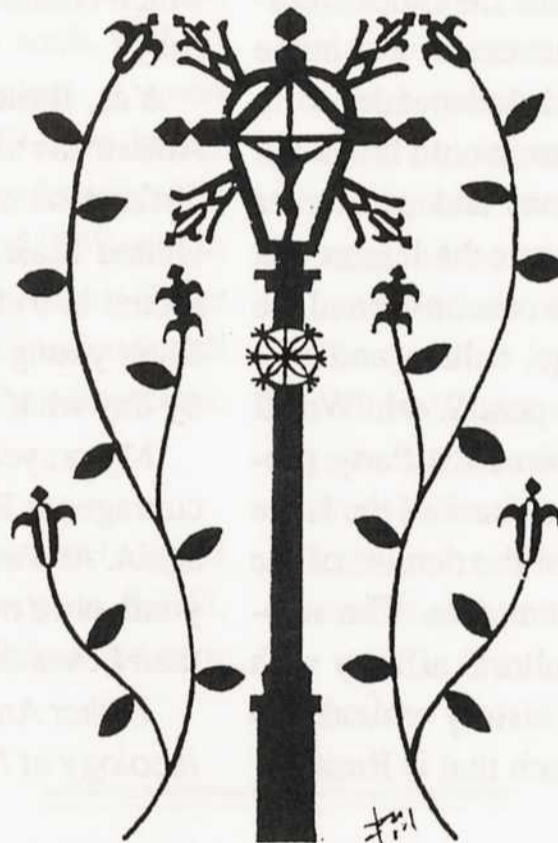
But, of course, religious and economic freedom will not suffice for the Baltic lands, for memory itself intervenes. Steeped in long historical traditions, kept alive surreptitiously and with risks to one's job or career, the Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians desire nothing less than the full restoration of their independence, cruelly ripped from them in the diabolical division agreed to by Hitler and Stalin.

Certainly, the acute Mr. Gorbachev did not miss this sentiment which he encountered all over Lithuania in his recent three day visit there. Such *glasnost* struck right at the core of the problematic relationship between Moscow and the Baltic states. And yet, we all must admire Gorbachev's perspicacity and courage in engaging in such an unprecedented display of Jeffersonian — better yet, Jacksonian — democracy, both in his official talks and in meeting the men and women on the streets.

Those of us who studiously watch these doings daily are perplexed and quite concerned by the response of our own government to what is happening.

This past May as I read the Sajudis public information billboard on "Freedom Allee" in Kaunas, my eye caught a headline which candidly proclaimed, "We can expect no more than sympathy from the U.S." Turning to walk away and attempting to disguise my natural embarrassment as an American, I felt myself pardoned by friendly and somewhat curious smiles.

During the last few months, events in the Baltic have taken on an even headier pace. The Lithuanian Supreme Soviet has recognized a multi-party system, challenging the omni-powerful domination of every aspect of daily activity by the Communists. And in December, the local Communist party declared its sovereignty from Moscow's rule and thus emerged as the driving force within Lithuania for a complete restoration of independence. All throughout these developments, the Bush



Administration has remained, as predicted, distantly "sympathetic." Lithuania, once again as in 1940 and 1945, finds itself very much alone.

What is so regrettable is that our present administration fails to grasp several important facts.

First, Gorbachev's *perestroika* cannot succeed without honesty and integrity. His entire commendable enterprise aims at restructuring Soviet life on the basis of constitutional law and democracy. With what excuses can Gorbachev arbitrarily dismiss the conclusions of his own study commission which admitted the immorality of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact? Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have never been, neither historically nor psychologically, an integral part of the Union. As editor Algis Čekuolis, a leading Lithuanian Communist, forcefully declared, "We cannot speak of a 'divorce' for there was no marriage; we were raped."

Second, in light of the constitutional legalities involved, there exists overwhelming evidence to handle the Baltic question apart from the other ethnic and religious unrest within the Soviet empire. Hence, the restoration of Baltic independence, in itself, need not mean that the whole structure would break up. Such a dissolution, if it occurs, has reasons and causes far beyond the Baltic problem. History teaches us the lesson that vast empires kept together without common consensus and the substantially cohesive bonding of language, culture and religion have almost no chance of survival. In post-World War II Eastern Europe, the hegemony of the Communist Party provided the principle of a tenuous control that masked the same endemic weaknesses that paved the way for the demise of the Ottoman, Austro-Hungarian and British empires. The non-Slavic Balts share neither linguistic nor cultural affinity with their eastern big neighbor. Instead, Baltic history embodies a centuries-old bitter resentment towards much that is Russian.

Third, all throughout Europe, the changes we have witnessed these past months signal the actual ending of World War II. What kind of final resolution can the world accept without repairing the moral and political damage of one of the principal first acts of that horrendous conflict, the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 1939? To ignore the Baltic question is to say to these peoples, "You do not matter."

Fourth, Mr. Bush and the United States government face a terrible credibility gap. They appear so obsessed about European security and Gorbachev's success — neither of which the United States can guarantee — that they are fearful to defend a visibly just cause. Can Mr. Bush ever again publicly impugn the motives of the Western Allies at Yalta when the very same mentality — and with far more reason — carried the day? An independent Baltic confederation, following a Scandinavian model, would guard its neutrality, be a good neighbor to Russia, and probably not easily forget the timidity of our government which chooses to defend liberty, not at all costs but at expediency.

Yes, these days give Lithuanians and all freedom loving Americans much to hope for and to pray for. Will we witness a declaration of formal independence from the Baltics? Will the United States provide increasing support for their cause, so rooted in truth and justice? Or shall it be, as told to me by an eager young university student, "We only are taking back *day by day* what is rightfully ours."?

My prayers, and I hope others as well, are offered for these courageous Baltic folk, people of my heritage, who stand alone again. And as I pray, my spirit hears those distant hymns of my youth once more, and now I understand their meaning far better than I ever did before.

Father Anderlonis is pastor of St. George parish and teaches theology at Neumann College.

A Visit to the Vilnius Cathedral (Cont'd from Page 5)

The Cathedral was brought back to life in 1956 when it was taken over by the Ministry of Culture and converted into a Picture Gallery. The entire structure was renovated, a new roof and an air conditioning system was installed and the organ was repaired and made playable. Paintings of some of the most famous Western and Lithuanian artists were put on display.

Many unbelievable changes have taken place in Lithuania within the past few years but the most unexpected and joyful development was the return of the Cathedral back to the Church. It is no longer used as a Picture Gallery but as a House of

Worship. Some of the paintings were removed and some were left on display in the Cathedral. The relics of St. Casimir were returned to its rightful place in the Chapel that was built in his honor.

The Vilnius Cathedral is looked upon by the Lithuanian people as the very heart of the nation. Let us hope that it enjoys eternal peace and that St. Casimir will finally earn the eternal rest that he so justly deserves.



LET'S WRITE LETTERS

Dear Fellow Members of the Knights of Lithuania and Vytis readers:

In these days of the changes taking place in Eastern Europe, I believe I speak for many people when I say that we are very disheartened by President Bush's hesitancy to speak out in behalf of the Baltic States. Likewise, the media keeps speaking of the secession of Baltic States when really they should understand it as liberation from an unjust occupying force, the Red Army. It is, therefore, important that a solid message be sent to the present Administration regarding its weakness and timidity.

I have composed a letter that we used to send to the White House as a personal response concerning this matter. This type of individual contact is more effective than a petition. I am quoting this letter which you can share, if you wish, with as many persons as possible in your area of contact. A good response from non-Lithuanians would be quite effective. In any case, please join in some type of effort to get President Bush to do more to rectify the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 1939, which was totally immoral. Because of this agreement between Hitler and Stalin, the Baltic States have solid legal justification for all their actions and deserve to be treated apart from the other ethnic problems of the Soviet Union.

Wishing you all the best, I am

Sincerely yours

Rev. Joseph J. Anderlonis, S.T.D.
National Spiritual Advisor

SAMPLE LETTER

President George Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I/We direct this letter to you to indicate great disappointment in your Administration's hesitancy in supporting the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in their struggle for complete independence and human rights. These three sovereign nations were forcibly annexed to the Soviet Union by the immoral and unjust Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 1939. Our government has never recognized their illegal seizure. At this time when the winds of democracy are blowing all over Eastern Europe and we are witnessing the final resolution of World War II, your Administration's response to the settlement of the Baltic question has been weak and timid. Real perestroika is based on justice and courageous acceptance of what is true. Please do not abandon the people of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania for the sake of political expediency and "security". Let the entire world know that the United States stands by its commitments and is a true beacon of liberty for all people.

Yours truly,

Name, Address, City and State

Let My People Go (Cont'd from Page 6)

insist in their determination for freedom and independence.

Their attitude reminds me of the words Moses spoke to the Israelites after leading them out of Egypt (Exodus 14:13): "Fear not! Stand your ground and you will see the victory the LORD will win for you....."

Meldžiame Tave, Viešpatie.

IN MEMORIAM

PETER K. BARSKIS
C-5 Chicago, IL
† February 21, 1990

CECILIA YANKUS
C-96 Dayton, OH
† February 22, 1990

IEŠKOMI broliai Skrodeniai Frank gyv. Philadelphia, Danell gyv. Chicagoje. Ieško pusbrolis Stanislovas Skrodenis iš Lietuvos. Atsiliepti šio adresu: V. Plioplienė, 7212 So. Talman Ave., Chicago, IL 60629. Telef. (312) 776-1938.

IEŠKAU mano dėdė Alekveravičius Klimas, Alekso ir tetos Alekveravičiūtė Justina ir Alekveraviciūtė Ieva apie 1916-1920 m. isvyko į JAV iš Alytaus apskrities, Daugų valsč. Bukaučiškių kaimo. Žinoma kad Justina ištekejo už Slipkausko ir turėjo 2 dukteris, o Ieva ištekejo už Michailo Oblinskio ir turėjo tris dukteris Juze, Vandą ir Ieva. Oblinskiai lygtai gyveno New Yorko apylinkeje ir turėjo gyvulių farma. Ieška Ieva Alekveravičiūtė Karvauskienė, Yurbarkas, Kauno g-ve Nr. 38-3, Lithuania.

Lithuanians in the News

HEINEKIN RACE - A HIT



Darlene Linkus

With 200 people skiing and many, many more participating in the awards ceremony, the 5th annual Heineken Race at Hunter Mountain was a huge success, especially when Darlene Linkus, member of C-29 Newark, was the first place winner in the womens category.

Darlene seemed somewhat surprised and very happy when her name was announced as the first place winner. It was hard to tell who was happier though, Darlene or her cheering friends. As for why Darlene was surprised, she was the overall winner at last year's Heineken Ski Race. Her prize at that time was a pair of skis. Darlene didn't have much to say about her win other than dedicating it to Lithuanian Independence Day and to warn other competitors to watch out - she will be back. She is the daughter of Joseph & Emily Linkus, members of C-52 in Elizabeth, NJ.

Hunter Mt. News

A LITHUANIAN ARCHEOLOGIST

Dr. Marija Gimbutis, a Lithuanian scholar and world famous archaeologist is the author of the recently published book, "The Language of the Goddess". In an interview for the New York Times with Peter Stienfels, Dr. Gimbutis reiterated her belief that the world once lived in peace. That time was during the Stone Age, when goddesses were worshipped and the societies were centered on women.

The Feb. 13, 1990 New York Times article states that "Dr. Gimbutis argues that between 7000 BC and 3500 BC, the people of Europe lived in sedentary agricultural societies that worshipped the Great Goddess, delighted in nature, shunned war, built comfortable settlements rather than forts and crafted superb ceramics rather than weapons. Women headed clans or served as queen-priestesses. Men labored as hunters and builders. But neither men nor women dominated the other sex."

Dr. Gimbutis has presented a controversial theory of the origins of our society in her latest book; one that has been welcomed by some anthropologists and feminists, but argued

by others.

The article further states that "Dr. Gimbutis is indeed a prolific scholar, the author of 20 books including a monumental study of the Bronze-Age Indo European customs and has written more than 200 articles. She has directed five excavations in Europe, reads more than 20 languages and brings to her work an extraordinary knowledge of European folklore and mythology".

Dr. Gimbutis is currently a Professor of Anthropology at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Vytis staff congratulate Dr. Gimbutis on her academic accomplishments and the publication of her latest book, "The Language of the Goddess". We all wish to acknowledge her contributions to the development of Lithuanian history and culture and the fact that she is of Lithuanian heritage, a fact which the New York Times article did not mention.

-Stella Matulonis

SUNCOAST LITHUANIAN CLUB WATCHING HOMELAND



Staff photo by Kevin White

Joe & Gertrude Nakutavicius keeping a watchful eye on developments in Lithuania.

While Lithuanians attempt to achieve independence from the Soviet Union, their friends and families in America are supporting them wholeheartedly. Pres. Joe Nakutavicius, like the rest of the members, has high hopes that Lithuania will gain its independence.

At 16, Nakutavicius fled Lithuania with his family shortly

before the Russians invaded and took it over from Germany. However, he has kept in touch with family members and went back to visit his homeland in 1979 and 1980. He witnessed poor economic conditions in the country, and stated that the Lithuanian people were as bleak as their surroundings. He rarely saw them smile.

Spring Hill, FL resident Kostas Maciuois last visited his homeland in 1985 recalling long lines in stores to wait for scarce products and people who did not openly discuss politics or anything of which they feared the government might not approve.

Both Maciuois and Nakutavičijs are confident that Lithuania can survive on its own without Moscow's direction.

Hernando Today

SOVIET IS SETON HALL-BOUND

Seton Hall recruit Arturas Karnišovas, considered one of the best junior players in Lithuania, is living in New Jersey and expects to enroll at Seton Hall in September.

The 6'8" forward, who failed to reach the qualifying SAT score by 50 points, is staying with a Lithuanian-American family in Oakhurst, NJ, in preparation for taking the SAT's again next month. "I'm getting to know the English language by talking to Americans every day," Karnišovas said. "I got only a 220 on the English (verbal) part but did good on the math. I feel I'll do better next time."

Newsday

TO MOSCOW: REMOVE TROOPS, GRANT SELF-DETERMINATION

Sajudis and Lithuanian Communist Party Sums Up Gorbachev's Visit

(Algimantas Čekuolis, member of the LCP Central Committee and of the Sajudis Council, deputy to the USSR People's Congress, has summed up Gorbachev's visit in Lithuania and outlined the prospects for the future in an editorial published in Jan. 19-25, 1990 issue of the Vilnius' weekly Gimtasis Kraštas. A slightly abbreviated version of his article follows.)

...Our distinguished guest saw Lithuania and our determination. He saw, almost everywhere, a correct behavior and no boot-licking. He saw our firm resolve: complete national independence and, of course, the LCP's independence. The workers, the young people, the kolkhoz workers, the intelligentsia, the functionaries — they were all talking this way. He saw (yes!) the grandiose meeting in the center of Vilnius, he heard our silence and the bells....

What did the distinguished guest offer to us? He mentioned a project to restructure the USSR into a federation and a draft law now being prepared to establish the procedure for secession of republics. Foreign journalists seized these items as if they were news of the greatest importance. We took a calmer view.

Both projects are very vague. We are familiar with one federation — the RSFSR (The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic). We are not interested. What do these projects have in mind? The British Commonwealth of Nations? The European Common Market? This warrants consideration.

As for the "divorce law", it does not affect us at all. To be able to divorce someone, one must first get married. We never married the USSR; we were forcibly incorporated by Hitler and Stalin. And there is something equally important. Only the nation itself has the right to decide by way of elections or through a referendum how it wants to live, when and in which manner it should secede or join. No neighbor, however powerful it might be, can decide for another nation. Such is international law and such is the principle, which our distinguished

guest has acknowledged more than once. This most sacred right of any nation, this condition for its historic survival cannot be a subject for discussion.

Economic questions are a simple matter. Two commissions, with equal rights, empowered to negotiate by two countries, will sit down at a table. I think that we shall gladly go on producing whatever we used to produce for Russia; we will gladly continue buying whatever we are now importing from the USSR. It is very good that our guest mentioned the debt. Many enterprises have bought themselves out a long time ago. But we also have another list of debts owed to Lithuania and it is a very long one. It starts in 1940.

In return for these two rather vague projects, the distinguished guest has asked that we renounce our demand for independence and the independence of the LCP we have already achieved. To put it in polite terms, the offer leaves no grounds not only for an agreement, but also for a discussion....

To start a serious discussion, it is necessary to admit that there is a problem of trust. It must be resolved before anything else. Our guest has a really phenomenal memory. But nations also have a good memory. We cannot forget the czarist occupation, Muravyov, the banning of the press. (As governor general of Russia's NW territory, Muravyov terrorized Lithuania and banned the publication of Lithuanian books in the Latin alphabet; the ban lasted from 1864 to 1904. Ed.) We cannot forget 1939-1940, June 14, 1941. Every sixth citizen of Lithuania suffered or perished from Stalinism which at that time was also

called Soviet power. Not even the name has changed. It was not we who did all that.

To generate trust, we need not pretty words or promises, not even personal sincerity is enough. What we need is concrete actions that are clear to everybody and unequivocal. They should be as follows:

1. Declaring the Baltics a demilitarized zone with a concrete calendar for the withdrawal of troops. Sweden or NATO do not plan to attach the USSR, and now it has become clear that they never had such plans. It is good that our guest mentioned the fact that the military installations in Lithuania are worth 35 billion rubles. Most of it, apparently, is movable. This thinking is in the right direction. It will also be possible to save billions that are now being spent to maintain such huge forces. And what about the marvelous international impact of such a step?

2. Transferring all of Lithuania's economic structure to Lithuania right now, 100 percent. It is not a gift, but a first step to justice. Sovereignty without banks, transport, communications, basic factories is only a fiction.

3. A solemn statement by the USSR leadership that the right to self-determination belongs to every nation of the USSR and that the mechanism of self-determination is determined by the nation's elected Supreme Council — and nobody else.

We are constantly being told that we cannot "demand too much", because that provokes the wrath of Russia's conservatives, who will overthrow the leader or will "kick him downstairs" to some decorative post. Perhaps, but it also might be that the danger is being inflated.

However, the USSR cannot remain forever a hostage of reactionaries. An atmosphere of trust cannot be created that way and the restructuring will go on spinning in place.

Both questions can be solved by declaring new direct democratic elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet according to the "one man — one vote" principle and by transferring all power to it. The people will decide if that affects Lithuania, but without a people's power the USSR will remain mired....

If political will to make these four steps will be lacking — and only they can create an atmosphere of trust and truly destroy the partocracy dictatorship — then Lithuania has no other way than to take care of her own affairs. To declare and to realize its Independence. Such is our duty and we can no more escape it. They say: "You'll have a hard time." Perhaps. But is it easy now? We'll make our own errors, our search and our discoveries will belong to us. "You and your children will sink into poverty". Maybe. Just as the children of Finland, which has no raw materials, are suffering from poverty.....

LETTERS

A THANK YOU TO VYTIS STAFF:

Dear Editor:

I had to take time out to sit down and write what a great job you are doing with the VYTIS. I have been with C-140 in Syracuse since day one and have never enjoyed it as much. I wait for it every month and read it from beginning to end. You and your staff are the best. Keep up the good work and God Bless!

*Katherine Cravetts,
C-140 Syracuse*

APPRECIATES READING VYTIS:

Your K of L VYTIS of Jan. 1990 displays excellent editing and contains timely and interesting articles, highlighted by "The Year of Wonders" by Albert Cizauskas.

Also, I read with great interest the essays on the subject of: "How Should the new National Awakening in Lithuania affect our K of L Lithuanian Affairs

activities?" Genevieve Gobis hits it right on the head of the nail when she writes: "We should 'Beat the Drums' bombarding our legislators with letters and phone calls requesting their support in finding a way to persuade the Russians to declare Lithuania, as well as Latvia and Estonia, independent."

I would like to suggest that "We beat the drums" as Americans of Lithuanian ancestry — thus our voice as Americans would have greater resonance.

Donna Ashley's essay also has an important message exhorting us to combine our efforts for the freedom of Lithuania with prayer.

Congratulations VYTIS editor.
HM Stanley Pieza, C-36 Chicago

ANN JILLIAN'S SCHEDULE

May 11-13, 1990) Trump Plaza
August 7-12, 1990) Casino,
October 26-28, 1990) Atlantic City, NJ

WANTED

Astronomy student seeks books about astrophysics and small computers (Vic 20, ZX Spectrum, etc.) in trade for books and astronomical publications from USSR. Contact Arunas Kucinskas, P.O. Box 2005, Vilnius 232012, Lithuania



KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.

Essay Contest Announcement

- TOPIC:** HOW SHOULD THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA PREPARE ITS MEMBERS TO HELP AN INDEPENDENT LITHUANIA?
- LENGTH:** 450 to 500 words (count all words).
- DEADLINE:** June 15, 1990. Essays received after this date will not be considered.
- ELIGIBILITY:** A contestant must be a Knights of Lithuania member (Honorary, Regular or Associate) in GOOD STANDING, OR a member of a Junior Council which is duly registered with the Supreme Council.
- CRITERIA:** Essays will be judged on content, originality and attention to Contest Topic. Correct grammar will also be considered in judging.
- MANUSCRIPT:** Must be typed or written legibly, double spaced. The FIRST PAGE should contain ONLY your name, address, council number and the essay title. Succeeding pages should contain the essay contents but NOT your name. This is to assure anonymity in judging.
- PRIZES:**
1st Prize - \$300.
2nd Prize - \$200.
3rd Prize - \$100.
- JUDGES:** Thomas Bruzga, Aldona Ryan, Loretta Stukas, Stephen Walinsky.
- MAIL TO:** Aldona Ryan, 6591 McEwen Rd., Centerville, OH 45459.
- WINNERS:** Will be announced July 27, 1990 during the 77th National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA. Winning entries will be published in VYTIS.
- SPONSOR:** KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC., via a grant from Msgr. Juozas Prunskis.



Lithuanian Kitchen

Lietuviška Virtuvė

PIRAGAS

1/2 lb. margarine, room temperature	1 cup raisins, soaked in water and dried
2 cups sugar	3 pkgs. dried yeast
2 cups warm milk	1 tsp. salt
12 cups sifted flour	1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
2 whole eggs *	1 tsp. rum or vanilla
6 yokes *	pinch of cinnamon

* beaten well until thick and light colored.

Heat oven to 350 degrees and grease six loaf pans.

To proof yeast, place 1/2 cup of warm water with a pinch of sugar into a cup or small bowl, stir in yeast until dissolved. Allow to stand until mixture bubbles.

When yeast has been proofed, place 2 cups of flour into a large bowl. Add the warm milk and yeast mixture and mix well. Cover bowl with a dish towel, set it aside and allow mixture to rise.

When mixture has risen until almost double in size, add margarine, sugar, salt, well-beaten eggs, vanilla, oil and cinnamon. Gradually add flour and beat with spoon until mixture burps. When mixture becomes too firm for beating, remove from bowl and knead; continue to add remaining flour until dough does not stick to fingers. Dough should not be too hard or stiff.

Place dough into mixing bowl, cover, allow to rise until double in size. Remove dough from bowl, add raisins, knead until raisins are mixed in. Shape dough into six portions and place into well greased pans; allow dough to rise until it fills pans.

Place pans in oven and bake for 30 to 45 mins. depending on size of pans. Test loaves with toothpick when done. If desired, brush tops with beaten egg mixture while loaves are still hot. Cool for about 15 mins. and remove from pans.

Sophie Aleksiejus, C-110 Maspeth

KUGELIS

10 lbs. potatoes	Salt, to taste
1 - 12 oz. can evaporated milk	1 tsp. black pepper
1 lb. bacon	8 large eggs, well beaten
1 large onion, chopped	
3 Tbsps. Minute Tapioca	

Heat oven to 350° and grease a 9 x 13 in. pan.

Have all ingredients ready before grating potatoes.

Cut bacon into small pieces and saute until crisp. Remove bacon bits, add chopped onion to bacon fat and saute until transparent; set aside.

Peel potatoes and place in bowl of cold water to keep from turning brown. Grate potatoes into a large bowl. Drain off liquid. Add evaporated milk and mix. Add bacon and onion saute mixture, salt, pepper, tapioca and well beaten eggs, mixing well. Pour into pan and bake for approximately 1 hour or until done.

Stella Stripeikis, C-110 Maspeth

CRACKER STUFFING

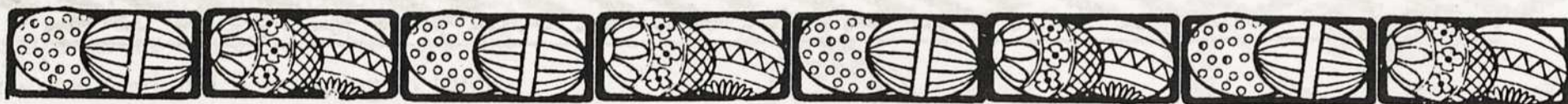
2 boxes crushed Uneeda Biscuits	8 large eggs
2 sticks margarine	1 large onion diced
4 stalks celery with leaves, diced	1 Tbsp. sugar
1 pkg. MBT instant chicken broth	Salt to taste
	4 cups very hot milk

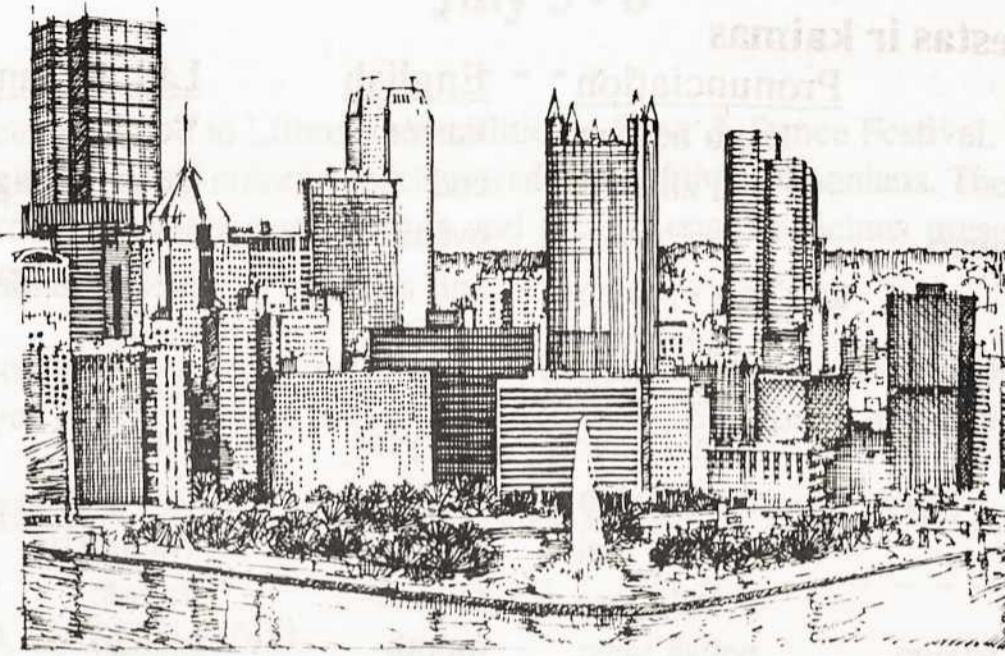
In a large bowl, crush Uneeda biscuits, add chicken broth, sugar and salt. Pour very hot milk over biscuit mix, allowing biscuits to absorb milk.

In a frying pan, melt 1 stick margarine, add onions, celery and saute until transparent. Remove from heat. Add second margarine stick and allow mixture to slightly cool; add to cracker mixture. Add well beaten eggs and mix thoroughly.

Pour into well greased 9" x 13" pan and bake at 350 degrees for about 1 hour.

Stella Stripeikis, C-110 Maspeth





**77th KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA NATIONAL CONVENTION
IN ONE OF THE MOST LIVABLE CITIES IN THE USA-PITTSBURGH, PA!
JULY 26-29, 1990**

This year's convention will be held at the SHERATON HOTEL AT STATION SQUARE and hosted by COUNCIL 19, PITTSBURGH, PA.

Station Square is across the river from the Golden Triangle of downtown Pittsburgh. It is Pittsburgh's daytime-night time entertainment and shopping area and extremely safe day and night.

All rooms at the Sheraton are \$90 per night for up to 4 people in a room (2 double beds). Parking is free to hotel guests. A limited number of suites are available. Room reservations should be made as early as possible before the deadline of July 6, 1990 by calling (412) 261-2000. You must specify that you are with the Knights of Lithuania to assure the convention rate.

Two special pre-convention activities have been scheduled on Wednesday, July 25 for those who wish to arrive early and relax. An interesting and informative cultural tour of Pittsburgh has been arranged. The tour includes a stop at the University of Pittsburgh Nationality Rooms, including the Lithuanian Room. A golf outing will be held at Seven Springs, Elizabeth, PA for our golfing enthusiasts. Both activities are reasonably priced.

For the Juniors we have scheduled outings to Kennywood Amusement Park, the roller coaster capital of the world, and Carnegie Museum.

In addition to the usual cultural night on Friday and banquet on Saturday evenings, we have scheduled an exciting cruise on Pittsburgh's three rivers for Thursday. All this and more is included in the \$80 registration fee (\$50. Juniors), which can be mailed to:

John P. Baltrus
5325 Orchard Hill Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15236
Telephone: (412) 881-1716

C-19 members are working enthusiastically to assure a successful convention and from all indications, the 77th Knights of Lithuania National Convention promises to be a memorable one. We look forward to seeing you!

LITHUANIAN VOCABULARY

Town and Country - Miestas ir kaimas

<u>English</u>	<u>Lithuanian</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Lithuanian</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>
hospital	ligoninė	leego'neeneh	Easter	Velykos	valee'kos
lake	ežeras	a'zharahs	end	galas; pabaiga	gah'lahs; pahbai'gah
market	turgus; turgavietė	toor'goos; toor'gah'vyehteh	evening	vakaras	vah'kahrahs
meadow	pieva	pyeh'vah	half an hour	pusė valandos	poo'seh vahlahn'dos
mill	malūnas	mahloo'nahs	holiday	šventė	shvan'teh
mountain	kalnas	kahl'nahs	hour	valanda	vah'lahndah
office	raštinė	rahsh'teeneh	last year	pernai	pa'rni
palace	rūmai	roo'mai	Lent	Gavėnia	gahveh'niah
path	kelelis	kala'lees	midnight	vidunaktis	veedoo'nahktees
post office	paštas; pašto istaiga	pahsh'tahs; pahsh'toeeh'staiga	minute	minutė	meenoo'teh
prison	kalėjimas	kahleh'yee mahs	month	mėnuo	meh'nuo
railway	geležinkelis	galazheen'kalees	months	mėnesiai	meh'nasiai
restaurant	restoranas	rehstorah'nahs	January	Sausis	sow'seēs
road	vieškelis	vehsh'kalees	February	Vasaris	vah'sah'rees
school	mokykla	mokeeh'klah	March	Kovas	ko'vahs
shop (store)	krautuvė	krou'tooveh	April	Balandis	bahlahn'dees
station	stotis	stotees	May	Gegužės	gagoozhchs
street	gatvė	gah't'veh	June	Birželis	beerzha'lees
theatre	teatras	tehaht'rahs	July	Liepos	leh'pos
town	miestas	myehs'tahs	August	Rugpjūtis	roogpyoo'tees
train	traukinys	troukeenechs	September	Rugsėjis	roog'seh'yees
university	universitetas	ooneevchrseetch'tahs	October	Spalių	spah'lioo
village	kaimas	ki'mahs	November	Lapkritis	lahp'kreetees
			December	Gruodis	gruo'dees
			morning	rytas	reeh'tahs
			next month	sekantis mėnuo	sa'kahntees meh'nuo
			next week	sekanti savaitė	sa'kahntee sahvi'ta
				ateinančią savaitę	ahtay'nahnchia
					sahvi'a

Time and Seasons - Laikas ir metų laikai

Afternoon	popietis	popch'tees	night	naktis	nahktees
beginning	pradžia	prahdzhia	noon	vidudienis	veedoo'dehnees
birthday	gimimo diena	geemee'mo dyehnah	now	dabar	dah'bahr
Christmas	Kalėdos	kahleh'dos	season	sezonas	sehzo'nahs
Eve	Kūčios	koo'chios	seasons, the	metų laikai	ma'too laikai
dawn	aušra	ow'shrah	spring	pavasaris	pah'vah'sah'rees
day	diena	dyehnah	summer	vasara	vah'sahrah
after tomorrow	poryt	poreht	autumn	ruduo	rooduo
before yesterday	užvakar	oozh'vahkahr	winter	žiema	zhy'ehmah
days of the week	savaitės dienos	sahvi'tehs'deh'nos	sunrise	saulėtekis	souleh'takees
Sunday	sekmadienis	sakmah'dehnees	sunset	saulėlydis	souleh'leehdees
Monday	pirmadienis	peermah'dehnees	this evening	šį vakar	shee'vah'kahr
Tuesday	antradienis	ahntrah'dehnees	morning	šį ryt	shee'reeht
Wednesday	trečiadienis	trachiah'dehnees	time	laikas	lai'kahs
Thursday	ketvirtadienis	katveertah'dehnees	today	šiandien	shiahn'dyehn
Friday	penktadienis	panktah'dehnees			
Saturday	šeštadienis	shashtah'dehnees			

Marlborough's Lithuanian Self-Taught

1990 LITHUANIAN SONG & DANCE FESTIVAL

July 5 - 8



BALTIC TOURS welcomes you to Lithuania's traditional Song & Dance Festival. Held every five years, the Festival focuses upon the rich and colorful folklore traditions of the Lithuanians. The Country's best folk dance ensembles, choral groups, country music bands and professional musicians present a spectacular four day program in Vilnius' outdoor parks.

BALTIC TOURS is offering six distinctive tours of 7, 10 and 13 days in Lithuania that will include the Festival programs. We hope you will join us and be one of the fortunate participants in the 1990 Song & Dance Festival.

LITHUANIAN FOLK SONG & DANCE FESTIVAL TOURS

LITHUANIA, RUSSIA & FINLAND

15 Day tour with 7 Days in LITHUANIA
7 nights VILNIUS, 2 nights MOSCOW
2 nights LENINGRAD, 2 nights HELSINKI
via FINNAIR

LIETUVA HOTEL

TOUR #629 \$2,459.00 from Boston & N.Y.
June 29-July 13 \$2,659.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement (if available) \$339.00

LITHUANIA

13 Day Tour with 10 Days in LITHUANIA
11 nights VILNIUS
via PAN AM

LIETUVA HOTEL

TOUR #703A \$2,049.00 from Boston & N.Y.
July 3-15 \$2,249.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement (if available) \$249.00

LITHUANIA & FINLAND

14 Day Tour with 10 Days in LITHUANIA
11 nights VILNIUS, 1 night HELSINKI
via FINNAIR

TURISTAS HOTEL

TOUR #703B \$1,949.00 from Boston & N.Y.
July 3-16 \$2,149.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement (if available) \$189.00

TRINAPOLIS

TOUR #703C \$1,749.00 from Boston & N.Y.
July 3-16 \$1,949.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement (if available) \$159.00

In a quiet wooded area in the Zirmunu section of Vilnius, Trinapolis contains a four story hotel within a tourist complex with a restaurant and a bar. It is suitable for individuals or groups.

COMPOSERS APARTMENTS

TOUR #703D \$1,649.00 from Boston & N.Y.
July 3-16 \$1,849.00 from Chicago

For individuals wanting private accommodations, apartments can be rented in the Composers Apartment Complex, which is near Vingas Park. Apartment rentals are available for 7 couples and include rental only. Transfers, meals, sightseeing and the Festival programs are up to the individual.

LITHUANIA & GERMANY DIRECT FLIGHT INTO VILNIUS BY PRIVATE CHARTER

18 Day tour with 13 Days in LITHUANIA
14 nights VILNIUS, 2 nights WEST BERLIN
via KLM & AEROFLOT CHARTER

LIETUVA HOTEL

TOUR #702L \$2,269.00 from Boston & N.Y.
July 2-19 \$2,369.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement (if available) \$399.00

TURISTAS HOTEL

TOUR #702T \$2,049.00 from Boston & N.Y.
July 2-19 \$2,149.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement (if available) \$299.00

FOR BROCHURES AND ITINERARIES,
PLEASE CONTACT:

BALTIC TOURS

77 Oak Street, Suite 4
Newton, MA 02164
(617) 965-8080
FAX (617) 332-7781

1990 TOURS TO LITHUANIA

WITH SOME FLIGHTS FROM BERLIN INTO VILNIUS BY PRIVATE CHARTER

10 - 19 DAY ESCORTED TOURS

with

6 - 14 DAYS IN LITHUANIA

DEPARTURES from BOSTON, CHICAGO & NEW YORK

HOLY WEEK IN LITHUANIA

PALM SUNDAY, GOOD FRIDAY and EASTER

12 Day tour with 9 Days in LITHUANIA

10 nights VILNIUS via FINNAIR

TOUR #405 \$1,799.00 from Boston & N.Y.

April 5-16 \$1,999.00 from Chicago

Single Supplement \$219.00

LITHUANIA & GERMANY

DIRECT FLIGHT INTO VILNIUS BY PRIVATE CHARTER

12 Day Tour with 7 Days in LITHUANIA

8 nights VILNIUS, 2 nights WEST BERLIN

via KLM & AEROFLOT CHARTER

TOUR #507B \$1,699.00 from Boston & N.Y.

May 7-18 \$1,769.00 from Chicago

Single Supplement \$229.00

LITHUANIA & RUSSIA

13 day Tour with 7 Days in LITHUANIA

7 nights VILNIUS, 2 nights MOSCOW

2 nights LENINGRAD via FINNAIR

TOUR #515 \$2,159.00 from Boston & N.Y.

May 15-27 \$2,359.00 from Chicago

Single Supplement \$259.00

LITHUANIA & GERMANY

DIRECT FLIGHT INTO VILNIUS BY PRIVATE CHARTER

19 Day Tour with 14 Days in LITHUANIA

15 Nights VILNIUS, 2 nights WEST BERLIN

via KLM & AEROFLOT CHARTER

TOUR #507A \$2,079.00 from Boston & N.Y.

May 7-25 \$2,149.00 from Chicago

Single Supplement \$399.00

LITHUANIA & FINLAND

14 Day Tour with 10 Days in LITHUANIA, 11 Nights

VILNIUS, 1 night HELSINKI via FINNAIR

TOUR #510 \$2,109.00 from Boston & N.Y.

May 10-23 \$2,309.00 from Chicago

Single Supplement \$279.00

LITHUANIA & GERMANY

15 Day Tour with 10 Days in LITHUANIA, 11 nights

VILNIUS, 2 nights HAMBURG via LUFTHANSA

TOUR #522 \$2,299.00 from Boston & N.Y.

May 22-June 5 \$2,499.00 from Chicago

Single Supplement \$339.00

LITHUANIA & CZECHOSLOVAKIA

11 Day Tour with 6 Days in LITHUANIA

7 nights VILNIUS, 2 nights PRAGUE

via CZECHOSLOVAK AIRLINES

TOUR #608 \$2,099.00 from New York

June 8-18 \$2,299.00 from Chicago

Single Supplement \$279.00

LITHUANIA, FINLAND & ESTONIA

15 Day Tour with 9 Days in LITHUANIA

Boat Cruise from HELSINKI to TALLINN and Return

10 Nights VILNIUS, 2 nights HELSINKI

1 night TALLINN via FINNAIR

TOUR #801 \$2,389.00 from Boston & N.Y.

August 1-15 \$2,589.00 from Chicago

Single Supplement \$319.00

LITHUANIA, RUSSIA & FINLAND

15 day Tour with 7 days in LITHUANIA, 7 nights VILNIUS,

2 nights MOSCOW, 2 nights LENINGRAD, 2 nights HELSINKI via FINNAIR

TOUR #813 \$2,459.00 from Boston & N.Y.

August 13-27 \$2,659.00 from Chicago

Single Supplement \$349.00

LITHUANIA & SWITZERLAND

15 Day Tour with 10 Days in LITHUANIA

11 nights VILNIUS, 2 nights ZURICH via SWISSAIR

TOUR #614 \$2,269.00 from Boston & N.Y.

June 14-28 \$2,469.00 from Chicago

Single Supplement \$299.00

LITHUANIA & AUSTRIA

15 day Tour with 10 Days in LITHUANIA, 11 nights
VILNIUS, 2 nights VIENNA via AUSTRIAN AIR-
LINES

TOUR #808 \$2,399.00 from Boston & N.Y.
AUGUST 8-22 \$2,599.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$299.00

LITHUANIA

10 day Tour with 7 Days in LITHUANIA
8 nights VILNIUS via FINNAIR

TOUR #943 \$1,809.00 from Boston & N.Y.
September 13-22 \$2,009.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$199.00

LITHUANIA & FINLAND

14 Day Tour with 10 days in LITHUANIA, 11 nights
VILNIUS, 1 night HELSINKI via FINNAIR

TOUR #913 \$2,209.00 from Boston & N.Y.
September 13-26 \$2,409.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$299.00

LITHUANIA & CZECHOSLOVAKIA

12 Day Tour with 8 Days in LITHUANIA
9 nights VILNIUS, 1 night PRAGUE
via CZECHOSLOVAK AIRLINES

TOUR #106 \$1,699.00 from Boston & N.Y.
November 5-16 \$1,899.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$169.00

LITHUANIA & CZECHOSLOVAKIA

15 Day Tour with 10 days in LITHUANIA
11 nights VILNIUS, 2 nights PRAGUE
via CZECHOSLOVAK AIRLINES

TOUR #105 \$2,159.00 from Boston & N.Y.
October 1-15 \$2,359.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$199.00

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S IN LITHU-
ANIA**

15 Day Tour with 11 days in LITHUANIA
12 nights VILNIUS, 1 night PRAGUE
via CZECHOSLOVAK AIRLINES

TOUR #1225 \$1,799.00 from Boston & N.Y.
Dec. 21-Jan. 4 \$1,999.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$219.00

NEW YEAR'S IN LITHUANIA

15 Day Tour with 11 Days in LITHUANIA,
2 Nights VILNIUS, 1 night PRAGUE
via CZECHOSLOVAK AIRLINES

TOUR #1280 \$1,799.00 from Boston & N.Y.
Dec. 28 - Jan. 11 \$1,999.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$219.00

FOR DETAILED INFORMATION
AND BROCHURE, PLEASE CONTACT:



77 Oak St., Suite 4
Newton, MA 02164
(617) 965-8080
FAX (617) 332-7781

K of L CALENDAR

April 29, 1990 - NED Spring Convention. Hosts C-141 Bridge-
port, CT

May 18-20, 1990 - MCD Convention & Bowling Tournament,
C-96 Dayton, OH Hosts.

June 22-24, 1990 - NED Retreat - Kennebunkport, ME

June 28, 1990 - Day at the Races - C-24 Chicago, IL

July 26-29, 1990 - 77th National Convention - Hosts: Pittsburgh

#19

August 26, 1990 - 5th Annual Lithuanian Festival - American
Legion Hall, Greenport, NY - C-152 Eastern Long Island,
NY Hosts.

Nov. 4, 1990 - 75th Anniversary, Our Lady of Sorrows Church,
Kearny, NJ - C-90.



Council Activities

Vyčiai Veikia



AMBER DISTRICT outgoing pres. Joseph Simmons, C-63 passes gavel to incoming pres. John Mickunas, C-3. Standing l to r: Elsie Kosmisky C-144, vice president; Agnes Mickunas, C-3, secretary & Edmund Carlitus, C-144, treasurer.

C-3 PHILADELPHIA, PA

Your C-3 Vytis reporter wishes to apologize for the delay in reporting C-3 news. Due to surgery. I was unable to relate happenings but hope to bring you up to date.

After a successful concert by the Cleveland Octet at the Lithuanian Music Hall, officers were elected as follows: Fr. Eugene Wassel, spiritual advisor; Victor Stepalovitch, pres.; John Mickunas, vice pres.; Walter Svekla, treas.; Agnes Mickunas, fin. sec.; Ausra Maknys, rec. sec.; Joseph Drumstas and Margaret Petronis, trustees. In the ritual committee,

first chair holder will be Irene Ozalis; second, Lillian Greymas and third, Irene Svekla. Helen Shields and Walter Mameniskis will respectively chair cultural and Lithuanian Affairs committees. Nellie Pandza will chair the Sunshine Club. Victor Stepalovitch and Edmund Binkis will handle English and Lithuanian publicity.

In November, the Lithuanian Festival at the Music Hall was held where members participated at a table for the benefit of the Amber District.

Dec. brought forth our 5th annual Kučios which was held at St. George Hall

after Mass. This was a smashing success and a sellout. The council wishes to thank all of the members who helped in one way or another. Also, in Dec. the council held its annual Christmas party after the meeting.

Members attended a special Lithuanian Mass at St. Andrew's Church that coincided with events taking place in Lithuania. Channel 6 TV covered the Mass which was aired on TV that evening.

In Feb. we went on a Casion Trip to the Claridge Hotel. John Mickunas and Victor Stepalovitch represented the Amber District and C-3 in Harrisburg for the signing of the proclamation declaring Feb. 16 as Lithuanian Independence Day by Gov. Casey. On Feb. 18 the commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day was observed at the Music Hall. Mass at St. Andrew's preceded the celebration. Concluding the month of Feb., members attended Mass and pre-Lenten banquet at St. George's Church.

A big welcome is extended to our new members, Julia Kowrak and Lynne Flores.

Eleven C-3 members traveled to Hazleton for the Amber District meeting. We thank C-118 for their hospitality.

We ask all VYTIS readers for their prayers for the recovery of young John Drumstas who is being treated for a serious illness. John is the son of Joseph & Diane Drumstas who are long-time members of the Knights.

Victor Stepalovitch

C-5 CHICAGO, IL

We were saddened to learn of the death of C-5 member Peter K. Barskis on Feb. 21, 1990 who resided in Deerfield, Fl. He was a football and basketball star at DePaul University and was also inducted in their Hall of Fame. Before his retirement, he operated a furniture store in Chicago. He is survived by two sons and two daughters. May he rest in peace!



C-7 WATERBURY, CT

A steady drizzle and chilling temperatures did nothing to dampen the spirit of the many people gathered outside City Hall to honor Rev. Paul Sabulis of St. Joseph's Church as the Lithuanian Mayor for the day. After the raising of the Lithuanian flag, the ceremony moved to Alderman Robert Giacomi's chambers wherein Fr. Sabulis was installed as mayor for the day and received the key to the City. After the ceremonies, an official commemorative program was held in St. Joseph's School Hall. Keynote speaker was Eduardas V. Meilus, Jr., managing editor of Bridges. He discussed the reawakening of Lithuania.

Virginia Kosa

C-10 ATHOL-GARDNER, MA

Due to the forecasted stormy weekend of Feb. 4, council's sponsored Lithuanian Independence Day observance had to be cancelled. It was rescheduled to March 11th but again had to be cancelled due to unforeseen problems with the performers.

Blanche Genaitis received a proclamation from the Mayor of Gardner, Charles Manca, designating Feb. 16 as Lithuanian Day in town.

Mass was offered at St. Francis on Feb. 11 for Lithuania, celebrated by Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis.

Congratulations are sent to Tina A. Shatos on the occasion of 77 years as member of C-10. Daughter Maryann who has a PhD in chemistry has joined our council. Welcome.

We observed the feast of our patron, St. Casimir, by attending Mass at St. Francis on Sat., March 3. Fr. Jurgelonis along with the altar boys led us into church. Fr. was celebrant and homilist. The following day, a few of our members attended St. Casimir's Day dinner at Maironis Park.

Vincukas

C-24 CHICAGO, IL

Events are moving so fast in Lithuania that it would be great to have the K of L Lithuanian windsocks waving in the breezes of the Nemunas and the cities of Kaunas and Vilnius with the beautiful colors of yellow, green and red. This would help tell the world that the Lithuanian nation wants freedom. Send your relatives and friends in Lithuania this momento. A windsock display in our Lithuanian homes would also strengthen our heritage all over this grand U.S.A. C-24 will speedily send you a windsock. Get in touch with Frank Jurgaitis, 553 S. Moody, Chicago, IL 60638 or phone (312) 767-8952.

Aušra Padalino graciously invited all members to her home for the Jan. meeting. She treated us with snacks, plus cake and coffee. Her video of our Christmas party was viewed by all with many chuckles.

A celebration for St. Casimir Day took place March 11 with Mass at the Marian Fathers Monastery hosted by C-24. Rev. Cibulskis was the main celebrant with our junior members, David & Andrew Neberieza, as altar boys. Nijole Butts read the responsorial and Nina & Natalia Padalino read the scriptural readings. A Lithuanian hot buffet was served after Mass. The Spring MCD meeting was held after lunch. Committee members Ausra Padalino, Frank Jurgaitis, Olga Eastman, Irene Murdock, Clare O'Dea, Nijole Butts, Josephine Mankus and Bernice Neberieza and Loretta Simon made cakes and goodies for all to enjoy.

We are grateful to Fr. Cibulskis for his graciousness, religious instructions and being our spiritual advisor.

On June 28th, C-24 is sponsoring a "Day at the Races" at Sportsman Park. For \$12., an all you can eat beef buffet will be served from 6 to 8 p.m. and then "they are off". Joe and Loretta Simon are in charge of selling tickets. Call them at (708) 424-2542. Get your friends and K

of L'ers for a fun night.

Josephine & Stanley Mankus visited with relatives in Vero Beach, FL. Joe Simon was surprised with a birthday party in March. I am happy to inform that the Pres. wife, Rachel Jurgaitis, is recovering fast from all her illnesses. Congratulations to Kazys & Irena Aizenas, proud grandparents of Marytė Gorskis. Nina Padalino had surgery and has bounced back to health with everybody's prayers.

Compliments to the VYTIS staff for a beautiful and informative magazine and also to Stella Matulonis, the Food Editor, for the good recipes. (*Ed. Many thanks for your kind sentiments.*)

Linksmų Šventų Velykių.

Bitė

C-26 WORCESTER, MA

"On the boardwalk of Atlantic City" is the theme song of Mary & Alexander Anusauskas, Bea & Tony Anton, Frances & Charles Kulakusky, who admitted to having a grand time there recently. Rita Karrytais accompanied by C-116 president, Irene Tamulevich, returned from a voyage to California via the Panama Canal. Teresa & Kazys Adomevicius enjoy Aruba each year. Ski enthusiasts Carol & Bill Grigas, Stephen & Ellie Walinsky and their families find the New Hampshire slopes simply breathtaking. Emily Gudzevich is a line-dancing enthusiast.

Charles Busky died in January. We are sad for his widow, Angela Sarapas Busky and their family and offer deepest sympathy. Soon after moving to Torrance, CA, Anne Grazulis received word of her mom's death in Connecticut. At that time she was concerned about her husband who had just earlier suffered a heart attack. We are sorry about Anne's mom's passing and quickly add that we are so happy to hear that Vinny is doing so beautifully.

Our Lady of Vilna's pastor, Fr. Alphonse Volungis, hosted Worcester's

spiritual commemoration of Lithuania's Independence on Feb. 11. C-116 prepared and served a most attractive and delicious breakfast after Mass. Fr. Volungis was main celebrant and our pastor, Fr. Vincent Parulis, MIC, was guest homilist. Representatives from our C-26, the "Šiauliai" Lithuanian National Guard and the Lithuanian War Veterans, together with members from both parishes, all made for an impressive prayer day for Lithuania's cause.

And speaking of things Lithuanian, we remind our readers that the Ed Meilus, Jr. weekly Lithuanian program, "Aušra" was changed from Wednesday to Sunday evenings. It seems we are all at home Sunday evenings and it is a most accommodating time.

Further to the Lithuanian Feb. 16 commemoration, we should add that the civic portion of the day took place in the afternoon at Maironis Park. Seated at the head table were Frs. Volungis and Parulis, Stephen Walinsky, Sr., president of the Lithuanian Naturalization and Social Club, along with his wife Anna, also Peter Molis of C-116 with his wife Raminta. Ed Meilus, Jr. gave the event excellent publicity over the airways and his preparation and reading of the resolutions was very good. Asta Banionytė Connor of Washington was the main speaker. Instead of delving into history, she chose to address the audience with contemporary, present day facts of Lithuanian issue.

Anne Walinsky decorated the parish hall with hearts and flowers for the Valentine meeting and dinner. The fare of the night was pot luck and the variety was the name of the game. Rita Pinkus, our president, is busy running our council but never too busy for kitchen duty for each and every supper. Adele & Francis Degutis, Anne Buciskas, Anne & Bill Leseman and many others never fail to offer their assistance.

The March meeting was preceded with

a Lenten meal of baked fish prepared by Withold & Virginia Ivaska and committee.

One of the attractions of our monthly meetings is the spiritual address offered by Fr. John Petrauskas, MIC, our spiritual director. We thank Fr. and want him to know we appreciate the time spent in preparation.

The first half of the bowling season is over with the following results submitted by Sec. Joseph Howard and his grandmother, Treas. Geraldine Paliliunas. The Ronald Daucunas team, Gad Troupes, Gerry Paliliunas and Pauline Puishys, won first half. High averages went to Lewis Lloyd and Dorothy March. Richard Godek and Mary Parker won both high singles and high triples. In addition to the aforementioned winners, there are other super bowlers. They are Joey Howard, Adele Degutis and Virginia Ivaska.

Although she graduated Assumption College in 1989, Lynne Walinsky continues her studies with evening courses as she pursues a special goal. There is no conflict of interest insofar as her treasurer's duties are concerned. Her books continue to balance to the penny!

We should mention others who attended Lithuanian Independence Day events: Mary Duggan, Ruth Hallinan, Francis A. Glodas, Victoria Augustine, Helen Gillus, Eduardas Meilus, Sr., Marion Shapiro, Francis Tagman, Dorothy Virbasius, Vivian Rodgers, Anna Kersis and a host of others.

We just heard that Alphonse Kondrotas is on the sick list. "Get well soon" is the greeting from all of us!

"Olga"

C-41 BROOKLYN, NY

March 4 was a spectacular day, wintery crisp and dazzlingly sunny and our Vyčiai of C-41 made it unforgettable with the events they lined up to honor our Lithuanian St. Casimir.

Mass was concelebrated at Brooklyn's Annunciation Church by Rev. Kazimieras Pugevičius who is in charge of Lithuanian Religious Aid and by Rev. Antanas Prakapas OFM, current head of the Lithuanian Franciscans and chaplain of the Lithuanian Saturday School. For the occasion, Marytė Shalins contributed flowers. The choir, directed by Viliamas Kučinskis was accompanied by the new organist, Mrs. Bukauskienė.

A moving interlude was created by the young Scouts who participated in the ceremonies. Just as moving was the presentation by some Vyčiai of a dramatic group reading on the life of St. Casimir, written and directed by HM Joseph Boley, with Bill Kumeta in the role of vadas (leader).

The festivities were rounded out by a champagne brunch at the newly opened restaurant Baltija in Richmond Hill where the hosts outdid themselves with their gracious hospitality. We thank all who helped make this such a successful affair. Special thanks go to Mr. & Mrs. K. Sateika for their organizational assistance.

Above all, the entire day was a statement of the gratitude and love that Vyčiai have for that power who helped Lithuania and her faith survive — Šventas Kazimieras. *Demie*

C-52 ELIZABETH, NJ

HM Annie Matalavich continues as president of our council with Rev. Al Zemeikis our spiritual advisor.

The annual commemoration of the Feast of St. Casimir was held on March 4 with Mass celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul Lithuanian Church. A buffet dinner was served in the parish hall. John Adomenas, president of the Mid-Atlantic District, was the guest speaker.

The Knights regret the loss of the Alexian Brothers Hospital in which many Lithuanian doctors and volunteers served. It marks an end of an era when Elizabeth General Medical Center takes over.

Bill Senkus

C-63 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA

The flag of the Free Republic of Lithuania was raised over the cities of Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton on Feb. 16 by contingents of our council in ceremonies led by the mayor of each city. Extensive cover was furnished by the local radio and television stations and the newspapers.

The Allentown ceremony was marked by a brief address by Joseph Ogint wherein he reminded the public that Gorbachev's benevolence was not a series of kindnesses by a Communist with a change of heart. No, it was motivated by the fact that the pressures of the NATO alliance and subsequent arms and space races have nearly driven the Soviet Union into economic chaos. Permission for some freer speech and to display the Lithuanian national flag will in no way substitute for outright, no strings attached independence. Independence is in the heart and soul of the issue which Gorbachev has not, to date, addressed.

The Bethlehem contingent was led by Al Klizas and the Easton contingent by Council Pres. Jane Lutick.

Celebration of Lithuania's Independence Day continued on Feb. 18, with a commemoration Mass in St. Michael's Church, Easton. Celebrant was Fr. Joseph Hulko. Gift bearers were Al & Jeanette Klizas, Valerie Smickle, Emilie Tihansky and Joseph Ogint. Gifts consisted of U.S. and Lithuanian flags, a vial of sand from Trakai Castle, a straw portrait of Our Lady of Vilnius and an encased sprig of rūta, Lithuania's national flower. Mass was followed by a sumptuous luncheon in the church hall and a brief council meeting. Arrangements for the Mass and luncheon were shared by John & Dora Lushis, Trudy Meshauk, Valerie Smickle and Jane Lutick.

The high point of the council meeting came at the moment a motion was passed for us to adopt a church parish in Lithuania. Council members Joseph Simmons

and Al Klizas were charged with collecting procedural data in this respect.

Joseph F. Ogint

C-72 BINGHAMTON, NY

Elections were held at our Nov. meeting. Officers for 1990 are Rev. John Mikalajunas, spiritual advisor; John Mankus, pres., cultural chairman and Vytyis correspondent; Charles Almenas,



National Spiritual Advisor Rev. Joseph Anderlonis, pastor of St. George Parish in Philadelphia and guest from Lithuania

vice pres. and Lithuanian Affairs chairman; Arthur Stankevitz, sec.; Mary Buokas, treas.; Casey Grikenis, fin. sec.; and Irene Grikenis, ritual chairlady.

Our council members under the direction of Irene Grikenis participated in the Robertson Center International Cafe programs during the Christmas season. Traditional Lithuanian straw ornaments were used to decorate the Christmas tree and displays of traditional Lithuanian Christmas and cultural items were exhibited, including a model of a wayside cross, linens and juostas. Barbara Miller, Casey Grikenis, Delores Wasleski, Milane & Alphonse Marchuska and Helen & Felix Svereika all participated to make both programs a great success. Carla Wilson and Marytė Rekasius wore Lithu-

anian costumes and Elena Greene also in traditional dress, played several Christmas and traditional selections on the kankles.

Plans are under way for the Two Rivers Ethnic Festival to be held at the Veterans Memorial Arena in Binghamton in May. As a result of our participation in last year's festival, we are planning for an even greater measure of success in the selling of ethnic Lithuanian food and a larger cultural display.

Fr. John, during his visit to Lithuania in the fall, became the first non-resident priest since the Russian occupation to celebrate Mass at Our Lady of Siluva Shrine. Father brought back many traditional Lithuanian items of cultural and historical significance which he shared with us at our Nov. meeting.

We welcome our new members Adele Amshay, Mary Gillis, Ed Grenchus and John & Chris Stukas. We hope their association with the Knights will be both spiritually and culturally rewarding.

John R. Mankus

C-74 SCRANTON, PA

The 10th annual Diocesan Ethnic Rosary was held in St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton on Feb. 4. Marie & Richard Laske, Ann Lisowski, Rose Stanches, John Romoska, Joseph Saibitis, Della Zvirblis and George Sailus participated in the Lithuanian recitation. They were joined by Dorothy Banos and Nellie B. Romanas of C-143.

John Romaska served as chairman of the Freedom Flag Raising at the Northeastern Bank Plaza in downtown Scranton on Feb. 17. Assisting him were Helen Cravath, pres., Casimir Yanish, Lithuanian Affairs chairman and Richard Laske, trustee.

Marie Laske

C-96 DAYTON, OH

We are deeply saddened by the death of our beloved member Cecilia Yankus.

She was locally known for her true and sincere personality. She was also an excellent musician who brightened the eyes and hearts of many. She passed away on Feb. 22. She was a Vytis correspondent for many years. We will all miss her.

Social chairlady Elaine Pacovsky outdid herself at the Feb. meeting. Her special homemade soup and sandwiches hit the spot.

Please keep John Berczelly, Dorothy Conrady and Annadel Miller in your prayers. A very special wish for a speedy recovery.

Congratulations are in order for the Junior #96 council. Their recent elections resulted in the following: Julie Goecke, pres.; Timothy Pacovsky, vice pres.; Mollie Geiger, sec.; Krista Zinkiewicz, treas.; Nicole Bucmys and Aaron Geiger, sgts. at arms; Timothy Pacovsky & Aaron Geiger, sports. Keep up the good work junior advisors Irene Gecas and Elena Mikalauskas.

Many Knights joined the Lithuanian Cultural Council who sponsored Dayton's celebration of the anniversary of Lithuania's Independence on Feb. 18.

C-96 looks forward to seeing our friends at the Bowling Tournament on May 18-20. See you then.

Mary A. Mikalauskas

C-103 PROVIDENCE, RI

February, the Independence Month, had the membership of this council moving a very fast pace. Exercises were held in the church hall on Feb. 11 commemorating Lithuania's Independence with Rhode Island State Representatives. The guest speaker was Gintaras Cepas from Boston. The Providence Chapter of the Lithuanian World Community hosted this yearly event.

Feb. 15 in the heavy rain, Lithuanians found their way to the Rhode Island State House and the chambers of the Rhode Island House of Representatives. Speaking in behalf of Lithuania and mentioning

the group present with nine ladies in Lithuanian costumes were several Representatives. The Lithuanian flag was proudly displayed above the House Speaker's rostrum on the red velvet drape causing much favorable comment.

On Feb. 15 in the rain again (inclement weather for every affair this year), ladies in Lithuanian costumes and members of the Lithuanian parish traveled to Bristol, nationally known for the oldest and largest fourth of July parade in America and for many years St. Mary's Church for the celebration of Mass for the "terrible June days" for the raising of the Lithuanian flag. This event was the work of a non-Lithuanian lady, Sally Zelonis. She wrote the proclamation and petitioned the town administrator and members of the town council on Feb. 7. Request was granted. Fifty or more Lithuanians and friends gathered at the Thames Street flagpole.

Victor Mathieu assisted in raising the Lithuanian flag and Vic lead the salute to the flag. Since Old Glory was at the top of the flagpole with the MIA flag below, Vic suggested that we sing the American National Anthem to be followed by the Lietuvos Himnas. In this way, we remembered our American service men missing in action and our Lithuanian patriots and freedom fighters still held in Gulags and in Siberia waiting to be released. The Lithuanians sang with gusto, fervor and pride. The ceremonies concluded with everyone soaked from the rain, feet frozen and damp from wind and water. We were invited for refreshments in the nearby real estate offices of Robert O. Rondeau.

Town officials were praised for the hot coffee an' and the Bristol community for their recognizing Lithuania's wish to once again be free and join the rest of the free world. The "ačius" were loud in praise of Sally Zelonis and all of our non-Lithuanian friends.

Un qui pri et travail pour Lituania..
Victor G. Mathieu

C-112 CHICAGO, IL

Our council's letter writing session under Rita Zakarka was most successful. Even though Lithuania appears to have more freedom, our letter writing will continue until Lithuania has total freedom.

This year many C-112 members flew to St. Pete Beach to attend Victoria Jacobson's annual Mass for Lithuania's freedom held in St. John's Church. Our Father Zak was the main celebrant and also gave a powerful sermon for Lithuania's freedom. The large church was filled to capacity with standing room only. Our C-112 member Algird Brazis sang several Lithuanian hymns most beautifully. Representing C-112 were MAMD Spiritual Advisor Fr. Zak, MAMD Pres. Algird Brazis and wife Aldona, Supreme Council Trustee Al Zakarka and wife Julie, Ellie Kasputis, Estelle Rogers, Del Zunas, Harry & Emily Petraitis and former C-112 member Aldona Kirstuk.

There were other out of state K of L members who came to celebrate this affair; namely, Supreme Council President Anne Wargo, Vytis Editor Mary Kober and husband Tony, Amber District Pres. John Mickunas and wife Agnes, Council News Editor Helen Chesko and Konnie Savickus of C-5 Chicago. Some people remarked there was a mini K of L convention in Florida.

Congratulations to our recent First Degree recipients Vera Paukstis, Mary Ann Gercius and John Yerkes.

Al Zakarka

C-136

HUDSON-MOHAWK, NY

In spite of the blizzard-like snowstorm, members traveled from Albany area and Amsterdam to join us on Feb. 25 in remembrance of Lithuanian Independence. Mass was celebrated followed by a reception hosted by our council. Finger foods and beverages were offered to all who



Gov. of Penna. Robt. Casey, signing Lithuanian Independence Day Proclamation. Seated: Mrs. Robert Casey, Gov. Robt. Casey, Lt. Gov. Mark Singel. Standing: K of L Council Presidents: Jack Joseph, C-63; Nellie B. Romanas, C-143; Victor Stepalovitch, C-3; John Mickunas, Amber District; Helen Cravath, C-74; Clara Gudonis, C-146; Anne Wargo, Nat'l Pres.; David Wenslovas, C-19; Jane Lutick, C-63 and Sholem Straub, Exec. Director of Gov.'s Ethnic Heritage Commission.

attended Mass along with friendly fellowship.

Audrius Bruzga was the guest speaker. He is an exchange student attending Union College and discovered our Holy Cross Church quite accidentally while enjoying an annual walkabout in the historic area of our city of Schenectady. Our church founded by the Lithuanian fathers continues to display colors of Lithuania. Our church is on the list of historic areas to visit and when Audrius opened the church doors, he felt close to home when he saw the Lithuanian national symbol displayed. Since that day, he has been a welcome visitor to our church and our council.

At our independence day celebration we launched our new fund-raising project and hopefully our treasury will benefit. Lithuanian T-shirts are being sold by our council and they are beautiful!

Dorothy Richmire

C-144 ANTHRACITE, PA

Anthracite Council observed the commemoration of Lithuanian Independ-

ence Day with a Mass celebrated by Fr. Jarasunas on Feb. 11. Mary Koons was lecturer and friends of Siluva Choir sang the hymns. A buffet luncheon and program followed in the social quarters. Fr. Gobitas, pastor BVM Annunciation of Frackville was the main speaker. Ann H. McDonald and Pat Roberts co-chaired the event.

At the Feb. meeting it was decided to continue holding monthly meetings on the last Sunday of the month after the noon Lithuanian Mass at Our Lady of Siluva in Maizeville.

Council extends sincere condolences to Adele Rolinaitis on the loss of her beloved husband, Daniel, a long time member of C-144. Prayerful wishes for the happy repose of his soul.

Vice pres. John Joseph with wife Leona, national pres. Anne Wargo and Vytis council news editor Helen Chesko joined other Pennsylvania Knights on Feb. 2 to witness the Governor signing the proclamation designating Feb. 16 as Lithuanian Independence Day in the

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In view of the present day events transpiring in Lithuania, the Pottsville Republican gave local publicity to Lithuanian activities in Schuylkill County. "Personal belongings help preserve history of Lithuanian immigrants", gave an impressive account on the cultural center located on So. Broad Mountain Ave. in Frackville. The center is open by appointment.

"Ham radio brings East Bloc

home for Frackville man" featured Bernard Zilaitis who visited Lithuania recently and communicates frequently with friends in Lithuania.

"Plea for freedom — Knights to fly Lithuanian flag over courthouse" was an excellent account of Anna H. McDonald's Lithuanian heritage. She is council treasurer and public relations chairlady for the Amber District. Also, Anne Wargo, national president was interviewed by a reporter from the *Republican* regarding the Knights of Lithuania organization.

National pres. Anne Wargo and council news editor Helen Chesko were among 2000 who attended Mass at St. John's Church in St. Petersburg Beach, FL in commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day on Feb. 11. They were the guests of Victoria Jacobson at her condo for "coffee and" as well as luncheon at the Brown Derby with approximately 150 guests. They also attended the flag raising ceremonies at Treasure Island on Feb. 16 under the sponsorship of Victoria

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Jacobson. While on Treasure Island, they had the pleasure of enjoying the companionship of the following visiting Knights: Estelle Rogers, Ellie Kasputis, Del Zunas, Al & Julie Zakarka, Algerd & Aldona Brazis, Konnie Savickus from Chicago, Vytis Editor Mary and Anthony Kober from New York and Amber District Pres. John and Sec. Agnes Mickunas from Philadelphia.

As house guests of pres. of C-153 Treasure Coast, Connie and John Scheibelhut in Jupiter, FL, Anne & Helen joined in the celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day on Feb. 18. The Scheibelhuts hosted a Pennsylvania dinner with Eleanor Vaicaitis, Elsie Kosmisky with her nephew and his stepfather, and Eva & Robert Kaboskie of Scranton.

The Treasure Coast celebration consisted of Mass at St. John of the Cross Church in No. Palm Beach followed by dinner at Rodney's.

C-152 EASTERN LONG ISLAND, NY

On Sunday, August 26, our Council will hold the Fifth Annual Lithuanian Festival at the American Legion Hall in Greenport. Council members will shortly be embarking upon their own individual assignments among the many tasks which must harmoniously mesh in order that the Festival may be both memorable and successful.

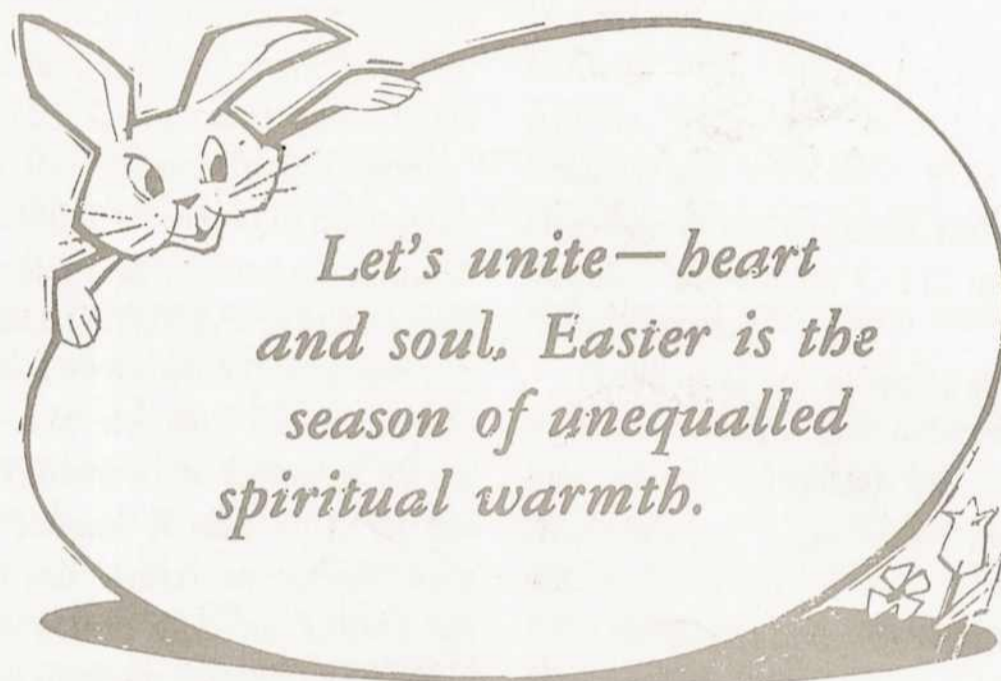
Council member Joanne White, expressing the firm conviction that she has endured enough of the dubious "blessings" of snow, high taxes and home ownership on Long Island, has traded her snow shovel, lawn mower and mortgage for a condo and suntan lotion in Vero Beach, FL. She has our "warmest" (if

perhaps envious) wishes for much happiness in her new residence.

At this writing, we are saddened to announce a lengthy list of our fellow Knights who have been sidelined by one or more varieties of illness: Irene Allen, Mary Caplan, Benny Ceponis, Bill Newalis and Tony Zambuto. We wish them all a speedy return to the great blessing of good health.

Tom Tarmey

*Blessed Easter
to all
Knights of Lithuania
members and readers of
VYTIS*



Edith LoPiccolo, Muriel & Anthony Zembuto of C-152 Eastern Long Island with Mary Shalins of C-41 Brooklyn, NY.