



WYTTIS 1991

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

VASARIS - FEBRUARY

VOL. 77: No. 2



Freedom Over Lithuania - Photo: R. Kisielius

VYTIS

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

VASARIS - FEBRUARY
1991
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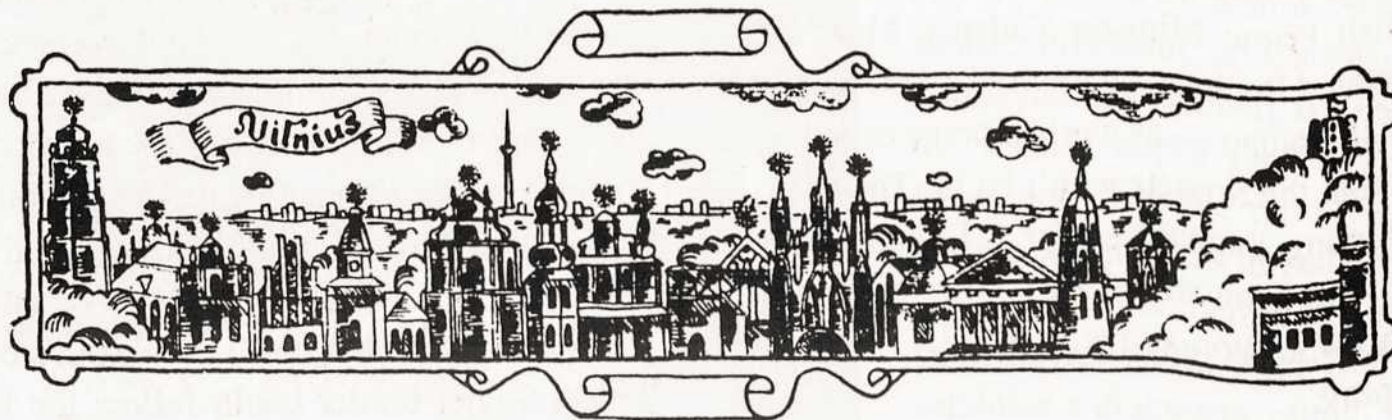
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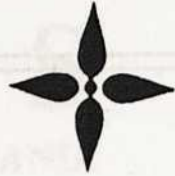
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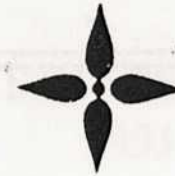
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Little Lithuanian Town in Poland Plots to Rescue Republic



Blaine Harden

In their first plan to break Mikhail Gorbachev's economic blockade, ethnic Lithuanians in Punkst, Poland plotted to use pigs.

To help the energy-starved breakaway republic that is just two miles to the northeast, the people of Punkst agreed to raise all the pigs they could feed and truck them to Silesia in southwestern Poland. There, they planned to swap pork for coal and haul it back north to Lithuania.

The plan went nowhere. The Soviets have all but closed the Polish-Lithuanian border. Only two shipments of medicine have been allowed through since early April, and each had to be approved individually — with a call to Moscow. Neither food nor fuel is allowed to pass.

"It is like a battle between a fly and an ox," said Rev. Ignacy Dzierneyko, a Roman Catholic parish priest.

Each morning at 10 a.m. Soviet helicopters sweep along the border, checking for smugglers. Poles traveling by train to the nearby Soviet city of Grodno are body-searched for separatist literature. When Polish hunters fire rifles in the woods near the border, armed Soviet patrols materialize from brush on the other side. The commander of Soviet border guards in the Baltic region has said his troops "are prepared for all possible versions of developments."

Certainly, the 12,000 Lithuanians-speaking Poles who raise dairy cattle and grow wheat here in the rolling land along the Soviet border are not planning an invasion. Instead, they watch Lithuanian television news every night, fret endlessly about how the Soviet blockade might be hurting their relatives and plot the kind of counter-measures that are available to the passionately powerless.

After the pigs-for-coal scheme went bust, they marched in the streets of Punkst carrying Lithuanian flags and singing freedom songs. They dispatched outraged letters to Gorbachev and Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki. They have designated Punkst — a town of 1,000 people, all of whom speak Lithuanian — as world storage center for all aid to Lithuania that the Soviets won't let in. They also are raising money among themselves for a Lithuanian relief fund. Last year the Lithuanian Poles of this poor region had come up with only 4 million zlotys, or \$412.

Mostly, they pray.

"We see the changes in Russia as a very big miracle. Without a single shot, everything in Moscow has gotten

mixed up. It must be Almighty God," said Dzierneyko, who dedicates several Masses a week to an independent Lithuania.

The borders of Eastern Europe are sloppily drawn. Almost always, they cut people off from the country they consider their rightful home. In border regions across this part of the world, from Yugoslavia's Kosovo to Romania's Transylvania to Punkst, there are patriots pining away on the "wrong" side of the border.

In the so-called "Suwalki" triangle, the northeastern corner of Poland that borders on Lithuania, the official nationality of the land has flip-flopped countless times over the past 1,000 years. It changed hands no less than 11 times in less than two years during the Lithuanian-Polish war of 1919-20.

In recent years — until the Soviets closed the local border crossing at Grodniki last spring — Lithuanians in this out-back corner of Poland had been able to stay in relatively easy contact with their homeland. Poles of Lithuanian origin, most of whom have families in Lithuania, were allowed to cross at Grodniki without a visa.

"I would say that most people from Punkst traveled there several times a month," said Jurata Kordowska, director of the Lithuanian Culture House in Punkst, a small building that features poster-sized photos of the Lithuanian currency, the litas, that lasted as long as the Lithuanian republic, from the end of World War I to 1940. "Of course, the border situation has hurt our economy. Trade was very intensive," said Kordowska.

From across Poland, traders came to the market in nearby Suwalki to exchange Polish clothing and cosmetics for Lithuanian televisions, electrical appliances and glass. That trade has dried up.

The Soviet army, however, is concerned about cross-border trade that it fears has not stopped.

Col. Yevsikov, commander of the Soviet border guard in the Baltic region, told the Moscow newspaper *Rabochaya Tribuna* that large quantities of "secession literature," printed in the United States, West Germany and France, have been smuggled into Lithuania through Poland in recent months.

Yevsikov said he could not rule out the possibility that the Polish-Soviet border could follow the lead of the Soviet-Iranian border, where angry crowds demolished guard buildings this winter. "But we are prepared for all possible

versions of developments," Yevsikov said.

Asked about the colonel's warning, people in Punkst roll their eyes and laugh.

"It is absolutely untrue. Before the border was closed, people smuggled things on their back. Now there is no way to smuggle any literature into Lithuania," said Josef Forenciewicz, principal of the high school in Punkst and a leader of the local movement supporting Lithuanian independence. He

said all that Punkst can do is prepare for the possibility that the border may open to aid trucks.

"We will open our house to truck drivers. Sleeping places are prepared now," Forenciewicz said. "All goods that the Soviets won't allow across the border can be stored here."

World response to Punkst's offer of Lithuanian aid storage has been less than overwhelming. So far, according to Forenciewicz, there is nothing in storage and nothing en route."

The Washington Post

SHIPMENT OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES LEFT DETROIT

Robert S. Boris

The Knights of Lithuania, a nation-wide organization of Americans of Lithuanian descent, underwrote the cost of transportation for a forty-foot container of medical supplies and medications to be distributed in Lithuania. These supplies are provided by World Medical Relief, Inc. of Detroit, MI. The container shipped December 3rd is the first of several to be sent in the future, reported Carolyn George, Executive Director of World Medical Relief.

Rev. J. Walter Stanievich, pastor of St. Mark's Parish in Warren and Robert Boris of St. Anthony's Lithuanian Parish, Detroit, who recently returned from a three week visit to Lithuania, organized a drive to help relieve the devastating conditions they witnessed. They reported that drugs and medications were unavailable, due to the Soviet blockade imposed after Lithuania attempted to re-establish its former independence in March of last year. So desperate are



Robert Boris, representing Knights of Lithuania, Fr. W. Stanievich, Pastor St. Mark's Parish, Warren, MI, Aldona Bunikas, C-102 Detroit, Kestutis Miskinis, Pres. of Detroit Lithuanian Organization. Center: Carolyn George, Exec. Director World Medical Relief, Detroit and Frank Bunikas, C-102 Detroit.

conditions that one common aspirin tablet costs approximately two dollars on the black market.

With the recent advent of religious freedom, hundreds of former "underground" nuns have organized CARITAS, which is established in nearly every city or parish in Lithuania. Sister Albina Pajarskaite, President of Caritas, met with Fr. Stanievich and Robert Boris, and described the sisters' hopes for the future and their frustration with the remnants of the Soviet system. Caritas has already setup a distribution program for medication and supplies sent from the free world. Their first major goal is to establish a diagnostic clinic, with equipment provided by World Medical Relief, Inc. of Detroit. Secondly, they hope to establish an orphanage, sponsored by the Sisters to alleviate horrendous conditions not unlike those dis-



Frank Bunikas, Robert Boris, Aldona Bunikas and Kestutis Miskinis at World Medical Relief Headquarters.

covered and recently reported to have existed in Communist Romania.

Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid in Brooklyn is the representative of Caritas, here in the United States. Checks for this worthwhile and most necessary cause should be made payable to: Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid and sent to: Medical Container Fund, c/o Robert S. Boris, 4970 Brookdale Dr., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48034. Call (313) 642-4970 for more information.

**Donations to Lithuanian Religious Aid for
Knights of Lithuania sponsored Project
July 29 to Dec. 31, 1990**

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K of L Foundation	2,000.00	C-7 Waterbury, CT	100.00
K of L Supreme Council	1,680.00	C-36 Chicago, IL	100.00
C-110 Maspeth, NY	1,000.00	C-50 New Haven, CT	100.00
C-86 DuBois, PA	1,000.00	C-63 Lehigh Valley, PA	100.00
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Mary Oberfield, Los Angeles, CA	1,000.00	New England District	100.00
C-109 Great Neck, NY	500.00	Brian Rutkunas, Bayville, NY	100.00
C-118 Hazleton, PA	500.00	Anonymous	100.00
C-141 Bridgeport, CT	500.00	John Zemis, Andover, MA	100.00
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K OF L FOUNDATION ESSAY. . . .

HOW SHOULD THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA PREPARE ITS MEMBERS TO HELP AN INDEPENDENT LITHUANIA?

Second Prize Winner Emilia Sadonis

For God:

We, Knights of Lithuania, know too well that there is a critical shortage of priests in the country of Lithuania. Communism had severely decreased the seminarian training that had been a way to become a Roman Catholic priest.

The Knights of Lithuania membership can help spiritual Lithuania become better equipped to accept and spread Christ's good news. The members can prepare by annually raising funds that would be used as a full religious scholarship for a Lithuanian man to begin and complete seminarian studies at St. Casimir's Lithuanian College in Rome. This college has been adopted by us, the Knights of Lithuania.

Each council would have an annual responsibility for raising a certain amount of money depending on their membership headcount. The national total would be enough for a four year scholarship for one deserving Lithuanian. Once his homeland is totally free from the Soviet occupiers, the person would be free to travel, study and become ordained in Rome. Our spiritual advisor could help in the candidate selection process.

This fund-raising activity would probably be a major endeavor for each council and would become a sincere new project to focus on. We members would feel proud, knowing that the hard work in raising our council's share of the scholarship is going to actually help independent Lithuania's rebirth in Catholicism.

For Country:

We, Knights of Lithuania, also know too well that Lithuania is terribly in need of modern education. I propose that our organization offer independent Lithuania a technology modernization service. The country has recently appealed to free world Lithuanians for any technological help and advice. That request is profound, since we members know that Lithuania has limited resources to try and make it in the modern world. Some areas that need modern knowhow are: banking, medical, medicine, manufacturing, education, democratic legalities, administration, agriculture, environmental protection and business.

We can prepare to offer our services by beginning now to distribute a survey to all members who then would itemize any of their skills which are felt to be needed for Lithuania to catch up with the Western world's twentieth century. These skills would be compiled and used perhaps on a state or national level. Whenever a person from independent Lithuania comes to America for research, the appropriate members possessing the particular skills could be notified and met with. Perhaps a Lithuanian-English translator would be needed at the seminars too. On the other hand, a group of Knights could contribute their skills and knowledge by traveling to Lithuania for pre-arranged conferences.

Lithuanians need to know so much and without various kinds of resources, their country would slowly advance, if not lag behind the rest of the world.

The Knights of Lithuania organization should become a generous mentor to the beautiful land of our forefathers, Lithuania, and her soon to be independent citizens. 🍏

HYPOCRITE or HERO

Leo Venckus

Christmas - the most beautiful Christian holiday of the year. It brings together family members to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ with carols, hymns, presents, laughter and joy for young and old. That's why many who were away from home used to sing, "I'll be home for Christmas."

But it was different this last Christmas. Hundreds of thousands of American men and women, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, even young Mums and Dads among them, sweethearts, friends and neighbors - they all spent Christmas far away from their homes, their families and loved ones. Even if some of them tried to sing, "I'll be home for Christmas", they knew that this would not happen. Not because they didn't want to be home, or sing "Glory to God in the highest and Peace to His people on earth" and beautiful Christmas carols at home or in their local churches, but because our president would not let them do so. George Bush has the right and, therefore, thinks it is right to send them out to the Saudi Arabian desert to prepare for war - to face and cause death and destruction to Iraq and president Saddam Hussein who invaded, occupied and annexed Kuwait.

President Bush keeps telling the American people and the world that aggression should never be rewarded; that he is going to uphold the American principles of freedom, democracy and the pursuit of happiness for all and that he will hold Saddam Hussein personally responsible for all American hostages, etc., etc. All of that sounds very noble, indeed. Words of a courageous Hero?

But why, one might ask, did this hero do nothing at all to defend these principles on previous occasions? Where was George when the Chinese government ordered their tanks and troops out to disperse, suppress and kill those young Chinese students that put up a "Statue of Liberty" in T-Square in Beijing, when later all those freedom-seeking people, after being identified or simply accused were arrested, tortured and executed by the Communists who declared a state of emergency? And why did this noble fighter for freedom and democracy refuse to recognize the democratically elected new government of Lithuania after it declared its decision on March 11 to be free of Moscow rule?

The Baltic states did not ask for any military intervention. A few simple statements and a stroke of a pen signing the appropriate document would have been sufficient for Mikhail Gorbachev to back off and grant freedom to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. They have the same right to be free as Poland, Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia or any other European country. Despite pleas from thousands of Lithuanian-Ameri-

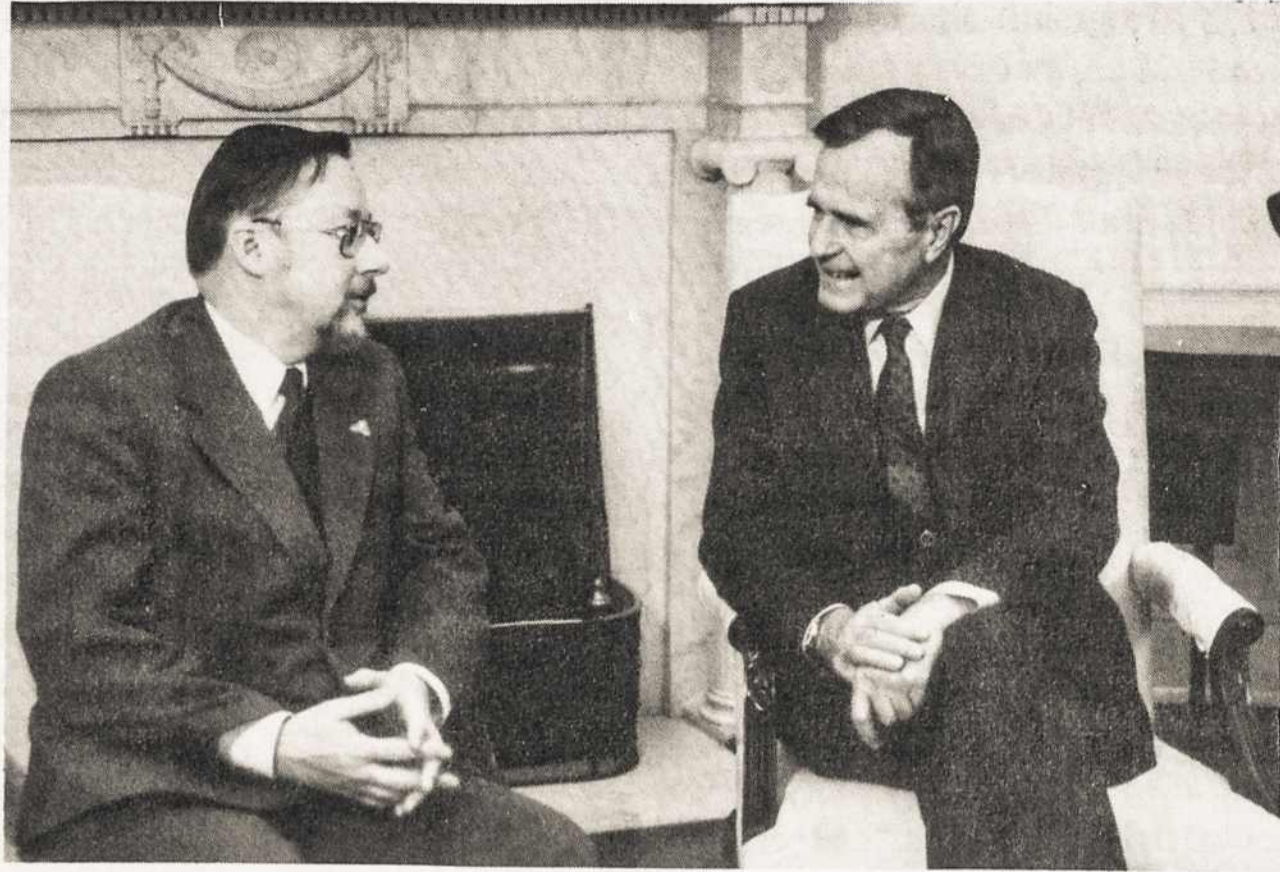
cans living in the U.S.. from numerous Congressmen and Senators to support the Baltic States in their struggle for freedom, George Bush - except his lip service - did nothing to help. All he did was showing concern that Gorbachev could prolong the Soviet Empire. Doesn't that sound hypocritical?

Having obtained Bush's assurance of support, Gorbachev, after the Summit meeting in Malta, suddenly changes his attitude. The Soviet army invades Vilnius with tanks and armored vehicles. Russian paratroopers seize Lithuanian government offices and printing presses, helicopters roar above while the tanks rattle through the street during the nights scaring the local people. Leaflets are distributed inciting local minorities to disobey and revolt against the new Lithuanian government and denouncing their independence. Before that, Gorbachev had promised no violence, but now his soldiers break even into hospitals and homes beating up Lithuanian boys and dragging them into the Red Army. George Bush plugs his ears. Neither he nor the United States intervenes. On the contrary - Gorby is nominated and awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Encouraged by this, Gorbachev recently gave orders to Soviet marshal Dmitri Jazov to "restore law and order in the disobedient republics" by force, even if it means to kill.

What will happen next remains to be seen. On thing is for sure - the pro-Soviet elements have been stirred up and encouraged to cause provocation and riots that may easily result in bloodshed. Maybe even resulting in the suspension or toppling of the Lithuanian government.

But "nebe užtvenksi upės bėgimą." The refusal of the West to speak out firmly and clearly in freeing the Baltic States from Soviet serfdom will not sustain Gorbachev in his saddle for much longer. Neither the millions of dollars, marks or yens will help nor will the food shipments this winter. The Soviet Union, like the Berlin wall, is crumbling. Good riddance!





PRESIDENT BUSH MET WITH LITHUANIAN PRESIDENT LANDSBERGIS IN OVAL OFFICE

President Bush met for one-half hour on December 10, 1990 in the Oval Office with Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis and an accompanying delegation of officials from Lithuania. Landsbergis, who requested the meeting, was on a private tour to the United States.

The President noted the value of personal contacts with the Baltic leaders who have shown discipline and foresight in their commitment to a non-violent solution to their problems with the Soviet government.

The President reaffirmed United States policy pertaining to the Baltic States. He told Pres. Landsbergis the U.S.

supports the right of Lithuania and other Baltic States to self-determination. The President added that the U.S. has never recognized the forcible incorporation of the Baltic States into the USSR and assured Pres. Landsbergis that this policy would not change. The President indicated that he and other senior Administration officials had made this point directly on more than one occasion to senior Soviet officials.

The President stressed that the U.S. wanted a peaceful solution to the problem between the Baltic States and the USSR and hoped the Soviet government would work constructively with Baltic leaders, without resorting to threats, intimidation or the use of force.

President Landsbergis Visits the United States

Andrew Akstin

On evening of Dec. 6, I was home doing some paperwork when a friend from Boston phoned. "Did you hear that Pres. Landsbergis is coming to the U.S?" I replied, "That's great. When?" The answer was, "This weekend." I immediately phoned the Lithuanian Information Center to confirm the story. I was told this was true. I asked why there had been no notification in the press or to the Lithuanian-Americans and whether any rallies were planned. I was informed that it was decided to keep his visit low key and no rallies would be arranged. I told the LIC representative that if Nelson Mandella's supporters had kept "low keyed", Mandella would still be in jail.

I then called another contact in Chicago who is active with



Pres. Landsbergis with Andy Akstin of Worcester, MA

Bendruomenė. He told me that only recently he learned of a reception being arranged for Pres. Landsbergis scheduled for Dec. 10 at the Lithuanian Legation in Washington and there would be no representation from the Knights of Lithuania. I received approval from Pres. Anne Wargo to represent the K of L at this important function, since she was unable to get to Washington on that day. With the vast number of Vyčiai far better able than I to represent the organization, I was deeply elated.

The fact is the K of L is the oldest Lithuanian-American organization in the free world. Through the monumental efforts of Robert Boris and his associates, the Knights have recently sent over 10 tons of desperately needed medical supplies to Lithuania. And, indeed, none of the Supreme Council officers were notified of the President's visit to the U.S.A. nor the reception arranged for him.

I called the Legation and explained the Knights strong desire to be represented at the reception. My attendance was confirmed and I was able to be part of the ceremonies. Gifts were purchased for Charge d'Affaires and Mrs. Lozoraitis and also for President and Mrs. Landsbergis with a card in each gift "From Lietuvos Vyčiai." Pres. Landsbergis mentioned, "It is always good to meet a member of Vyčiu."

The Legation is a grand, beautifully restored gem of architecture along the "Embassy Row" of Washington. With approximately 100 guests, Pres. Landsbergis spoke with the people who crowded around him. He was absolutely the center of attention. Jack Kemp and Congressman Christopher Cox of California, who have been loyal supporters of Lithuania, were also present. Cong. Cox's dedication to free Lithuania is inspiring. During my conversation with the President, I informed him of the active, varied and innovative ways Vyčiai is supporting Lithuania's independence. He listened intently, asking questions and praising the work



Jack Kemp reaffirms his support for Lithuania to Pres. Landsbergis with Andy Akstin looking on.

being done. He expressed his deep concern that another embargo and naval blockade could soon be imposed by Moscow and such a move could seriously hurt Lithuania which still hasn't recovered from the spring time embargo. A blockade during the winter would be devastating to Lithuania. He feels the Soviet Union is not negotiating in good faith with Lithuania but instead is just issuing threats. He reaffirmed the Lithuanian people's passion to never return to the USSR and that liberty is Lithuania's only option.

When Pres. Landsbergis finished his meeting with Pres. Bush, a reporter in the same room asked him of his opinion of Kuwait. He replied, "I just hope Kuwait doesn't have to wait 50 years for their independence."

The evening finally drew to a close and I left the imposing yet congenial Legation with a deep pride in the K of L's work and knowing that the President is aware of our organization's work and efforts towards a free Lithuania in the very near future!

O TIE VISI ŠALČIAI

O tie visi šalčiai
Koki jie kenksmingi!
Žmonės nuo jų kenčia,
Jaučias' nelaimingi.

Nuo jų kaulai braška,
Gyslos, kinkos dreba,
Galva svaigsta, svyra,
Visos nervos virba.

Jei kenksmingi šalčiai
Tarp žmonių išnyktų,
Žmonėms ant šios žemės
Ramybė įvyktų.

Prel. M. J. Urbonas, LL.D.



CAMP NERINGA

As Seen through the Eyes of a Stage

Kerry Stromberg

(Note: This paper is written from the point of view of the stage located in the central gathering hall at Camp Neringa).

I can feel the autumn air coming down from the north, sweeping another summer away like a distant dream. The birds are preparing for their journey to warmer weather and the squirrels are scurrying about, gathering food in anticipation of the cold season to come. Sister Igne, the camp coordinator, bolts the last door and I hear the station wagon drive away. There is an echoing silence and I am left alone.

I am tired from the busy summer and the years of use are apparent in my appearance. My curtains are discoloring from the warm sun rays beaming through the windows, awaking me every morning. My lights are tired from the constant investigation by children's fingers learning how I can brighten and dim, all in one motion. My stairs have been worn by the many campers and counselors stepping forward to express and share themselves with each other. And my floor carries the imprints of friendship, devotion, unity and love, all expressed through this stage. The walls echo with the sounds of laughter, music, prayer and the unspoken word of the specialness that Neringa holds.

The room has been swept clean and everything put away. I see the songbooks attacked neatly on the shelves on the far wall. The songs, sung year after year, fill the air with life and happiness that is heard far into the woods. Sister Igne sits on a bench wearing her blue skirt, flip-flops and a silver cross from her neck. Her hair is graying and she carries a few wrinkles, evidence of many years of smiles and laughter. She holds her red accordion with the respect and fondness of an old friend and begins to play. She tries to sing, but with her strained voice the tune is barely heard. Nevertheless, she is determined to pass on the Lithuanian songs on to the campers so that the songs will not die. At first, many of the children have difficulty with the foreign words but later that is the very reason they come to mean so much. It is such a comforting thought to see youngsters coming from so many different life styles and backgrounds, to simply sing songs of their Lithuanian heritage.

There is a pride in the Lithuanian culture that is instilled in all who pass through Neringa. I have seen many children sign-up on registration day, Lithuanians merely by name, but upon graduation they leave with a heart of pride, compassion and hope for that small country on the Baltic Sea. The counselors try to make sense of the plight of the occupied country by recreating Lithuanian history for the campers earnestly watching every move they make.

There is no movement now, but I remember the spirited enthusiasm of the campers creatively working together to perform an outstanding skit on Contest Day. Although the skits, especially of the seven year old's, are often too long, a little confusing and not so funny, it is obvious by the expressions on their faces that they see humor, wit and creativity in their intense performance, even if the others did not. The counselors, dressed in piecemeal costumes, worked to create a world of fantasy for the campers through their portrayal of knights, explorers and movie stars. The wheels of imagination are always turning here, for with the absence of television and radio, entertainment is created from within the individual. Imaginations run wild, and dreams see no end when the spirit of life takes hold.

Looking in front of me, the old stone fireplace stands waiting for warmth and companionship. A single log has been left, half burnt and blackened from a fire the campers built one chilly night. It was a beautiful evening; the fire was crackling and yellow and orange flames danced upon the logs. The room was glowing and the warmth spread throughout the room. The children were huddled close to one another and their eyes were lit with excitement and anticipation for the night's festivities. Some of the older campers held the younger ones in their laps, teaching them the silly bonfire songs that carry so much inner meaning. Friends smiled and laughed and whispered to each other creating memories to last a lifetime, although they did not know it yet. Simas tells the story of the Eskimos in Alaska. It is a tale the campers have heard a thousand times before, yet they sit in silent wonderment, embracing each precious word. The warmth did not radiate from the fire, but rather from the love and understanding shared among all.

After the campers are sent to their cabins, I notice that two counselors remain by the fire. They are modestly dressed and they lie on their stomachs with their chins propped up on their hands. Their friendship runs deep and together they watch the flames turn blue as the fire dies down. Another counselor sits on a bench and begins to play a tune on the guitar. Ever so softly the melody drifts towards the girls, like a gentle snowfall on a crisp winter's eve. They lie silently, their faces warmed by the fire, absorbing and listening to the sounds around them. They look at each other and smile; a smile so full of love that they need not speak a word. They know.....

CAMP NERINGA (Cont'd)

I am suddenly struck by the banner hanging above the mantle. I have looked at it so often - green felt with the words "I Believe" cut out in yellow felt and pasted on. There are red felt flowers on each side. The banner is situated in the center of the room and all are drawn to it. It serves as a focal point and we look up to read its message. "I Believe." Arunas explains it best. He has been coming to camp for about twenty years now and he represents all that Neringa is. With his kind blue eyes and sincere heart, there is comfort in merely coming in contact with him. I recall how he would sit on the edge of my stage, leaning against my post, with one leg extended and the other bent close to his chest. His hands are folded and he looks upward. The campers and counselors alike listen to him give the evening prayer. They are all

holding each others hands, some with their heads bowed, others with their eyes closed, feeling the warmth of another's touch. They listen and they are strengthened by God's love. "I Believe." Yes, I do. I believe in the hope, the courage, the strength and the love this message expresses.

Love. That is what it all comes down to. The nails, wood and cement that form the structure of this camp would be nothing without the foundation of life which unites everything within it.

I hear the leaves rustling in the wind, reminding me that autumn has arrived.

I will rest now and dream of a special summer camp called Neringa.

(Anyone interested in information about Camp Neringa, contact Sister Inge, Neringa, ICC-RT21, Putnam, CT06260).

POSSIBLE SAINTHOOD OF LITHUANIAN NUN

Casimira Kaupas, the future Mother Maria, would have to travel a long and involved journey before she could realize her deep desire to consecrate herself to God. Casimira was born in the quiet village of Gudeliai in Lithuania on January 6, 1880. The fifth of eleven children, Casimira absorbed an atmosphere of intense piety during her childhood. From her father who was a spiritual leader not only in his own family but also among his neighbors, she learned to urge others to good. In 1897, she came to the United States to be housekeeper for her brother-priest Anthony in Scranton, PA. It was during her four year stay in the United States that Casimira met Sisters for the first time and was attracted to an apostolic religious life. In 1902, back in Lithuania, she resolved to become a teaching religious to help the Lithuanian Americans concerning matters of faith, since it was impossible to do so in her native land. She accepted the offer of Rev. A. Milukas to study at Ingenbohl, Switzerland in preparation for taking part in his "New Project" - a Lithuanian society for women devoted primarily to the press, but also possible teaching.

Casimira spent three years in Switzerland where the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross taught and prepared her for the work to which God called her. During this time, she asked her brother, Rev. A. Kaupas and his friend, Father A. Milukas to find a priest who would assume responsibility for the Congregation. In 1905, the Rev. Doctor Anthony Staniukynas agreed to accept. In God's Providence, the new Congregation received the abiding spiritual and moral support of this learned and devout priest.

Fr. Staniukynas succeeded in getting his bishop of Harris-



Mother Maria Kaupaitė

burg, PA to sponsor the Congregation. At the Bishop's request, Casimira and her two companions were accepted into the novitiate of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Scranton, PA for preparation. On Aug. 29, 1907 the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Casimir was founded. Casimira received the name Sister Maria; her two companions, Sisters M. Immaculata and Concepta. Casimira expressed her sentiments this way:

Although the nuns were setting out to find a new congregation, they were beginning to tread on unknown road on which, as all predict, they would encounter many crosses, they were not afraid. Having committed themselves to the

Mother Maria Kaupaitė (Cont'd)

protection of God's Providence, they felt they were His beloved and out of love for Him they desired to suffer all that would be allotted to them. They looked joyously to the future.

Concerned in the first place with preserving and nurturing the faith life of Lithuanian immigrants, Sr. Maria and her two companions began their apostolate of education at Mt. Carmel, PA in Jan. 1908. In 1913, Sister Maria was elected first Superior General, an office to which she was re-elected until her death. For 27 years, she carried out these responsibilities with great humility and charity. In 1920, Mother Maria and four sisters established a foundation of the Sisters of St. Casimir in Lithuania at Pažaislis. She extended the apostolate of the Congregation to care of the sick in 1928 and to what were then considered "home missions" in New Mexico in 1937. She was planning to send her Sisters to Argentina, South America, but this only became a reality in 1941 after her death. Mother Maria's apostolic endeavors were strengthened by a deep life of prayer and devotion to Christ present in the Eucharist, thus enabling her to maintain a spirit of peace and joy in the midst of her dynamic activities.

During the last years of her life, Mother Maria suffered from cancer. Despite her illness, she continued in her duties as Superior General as long as she was able — a true example of courage, patience in suffering and acceptance of God's will. Mother Maria died on April 17, 1940 at the Motherhouse in Chicago, IL, surrounded by her Sisters.

Bulvė Kalbina Buroka

Bulvė kalbina buroka:
Tau visai, brolyti, bloga —
Šeimininkė bėga, skuba,
Ji įmes tave į sriuba.

Opa-pa, opa-pa, —
Bus labai skani sriuba.

O burokas tiktai juokias:
Kas čia tokio, kas čia tokio.
Nutarkuos virtuvėj nosj,
Va tada ir tu žinosi!

As jaučiu, aš jaučiu
Blynų bus labai gardžių!

THIS WILL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER

If you sometimes get discouraged, consider this fellow:
He dropped out of grade school.
Ran a country store - went broke.
Took 15 years to pay off his bills.
Took a wife - unhappy marriage.
Ran for House - lost twice.
Ran for Senate - lost twice.
Delivered a speech that became a classic.
Audience indifferent.
Attacked daily by the press and despised by half the country.
Despite all this,
Imagine how many people all over the world
Have been inspired by this awkward, rumped brooding man
who signed his name simply,

A. Lincoln.

K of L CALENDAR

- February 17, 1991 - C-144 Anthracite - Independence Day Celebration, Our Lady of Siluva Parish, Maizeville, PA. Noon Mass.
- February 24, 1991 - MAD Communion Breakfast & Meeting - Host C-110 Maspeth, NY.
- March 10 - Amber District meeting, Our Lady of Siluva Parish, Maizeville, PA. Noon Mass. Hosts C-144 Anthracite.
- March 16, 1991 - National Executive Board Meeting, New Haven, CT - Host C-50.
- May 17-19 1991 - MCD Spring Convention & Bowling Tournament, Host C-25 Cleveland, OH.
- May 15-28, 1991 - Lithuanian Music Festival, Muzikos Šventė, Chicago, IL.
- June 2, 1991 - C-26 Worcester, MA. Annual Picnic, Maironis Park.
- August 1-4, 1991 - 78th National Convention, Trade Winds, St. Petersburg Beach, FL. Hosts: National Executive Board.



BEHIND GEORGE'S STERN FACADE

February 22, 1732

George Washington, our nation's first president and commonly thought of as a father of our country, was indeed a very important and prestigious figure in American history. But some of the stories surrounding his life deserves a little checking.

For instance, historians don't put much stock into the Chopping-Down-The-Cherry Tree and Father-I-Cannot-Tell-A-Lie story. But it is known that when George was a little boy, he was rather fond of skinny-dipping and used to take his clothes off and plunge into the Rapahannock River. One day while he splashed and swam uninhibited, two young girls ran away with his clothes.

One biographer contends that young George had the girls arrested.

Although George Washington is probably best known for his leadership abilities, and appeared stern, at times even solemn, he wasn't all that he appeared to be. George was fond of a lot of pastimes that were likely to have pricked the average person's conscience back then. He enjoyed cock-fighting, racing, drinking, gambling and dancing. Once when attending a ball in Alexandria, VA, where no liquor was served, Washington was so disgusted he labeled it as nothing more than a "bread and butter ball."

Although the Father of His Country was quite somber and reserved to the public eye, among personal friends, Washington was very lively and uninhibited. His fondness for drink was evident in his ownership of a brewery. He also enjoyed a good laugh, humorous plays being his favorite, and it's said that occasionally he even flirted with other men's wives.

But Washington had some strong moral views, too. He was dead set against cursing or swearing, so much so that in August of 1776 he issued an order against it after hearing that the men who filled his ranks were using profanity on a regular basis.

A teacher was quizzing her pupils on the differences between decadent, capitalist America and Socialist Russia.

"Tell us, Ivan, what is the United States like" she said.

"The United States is a capitalist country where millions of people are unemployed and where millions of others are starving," he recited.

STORY OF HONEST ABE'S WHISKERS

February 12, 1809



Abraham Lincoln, otherwise known as "Honest Abe," or by his enemies as "The Buffoon," "The Baboon" and "The Jester," to name just a few, stood at nearly six-foot four, with coarse black hair and a rather long, gaunt-looking face. Second only to emancipating the slaves, he was best remembered for his fondness of story-telling and his sense of humor.

Although many of his worse enemies used to joke about his height and his boniness, Lincoln was unfazed by the jeers. He was the first president to take a fashion risk and wear a beard, which he began to grow shortly after he became President in 1860. During his campaign for the presidency, many of his supporters and advisers said he'd look more distinguished with a beard, even his younger fans.

In Oct. of 1860, Lincoln received a letter from a little girl named Grace Bedell, an 11-year-old from Westfield, NY who urged him to grow a beard because his face was too thin. The young girl said she had four brothers, two of whom were sure to vote for Lincoln, and two who were undecided. Little Grace said that if Lincoln were to let his whiskers grow, her two undecided brothers would surely vote for him as well and, not to mention, as she pointed out, "All the ladies like whiskers."

This started a correspondence between Lincoln and the little girl wherein Lincoln wrote her to ask if it was the right time to grow a beard, being that he was in an election and all.

When Lincoln was enroute back to Washington and at a stop near Westfield, he greeted the large crowd that had gathered at the train station and then asked if the little girl who had written the letter was among the faces in the crowd. When little Grace stepped forward he lifted her up and kissed her and told the surprised crowd, "She wrote me that she thought I'd look better if I wore whiskers."

"That is very good, Ivan. Now, Sasha, you tell us what is the goal of the Soviet Union?"

"To catch up with the United States."



Lithuanians in the News

TRAGIC EVENT A TURNING POINT IN LIFE OF SHENANDOAH PHYSICIAN

Dr. Stanley Stanulonis, a highly respected physician, was the focus of an article in "Geisinger" magazine commemorating 75th anniversary of Geisinger Medical Center. Dr. Stan, now 85, has flourished in his medical career and still remains on call for his patients any hour of the day or night



"Dr. Stan "

within a 20-mile radius of his home. Dr. Stanulonis' parents, William and Agnes, immigrated from Lithuania, hoping to find a better life in the coal region. There were 5 children in the family. A brother, John, was stricken with rheumatic fever and young Stanley visited his brother without fail on weekends at the hospital where the illness continued to take hold. Despite use of medicine available in the early part of the 20th century, the illness claimed the life of John, then 16, after a five year struggle.

Although Stanley's mother wanted him to become a priest, he decided to become a doctor instead, having received the inspiration because of his brother's illness. Stanley agonized over the questions: "Why did my brother have to die? Couldn't the doctors do anything for him?" He attended the University of Pennsylvania and worked at odd jobs while he completed undergraduate and medical school. He earned his MD degree in 1932. He also studied at Massachusetts General Hospital, Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, Harvard University and Geisinger Medical Center. To this day, Dr. Stanulonis continues to reflect on the death of his brother, the influence the tragic loss had on his own life and the intriguing

fact there is still so much more to learn in the medical field, although medicine has come a long way since 1890. At that time there was no penicillin, no polio vaccine, no insulin for diabetes. Doctors had to operate on the kitchen table while the patient was only half asleep.

Dr. Stanulonis has accomplished much and has touched many lives in his years of practice by always following his primary goal: "Preserving human life."

RECEIVES FELLOWSHIP

Ursula Anne Matulonis, M.D. has been accepted as a Fellow in Medical Oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and has received an appointment as a Clinical Fellow in medicine at the Brigham & Women's Hospital and at Harvard Medical School of Harvard University in Boston, MA. The fellowship is a combined clinical and research training program. Following the first year, which involves clinical responsibilities, Dr. Matulonis will participate in oncological laboratory research at Dana-Farber.

Dr. Matulonis recently completed an internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Presbyterian Hospital of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pittsburgh, PA. She is a graduate of the combined six year BS-MD program at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Albany Medical College. She graduated from Manhasset High School in 1981. Her parents, Stella and Vito Matulonis live in Manhasset, NY and Stella is the Vytis Food Editor. Our congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Matulonis in her work in the field of cancer.



Dr. Ursula Matulonis

LITHUANIAN DICTIONARY - ŽODYNAS

Dress - Apdaras

<u>English</u>	<u>Lithuanian</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>
Shirt	marškiniai	mahrshkeen'ai
skirt	sijonas	seeyo'nahs
sleeve	rankovė	rahn'ko'veh
slippers	šliurės	shloo'rehs
stockings	kojinės	ko'yee'n'ehs
thread	siūlas	soo'lahs
tie	kaklaraištis	kah'klah'rashtees
trousers	kelnės	kel'nehs
umbrella	skėtis	skeh'tees
watch	laikrodis	layk'rodees

Washing List - Skalbinių sąrašas

Blanket	užklodė	oozh'klodeh
blouse	bliuzė	blue'zeh
handkerchief	nosinė	no'seeneh
sheet	paklodė	pah'klo'deh
table cloth	staldengtė	stahl'dang'teh
towel	rankšluostis	rahnk'shlostees

House and Furniture - Namai ir baldai

Armchair	krasė su atlošu	krah'seh soo ahtloshoo
ashes	pelenai	palan'ai
basin	praustuvė	prow'stoo'veh
bath	pirtis	peer'tis
bathroom	maudyklė	mou'deeh'kleh
bed	lova	lo'vah
bell	skambutis	skahm'boo'tis
box	dežė	dehzeh
book	knyga	kneeh'gah
brick	plyta	plee'tah
broom	šluota	shl'o'tah
candle	Žvakė	zhvah'keh
carpet	patiesalas	pah'tee'sahlahs
ceiling	lubos	loo'bos
cellar	rūsys	roo'seehs
chair	kėdė	keh'deh
coal	anglis	ahn'glees
clock	laikrodis	lake'ro'dees
cupboard	spinta	speen'tah
curtain	uždanga	oozh'dahn'gah
cushion	priegalvis	pry'gahlvees
door	durys	doo'reehs
fire	ugnis	oog'nees
floor	grindys	green'deehs
furniture	baldai	bahl'day

<u>English</u>	<u>Lithuanian</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>
garden	daržas	dahr'zhahs
house	namai	nah'mai
key	raktas	rahk'tahs
kitchen	virtuvė	veer'too'veh
lamp	lempa	lahm'pah
lid	dangtis	dahng'tees
lock	spyna	speeh'nah
mattress	čiuzinys	choo'zheen'eehs
mirror	veidrodis	vayd'rodees
picture	vaizdas; paveikslas	vai'zdahs; pah'vayks'lahs
pillow	priegalvis	pry'gahl'vees
pillow-case	užvalkalas	oozh'vahl'kah'lahs
pot	puodas	po'dahs
quilt	apklodė	ahp'klodeh
roof	stogas	sto'gahs
room	kambarys	kahm'bah'reehs
shelves	lentynos	lanteeh'nos
shovel	kastuvas	kah'stoo'vahs
sideboard	bufetas	boo'feh'tahs
smoke	dumai	doo'mai
soap	muilas	mooy'lahs
soot	suodžiai	suo'dzhiai
spark	kibirkštis	keebeerk'shtees
stairs	laiptai	laip'tai
stone	akmuo	ahk'mo
stove	krosnis	kros'nees
table	stalas	stah'lahs
tongs	replės	rap'lehs
towel	rankšluostis	rahnk'shl'ostees
trunk	skrynė	skreeh'neh
wall	siena	say'nah
wash-stand	praustuvė	prowstoo'veh
window	langas	lahn'gahs
window-pane	lango stiklas	lahn'go steek'lahs

Countries and Nations - Šalys ir tautos

Africa	Afrika	af'reekah
America	Amerika	ameh'reekah
an American	amerikietis	amehreek'eh'tees
the Americans	amerikiečiai	ahmehreek'eh'chai
Asia	Azija	ah'zee'yah
Australia	Australija	ous'trah'leeyah
Austria	Austrija	ous'tree'yah
Belgium	Belgija	behl'gee'yah
China	Kinija	kee'neeyah

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**LITHUANIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL SCHEDULE
May 15 - 28, 1991**

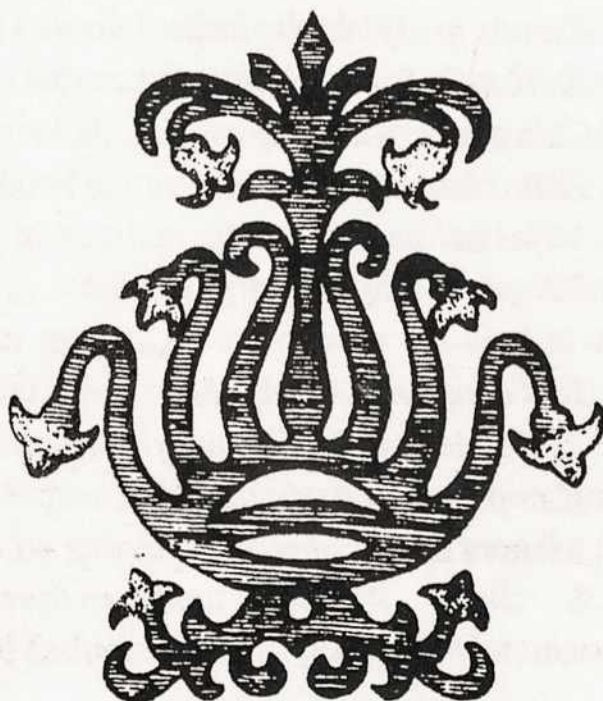
- May 15, 7:30 p.m. - Religious Music Concert commemorating 50 years of Lithuanian deportation to Siberia - B.V.M. Immaculate Conception Church, 2745 W. 44 St., Chicago. - \$5.00.
- May 17, 7:30 p.m. - Poetry Day. Lithuanian Youth Center, 5620 S. Claremont Ave., Chicago.
- May 18, 7:30 p.m. - Awards Festival, Lithuanian Youth Center, 5620 S. Claremont Ave., Chicago. -\$15.00.
- May 19, 3:00 p.m. - Ponchielli Opera "I Lituani", joint production by Chicago Lithuanian Opera and Lithuanian Republic Opera and Ballet Companies. Morton H.S. Auditorium, 2423 S. Austin Blvd., Cicero. \$12.00 - \$30.00.
- May 22, 7:30 p.m. - Ballet; Lithuanian Republic Opera ballet and orchestra. Maria H.S. Auditorium, 6727 S. California Ave., Chicago. \$5.00 - \$15.00.
- May 24, 7:30 p.m. - Opera "I Lituani" second performance. Morton H.S. Auditorium, 2423 S. Austin Blvd., Cicero. \$12.00 - \$30.00.
- May 25, 8:00 p.m. - Youth Friendship Dance. Lithuanian Youth Center, 5620 S. Claremont Ave., Chicago
- May 26, 10:30 a.m. High Mass, Nativity BVM Church, Washtenaw Ave. & 69th St., Chicago.
10:00 a.m. Church Services, Lithuanian Evangelical Lutheran Home Church, 6641 S. Troy St., Chicago.
2:00 p.m. Lithuanian Song Festival, choirs from United States and Canada, dance groups from Chicago area, Lithuanian Republic Opera and Ballet Company orchestra. The University of Illinois at Chicago Pavilion, 1150 W. Harrison St., Chicago. \$10.00 - \$20.00.
7:00 p.m. Banquets: Condessa del Mar Columbian Room, Condessa del Mar Coco Loco Supper Club (for Youth), 12200 S. Cicero Ave., Alsip. \$25.00.
- May 28, 7:30 p.m. Farewell Concert, soloists and orchestra of Lithuanian Republic Opera. Maria H.S. Auditorium, 6727 S. California Ave., Chicago. \$5.00 - \$15.00.

Throughout the course of the Lithuanian Music Festival, visit the following Lithuanian art exhibits:

Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski Rd., Chicago

Čiurlionis Art Gallery, Lithuanian Youth Center, 5620 S. Claremont Ave., Chicago

Lithuanian Art Museum, Lithuanian World Center, 511 E. 127th St., Lemont



NON-LITHUANIAN WRITES THE SECOND LITHUANIAN HYMN

George Julius Sauerwein, a pro-Lithuanian activist in East Prussia (Lithuania Minor) was born on January 15, 1831 in Hanover, of a German family. He was the author of its anthem, *Lietuviais esame mes gimę*, (Lithuanians We are Born, Lithuanians we shall Be):

*Lietuviais esame mes gimę,
Lietuviais turime ir būt,
Ta garbegavome užgimė,
Ta ir neturim leist pražūt.*

*Kaip ažuols, drūts prie Nemunėlio,
Lietuvis nieko tik nebos.
Kaip eglė ten prie Šešupėlio
Ir vėtroj ir žiemoj žaliuos.....*

He studied theology, philosophy and languages at the Universities of Gottingen and Vienna and then in Great Britain. In 1868 he received an appointment at the library of Gottingen University which also awarded him a doctorate in 1873. Keenly interested in foreign languages, he learned 46 of them, traveling widely throughout Europe and Africa for this purpose. The Lithuanian language, on his own testimony, had gladdened him since his early years and had grown into his heart as if it were his mother tongue. It is likely that he first came in contact with it at Gronau, a Saxonian city to which his parents moved in his childhood and whose factories employed Lithuanians. In 1874 he came to Tilžė. There he befriended members of the Lithuanian movement and almost immediately became one of its principal spokesmen. He popularized the name of Lithuania in the German press and encouraged the ethnic pride of Lithuanians themselves, writing numerous poems, newspaper articles and pamphlets in their language.

When the Prussian government intensified its campaign to remove Lithuanian from use in schools, Sauerwein helped to organize petitions in protest thereof. In 1878 he accompanied a delegation to the Prussian king which included 13 women in native dress and 3 peasants, asking for royal intercession on behalf of the Lithuanian language. The king who received a memorandum written in both German and Lithuanian by Sauerwein, promised to look into the matter but at the same time urged the Lithuanians to elect their representatives to the Prussian legislature. Sauerwein used this stay in Berlin as an opportunity for giving a series of public lectures on Lithuanian ways and culture, in which he



Dr. Jurgis Sauerveinas

claimed that it was unfair to discriminate the language of a people who were among the king's most loyal subjects. He himself was a candidate for the legislature three times, but never won because of insufficient vigorous Lithuanian support. Eventually, this bittered his relations with the Lithuanians, whom he accused of docility. In 1898 he left Tilžė never to return.

Nevertheless, in a letter to Jonas Basanavicius written from Norway in 1903, he expressed nostalgia for the land he had learned to love and once more urged an activist attitude in preserving its ethnic heritage. He died the very next year, on Dec. 16, 1904, in Oslo. His contribution to the Lithuanian cause in German-ruled territories lies both in the sheer physical extent of his journalistic and agitational activity as well as in its intended effect of eventually causing the movement to become more aggressive and visible. Another one of his writing was the beauty and love of Lithuania:

*Lietuva ant visados,
Kamps grožybės dyvinos;
Žalios girios čia gaivina,
Žalios lankos čia gaiina,
Žalios lankos čia vėsina.
Vėjas už' per beržynėlį,
Už' per marių pušinėlį.*

*Ir iš dangiškos šviesybės
Žvaigždės šviečia iš aukštybės,
Kamps grožybės dyvinos,
Lietuva ant visados.*

Council Activities

Vyčiai Veikia

C-3 PHILADELPHIA, PA

It is with great sadness that we report that John Drumstas, son of Diane & Joseph Drumstas succumbed to cancer after a two-year battle with the disease. John was only 18-1/2 years old at the time of his death. He graduated from Bishop Neuman High School in June 1990. He leaves not only his parents but brother Edward and sister Carol Ann. Diane & Joseph Drumstas have been active in C-3 for over 20 years holding various offices in the council and District.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the Drumstas family. May he rest in peace!
E.B.

C-10 ATHOL-GARDNER, MA

An old fashioned Lithuanian style Kučios was held in Dec. at the home of David Lucas in Gardner, sponsored by our council. According to custom, after the first star appeared, candles were lit and the Christmas Gospel was read by Bill Wisniauskas and Kathryn Paliulis. The sharing of plotkėles followed by all wishing each other the choicest blessings. Supper consisted of 12 meatless specialties, symbolizing the 12 Apostles and included fish, chowder, herring, casseroles and calorie loaded pastries. Old Lithuanian superstitions and traditions were enacted. Single persons reached into a bowl of nuts and counted them. An even number indicated a marriage during the coming year and the odd number meaning another year alone. The meal was followed by the singing of traditional Lithuanian and English carols. Sophie Fiorentino treated us all to plain or spiked eggnog. The Lucas family were excellent hosts. All enjoyed the old fashioned player piano

and the spirits.

The Gardner News carried recipes for cottage cheese potato pudding, Lithuanian crullers, dried fruit compote and hot tea.
Vincukas

C-12 NEW YORK, NY

With the culmination of 1990, C-12 can look back with pride and satisfaction upon its achievements. Our members are loyal and devoted to their council and Lithuanian heritage.

During Nov. nominations for office were held with the result that current officers remained on the board.

Joe Kscenaitis, with reluctance, finally moved from the Bronx. He purchased a co-op in the Peekskill area. We wish Joe the best in his new abode. Council pres. Ed Cook has presided at meetings with the acumen of a judge in a court of law - gavel and all. The meetings are most interesting. We welcome to our council new member Helen Malluk, mother of Al our famous potato pancake maker.

The Christmas party on Dec. 9 was very successful. Children with gleaming eyes were fascinated at the sight of Santa (Joe Sleder). Joe looks forward to this role each year and does it well. The expertise of the committee resulted in a party that was a resounding success.

The council appreciates the presence of Stella & Mitch Marcinauskas at our

affairs because of the long distance they have to travel. Connie Siatsis has been mending from a lengthy illness, surprised us all by being with us at the party. Devotees of C-12, Joseph & Mary Stelmokas of C-110 always look forward to attending our parties. The absence of Julia Gomez at this affair was due to illness. We wish her a speedy recovery. The chairpersons wish to thank one and all who assisted in cleaning up the church hall.

It is with sadness that we reflect upon the loss of two dedicated Knights of Lithuania members, Helen Shields and Helen Kulber. May they rest in peace.

Ed Senken

C-25 CLEVELAND, OH

With the New Year upon us, it is time for council activities again. Council officers for 1991 are as follows: Dolly Oberaitis, pres.; Joan Thompson, vice pres.; Adele Tanner, treas.; Jean Marks, rec. sec.; Joanna Shigo, fin. sec.; Mike Krivinskas, cultural; Ursula Kunsaitis, corres. sec.; Nellie Arunski, Adele Svet, ritual; Joe Ivoska, Vytis correspondent; Nelda Machutas, sunshine; Tony Oberaitis, sgt. at arms.

Our best wishes to Vince Gray who is recuperating from knee surgery.



"Grybu Rinkėjai" Frank Ivoska, C-8 DuBois, extreme right, Anne Ivoska of C-25 Cleveland and friends enjoy a successful day of mushrooming in Penna. 19

Mushroom picking, a favorite pastime of Lithuanians, is still going strong in Pennsylvania. Frank Ivoska, C-86 DuBois, introduced Ann Ivoska of C-25 and two friends to an enjoyable day of mushroom picking.

Since Cleveland has the rock and roll museum, it is only fitting that the rock band from Lithuania called Antis (duck in Lithuanian), played several concerts in and around Cleveland with standing room only. The band is made up of seven members who are mostly architects by trade.

Our Oct. meeting was held at Gene & Ursula Kunsitis' new home. So many members attended that it was really a full house. Food and refreshments were in abundance. Some suggested we hold all our meetings there since attendance was so great. Thank you, Gene & Ursula.

The Christmas Party was a huge success. Once again most all members and guests spent Sunday, Dec. 16, at the Slovenian Home in Euclid. Dinner, refreshments and a white elephant gift exchange plus greeting old and new friends was a pleasant way to spend an afternoon.

The committee planning the bowling tournament in Cleveland informed us that many surprises await all bowlers and members at the district meeting. So plan on coming to Cleveland in May.

What some Lithuanian folks will do for Lithuanian food! Bill & Helen Jakubs in their new motor home took ten K of L'ers and traveled 500 miles round trip to Dayton to the Amber Rose Restaurant and ate kugelis, cabbage soup, dešra, etc. and returned the same day. Elinor Sluzas and Judy Petrockas own and operate this cozy Lithuanian restaurant. Stop in for a snack if ever passing through Dayton.

A hearty welcome to our newest member, Frank Rozgaitis.

Let everyone know that you are Lithu-

anian. Proudly display your Lithuanian bumper stickers. Sveikas! Joe Ivoska

C-26 WORCESTER, MA

Anticipating winter weather with its ice and snow, our president, HM Rita Pinkus, skipped the January meeting.

HM Rita Pinkus, Ann Bucinskas, Anna & Lynne Walinsky, Kazys Adomavicius, Algis Glodis and several others were the reasons for good food, carols, gift and camaraderie at our Christmas party held at Marionis Park in Dec. Especially nice was having Ted Pinkus, Gadamis Troupes, Angela Busky and John & Joanne Jacobson in our midst. Prayerful get well wishes extended to Sue Roland, Wanda (Pajeda) Lescord, Joe Virbasius and Stephen Walinsky, Sr.

Sister Joyce Riddick was home for the holidays visiting parents, Anne & John Riddick. Frank & Albina Kondrotas were delighted to see Sister M. Angela, CJC, for Christmas, too! Kudos to HM Ann Bender for the beautiful Christmas council newsletter and to our spiritual advisor, Fr. John Petrauskas, MIC, for his special holiday message.

We are pleased to announce that St. Casimir's has its first female lector in the person of Carol Tagman Grigas. And a fine job she does! Charles & Frances Kulakusky were especially happy this Christmas because daughter Margaret and family are back from England on a permanent basis. Mary & Alex Anusauskas with children Eleanor and Stephen Walinsky, Jr. enjoyed a pre-holiday trip to Las Vegas. Alfred & Vivian Rodgers flew to Florida to visit son Paul and his family. Joe Ivoska and Francis Degutis, members of a retired mens choral group, entertained shoppers in the Worcester Mall with beautiful carols. We're sorry to learn that Lillian Kondrotas' grandson lived only a few months. Condolences to the family.

As we begin a new year, may we thank Editor Mary Kober, Council News Editor Helen Chesko and the VYTIS staff for making each VYTIS such a wonderful magazine. We're so proud. A happy and healthy 1991 to all!

"Olga"

C-36 CHICAGO, IL

Our council members thank the outgoing officers for a job well done. We are proud of all that you have accomplished. Congratulations are in order for our newly elected officers for 1990-91 as follows: Spiritual advisor, Rev. F. Kireilis; pres. Evelyn Ozelis; 1st vice pres.; Ray Wertelka; 2nd vice pres. Mary Kincius; 3rd vice pres. Sabina Henson; treas. Joe Martikonis; rec. sec. Frances Urnasis; fin. sec. Val Vilunas; corres. sec. Sophia Zukas; sgts. at arms Vytautas Dijokas, Frank Grigalunas, Mark Kincius; trustees Irene Norushis, Vince Samas, Anthony Stakenis. Chairpersons are: ritual Anna Marie Kassel; cultural Elena Sirutis & Anthony Liauba; Lithuanian affairs Evelyn Ozelis; English program David Gaidas, Lithuanian program Elena Sirutis; Vytis corres. Sabina Henson; Wake service Ray Wertelka; Cheer Helen Meizis, Irene Norushis, Frank Grigalunas; Social Helen Meizis, Vyto Dijokas, Frank Grigalunas & Irene Norushis.

Through the efforts of David Gaidas, our program chairman, at our Nov. meeting we had Christine Athanagulis, a very interesting speaker from the attorney general's office. Her topic was "Consumer Fraud". A question and answer period followed.

We wish speedy recovery to John Henson, Jerome Jankus, Stanley Pieza, Sister M. Alphonsine and Walter Rucas. Our condolences are extended to the families of Leo Leone, Sr., Sigitas Astrauskas, Vladas Matulevicius and Katherine Sapak. Eternal rest grant unto them.

We are having a special membership drive for our council. Thanks to Ellie Kasputis, district membership chairlady, for the award given to us at our 75th anniversary. We want to make our council strong.

Masses were offered at the Marian Fathers Chapel for the departed souls of Mr. & Mrs. Jonutis and Adele Gabaliene. A Mass was also said for John Paukstis whom we remember very dearly.

On Dec. 1 we gathered in the school hall to view video and slides of Lithuania. Revs Puchenski and A. Marcus shared their memories of their trip to the homeland with the Cardinal and many other priests. It was exciting since it made us feel that we, also, were on the same trip to Lithuania. *Sabina*

C-50 NEW HAVEN, CT

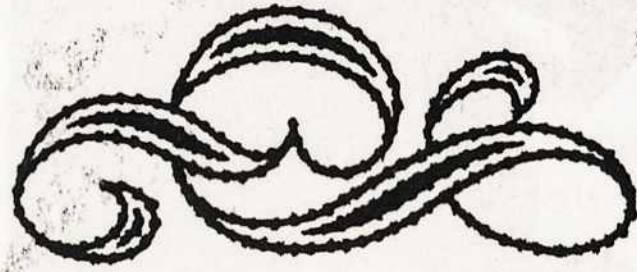
Our council's children's Christmas party was an experience that helped us since the event meant so much more than holiday socializing and merriment. The 17 children, ranging from 6 months to 12 years, revitalized the parish with their smiles and laughter. Donating our time allowed us the opportunity to work with some wonderful people as we performed a labor of love for children in the giving spirit of the holidays.

Amid the beautifully decorated altar at St. Casimir's Lithuanian Church, meticulously maintained by Teresa Strimaitis, Mary Geipel read, "The Christmas Story" to the children. During the reading, Elizabeth Gybowski employed her teaching skills by asking the children various questions about the Virgin Mary and Baby Jesus to stimulate their interest and participation in the story. After the readings, the children were divided into two age groups to find the candy that was hidden. The younger children searched for their holiday treats on the carpeted altar while the older group searched in the hall.

While the children were being supervised by Paula and Victoria Masto, Catherine Prishwalko and Frank & Elizabeth Gybowski busied themselves preparing the hall and the buffet table which was loaded with cookies, brownies and cupcakes, painstakingly baked by Adele Yanus. The children also received a special visit from Frank Gybowski dressed as

Santa, who came rushing into the hall brandishing a large bag laden with gifts for each child. Watching the children be called by name and approach Santa to receive their gifts gave everyone a sense of belonging. There is nothing more fulfilling than seeing a child's face glow with expectation as Santa called their names. These children brought us together as a community to experience the timeless magic of their youthful exuberance.

Victoria K. Masto

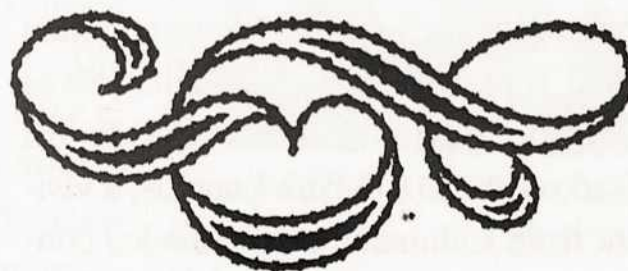


Rev. Karalis, Paula Masto, Elizabeth Gybowski with children.



C-52 ELIZABETH, NJ

Our annual St. Casimir Day celebration will be held on March 3 in the parish hall. Members will first attend





C-50 Santa Frank Gybowski handing gifts to children

the 11 a.m. Mass in Sts. Peter & Paul Church. Rev. Alfred Zemeikis, pastor and spiritual advisor, will be the celebrant.

Members also attended the parish Holy Name Society annual Thanksgiving and Family Breakfast on Nov. 13. Rev. Peter Zemeikis, former pastor and brother of current pastor, was the guest speaker.

On Thanksgiving Day, parishioners and K of L members attended a special Mass. Each person received a special blessing of Lithuanian "pyragas" to take home for the Thanksgiving dinner table to share with loved ones. What a nice gesture!

William Senken

C-74 SCRANTON, PA

A gala time was had by all who attended Msgr. Peter Madus celebration on his elevation to Monsignor sponsored by parish members in St. Joseph Hall. All were on hand to congratulate him. No caterer could provide better food which was plentiful. We had an over abundance of desserts to suit any sweet tooth. The choir sang a song especially for Msgr. Madus. The hall was filled to capacity including many

clergy and religious. Congratulations and best wishes, Msgr. Madus.

Jean Kavelinas was missed at our last meeting. She takes care of hospitality by serving coffee and donuts at monthly meetings. She took a holiday away with her daughter.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Marie Laske on the death of her sister, Teresa Sarnauskas Romano. May she rest in peace.

C-100 AMSTERDAM, NY

Mass for deceased members was held on Nov. 12 at St. Casimir's Church with Rev. Baltch officiating.

The combined monthly meeting and testimonial to outgoing Pres. Anthony Radzevich followed in the Social Center. Mr. Radzevich thanked the members, his officers as well as all committee chairmen for all the service they rendered him. He then turned over the gavel to newly elected pres. Irene Tice. She presented him with a resolution commending him for his 22 years of C-100's leadership. Gene Gobis presented him a gift from the council. Lithuanian Affairs chairman Ed Baranauskas toasted the outgoing president and his wife Anne. Genutė Baranauskas garbed him with a "juostas". Assemblyman Paul Tonko also wished him the best as did the National Trustee, Edward Barkowski. Dr. Giedra Laucius, a visitor from Lithuania, also extended con-

gratulations.

Irene Tice presided at a short business meeting. Sophie Olbie handled details for the Christmas party held on Dec. 9. Members were requested to bring gifts of food for the Food Pantry. A thank you note was read received from Bob Boris of the Medical Relief Aid for Lithuania. Pres. Tice commended Edward & Polly Žiausys and Bernice Aviza for their combined efforts in getting a station wagon full of medical supplies for Lithuania received from Amsterdam Memorial Hospital and delivering it to Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid in Brooklyn.

We learned that member Bennie Botaitis made his peace with God. For 50 years he headed the church ushers. It is a loss to our church. Pres. Tice and Anthony Radzevich conducted K of L services at the wake. We extend deepest



C-110 Hard worker John Virbooks and 3rd Degree recipient.

sympathies to his wife and children. May he rest in peace. Please remember him and all K of L departed in your prayers.

Smile & Sparkle

C-110 MASPETH, NY

Our Christmas Party held on Dec. 23 with over 80 members and family children attending enjoyed the buffet, open free bar and socializing. Peter Zuyus,



Standing: Tony & Frances Migliore, Tony & Helen Yakaitis, Maspeth C-110; Irene & Ed Senken, New York C-12; Wally Barkus, Maspeth C-110. Seated: Frank & Edith LoPiccao, Eastern Long Island C-152 and Ann Barkus, Maspeth C-110 vacationing at Franciscan Monastery in Maine.

Amy & John Girdauskas, John Virbooks purchased, prepared and served the food with Ann Ackalities and Jean Rutkunas helping in the kitchen.

The children received candy packages after they had their lunch and Santa Claus arrived with presents for them. Retired Rev. Raila also visited with us thanking us for our Christmas gift to him. Amy Girdauskas, ritual chairlady, presented first degree awards to Mary Miller, Amelia Belickis and William Albrecht; second degree to Mary Johnson; third degree to John Virbooks. Congratulations to all!

We again thank all who helped to make our Kučios a huge success. Chairmen Peter Zuyus and Anthony Yakaitis with terrific help and support from John Virbooks, Helen Matulonis, Bill & Zena Budris, Sophie & Roman Wensek are to be commended for their contributions to this affair.

To complete our council's executive board, Iggi Walles was elected 1st Vice Pres. and Bruno Rutkunas, Pres. Evelyn Walles, Ann Adomenas, Jean Rutkunas and Frances Jakatt were appointed to serve as chairladies for special events and entertainment. Helen Matulonis, secretary, agreed to continue making arrangements for our future bus trips to Atlantic City. Plans were made for the Mid Atlantic District's annual communion breakfast which will

be hosted by C-110 on Feb. 24.

Bruno Rutkunas

C-152 EASTERN LONG ISLAND, NY

At our council's regular meeting held on Nov. 11, members were reminded by our international correspondent, Anna Baksys, of the untiring efforts of Radio Vilnius to keep its overseas listeners informed through its daily short-wave transmissions in both Lithuanian and English of current happenings in that unhappy country as it desperately struggles to throw off its Soviet shackles. At the suggestion of Mrs. Baksys, our council voted to make an appreciative donation of \$100 to Radio Vilnius'

through its dollar account maintained with KASA, the Lithuanian Federal Credit Union.

At the conclusion of the meeting, members and guests were treat-

ed to ample and delectable kielbasi luncheon prepared and presided over by chairman Joe Bealis.

The highlight of the Christmas Season is our Christmas party which was held in a local restaurant on Dec. 2 and attended by more than 90 members and guests. The party featured a tasty sit-down dinner enlivened by dance music provided by Joe Thomas. It was also the occasion for swearing in of the following newly elected officers by MAD pres. Joe Stelmokas: Pres. Mike Zukas; Vice-Pres. Charlene Abrahamsen; Sec. Anne Tarmey; Treas. Tom Tarmey; Fin. Sec. Mary Zipkas; Trustees Charlene Abrahamsen & Joe Bealis; Sgts. at Arms Evelyn Niksa & Peter Petrowski. Finally, our party was graced by a visit from Santa himself in the person of jolly old Frank LoPiccolo.

Lastly, it appears to be a matter of constant human experience that we must include a roster of our fellow Knights who have been ill: Arne & Charlene Abrahamsen, John Kuchinskas, Mary Majeuskas, Angela Minsavitch, Eva Samulis, Anne Sidlauskas & Tony Zambuto. Mae Zipkas, whose husband, Alexander, departed on Oct. 12, has suffered the further loss of her sister Helen Oliver. We entreat our readers to



Spring Hill C-154 Pres. George Mayer; Mary Kober, Vytis Editor; Konstant J. Savickus, C-5 Chicago and Spring Hill C-154 Secretary Helen Mayer.

spare a moment of prayer for our fellow Knights who have been so heavily afflicted.
Tom Tarmey

C-154 SPRING HILL, FL

On Dec. 1 a meeting was held at home of Helen & George Mayer. With our spirits buoyed up because we won the membership plaque, we launched our agenda for the year. The first order of business was the election of officers. Guiding us this year as Pres. is George Mayer, ably assisted by Helen Mayer

as Vice Pres. and rec. sec. Sadye Petraitis was elected Vytis correspondent.

Although most, if not all, of our members are retirees, we were able to initiate plans for our participation in activities reflecting the spirit of the Knights of Lithuania. Our membership is unique in that we come from all parts of the U.S.A. Therefore, our combined interests and knowledge provide a wide range of topics for discussion. Our Pres. George Mayer is keenly interested in events as they regard Lithuania on the Washington, DC level. He has com-

plied material relating to Lithuania and her attempt in reclaiming her independence.

We invite all K of L members from other councils who plan to retire in Florida - particularly mid-way up the Coast - to contact us. Not only do we want to see our membership grow but we can make the orientation to Florida a rewarding experience.

May we all have a great year. Long live Lithuania. S. G. Petraitis

IN MEMORIAM

VLADAS SMOLSKI
C-7 Waterbury, CT
† November 18, 1990

PETER STANULIS
C-79 Southfield, MI
† December 6, 1990

NELLIE MIKALAUSKAS
C-152 Eastern Long Island, NY
† January 3, 1991

"QUOTABLE QUOTES"

When we have "second thoughts" about something, our first thoughts don't seem like thoughts at all — just feelings.

The old family doctor concedes that practically nobody makes house calls anymore except plumbers, television servicemen and burglars.

An argument is the longest distance between two points of view.

Love looks forward, hate looks back, anxiety has eyes all over its head.

Too often we seek justice for just us.

At the Pearly Gates

A printer stood at the Pearly Gate,
His face was wrinkled and old.
Humbly he asked St. Peter
For admission to the fold.

"What have you done,"
St. Peter questioned,
"To seek admission here?"
"I printed 'VYTIS' on earth,
For many, many a year."

The gates swung open
As St. Peter touched the bell.
"Come in," he said, "and take a harp,
You've had enough of Hell."

BROTHER JUNIPER



"Now try it!"

LETTERS

WE LOVE ANN JILLIAN

Dear Editor:

Ann Jillian's autographed picture in Christmas 1990 issue of VYTIS is a superb boost for our special goal, "For God and Country." It will serve as an inspiration for our young Lithuanian Americans.

Sister Virginia Vytell, CJC



At last.....

GRAND TOUR OF LITHUANIA July 22 - August 13, 1991

Itinerary will include all main points of interest in Lithuania. In addition, it will include:

- Special performances of local folklore ensembles, song and dance groups;
- Picnics — gegužinės — with an opportunity to taste Lithuanian beer;
- Reserved seats at the opening ceremonies of the World Lithuanian Sports Festival in Kaunas and closing ceremonies of this Festival in Vilnius.

The caravan will include at least one bus for English speaking Lithuanians and one bus for Lithuanian speaking dypukai.

Price includes:

- Flights out of New York;
- All touring in modern, comfortable buses;
- Three meals daily;
- Soviet visa fees;
- Entrance fees to concerts, picnics, festivals;
- Baggage handling;
- English and Lithuanian speaking tour guides;
- "Vytis" agency representatives in Vilnius, Kaunas, Panevėžys and Klaipėda.

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Independent (individual) travel can be arranged. Air only or full packages available.

Other "Vytis" groups to Lithuania in 1991:

May 20 - June 4	\$1,470
June 3 - 18	1,530
June 24 - July 9	1,680
July 22 - August 6	1,770
August 26 - September 10	1,530 *
September 16 - October 1	1,470

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MONEY

Money should be a slave in the service of human dignity.

Regretably, it all too often becomes the master of our souls to which every principle is bent to further its accumulation.

There is no truer test of a person's moral character than how he or she relates to money. Ironically, oftentimes, those of great abundance are possessed of the least principle while those of modest means are rich in character and generosity.

Certainly, money is extremely important to provide economic security and promote happiness. But when is enough, enough? Are we so lacking in capacity as to seek material gain at the expense of our dignity? Or are we rich enough in spirit to pursue an economic livelihood consistent with standards of moral decency?

For in the end, when we are laid to our eternal rest, there is little left to our lives but the dignity, decency and love which we can pass on to our loved ones and the world in which we lived.

— anonymous

78th National Convention
August 1 - 4, 1991
Trade Winds
St. Petersburg Beach, FL