



WYTIIS

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Happy Easter

VYTIS

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

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THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT EASTER



How did Easter get its name? Why was this holy day seldom celebrated on Sunday by the first Christians? And why is Easter, and not Christmas, considered the most ancient and most important festival of the Christian year?

The answers, unknown to many people, shed new light on the rich history and significance of the holiday. The first Christians took relatively little notice of the anniversary of Christ's birth. Easter, to them, was the all-important holiday. As far as they - and the Gospels - were concerned, Jesus commanded men to remember not His birth, but His death.

Christ's victory is unique. Surgeons skillfully revive people after their hearts have stopped by means of massage or electric shock. What happened to Jesus Christ, however, is quite different from anything that ever happened before or anything that happened since. On that first Easter Sunday, a Man rose from the grave, waking up from death as if it were nothing more than a sound sleep.

With the drama of Christ's death and resurrection firmly fixed in their minds, early Christians debated the most appropriate date for marking the event. At first, Easter was celebrated on the 14th of Nisan (the Hebrew month corresponding to March-April), regardless of the day on which it fell. This, the date of the Jewish Passover feast, marked the death of Christ.

Christians of Jewish descent favored this practice. But Gentile Christians disagreed, insisting that Easter be observed on Sunday, the day of the resurrection. The issue was decided by the Nicaean Council, which in the year 325 decided that Easter would be observed by everyone on the Sunday following the full moon of the vernal equinox. But the ancient connection of Easter and Passover lingers on in the names many nations give to the holiday: the French *Paques* and the Spanish *Pascua* are derived, through the Latin from the Hebrew *Pesach* (Passover).

Why do we call it Easter? According to the 8th century

historian, Bede, the name comes from Eostra or Ostara, a Germanic goddess of dawn or spring. Ancient European tribes held an annual spring festival in honor of the death of winter and the return of the sun. When they became Christians, they kept many of the joyous customs with which they had formerly greeted the renewal of spring.

We can also thank these tribes for the Easter rabbit. They believed that a bunny always turned up to make the goddess Eostra a present of a brand new egg. The practice of giving eggs as gifts and eating them on Easter Sunday probably received added impetus because, in early Christian time, eggs were forbidden food during Lent. In many places, Easter games played with eggs were traditional; the Monday egg-rolling on the White House lawn is an echo of these frolics.

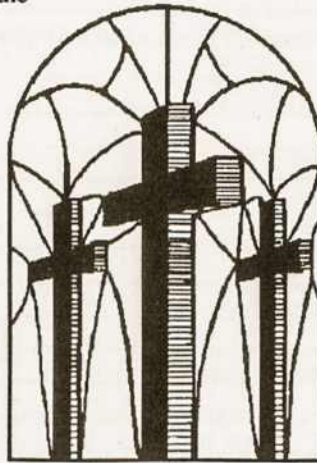
The white lily, symbol of the resurrection, is the traditional Easter flower. In the United States, the Bermuda lily

became so popular for Easter use that it came to be known as the Easter lily.

While various folk customs enrich the holiday, the events of the first Easter itself are treated by some people as a mixture of myth and legend. Attempts have been made in the past, and are being made today, to explain the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Is the resurrection an historical fact?

No event in history has been so clearly substantiated as this one In the case of our Lord's resurrection, the story was written by the eyewitnesses themselves. This is primary source material of the highest credibility, written by men who never had any idea before that first Easter morning of spending their whole lives telling a story like this one.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead assures Christians all over the world of the truth of their religion. To followers of Christ, forgiveness of sin is real because of His resurrection, and life eternal is no longer a mere possibility, or even a future probability, but a present actuality. Christ's resurrection is the ultimate fact of the Gospel the Church of Christ preaches and the faith it professes.



Easter flowers

There are many legends concerning the flowers which are associated with Easter. Most are so old that their origins cannot be determined.

The lily is one of the first flowers to bloom and it has come to signify the new life of Spring and thus also the Easter season. It is white, the color of purity, and so has also come to represent the purity of Christ, which enabled Him to achieve divinity.

One of the legends concerning the lily involves the Blessed Virgin Mary and the tears she shed as she watched the crucifixion of her Son. The tale has it that the lilies sprang up from where her tears touched the ground. This is similar to the story about the small blue flowers known as veronicas, which are said to have been started by Veronica's kind act of using her veil to wipe Christ's face as he carried His cross to Calvary.

Legend has it that the dogwood tree in the time of Christ was large and strong, the size of an oak. It was because of this strength and firmness that it was used to make the cross. However, the tree was said to be

greatly distressed to be used for such a cruel purpose. Jesus had pity on the poor tree and said to it: "Because of your pity and regret for My suffering, never again shall the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used as a cross. Henceforth, it shall be slender and bent and twisted, and its blossoms shall be in the form of a cross - two long and two short petals. And in the center of the outer edge there will be nail prints, brown with rust, and the center of the flower will be a crown of thorns. All who see it will remember."

Aspen trees, better known as poplars, are distinguished by rounded leaves, toothed on the margin. Even the slightest breeze will set the leaves into motion. The old tale says that the leaves of the poplar trees on the Good Friday afternoon that Jesus died first started to quake. They have been doing it ever since and have come to be known as "quaking aspens."

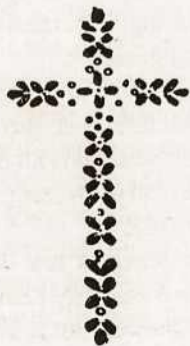
There are many flowers that bear a resemblance to Jesus' wounds or crown of thorns and so stories relating their appearance to Christ's suffering and crucifixion have developed through the years. Examples of

these are the tiny flower known as the "passion flower" and the cactus known as the "crown of thorns."

While only legends, these stories serve to help us focus our attention on the significance of Easter.



ALELIUJA!



Krauju savu, kančia
 Ir ašara karčia
 Tu laisvę savo atpirkai,
 Kur laukė jos vaikų vaikai...
 Trispaivė vėliava
 Paskelbė, kad laisva
 Mūs Lietuva!

Atplešta jau lenta
 Nuo grabo ir šventa
 Tėvynė bunda iš mirties
 Pilna gyvybės ir vilties!
 Per amžius prispausta
 Jau kėlėsi tauta
 Mūs Lietuva!

L. Šimutis - 1918 m.
 Ilgesio Valandėles

LITHUANIA - Easter 1939

Leo Venckus

There probably are not too many VYTIS readers who were born in Lithuania. Those of you who have memories of the land where your parents or grandparents were born will probably agree with me that in Lithuania, Easter was the most important, the most solemn, but also the most joyfully celebrated religious festivity of the year.

After the chilly but cheerful Christmas season which lasts until Epiphany (Trys Karaliai - Jan. 6), the singing and dancing used to end completely on "Pancake Tuesday" night or Mardi Gras (Užgavėnių vakaras). The following day - Ash Wednesday or Pelenų Diena - marks the beginning of Lent.

These seven weeks of Lent used to be a period of abstinence, fasting and quiet meditation. No singing or merry-making was allowed, because our grandmothers always managed to enforce strict silence during those long winter nights. You could not find a single parish anywhere that would allow a dance during Lent. Nor was there ever a church wedding during this period. If the couple "had to get married", then the ceremony was performed at the Registrar's Office (civilinė metrikacija). Therefore, it was no wonder that, especially, the younger generation was eagerly looking forward to Easter. Life then would again be full of smiles, laughter and happiness. But it was not always like that. Today, more than ever before, I am fully aware of the true and meaningful words I first heard when becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus: TEMPUS FUGIT, MEMENTO MORI which means: Time flies, remember death. Time flies fast indeed, especially so if one looks back into his or her past life.

Whenever someone mentions Easter to me, I cannot help remembering the most impressive three Easters in my life as an adult. Each of them was experienced at different dates and times, even in different countries of the world: Kaunas, Lithuania 1939. Eighteen years later in Glasgow, Scotland, 1957 and Chicago, USA in 1963.

To begin with, let me take you back only fifty-two years ago and start with the first of the most impressive Easter in my life, namely, with:

EASTER IN KAUNAS

The political situation in Europe was tense and uncertain; similar to what it was here before Christmas 1990. It was a time when dictators Hitler, Mussolini and Franco were feared and respected by most, if not all - like Saddam Hussein today. The then British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, believing that he could avoid a war by following a policy of appeasement signed the Munich pact in Sept. 1938 giving

Czechoslovakia to Hitler's Nazi Germany. Two months later (Nov. 1938), Britain again agreed that Italy, then led by Benito Mussolini, would exercise its sovereignty over Ethiopia. Shortly afterwards, General Franco's government took over Spain (1939) and this was also promptly recognized by most western nations. These smooth and unchallenged events increased the confidence and appetite of Adolf Hitler.

On March 22, 1939 the Lithuanian government received an ultimatum from Berlin, demanding the immediate "return" of Klaipėda (Memel to the Third Reich). Klaipėda, my home town, is the only seaport of Lithuania. Together with its whole region, it is known in Lithuania as the "Klaipėdos Kraštas", its people "Klaipėdiškiai."

SUDIEV KLAIPĖDA

As a result of the ultimatum, thousands of Lithuanians were uprooted and made homeless. Hitler's Armed Forces appeared in the streets of Klaipėda the same day. Hitler arrived by ship the following day. Swastikas and shouts of "Heil Hitler" everywhere.

Despite the fact of a German promise that all persons born in Klaipėda and its region would automatically become German citizens, that there would be bread and board for everyone, most Lithuanians and Jews decided not to stay with the Nazis. I, too, decided to leave my home town and become a refugee by following my wife Josephine (Juzefa) into the Lithuanian mainland, where she had already left two days ago. I went to the newly established German government office to apply for an exit visa in Lithuania. When they refused to grant me one, I promptly escaped illegally over the newly declared Lithuanian-German border.

I'll never forget this sad, beautiful morning. A friend took me on his bicycle as close to the border as he could. He was to follow me in a few days. While the church bells of Klaipėda were calling their parishioners to come and worship Palm Sunday, their sound also seemed to ring "Good-bye" to me. Little did I know then that I was running "from the frying pan to drop into the fire", as the saying goes.

Now I was leaving the town of my birth. A few years later Stalin's hordes occupied not only Lithuania, but also our neighboring countries of Latvia and Estonia. Soon all of us found out that the Soviets were worse than the Nazis.

OVER THE BORDER

The snow had melted during the previous few days, leaving the fields and meadows wet and sluggish. Leaving the main road, I was now heading East toward Jokubava, a

small town situated between Kretinga and Gargždai. Careful not to be spotted by German border patrol men, I was now running from trees to bushes, halting and hiding behind them before proceeding. There wasn't a soul in sight. Only the peewits (pampės) started shrieking and flying around noisily, showing their dislike of me for disturbing their nesting. Suddenly, through an opening in the bushes, I noticed a tall, wooden cross (smūtkelis) which are a frequent sight on homesteads and roads in Lithuania - this is it! I began running as fast as I could towards it. I jumped over an old ditch, the new state border. Although my feet were wet, my shoes dirty and I was perspiring all over, I felt happy and safe. Ačiū Dievui. After a short rest, I got up, crossed myself and started marching on the road towards Kretinga. But I did not get very far.

The Lithuanian border patrol that spotted me soon afterwards was friendly, but firm. I was promptly arrested and taken to the station. But when they found out that I had no intention to stay in Nazi occupied Klaipėda, they offered me some tea and good advice how to make it easier to join my wife in Plungė. I was free to go again. When I reached the railroad station in Kretinga, walking on foot for about two hours, I found that the border patrol was right - any refugee from Klaipėda was given a free ticket to any destination in Lithuania. So I took a train to Plungė. There I found my wife with her relatives and I stayed there - but not for long.

The following day we met some more refugees from Klaipėda. They told us that the Lithuanian government in Kaunas had promised to take care of the thousands of homeless people providing them with food, shelter and financial assistance. This was good news, because coming from Klaipėda, Plungė was too little a town in which I could find suitable employment. Therefore, after a few days with my wife, I kissed Josephine good-bye and took a train to Kaunas, leaving her with her aunt and uncle to wait for me.

BEAUTIFUL KAUNAS

Kaunas, the beautiful metropolitan city and temporary capital of Lithuania at that time, was bustling and crowded with people when I arrived. Most refugees from Klaipėda who had relatives or friends in "Didžioji Lietuva" (meaning Lithuania Major, because Klaipėda was considered to be part of Lithuania Minor - Mažoji Lietuva), went to live with them. But the center of attraction after the "Anschluss" of Klaipėda to Germany was Kaunas.

Every available attic, porch or basement was turned into a temporary living quarter or night shelter. The daily life in Kaunas was never dull or boring even before March 1939. Now it became livelier. Especially its night life. Bars,

restaurants and saloons saw new customers. Business was blooming. But that was only temporary. Every newcomer was concerned about finding employment and a place to settle down - not necessarily in Kaunas. The Ministry of Labour was trying its best and succeeded in helping many. However, it was impossible to satisfy all.



REFUGEE SHELTERS

Church and State were never separated in Lithuania except during the Soviet occupation. Not only were churches and synagogues exempt from taxes, but priests, ministers and rabbis received handsome salaries from the Lithuanian government. Religion was part of the curriculum in all schools. Therefore, Easter was also an official holiday, during which all schools were closed. This was a welcomed coincidence in 1939 because the empty classrooms provided excellent shelters for the thousands of refugees that became homeless after the "Anschluss", as the Germans called this accession of Klaipėda to the Reich.

Reception desks directed shelter seekers to separate classrooms for males and females. Married couples and families could stay together. For those, who had no relatives or friends in Kaunas, the Lithuanian Army provided food, straw mattresses, pillows and blankets. Field kitchens were set up in school yards and manned by young Lithuanian soldiers, who happily distributed food to all who came along.

While older refugees bemoaned the loss of homes and belongings they had to leave behind as a result of this unexpected departure without any prior warning from the Lithuanian government, the young people did not seem to mind it. On the contrary: they seemed to enjoy this new adventure of living in Kaunas. They soon found new friends among the many boys and girls, students from Kaunas, who came to see what sort of people had occupied their classrooms. To many of these young people, this Easter period became a turning point in their lives.

SIGHT-SEEING

The days we spent in Kaunas during that Passion week were never boring. After breakfast, we usually went to the Employment Office to see if there were any openings. Some were lucky, some not. I would have liked to work in a Post Office, perhaps as a radio or telegraph operator, even as a mailman or anything similar. But I had no luck.

The afternoons were usually taken up by sight seeing. Most of the "Klaipėdiškiai" had never been to Kaunas before. Now they had an opportunity to walk along the "Laisvės Alėja", visit the numerous churches, museums, etc. Everyone had heard about the Lithuanian statue of liberty and the grave of the unknown soldier (nežinomo kareivio kapas). The nightly ceremonies at these places, conducted by the war veterans, were the center of attractions. The ceremonies usually ended with the lowering of the Lithuanian national flag. While the orchestra was playing, "Marija, Marija skaisčiausia lelija" and the National Anthem, "Lietuva, Tėvynė Mūsų" everyone present joined in the singing. It was an experience that touched everyone's heart.

On Good Friday, the rumor was spread that there will be a big "Easter breakfast" for us refugees (pavalgysim kaip Velykų rytą). This turned out to be true. So many of us, who had been to Resurrection Mass in any of the churches in Kaunas, hurried back to our schools. From there we were taken or directed to go to a large, beautiful gimnazija (high school). Unfortunately, after 52 years, I do not recall its name.

When we arrived there, we were shown into a huge hall with a stage at the end. The hall was filled with rows and rows of chairs and tables, set in white and loaded with plenty of food. Not just bread and butter, but plenty of all sorts of goodies: dishes filled with hard boiled eggs, cheeses, ham, sausages, cakes, milk, sugar, etc. Even a bottle of beer and lemonade was beside every plate. All this food was donated to us refugees by Pienocentras, Maistas and Lietūkis. (Although this had nothing to do with my recollection of Easter in Kaunas, I would like to insert here a few words of explanation about Lithuanian agricultural concerns and main exporters "Lietūkis", "Pienocentras" and "Maistas." Independent Lithuania was never short of food. On the contrary. There was an abundance of food products most of the time, except during the Soviet occupation. During the period of Lithuania's independence, ships owned by the United Baltic Corporation, of which I was an employee while in Klaipėda, used to come sailing into the ports of Klaipėda, Riga and Tallin every week to bring in goods we imported and to pick up our butter, bacon, eggs, poultry, etc. going mostly to Britain and its colonies, even as far as Haifa and Port Said on the Mediterranean.)

MARTYNAS JANKUS

As soon as every one of us was seated, dignitaries began gathering at the table of honor. Among them were government officials with their ladies, dressed in Lithuanian national costumes, the Mayor of Kaunas, then Lithuania's first lady

Zofija Smetonienė (wife of President Antanas Smetona), also Mrs. Tubelienė and others. Outstanding among them was the bearded Martynas Jankus, often called the "Patriarch of Lithuania Minor" and honorary guardian of the historic Rambynas overlooking the river Nemunas.

Of all the speakers at the head table that tried to cheer us up and wish us "Linksmų Velykų", the bearded Martynas Jankus was the most impressive and acceptable speaker. Because he, like the other refugees, had left his home on the Nemunas and had come to the mainland of Lithuania which he loved and had defended openly from German assaults and accusations. But the words of M. Jankus, who shared our loss and grief, somewhat eased the pain. He was one of us.

Suddenly the orchestra on the stage began playing the famous Easter hymn "Linksmą dieną mums prašvito, visi laukėm džiaugsmo šito". This was the last straw! What an irony! How can we sing "...we all were waiting for this joy" when our hearts are bleeding? People choked, the singing stopped. Most were still standing with tears streaming down their faces. Some had slumped back on their chairs. No one dared to wish his or her table neighbor "Linksmų Velykų (Happy Easter)", because that would add insult to injury, just like that Easter hymn did. One, two ladies from the head table got up. Then all of them spread out among the rows of tables. They tried to save the situation and cheer us up again.

MUŠKIM VELYKŲ KIAUŠINIUS. VALGYKITE

Gradually the tears stopped. Blowing our noses, we felt like little children. It took a while until some conversations could be heard. The food began to disappear from the tables, but our hearts were heavier than our stomachs for a long time afterwards.

Even now, 52 years later, when remembering the first Easter after the loss of Klaipėda, my home town and our beloved country Lithuania a few years later, I feel a lump in my throat and my eyes become wet. This feeling, like an incurable disease, reappears from time to time to torment me, probably until the end of my days.



MAYOR PRO-TEM OF DALLAS, TEXAS VISITS HILL OF CROSSES IN ŠIAULAI, LITHUANIA

by Ed Malouf

John Evans headed the official Dallas delegation for its first visit to Riga, Latvia, Sister City to Dallas, Texas. Over the past two and one-half years he has spearheaded the passing of resolutions by the Dallas City Council in condemning the actions of Soviet troops in the violence, destruction and criminal acts they perpetrated against the citizens of Latvia and Lithuania. These resolutions were sent to Presidents Gorbachev and Bush. Whether or not these resolutions, representing the voice of over one million Americans, were effective in curtailing the violence is a matter of conjecture, but there can be no doubt that it was a morale boost for the citizens of those Baltic States.

Mr. Evans became aware of the HILL OF CROSSES because of a Lithuanian couple from Šiauliai who visited Dallas for a heart valve operation. (This story was contained in a previous issue of VYTIS). He also had a cassette of the song HILL OF CROSSES which was written by a Dallas citizen. When asked if there was anything he would particularly like to see during his visit to Latvia, Mr. Evans said that he would especially like to visit the *Hill in Lithuania*. The visit was arranged by some Latvian officials. What John didn't know was that an 8' cross had been placed on the Hill through the cooperation of Latvians, Lithuanians and Americans who were thankful for his uncompromising effort in getting the resolutions written and sent to the proper heads of state.


One can imagine what happened when the Dallas official visited the Hill and saw the cross erected in his name. The plaque read: MAY GOD BLESS JOHN W. EVANS, MAYOR OF DALLAS, TEXAS, FOR HIS HELP FOR BALTIC STATES. Tears came to the Mayor's eyes when he suddenly came upon the cross bearing his name. Later, in Riga, he told his hosts of his deep appreciation for the gesture. He said, "The HILL OF CROSSES is an awesome sight that everyone in the world should see! It was the most moving and emotional experience in my life." There is a special significance in his saying this. You see, on Dec. 7, 1941 Seaman John Evans was setting up an area for church services on the rear deck of the U.S. battleship ARIZONA. John was thrown into the water when the ARIZONA blew up. He spent quite some time in the water, picking up dead and wounded survivors. That, too, was a moving and emotional experience.



Mayor Pro-tem John Evans of Dallas, TX visited the HILL OF CROSSES in Lithuania. He stated, "It was the most moving experience of my life."

Hundreds of stories could be told by Dallas individuals about happenings between and in the Baltic States and the U.S. There are very few people of Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian ancestry in the North Texas region, but one could very well think from the support that this section of the country has given all the Baltic States through the Dallas/Riga partnership that there are a multitude of people of Baltic extraction. One example, for instance, is the St. Pius X Catholic Church in Dallas that is establishing a "SISTER PARISH" relationship with a Catholic Church in Vilnius. Medical supplies are already being collected to send to Lithuania. Actions of this type have been predicated by common cause and common interest. And, if you'll forgive this writer, who is neither Catholic nor of Lithuanian ancestry,

I'd like to mention a personal goal I would like to reach before I meet my Maker: I would like to meet my new friends in Riga, and I'd like to meet as many Lithuanians and Americans of Lithuanian ancestry as possible who risked punishment and even their lives to place a cross on the HILL near Šiauliai. When I get there I shall repeat my special prayer: that the "old guard" Lithuanians, those who

immigrated to the United States from Lithuania, and those who look down on other Americans of Lithuanian ancestry because they don't speak the Lithuanian language, will make a special effort to pass on to the younger generations the rich culture and language that is Lithuania's. It is only in THAT WAY that the ethnicity of a justifiably proud Lithuanian can be preserved in the United States. GOD forbid that we will ever lose it. 

The Rulers of Lithuania....

GRAND PRINCE VAIŠVILKAS (1264-1267)

by Edward Baranauskas

Grand Prince Vaišvilkas was the son of King Mindaugas and became the third ruler of Lithuania following the assassination of Grand Prince Treniota in 1264. His short reign did not bring any significant change in Lithuania. The story of his life is rather an unusual one.

Nothing is known of Grand Prince Vaišvilkas youth. He was first mentioned in historical documents for the first time in 1254 when he signed a peace treaty in his father's name with one of his father's most dangerous enemies, Prince Daniel of Volynia, the ruler of a principality to the south of Lithuania.

Under the terms of the treaty, a contested area inhabited mostly by Slavs that was known as the "Land of the Black Rus", was joined to Lithuania. Today, it is part of Belorussia. The important fortress of Naugardukas (Novogrudok) became part of Mindaugas' domain, and the rule of this territory was entrusted to his son, Vaišvilkas, who is referred to in historical sources as the "Prince of the Black Rus".

It seems rather odd that even though King Mindaugas and Prince Daniel were such bitter enemies, still the king gave the hand of his daughter (name unknown) in marriage to Shvarn (Švarnas), the son of the prince. Some historians speculate that this was done to strengthen the terms of the peace treaty.

Because of his close contact with the Christian Slavs, Vaišvilkas was converted to the Greek Orthodox faith even though his father accepted baptism in the Roman Catholic Church. It is a mystery why Vaišvilkas abdicated his title and transferred the rule of that region over to Prince Daniel's son, Roman, who then became a loyal servant to King Mindaugas.

Vaišvilkas entered a monastery and then left on a pilgrimage to the Holy Mount of Athos in Greece but was not

able to get there because of the turmoil in the Balkans. He returned to Naugardukas three years later. Following the murder of his father and two brothers in 1263, he went into hiding in Pinsk, a city in what is today known as Belorussia. Grand Prince Treniota, one of the king's assassins, assumed the throne of Lithuania but was himself slain a year later, probably by the followers of Mindaugas.

Vaišvilkas took immediate steps to gain the throne and obtained help from his father's allies and the princes of Volynia. He persecuted his father's enemies and strove to maintain the territorial unity of all the lands of Lithuania and the Rus' that Mindaugas brought under his rule. He maintained close ties with the princes of Volynia and especially with his brother-in-law, Shvarn. Finally, he abdicated the Lithuanian throne in 1267 and handed over the reins of power to Shvarn and again entered a monastery.

In 1268 Vaišvilkas met his death at the hands of Shvarn's brother, Lev, the Prince of Vladimir. According to the historical sources of the Volynian Chronicle, Lev felt resentment at not being chosen to rule Lithuania.

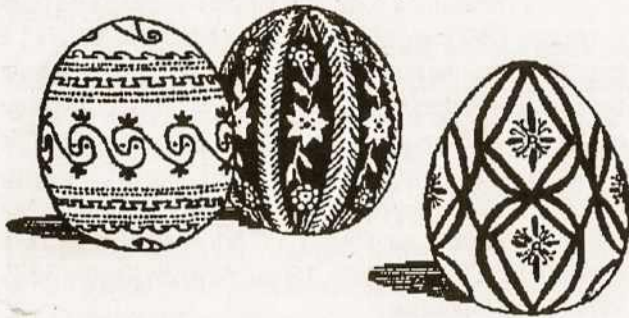
By a strange twist of faith, Shvarn, a non-Lithuanian, became the fourth ruler of Lithuania simply because he was married to the daughter of King Mindaugas and was chosen by his brother-in-law, Vaišvilkas, to take the Lithuanian throne. Shvarn's name was Lithuanianized and he became Švarnas.



ONLY THE EASTER EGGS WERE MISSING!

by V. Seliokas

I was imprisoned in the Intos Number 3 camp for men. (A Soviet forced labor camp.) It was the year 1955. We were beginning to "hold our own": our jailers had stopped taking our rubles during the searches, we were getting paid a nominal wage, and with the payment, it was possible to purchase margarine, or canned fish, at the local store. But the regimen was still strict: for attending larger gatherings, and especially religious holiday observances, you were under the threat of incarceration or additional years in the labor camp. Therefore, to publicly celebrate Easter was quite dangerous. We decided, following the example of the early Christians, to take refuge in the "catacombs". The Number 9 Mine,



where our men worked, was nicknamed the "gas pit" because methane gas would often seep into it. Electrical trolley carts were forbidden inside it for fear of a spark causing an explosion. Instead, battery operated carts were used to haul the wagons of coal. A special, well ventilated room had been set up, where these batteries were to be recharged. Since the man working was a Lithuanian, we decided to seek refuge with him, especially since there was room for about thirty people.

Since our mine's regular "pastor" was away, we were very happy that at the end of Holy Week, a Father P. Shliumpa, formerly pastor at Alyta, was transferred to our group. We named him "the vicar". Fr. Shliumpa was new at the labor camp and few people knew him. It appeared that he did not yet even have a "spy" assigned to him. We, on the other hand, were seasoned prisoners. We knew well the camp's rules, the habits of our supervisors, and when and where they liked to visit their workers. On Sundays, they usually didn't visit the mines.

Everything proceeded according to a pre-arranged plan. Early that morning we lowered the priest into the mine.

(Fortunately for us the "evil eye" did not notice!) There, in a corner of that specially ventilated room, sitting on a wooden dolly, he heard confessions for those who hadn't had a chance to go the night before. Afterwards, we began our day's work. We worked that day with an extra measure of cooperation, helping each other, and working quickly - our objective being to have more time left for our Christian get-together.

There were no tables or benches in our mine, so the man who worked in the charging room set up the altar on a huge electrical switch box. On it was placed a wide board, which he then covered with a clean towel. The priest had a hand-transcribed missal with the essential texts for the Mass. A small glass served as the chalice, clean paper became the paten. The liturgical robe - a small stole over his tarpaulin clothing. Still needed was the symbol that represented Christ's suffering and the purpose of our gathering, namely the Cross. Here we were helped by our prisoner inventiveness. We found some clean black paper and with a razor blade we cut out a big cross. Underneath the cutout, using bread crumbs, we glued a sheet of white paper. Then we fastened it all to a flattened area of the coal mine's wall. We were still missing candles, but (under the circumstances), our deep faith had to serve as a substitute. To immortalize the occasion, we even had a camera provided by a former resistance fighter, A. Cheponis.

There was still quite some time left until the end of our work day, when we set up a "guard", heard the Mass, and quietly prayed. Nearly everyone received Holy Communion. Since none of us had prayer books, each of us prayed in his own way, not with words, but with heart. One of our number even composed a prayer for this occasion:

"Come, o mankind's ages awaited Savior!

Come, the One born in Bethlehem!

*Come, the One tortured on Golgotha, and now risen
from the dead!*

Come, Have mercy!

Come, Strengthen (us)!

Come into our Homeland!

Come into our families!

Come into our hearts and rule there!"

After the Mass was over, now without any reserve, about thirty of us men loudly sang hymns: "God is Our Refuge", then "Marija, Marija", and "A Joyous Day has Dawned for

Us". Tears shone in our eyes, along with a determination to go with Christ not only to the breaking of the bread, but also to Golgotha....

During Easter time, as well as during times of other important holidays, we ordinarily would not receive any mail parcels, especially from the Baltic region. Someone's unseen hand would delay them. We would, therefore, share our prison bread amongst ourselves, which, even though it was adulterated, seemed to us to be delicious, more so than even back in our own country. So when we had set our morning portion of bread on our holiday table (a wooden box), it was much to our amazement and delight that one in our group brought a portion of his food parcel, which he had received from family members who were also enduring exile. They had received this parcel from relatives still living in Lithuania, and had re-addressed it to our prison camp. All of us were moved by this Christian brotherliness. We shared not only our bread, but our thoughts: remembering the din of church bells during Easter at home; the solemn processions; the family and friends who had sat with us around the holiday table, and who now were suffering hunger, scattered about the expanses of the (Soviet) Empire. That was our unhealing sore ... Thanks be to God that we did not get lost, that we did not collapse amidst all that pain; rather, we were ripening, and at the time, very unrealistic hope of celebrating our next Easter in a free Homeland. Our hope and unspeakable joy

was being provided by Christ - the one who had overcome death and suffering; the one whose closeness we felt even under ground and fenced in by barbed wire ...

When we heard the footsteps of the men from the next shift, our holiday had to end. By the elevator I overheard two of my fellow exiled brothers commenting: "This was indeed a grand Easter - only too bad that the Easter eggs were missing!"

"What kind of Easter eggs do you want? We, ourselves, look like Easter eggs - decorated with swirls of black, since we only washed our hands in the mine's rivulets before the services began!"

(Ed: Mr. Seliokas was not allowed to return to his native Lithuania even after serving his unjustified sentence at the Intos labor camp. He was forced to live in exile in a neighboring country until the collapse of the Soviet Union).

(Translator's note: This article was translated from the March 1991 issue of "CARITAS - KILTI IR KELTI", a monthly magazine published in Lithuania by their Catholic women's charitable organization. This magazine displays no copyright provisions, and so this article is assumed to be public domain. It was translated by Alfonsas A. Dainius, P.O. Box 272, Montrose, PA 18801, who likewise surrenders it to the public domain. CARITAS' full address is: 233000, CARITAS OF LITHUANIA, Vilnius G-ve 29, Kaunas 3000, Republic of Lithuania.)

VELYKŲ MALDA

Velykos, Velykos atėjo! Bet žmonės
Kamuojas kraujuos be vilties
Ir prašo jau kėlusio Kristaus malones
Išgelbėti juos nuo mirties.

Už nuodėmes mūsų ant kryžiaus, o Dieve,
Mirei ir kentėjai kančias;
Kada prisikėlei iš karsto, o Tėve,
Patraukei prie savęs minias!

Jei žmonės, o Dieve, laikus atsimintų,
Ant Kryžiaus kada Tu mirei,
Tada tikrai blogiui gal kelią pastotų—
Šiandien neskambėtų kardai!

Tur būt prasdikaltom, o Dieve geriausias,
Kad bausmę uždėjai ant mūsų,
Kad spaudžia mus vargas vargelis kietasis,
Kad daugelis ein į kapus?

Atleiski kaltybes, o Dieve brangusis,
Tau puolam po kojų, kurios
Už nuodėmes mūsų vinimis prikaltos —
Ir meldžiam ramybės šventos!

Leonardas Šimutis
Ilgesio Valandėlės



PAIR PUTS OFF POLITICS FOR SKATING

In Albertville, France, they danced on the ice to Prokofiev's "Romeo and Juliet". He is Lithuanian and she is Russian and, except for a rare stroke of official romance, they are Montague and Capulet.

Lithuania and Russia — as the Commonwealth of Independent States is still called with familiarity and some scorn — are separate and distinct now. The last time a Lithuanian marched in the Opening Ceremonies of the Olympic Games with anything but the flag of the Soviet Union was 1936.

Povilas Vanagas and Margarita Drobiazko represented the upheaval, the fractioning of the new world order, brought together in the persons of two charming young people who skate together and smile a lot off the ice. They like each other and work together when the politics of the world outside permit them.

In the competition, they wore black. For one reason, it makes their slender bodies look taller. And, he said, "because we have not too many costumes. And maybe it suits us." Until two weeks prior the Olympics, they didn't know if they would be permitted to skate together here. She's 20 and Russian; he's 21 and Lithuanian. They've been skating together for four years but the Olympics charter doesn't permit people of different nations to skate together. "It was not a conflict for us," he said.

They skated together in the European championships and took a creditable 15th in the first international competition since 1938 in which Lithuania was Lithuania, that its athletes performed under their own flag, "Yellow, green and red" he blurted. "Our country is restored and, all over, dreams were to be judged free," he said. "And maybe sports is one of the first possibilities for a new country to say she's already alive."

Povilas is from Kaunas, the home of Arvidas Sabonis. Lithuanian young men don't go to the Soviet army anymore.

But while he was skating for a Soviet army club he met the partner, Margarita, who he calls Rita. Their coach, being Russian, couldn't be their coach at the Olympics. So, his mother who coached him from age 6 until he was drafted, took over. Rita speaks little Lithuanian while Povilas learned English at a special school in Kaunas and, like all young Lithuanians, was taught Russian. They speak Russian to each other. She hopes to skate in one of the ice shows spreading in Russia. He intends to study theology and philosophy. Vanagas is a Lithuanian; Drobiazko an athlete.

In the ice dancing routine, they skated to the required rhythms of a *paso doble*, blues, a free program to a required polka they made seem like something from "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers." Their free program to "Romeo and Juliet" was full of the swings and sways of flirtation. They came in 16th place in the Winter Olympics.

No Lithuanians were among the nine judges. American coach Nicks said, "It was super interesting how the Russian judge scores them." Povilas calls her *Tolstik*, which translates from the Russian as Fatso. It is hardly the case. Although all is still not well in Lithuania as it had hoped. "In Lithuania on 11 March 1990 we said we were free," Vanagas said. "That's what we said. All the world was listening to how we were shouting. Only after the terrible August in Moscow did the world recognize Lithuania. They [the Russians] haven't the power that can withstand. It was a happy moment. I was also afraid a little. Afraid of the future."

The world had changed. "Watching from the outside, it may seem to happen very quickly," he said. "Being there, the changes translate very slowly. Lithuania used to be a little bit better off. Now things are uniformly bad."

It is the price of freedom. To that he says in Lithuanian "Sveikata" — meaning to your health.

(Jacobson - Newday)

S M I L E

It happens in a flash but the memory of it lasts forever. It cannot be begged, borrowed or stolen, but it is of no earthly good to anyone until it is given away. So if in your hurry you meet someone who is too weary to smile, leave one of yours, for no one needs a smile quite as much as he who has none to give.

It takes only 17 muscles to smile 43 muscles to frown. Conserve energy.

RE-DISCOVERING OUR FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

America's Future

Among our leading exports these days are ideas. Specifically, American ideas of freedom, human rights and self-government as contained in our founding documents - The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the Federalist Papers. Copies of these documents are eagerly sought by Eastern Europeans and others as they strive to build new and effective political systems in the American image. People of the independence-minded Soviet republics also are looking to our democratic institutions for guidance.

That's the good news. The bad news is that until now, most Americans themselves have had little knowledge or appreciation of our founding documents. In effect, America has been a nation of "constitutional illiterates," a condition fraught with danger for the future of our Republic.

In 1987, the Hearst Corp. released the findings of a nationwide survey on the American public's knowledge of the Constitution. The Hearst report found that only 54% knew the purpose of the original Constitution. Eight in ten Americans wrongly attribute the phrase, "All men are created equal," to the Constitution, confusing it to the Declaration of Independence. Also, eight in ten thought the Gettysburg Address phrase, "Of the people, by the people, for the people," was in the Constitution. And in one astonishing finding, nearly half of the Americans surveyed believed that the Constitution includes the Marxist declaration, "From each according to his ability, to each according to his need." Our Founding Fathers would not have been amused.

Determined to do what it could to remedy our "constitutional illiteracy," a nonpartisan, volunteer organization called Foundation America, based in North Carolina, took the case to Washington, DC. On Dec. 21, 1987, the U.S. Congress, by an overwhelming majority passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 92. The Resolution noted that "the survival of the Republic requires that our Nation's children - the future guardians of its heritage and participants in its governance - have a firm knowledge of its principles and history." To this end, the Resolution encouraged State and local governments and local educational agencies "to include among the requirements for secondary school graduation a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Federalist Papers." This historic affirmation by Congress soon received the strong endorsement of Pres.

Reagan and scores of other leading individuals and organizations; from governors, educators, and judges to the American Bar Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Boy Scouts.

What concrete results have come from all this? As of now, ten states have enacted "Civic Literacy" legislation, making knowledge of the founding documents a requirement for high school graduation. These states are: Alabama, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Maine, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. Other states are expected to take similar action in coming months.

DON'T QUIT

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but have a sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit -
Rest if you must, but don't quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns.
And many a fellow turns about
When he might have won had he stuck it out.
Don't give up though the pace seems slow -
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is near than
It seems to a faint and faltering man;
Often the struggler has given up
When he might have captured the victor's cup;
And he learned too late when the night came down,
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out -
The silver tint of the cloud of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems afar -
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit -
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.



EXCHANGE STUDENTS SHARE HOLIDAY TRADITIONS WITH HOSTS

by Paula St. Louis-Evening Citizen

Christmas was a holiday observed in many parts of the world in many ways.

Seven local families in Laconia, NH obtained first hand knowledge of how people in Lithuania celebrate Christmas. Seven Lithuanian students and their teacher spending Christmas with their American host families, got to experience American traditions, just three years after the ban on Christmas was lifted in their former communist country.

Student Jonas Pilkauskas says the biggest difference between Christmas in America and in Lithuania is that the way the holiday is celebrated in the U.S. differs from house to house, from family to family. America's "melting pot" has provided a cultural mix of traditions, giving each of the Lithuanian students a different yuletide experience.

Jonas stayed with Matt Gennaro who was an exchange student in Vilnius last year. Dalia Zaneviciute spent her time with Becky Daniels who visited Dalia in Vilnius. Meta Jurgaitė stayed with Paulette Gianunzio for a short period of one week. The Lithuanian students were included in various family traditions at Christmas, and taught their host families about their own traditions.

Christmas is a family holiday in the predominantly Roman Catholic country, Jonas said. The traditions survived many years of Soviet oppression. Families celebrated the holiday quietly among themselves, Jonas said. Christmas Eve begins with a big supper for the entire family. The meal is a special one. There are 12 dishes to try: breads, fish, vegetables and more, but no meat. The twelve dishes symbolize Jesus' twelve apostles. The Lithuanians have a

decorated Christmas tree and Santa Claus leaves presents under the tree when no one sees, but decorations are mainly confined to the interior of homes.

The three Lithuanian students had a different taste of Christmas this year. Meta Jurgaitė had dinner on Christmas Eve and watched television that night before going to bed. On Christmas morning, the family got up to see what Santa had brought. Dalia Zaneviciute had a relaxed supper on Christmas Eve and went to church. When they got home that night, "we tried to sing Christmas carols," Dalia said, then smiled at the memory. Her host read a favorite Christmas story and they hung stockings before heading off to bed around midnight. The children were up at 6:30 a.m. on Christmas morning, eager to find their bounty under the tree. The entire family packed up in the afternoon and went to dinner at a relative's. Jonas Pilkauskas had a dinner Christmas Eve and played games for a while before opening gifts that night. When midnight arrived, they were in their pews at church for midnight Mass.

Despite the different ways of observing the holiday, maybe ours isn't so far from theirs. Despite the difference in some traditions, Jonas says, people from both countries celebrate Christmas almost in the same way.

The students also had the opportunity to learn the basics of skiing. The ski area offered free passes and lessons to the students and the teacher. Two students have skied before and spent the day on the upper slopes. The other students and their teacher started, as do all beginners, by learning how to "walk" on the skis, eventually moving up to using the lifts and snowplowing down the hills.

CAMP AUSRA

LITHUANIAN ETHNIC CAMP - July 12 - 24

BIBLE CAMP - July 26 - August 1

Some of the best memories of childhood are those days spent at camp learning new things and making new friends.

Camp Ausra is special. It gives the campers the opportunity to live within their age groups in a Christian environment. The focus of each day is to involve them in developing a greater love and appreciation of their rich Lithuanian culture.

Christian Bible Camp will deal with a study of the old

testament using visual aids and discussions. Included, of course, will be sports, hikes, crafts, swimming, camp fire and original programs performed by campers and counselors.

Both camps are open to all children 8-16 years of age, regardless of race or religion.

For further information, contact:

Sister M. Angela

25 South Broad Mountain Ave.

Frackville, PA 17931

FROM ONE ROOM TO A SPACIOUS ABODE

by Linda Feldmann

It's a dreary, rainy day in Vilnius, but Gintaras Tumenas is gamely loading up bricks and mixing cement on the construction site that will soon be home for his growing family.

After a year and a half of paperwork - including eighty visits to various city administrative offices to seek permission - and a year and a half of building, the young accountant-turned-auto-mechanic is zeroing in on the next milestone of his mammoth project: getting enough of the house completed to take up residence.

"As soon as the room is finished, we'll move in, so we can be independent from everybody," says Mr. Tumenas, wiping the rain from his glasses. "We just want to live normally." With a six-year-old son and another child on the way, Tumenas and his wife are particularly eager to move out of their current accommodations: a room in Tumenas' grandfather's house, where they have lived for the past six years.

Building a house is nothing new in Lithuania, or in the rest of the former Soviet Union, for that matter. Typically, city-dwellers live in massive government-issue apartment buildings and then build their own "dachas" or summer cottages outside the city. What's unusual about Tumenas' house is its size, its urban location and the fact that it will be his primary residence.

Restrictions on the dimensions of private homes have now been lifted, and the mild-mannered Lithuanian has spared no modesty. The location is a matter of birthright. Like many Lithuanians during World War II, Tumenas' grandfather was sent to Siberia. Upon his return in 1958, the government granted him about three-quarters of an acre of land. Now he has granted his grandson permission to use about a quarter of it. "Technically, it's government land, but it's Grandpa's right to use it, so he can give me the right to use it," says Tumenas.

Thousands of other would-be home builders in the Lithuanian capital aren't so fortunate. And they represent only a part of the severe housing crunch that has plagued the entire former Soviet Union ever since its founding - despite grandiose promises from a succession of leaders of "housing for all."

Gediminas Kazlauskas, the head of Vilnius' housing office, says he has 10,000 applications from people who want to build their own homes, but there's little available land. The government of Vilnius hopes to expand the city's

size by incorporating parts of neighboring regions, but negotiations aren't going well. Those outer regions are dominated by ethnic Poles, who are reluctant to open up their area to settlements by Lithuanians. If agreement can be reached, says Mr. Kazlauskas, 3,000 to 4,000 building lots can become available.

Of the 550,000 people in Vilnius, Kazlauskas estimates that ten percent would like to improve their housing conditions - which, in the worst cases, consist of just a room in a dormitory shared by several people. If one waits in the government line for better housing, it will take 10 to 15 years, he says.

The breakdown of the production and distribution network in the former Soviet Union has resulted in a shortage of materials such as steel and wood, and government construction of housing has slowed, says Kazlauskas. Tumenas maintains he has had no problem buying the materials he needed. The biggest challenge with getting his project going, he says, was getting permission to use his grandfather's land.

"All the problems were because of that plot of land," he explains. "They didn't like our first plan." What did they not like? Tumenas chuckles. "Well, I'm not really sure ... It was my understanding they wanted a bribe. I didn't give bribes, because it was my grandfather's land." He pauses. "Well, OK, I bought them some cognac."

Having approved the use of the land, the city has inspected the project only once - after the foundation was laid. When it came to the actual drafting of a plan and the construction, Tumenas enlisted family and friends. He hired an architect friend to design the house. His father helped him put in the foundation. All along the way, he says, he's been getting advice from his 85-year-old grandfather, who built the house he and Tumenas' family are sharing.

So far, Tumenas has spent 40,000 rubles on the project - worth only about \$400 now, and in the context of the former Soviet Union, about 125 times the typical monthly salary for last year.

The house will have four rooms, a kitchen, two bathrooms, a garage, and a large "sports hall" above the garage, which Tumenas says he can convert later into four more rooms. "I understand this work, and decided it's better to do it myself because it's hard to find good craftsmen here," he says. "If you do it yourself, you know it will be done right." "I consult with friends," he adds, "but you know, every

Lithuanian man must build a house during his life so he can consider himself a complete person.”

The Christian Science Monitor

CLIQUEES

Human beings, having a gregarious nature, find themselves very often formed into groups according to their mutual interests. Great groups of people with geographical limitations have so formed the nations of the earth. Clubs, societies, organizations, etc. are formed for the mutual interests of their members and usually have a set of rules, bylaws, or a fixed code of ethics. Such is the case with our organization, the Knights of Lithuania, for it brings men and women of Lithuanian descent together with a common bond.

Now, when groups within a club are formed, they are known as parties, factions, and quite often as cliques. These cliques are formed for the same reasons that clubs themselves are formed - man's gregariousness and the fostering of his best interests. Cliques, however, do not usually have a fixed set of rules, but are ruled by the will of the strongest ones in the clique. Thus we find time and time again that cliques can get out of hand. When we read of "the crowd in the Kremlin", we find there a clique out of hand. Such cliques out of hand in clubs can be just as vicious as the clique in the Kremlin. Great harm can be done to people.

The Knights of Lithuania is not organized for harm but, on the contrary, is organized to do the greatest good whenever and wherever possible. Those K of L members who find themselves a member of an inner faction should pause for a moment and take stock of themselves and ask themselves — Is my action in this matter being taken because I do not like this or that person, will it selfishly enhance my own personal position, or "even up" little scores; or is it for the great good of the Knights of Lithuania and in line with the resolved highest order of principles for which the K of L was formed and to which K of L'ers have dedicated themselves?

(Vytiš, 1957)

The truth about U.S. history — what you didn't learn in school

America declared its independence on July 4 ... Abraham Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address on the back of an envelope ... the Liberty Bell rang in independence on July 4, 1776.

School children across America grew up believing each one of those statements is true — but they're actually complete nonsense, says Richard Shenkman, author of "Legends, Lies & Cherished Myths of American History."

Here are some of the most widely held myths about American history — and the truth behind them, according to Shenkman.

MYTH: America declared its independence on July 4.

FACT: Our Founding Fathers actually declared independence on July 2, but they didn't draw up the official Declaration of Independence until two days later on July 4.

MYTH: The colonists were behind the Revolutionary War 100 percent.

FACT: Two-thirds of the population did not support the war — one-third backed the British and another third didn't care who won.

MYTH: Paul Revere was a courageous hero.

FACT: After his famous midnight ride, Revere was charged with cowardice for his role in a battle at Penobscot Bay, Maine.

American soldiers outnumbered the British 3 to 1, but the Americans lost after they grounded their ships and ran. Revere and several other officers were charged with cowardice, but he was later cleared.

MYTH: Abraham Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address on the back of an envelope while he was riding a train to Gettysburg.

FACT: Lincoln actually spent weeks writing at least a half dozen different drafts of the famous speech.

MYTH: The Liberty Bell rang in independence on July 4, 1776.

FACT: There is no truth to that story at all. A bell was installed atop Philadelphia's Independence Hall in 1752, but it wasn't called the Liberty Bell until 1839 when abolitionists adopted it as a symbol of the antislavery movement.

—Philip Smith

Easter Greetings

VABZDYS GINTARE

Girdžiu, kai sakote:
 Koks tyras gintaras,
 Ir koks ramus jame vabzdys! -
 Kodėl uždarėte mane
 Šioj permatomaj urnoje
 Kentėti amžiais?
 Jūs kalbate:
 Jau lengva jam ilsėtis čia,
 Tokia palaiminta tyła aplink!
 Bet are nematote,
 Kaip ilgesingai trūkčioja,
 Norėdami įsilinguot,
 Sparnai į saulę.
 Deja, šitie sparnai
 Jau niekad neįsilinguos -
 Jų skrydį sunkins žemės nedalia.
 Kokia ironija -
 Tik ant šiltų silpnų sparnų
 Dar laikosi gyvi
 Akmens ir vario amžiai!
 Jais liudiju
 Žmogaus tikimo paslaptį
 Kurią juodais burtažodžiais
 Paženklino poliarinė naktis -
 Tuoj sužinosite,
 Kada ten, siaurėje,
 Pajudino ledynus nesrimas,
 Kada ten gimė skausmas...
 Kodėl jūs sakote;
 Koks tyras gintaras,
 Ir koks ramus jame vabzdys,
 Lyg nežinotumėt,
 Jog mano džiaugsmo vasaras
 Atšaldė Arktokos ledai
 Ir gintaro banga
 Nusinešė į Baltiją.

INSECT IN AMBER

I hear you saying:
 What pure yellow amber,
 How serene the insect in it!
 Why am I enclosed
 In this permanent urn
 Without compassion?
 You discuss:
 How simple for him to rest
 In such blessed silence!
 You cannot see
 Agonized convulsions,
 Wings fluttering
 To find the sun?
 These wings, shackled
 To earth's destiny,
 Never will flutter free.
 Ironic -
 On such frail wings
 Stone and copper ages
 Descend to us.
 Wings testify
 The mystery of man's fate
 Arctic night promulgated
 With asthmatic mumbo-jumbo.
 A revelation -
 Restlessness in the north
 Moved glaciers:
 Agony was born.
 Why do you say:
 What pure yellow amber,
 How serene the insect in it -
 You do not fathom
 All my summer's joys,
 Encased in arctic ice,
 Were borne to the Baltic
 On a billow of amber.

Leonardas Andriekus

LIETUVOS OLYMPIEČIAI REIKALINGI
 FINANSINĖS PARAMOS

Kaip žinome, Žiemos XVI-se olimpinėse žaidynėse, Albertvilyje Lietuvai atstovavo 6 sportininkai. Barcelonos olimpinėse žaidynėse Lietuvai kontingentas skirtas 40-čiai sportininkų. Ten ruošiamasi dalyvauti, jeigu atrankiniame turnyre bus išsikovota teisė, su stipria krepšinio rinktine. Išlaidos yra milžiniškos ir kraštui, neseniai tapusiam nepriklausomu, šiuo metu yra sunku visa tai pakelti.

JAV jau yra įsteigtas Lietuvos olimpinis fondas vadovaujamas Valdo Adamkaus, LTOK įgaliojimo JAV-se. LTOK atidarė specialią sąskaitą Chicagos Standard Federal banke, kurios numeris yra 110131331. Adresas: Standard Federal Bank, 4192 Archer Ave., Chicago IL 60632. Čekius rašyti Lithuanian National Olympic Fund.

Lithuanians in the News

MISS MASSACHUSETTS PARTICIPATED IN MISS USA PAGEANT



Christine Netishen

Miss Massachusetts, Christine Netishen of Lowell, MA participated in the pageant in Wichita, KS but has no regrets about not winning the title Miss USA. Christine is the daughter of William and Patricia (Yonaker) Netishen. She and her family attend St. Joseph's Lithuanian Church and also the Lithuanian Club in Lowell. Whether or not she won or lost, Christine

will use the experience as part of her education.

Since being crowned Miss Massachusetts in November, she has led an educational outreach program, giving motivational speeches across the state, especially in the technical fields.

Netishen is a cum laude graduate with a B.A. in math from Providence College. She was an honors graduate from Notre Dame Academy and presently works at MIT Lincoln Laboratories as a statistical programmer.

GRADUATE OF U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

Second

Lt. Robert A. King, son of Bob & Joyce King of Lancaster, PA and grandson of Ann Ackalitis, C-110, Maspett, NY graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in June 1991. While at the Academy, Lt. King was



2nd Lt. Robert A. King

on the Dean's list for eight semesters and was elected to Eta Kappa Nu, the Electrical Engineering Honor Society. He completed Air Assault and Air Borne training, as well as an Officer's Training Course at Ft. Knox, KY. Lt. King is presently assigned to 2/35 Armor in the 4th Infantry Division at Ft. Carson, CO, where he will serve as a tank platoon leader.

When April Comes

Such joy is ours when April comes
And all the earth is new;
The hills are gowned in green once more,
The skies are fairest blue.

The scent of lilacs fills the air
And rides on gentile breeze;
And robins sing in symphony
From yonder cherry trees.

The daffodils are wearing frills,
The dogwood's dressed in lace,
And violets from shady nooks
Peer out with purple face.

How beautiful Your world, O Lord,
When April comes to bless
Our hearts and lives with renewed hope,
And springtime happiness.

Beverly Anderson

LINKSMA DIENA

J. Naujalis

1. Linksma Die - na mums mi - švi - to, vi -

2. Ge - luo - ni, mir - ties iš - ro - vė, nuo -

si troš - ksm džiauga - mo ši - - to, kė - lės Kris -

dė - mes mi - sy - nu - plo - vė, pra - ga - ro

tus, mir - tis kri - to, Al - le - lu - ja, al - le

var - tus iš - grio - vė, Al - le - lu - ja, al - le

lu - ja, al - le - lu - ja.

lu - ja, al - le - lu - ja.

3. Angelus siunčia Šventuosius,
Pas Mariją ir savuosius
Mokytinius mylimuosius, Alleluja...
4. „Pas Motiną sopulingą,
Neškit naujieną džiaugsmingą,
Prisikėlimo Garbingo“, Alleluja ...
5. Veikiai Patsai pas Ja éjo,
Didžia šviesybe žibėjo,
Sveikindamas Ja kalbėjo, Alleluja...
6. „Po Tavo skausmų kartybės,
Nušvito diena linksmybės“!..
Būki gi pilna linksmybės, Alleluja...
7. „Sveikas gi, Jėzau, saldžiausias,
Mano Sūneli Mieliausias,
Žmonėms visiems maloniausias, Alleluja...
8. Ešu šią Dieną laiminga,
Tave išvydus garbinga,
Nieko daugiau man nestinga, Alėluja...
9. Dangaus Karalius Aukščiausias,
Išganytoja brangiausias
Atpirko mus, maloniausias, Alleluja...
10. Jis pragarą nugalėjo,
Zalčio galva sutrupėjo,
Vargšams viltis sužibėjo, Alleluja...
11. Tuoį prapultį atrakino,
Tėvus Šventuosius ramino,
Eit paskui save vadino, Alleluja...
12. Sveikas, Karaliau, Šviesybės,
Viešpatie didžios galybės,
Gelbėk ir mus iš tamsybės... Alleluja...
13. Per Šventą Prisikėlimą
Duok mums kalčių atleidimą
Tegul ir mus džiaugsmas ima, Alleluja...

79th ANNUAL CONVENTION

July 16 - 19, 1992

Allentown Hilton Hotel

Allentown, PA

Host: Anthracite C-144

Many of the early Lithuanian immigrants came to the Anthracite coal region in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They settled there, married and had families. The men worked long and hard hours in the coal mines. Even though they endured many hardships, they established and built their churches. Culturally their lives revolved around these churches. They held Lithuanian dances, plays, picnics, and other get-togethers just to keep their Lithuanian heritage alive.

In 1914, the Lithuanian priests formed a committee to have a huge Lithuanian Day at a local park so all the people could get together with family and friends in a true Lithuanian spirit. At the very first meeting, it was established that all proceeds would go to a Lithuanian charity. The date was set as August 15th and continued on that date until World War II when it was changed to the Sunday nearest the 15th.

Early in 1974 after the monthly Lithuanian mass which was held in St. Casimir's Church in St. Clair, a group of men and women, mostly children of these early immigrants, met in the church hall and decided to form an organization to keep alive the Lithuanian heritage and to assist the priests on Lithuanian Day. They called themselves The Lithuanian Heritage Committee and during the Bi-Centennial Year, The Lithuanian Bi-Centennial Committee.

At the Lithuanian Day celebrations in 1975, the late Honorary Member Joseph Yanulaitis from C-3 in Philadelphia asked the group if he could attend their meetings. Joseph came from Philadelphia almost every month following, spoke on the ideals and virtues of the Knights of Lithuania and on January 1, 1977 with Joseph Yanulaitis as sponsor, the Anthracite Council was formed. Msgr. Joseph Neverauskas of Shenandoah, PA, one of the backers of the organization suggested the name since the early Lithuanian immigrants were Anthracite miners. They received the number 144.

That year the Priest's League asked if they would take over the Annual Lithuanian Day. In fifteen years, the membership has grown from that small handful of people to its present membership. Through the Annual Lithuanian Day, which is now held in a local Mall due to the closing of the large parks, \$85,000.00 has been raised in the fifteen years.

Of this money, \$60,000.00 has been donated to Lithuanian charities. The largest contribution was made to Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, St. Casimir's Pontifical College in Rome, Medical Aid, and last year to S.O.S. Vaikai, the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, and Bishop Zemaitis' visit to the area.

In 1982, a Lithuanian Cultural Center and Museum was opened in Frackville, PA. The old rectory of Annunciation Church in Frackville was leased by the Diocese. An amount of \$25,000.00 was used to repair and refurbish the building. Many old and beautiful artifacts brought over by our parents and grandparents are in the museum. There is an extensive library of old and new Lithuanian books. The Knights maintain the museum with a yearly Cultural Program.

For a few years, the Knights sponsored a weekly Lithuanian Radio Program on a local station. Unfortunately, the station cancelled all ethnic programs in 1987.

Throughout the years, C-144 has worked diligently on Lithuanian Affairs. We wrote letters, sent

telegrams, went on demonstrations, did whatever we could for the Lithuanian cause. We adopted St. Ann's Parish in Pavandenys, Lithuania and sent contributions when members visited Lithuania. This year \$1,000.00 was sent to the parish through LCRA.

Although we are one of the younger councils in the K of L, we have worked hard "For God and Country" and for all the ideals of the Knights of Lithuania. We have supported all Knights of Lithuania causes and pray we can continue to do so in the future. We are ever grateful to Joseph Yanulaitis (May the Lord have mercy on his soul) for bringing us into the "Vyçi" Organizačija".

Now in the 15th year, we invite you to attend the 79th Annual Convention, July 16-19 at the Allentown-Hilton in Allentown, PA. A pre-convention trip will be held to visit a coal mine to show you how our ancestors worked. We will show you some of our beautiful churches, serve a nice meal and let you see Our Beautiful Anthracite Mountains.

 If anyone is interested in a day of golf on July 15th, please notify Registration Committee. Members of C-63 Lehigh Valley have arranged for a day of golf at a local golf course.

LITHUANIAN DAY 1977



Helen Chesko, Bernice Mikatavage (Pres. C-144), Msgr. Joseph Neverauskas, Chairlady Anne Klizas Wargo receiving proclamation from Commissioner Al Matunas, Anne Marie Shevokas, Rev. Casimir Pugevicius of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid (guest speaker), Rita Shevokas and Msgr. Al Barikus, spiritual advisor.

JOURNAL AD CONTRACT FORM

Please publish the following advertisement in the Knights of Lithuania 79th National Convention Souvenir Program Book.

<u>Full Page</u>	<u>Half Page</u>	<u>Quarter Page</u>	<u>Well Wisher with One Line Greeting</u>	<u>Patron with Name & Council No.</u>
\$75.00	\$40.00	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$5.00

(Ad Copy - Please type or print your message)

Make checks payable to: KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA, C-144

Advertiser's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please mail to:

**Anna Klizas Wargo, Chairperson
125 S. Morris Street
St. Clair, PA 17970**

Deadline: June 15, 1992

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Make all checks payable to: KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA C-144.

Send check and form to:

Beatrice Wasley
25 N. West Street
Shenandoah, PA 17976
(717) 462-0083

Early Registration (deadline June 20)	\$85.00
Late Registration	90.00
Youth Registration	60.00

PLEASE GIVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Name: _____ Council No. _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone No. _____

Enclosed is check in total amount of \$ _____ for _____ registrations.

Hotel Reservations at Allentown Hilton, call (800) 999-7784 or (215) 433-2221

Room Rates: Single or double - \$65.00 per night, plus tax

Junior Suites - \$140.00, plus tax

PRE CONVENTION TRIP - Wednesday, July 15

Visit the beautiful Anthracite Coal region. Trip includes a visit to a coal mine, several Lithuanian churches, a typical coal region Lithuanian meal, and a visit to Jim Thorpe, PA known as the Switzerland of America. Cost of trip \$40.00. From 9:00 a.m. to ????????

For reservations, send to Beatrice Wasley.

Name _____ Council No. _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Lithuanian Kitchen - Lietuviška Virtuvė

CABBAGE & SPARERIB SOUP

Raugintų Kopūstų Sriuba

2 lbs. spareribs	1 lge can crushed tomatoes
2 Tbsp. oil	Caraway seeds (optional)
2 Tbsp. butter	2 bay leaves
1 large onion, sliced	1 tsp. sugar
3 lbs. sauerkraut, rinsed	Allspice, to taste
1/2 head thinly sliced cabbage	Salt, pepper to taste
	Water to cover

Brown spareribs in oil in large soup pot; saute onion in butter in small pan and add to spareribs. Add remaining ingredients to soup pot; add water to cover all ingredients. Bring to a full boil; cover and simmer for 1 - 1-1/2 hrs. Serve with boiled potatoes and black Lithuanian bread.

*Terry Mastroianni
C-109 Great Neck, NY*

SAUSENE

Traditional Lithuanian Dish

6-8 potatoes, peeled and quartered	1 cup sour cream
2 med. onions, quartered	4 Tbsp. butter/oleo
	Salt to taste

Place cut up potatoes and onions into saucepan; cover with water and cook until potatoes are done. Drain. In a small saucepan, heat sour cream and butter until cream is heated and butter is melted. Add salt if desired. Pour sour cream sauce over potatoes and serve hot.

MARINATED MUSHROOMS

Grybių Vinegretas

1 lb. mushrooms	2 Tbsp. lemon juice
1 - 8 oz. Italian dressing	Parsley flakes
	2 Tbsp. white vinegar

Clean and cut up mushrooms. Place mushrooms into saucepan with vinegar and lemon juice. Bring to a boil and cook for 3-4 mins. Drain well and place mushrooms into a bowl or jar and cover with Italian dressing. Cool and refrigerate. Sprinkle with parsley before serving.

*Linda Henry
C-109 Great Neck, NY*

APPLE FILLED BUCKWHEAT PANCAKES -

Sklindžiai su Obuoliais

1 cup milk	3/4 cup buckwheat flour
1/3 cup water	1/4 cup unbleached flour
1/2 tsp. salt	2 Tbsp. melted butter
2 large eggs	

Place milk, water, salt, eggs in blender for 1 sec. Add flour, butter and blend on high for one min. (Can also be mixed by hand). Refrigerate for 1-2 hrs before using. Heat crepe or frying pan and add some butter. Pour about 3 Tbsp. batter into pan; twist pan to coat evenly with batter. Cook about one min. or until done; loosen edges and turn pancake over. Cook for a few second on other side. Serve rolled with cheese or fruit filling.

APPLE FILLING

4 apples, peeled and chopped	1/2 tsp. grated lemon zest
1/4 tsp. cinnamon/ allspice	2 Tbsp. brown sugar
8-10 prunes, chopped	2 Tbsp. butter/oleo
	2 Tbsp. chopped walnuts
	1-1/2 Tbsp. lemon juice

Place butter in non-stick skillet and heat until lightly browned. Sprinkle sugar and cook for a few seconds. Add apples, spices and saute until apples are glazed; add rest of ingredients. Remove from heat and serve rolled up in pancake.

AUSUKES

4 egg yolks	1 Tbsp. brandy
1 egg	1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 tsp. salt	1-1/4 cup flour or more if needed
1/2 cup powdered sugar	

Beat yolks, egg and salt until very thick and lemon colored. Slowly beat in sugar and flavorings; fold in flour. Knead, adding more flour only if necessary. Divide dough in half and cover. Roll out half of dough on a floured surface as thinly as possible. Cut into 2" x 4" strips with a slit in center. Pull one end through slit. Fry in deep fat at 350° until golden brown on both sides. Drain on paper towels. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.



LETTERS

SR. SADUNAITĖ IN DALLAS

Dear Editor:

On Saturday, April 4, Sr. Nijole Sadunaitė was invited by St. Pius X Catholic Church in Dallas, TX to be their guest speaker. She is on a nationwide tour to visit her religious order and receive the prestigious POVERELLO AWARD from Franciscan University in Ohio. This will be her only stop in Texas. But, ALL OF THIS COULD NOT HAVE COME ABOUT WITHOUT VYTIS MAGAZINE!! It was through you and your efforts that I found out that Sr. Nijole was in the United States. Nick Healy, V.P. of Franciscan University in Ohio is screening all requests for visits from Sr. Nijole. There have been so many that she can't possibly fill them all. One VERY IMPORTANT thing that will happen is that The Bishop Sheen Center is going to videotape a two hour video (probably will be edited to one hour) of an interview with Sr. Nijole. It will be translated into MANY foreign languages and distributed ALL OVER THE WORLD. We can thank VYTIS for that, too.

We are still working on the movie, "Hill of Crosses". Financing, of course, is the problem right now. But we are not giving up.

Thank you for all your help. God love you.

Sincerely,
Ed Malouf,
Dallas, TX

APPRECIATES RECEIVING VYTIS

Dear Vytis Staff:

Thanks to the president of the Knights of the Knights of Lithuania organization in Cleveland, OH, by mail I have discovered your magazine at last!

I am a third generation Lithuanian born here in Ohio and an elementary teacher for 22 years. For years, none of my students knew Lithuania existed, until I told them about it. Finally it was on TV news as it regained freedom.

My paternal grandparents came to New York from Lithuania, met there and married. After I was born, my dear grandmother told me about her homeland and tried, in vain, to teach me some of the language. She always tried to send goods and money back to the family she left behind. Though she is deceased, I have never lost the deep love for Lithuania she instilled in me. I live seventy-some miles from the nearest Lithuanian community, so I probably won't have much contact with them.

Your magazine is the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow! How I've longed for news about the land of our ancestors all my life. I will treasure each issue. I'm so glad our brave, strong people never gave up on wanting freedom and resisted our enemies at every turn.

Sincerely,
Judy Sheldon

 FROM A MANGER TO THE CROSS

From the Manger to the Cross in 33 short years
From joy of birth - to crucifixion and tears
His feet took him down many roads, in many lands
Healed the sick - returned the dead to life
Yet was mocked and spit upon - it cut Him like a knife
He knew his time was short and what did lie ahead.
The last supper "Drink this wine and eat this bread"
The Holy Eucharist emerged from this act
Passed down to us from this awesome pact
They crowned his head with painful thorns
Standing helpless - His mother Mary mourns

It was as though a thorn had pierced her heart
All this she had known - that one day they would
part
To give His life for all our sins
Eternal life for us He wins.

What a supreme sacrifice - to die among thieves
A sorrowing Mother watches and grieves
Please, Dear Father - Let not Your Son have died in vain
Lead us away from sin - back to your graces once again
The path may be rocky - but we'll do our best
Your guiding hand will help us pass the test.

Anna Helen McDonald



Official News

Oficialus Skyrius

K OF L SURVEY RESULTS WHERE ARE WE AND WHERE SHOULD WE BE GOING?

John P. Baltrus, MCD President

An extensive questionnaire was distributed to all of the delegates attending one of the sessions at the last Knights of Lithuania National Convention in St. Petersburg Beach, FL. This was part of an effort to determine the status of the K of L and to see where we should be going in the future. The results of the survey were tabulated and presented to the National Executive Board at its meeting in Philadelphia in October. The National Executive Board decided that a summary of the survey results should be given to the general membership through publication in VYTIS. This is the first of two articles summarizing those results.

A total of 138 surveys were collected at the National Convention. Not all questions were answered on all surveys and more than one answer was allowed for certain questions. One should keep in mind while reading the summary of results that this was not a scientific survey. While we were able to obtain input about the activities of most councils because they were represented at the convention, the results may be somewhat skewed by the amount of representatives a council had at the convention. Also, those attending represent a unique group of members who are probably more active, on average, than our general membership.

The first part of the survey asked for some personal data. An alarming note was sounded about the make up of our membership by the fact that 83% of those responding were over the age of 50 (48% over 65)! 85% of those responding were either 1st or 2nd generation Lithuanian-Americans. Lithuanian can be spoken by 79% of those responding.

The distribution of those who fell into different brackets for years of membership was approximately constant in the 6-10, 11-20 and 21-40 year brackets, falling off slightly for lesser or greater years of service. Almost 3/4 held either the 3rd or 4th degree. Regular membership accounted for 88% of those answering, with the remainder divided evenly between associate and honorary membership.

Questions were asked about reasons for joining and continuing membership. Association with other Lithuanians

was the overwhelming reason for joining and staying in the K of L. Some members joined because of parish activity, the suggestion of a friend or pastor. A few joined because they were forced to join as a junior and because the K of L was the only Lithuanian organization around. As for remaining in the K of L, other popular answers were to participate in social activities, to promote awareness of Lithuania and its people, and to maintain one's heritage.

Participation in the K of L was very good among those responding, as 68% considered themselves involved members (holding office or heading committees) and 28% active members (attending meetings and activities).

Members were questioned about what they thought the primary objective of the K of L should be. Most responses dealt with striving for Lithuanian independence and promoting Lithuanian history and culture. Religious activities were found to be important as was continued aid to the church in Lithuania. Political action was mentioned by some. Others want to see efforts made towards unity of Lithuanians and with other Lithuanian organizations. Finally, encouraging youth to become part of the organization was also mentioned as an objective.

Members were asked to rate (on a scale of 1 to 10) a number of activities according to how much the K of L should be involved in those activities. Educating its members in Lithuanian customs and heritage received the highest rating. Next was political action and providing financial aid to the church and others in Lithuania. Spiritual guidance/development also ranked high. Receiving the lowest ratings were providing aid to immigrants and organizing tours and performances by Lithuanian groups.

The survey dealt with the religion and cultural activities of the members. Virtually all respondents attend services at a Lithuanian parish at least occasionally while 68% belonged to a Lithuanian parish. Most members have participated in Lithuanian religions or cultural activities, with the most attended activities being concerts by Lithuanian artists and folk/fine art exhibits. Almost half had participated in a Lithuanian language course and of those 1/3 were self taught. The survey asked in what areas the K of L should do more and the greatest percentages of responses were received for

providing aid to the Church in Lithuania and sponsoring cultural events.

The survey dealt with participation in Lithuanian affairs work. At least 84% have contacted congressmen or senators and 59% had done the same regarding the President and governors. Receiving the least contact were TV commentators and magazines. Among the reasons given for not contacting anyone were the dislike of writing letters, not knowing how to express thoughts in formal form, and laziness.

"Reasonably well informed" was given as the response by 69% of those surveyed regarding their knowledge of the situation in Lithuania. While 76% have participated in demonstrations for Lithuania, approximately the same percentage want to be more politically active in support of Lithuanian causes. They felt the K of L could help them become more active in Lithuanian affairs by providing easily understood information, better and more specific information, and providing it in a more timely fashion. They felt this could be done by communicating more with the councils' Lithuanian Affairs Chairmen.

The survey asked questions about council activities. This section appears to be especially enlightening because it shows that too many members are inactive and that councils are not doing enough to attract new and especially young members. Only 59% of those questioned can say that their council has recently encouraged the participation of youth in meetings or activities. Those that responded positively to this question listed history and language classes, social events, bowling, dancing, trips, picnics, festivals and holding office as some of the activities in which the youth have participated. Most respondents (81%) report their councils meet on a monthly basis. Attendance at meetings appears to be low because 71% say that less than 50% of their membership on average attend a meeting. When it comes to special activities membership participation increases, as 76% say that 50% or more of their membership participates in special activities. Unfortunately, a quarter of those surveyed say that at least 50% of their membership is never seen at a K of L function.

Efforts to recruit new members are also not encouraging because 47% say that their councils do not publicize their meetings outside their immediate Lithuanian community or church. Those who do try to recruit new members do so mostly through personal contact, church, carrying application cards, social activities, newspaper notices, radio, festivals, dinners, contests, written invitations to meetings, passing out flyers at ethnic events, advertising at libraries and encouraging friends and relatives to join. perhaps more councils could try some of these methods.

There are many important things one can learn about the K of L by carefully examining the results presented above. Obviously there are several areas where we should be concerned. We should talk about these results at our meetings and begin to act now to correct some of the causes for our concern.

The last part of the survey dealt with questions about the operation of the National Convention. Those results will be summarized in an issue closer to convention time so they will be fresh on our minds as we attend this year's convention in Allentown.

HIGHLIGHT FROM THE ARCHIVES

Formation of the Knights of Lithuania

Longinas Svelnis, Archive Chairman

As founder of the Knights of Lithuania Mykolas Norkunas saw Lithuanian youth being drawn away from the Catholic Church by mixed marriages, drinking and reading newspapers published by aggressive writers as Socialist and Freethinkers (socialistai ir laisvamia), there was a void that had to be filled with a Lithuanian Catholic organization for the youth. At a meeting of the L.K. Susivienimo in So. Boston, Rev. A. Kaupas opened the meeting and then excused himself stating he had urgent duty to perform. Rev. Kaupas joined Mykolas Norkunas, Rev. Miluko and Mato Miluko in a park where they prepared and reviewed text for a Catholic youth organization. A constitution was then prepared by Norkunas and S. Bugnavičius and reviewed by Rev. A. Jusaitis. The first Lithuanian Catholic youth organization called "Sakalai" had their first session in Lawrence, MA on April 27, 1913. Norkunas explained the purpose of the organization and read the constitution. Elections were held with Mykolas Norkunas, president; Augustas Jankauskas, vice president; Karolas Urbonas, treasurer; Steponas Bugnavičius secretary. In addition to those elected, the following were in attendance: Rev. A. Jusaitis, Miss Simonaitė, S. Mačiulkis, Miss Maciulkaitė and Vincas Pauliukaitis.

There were many protests in the selection of "Sakalai" as the name of the organization which was Mykolas Norkunas' choice. He then attended a meeting of the Federation Congress in Pittsburgh in August 1914 wherein the constitution was presented and asked for assistance in selecting a better name for this new Lithuanian youth organization. In attendance was Rev. A. Kaupas who suggested "Lietuvos Vyčiai". Everyone agreed with his suggestion and Rev. A. Kaupas

became the godfather of the organization.

It is interesting to note that the founder came from Lawrence, MA and the first meeting was held in Lawrence, MA. Yet, the charter was founded years later in the State of Illinois and not Massachusetts, the birthplace of the organization.

ATTENTION:

COUNCIL NEWS CORRESPONDENTS

Please note the deadlines for Council News. It is IMPORTANT that you are on time with your correspondence. Otherwise, your news becomes stale when it is not received before deadline dates:

1992 Deadlines are:

May Issue	April 1
June Issue	May 1
July-August Issue	June 1
September-October Convention Issue	August 1
November Issue	October 1
December Issue	November 1

Clip this notice and keep it next to your desk. Here's to better and timelier Council News.

ABOUT 'IN MEMORIAM'

Several years ago, VYTIS began a special section entitled 'IN MEMORIAM' which would be used to announce the death of members and to request other members to pray for the deceased. For this section to be really effective, it is important that the Editor be informed as soon as possible of the death of a member and the DATE of death.

In past issues, you will note that mention of deceased members was made after their death several months ago. There is no reason why immediate notice cannot be provided. Currently, the Staff receives information about a deceased member in one of a variety of ways ... direct communication from the family of the deceased (very rarely), mention in Council News, personal knowledge or from another member of the K of L. As a result, the death of some members is announced quickly whereas other announcements take several months. While it is true that "Eternity knows no time" and prayers offered at any time are important, we would like to treat all members equally and let the "IN MEMORIAM" column be as effective as possible in notifying members of the death of a fellow member quickly. Also, it is important that the deceased are remembered in a Mass said monthly by the National Spiritual Advisor. This can only be achieved if

we are so notified.

Why not designate someone from your Council to notify the VYTIS Editor of the death and date of a K of L member only.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

- April 26, 1992 - NED Meeting, St. Casimir's Church, New Haven, Host: C-50
- May 15-17, 1992 - MCD Meeting & Annual Bowling Tournament - Host: C-86, DuBois, PA
- May 24, 1992 - Centennial Organ Concert, K of L Choir, St. Andrew's Church, Calumet City, 3:00 p.m.
- May 25, 1992 - Memorial Day Program at St. Casimir's Cemetery, K of L Choir, 10:00 a.m. Mass.
- May 30, 1992 - National Executive Board Meeting, Allentown Hilton Hotel, Allentown, PA - Hosts: C-144 Anthracite, PA
- June 14, 1992 - C-152 Eastern Long Island, NY - Pilgrimage, Our Lady of Island Shrine, Eastport, NY
- June 14, 1992 - MAD Meeting, Kearny, NJ, Hosts: C-90, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Kearny, 10:00 a.m. Mass.
- June 19-21, 1992 - New England District Annual Retreat, Franciscan Monastery, Kennebunkport, ME
- July 5, 1992 - Ninth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival, Rosemont, IL
- July 16-19, 1992 - 79th National Convention, Allentown, PA. Hosts: C-144, Anthracite, PA
- September 25-28, 1992 - C-136 Hudson-Mohawk, NY - Pilgrimage, Kennebunkport, ME
- October 4, 1992 - C-90 Kearny, NJ, 75th Anniversary, LCC Center, Kearny, NJ
- October 10, 1992 - C-29 Newark - Annual Dinner/Dance at Holy Trinity Hall.

NEEDED - OLD ISSUES OF VYTIS

Vytis Staff wish to thank Victor Mathieu of Providence, RI, Violet Jocius of Chicago, IL and Rev. A. Contons of So. Boston, MA for supplying the Editor with needed back issues of VYTIS. However, should anyone have copies dating prior to 1948, please contact the Editor.



AID TO LITHUANIA DONATIONS
AUGUST 5 - DECEMBER 31, 1991

\$2,000

K of L Foundation

\$1,000

C-118, W. Hazleton, PA - C-144 Anthracite, PA

\$500

C-152 Eastern Long Island, NY

\$250

Mid-Central District

\$240

Lucia Puskepalaitiene, Dearborn, MI

\$200

Catherine Kurpowic, Cetroit, MI - Mary Trambush, Bloomfield Hills, MI - Janine Casey - New York, NY - Joan McKay, New York, NY - V. K. Vaitkevicius, MD, Pleasant Ridge, MI

\$178

Lithuanian Women's Club, St. Clair, PA

\$150

Antanas & Vida Pesys, Dearborn Hgts, MI

\$100

Adolfas Markevicius, Westland, MI - Aldona G. Affleck (IMO Chas. Lapinskas), Annadale, VA - Algimantas Brazenas, Royal Oak, MI - Anna Klizas Wargo, St. Clair, PA - Bruno Burgess, MD, Warren, MI - Daughters of Lithuania, Brighton, MI - C-17, So. Boston, MA - C-26, Worcester, MA - C-86, DuBois, PA - Lietuvos Sauliu Sajunga, Dearborn Hgts, MI - Mildred Jagiella (IMO Chas. Lapinskas), Annadale, VA - Joseph Walne (IMO Chas. Lapinskas) - Kostas Ciuzelis, Detroit, MI - Pat & Anthony Alexander, Torrington, CT - Mr. & Mrs. Cesys Sadeika, Farmington Hills, MI - Mr. & Mrs. Fred Wiggins, Bloomfield Hills, MI - Mr. & Mrs. Ignas Kaunelis, Westland, MI - Anne & Jos. White, S. Boston, MA - Mr. & Mrs. Raubiskis, Chicago, IL - Mary Bobbin, Phila., PA - Stella Hotra, Redford, MI - Irene Belza, Kearny, NJ - Peter Lapinskas (IMO Chas. Lapinskas), Annadale, VA - Petras Pagojus, Detroit, MI - Placidus & Vanda Balynas, Dearborn Hgts, MI - Rev. Alfonsas Babonas, Detroit, MI - Robert Boris, Bloomfield Hills, MI - S. Butkaus, Siauliu Kuopa, Dearborn Hgts, MI - Spring Hill Lithuanian-American Club, Spring Hill, FL

\$83

Sisters of Jesus Crucified, Frackville, PA

\$80

Rita Zakarka, Chicago, IL

\$75

Josephine Karosa, Detroit, MI - C-96, Dayton, OH - Mary & John Koons, Shenandoah, PA

\$70

Friends of J. Walne (IMO Chas. Lapinskas), Tecumseh, Ontario, Canada

\$55

Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Danco, Bridgewater, NJ

\$50

Alfonsas Lukas, Dearborn, MI - Andrius Butkunas, Farmington Hills, MI - Antanas Vaitiekus, Detroit, MI - C. Bankauskas, Dearborn Hgts, MI - Cecilia Gibson, Detroit, MI - Constance Dainus (IMSO Anthony Dainus), Taylor, MI - Donald Walne (IMO Chas. Lapinskas), Oxford, MA - Eugenija Bulotiene, Detroit, MI - Juozas & Stase Maciulaitis, Allen Park, MI - C-103, Providence, RI - Lillian Petravicius, Allen Park, MI - Lucija Puskepalaitiene, Dearborn, MI - Mrs. J. Asminas, Livonia, MI - L. Heiningas, Detroit, MI - Matas Baukys, Dearborn Hgts, MI - Mr. & Mrs. A. Laparskas, Warren, MI - Algerd & Aldona Brazis, Palos Heights, IL - Mr. & Mrs. J. Stanievich, Redford, MI - Mr. & Mrs. Jos. Stark, Orchard Lake, MI - Mr. & Mrs. R. Shumway (IMO Chas. Lapinskas), Worcester, MA - Mr. & Mrs. Ted Mitkus, Melvindale, MI - Mr. & Mrs. Walter Mallen, Detroit, MI - Rom Leparskas, Warren, MI - V. Leparskas, Detroit, MI - Ada Poderiene, Southfield, MI - Elizabeth Petroski, Redford, MI - Mary Keller, Plymouth, MI - Florence Zaleskas, S. Boston, MA - Rev. C. Butkus, Detroit, MI - Stanley Geldys, Belleville, MI - Lungen Svelnis, Needham, MA

\$40

Helen Alkus, Dearborn Hgts, MI - Jonas Bartkus, Dearborn Hgts, MI - Leonard Mason, Lincoln Park, MI, Al Rimba, Sterling Heights, MI - Vacys Slusnys, Detroit, MI

\$35

Anthony Kazlauskas (IMO Chas. Lapinskas), E. Greenwich, RI

\$30

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\$25

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\$20

Albinas Andriusaitis, Detroit, MI - Aldona Bodiga, W. Bloomfield, MI - Alfonsas & Elena Kasputis, Warren, MI - Alfonsas Juska, Sterling Hgts, MI - Anonymous - Anonymous - Antanas Osteika, Warren, MI - Antanas Zapareckas, W. Bloomfield, MI - Antanina Petrauskas, Davisburg, MI - Antanina Zakarka, Detroit, MI - Audrone Lentz, Southfield, MI - B. Girmius, MD, Allen Park, MI - B. Krakaitis, Romeo, MI - B. Neverauskas, Sterling Hgts, MI - Brone Virsila, Warren, MI - Casimir Ramasauskas, Livonis, MI - Ceslovas Pilura, Wyandotte, MI - Donna Naujokaitis, Dearborn, MI - E. Skiootys, Livonia, MI - Edward Mitkus, Detroit, MI - Emma & Frank Povilaitis, Troy, MI - Fr. Joseph Markalonis, T.O.R., Pittsburgh, PA - Genovaite Noriene - Detroit, MI - Jonas Bironas, Livonia, MI - Jonas & Janina Mikulionis, Sterling Hgts, MI - Julia Daukaite, Dearborn Hgts, MI - Juozas Duoba, Livonia, MI - Juozas Mika, Redford, MI - K. Kulikauskas, Redford, MI - C-102 (IMO Carl Gobis), Detroit, MI - Kazys Gogelis, Redford, MI - Lelevicius - Lillian Petravicius, Allen Park, MI - Ludvikas Grunovas, Detroit, MI - Anna Miller (IMO Chas. Lapinskas), Worcester, MA - Albinas Pusdesris, Redford, MI - Anthony Brazauskas (IMO Chas. Lapinskas), Worcester, MA - B. Rukstele, Farmington Hills, MI - Mr. & Mrs. C. Martellatta (IMO Chas. Lapinskas), Auburn, MA - Mr. & Mrs. Frank Mamavich (IMO Chas. Lapinskas), Worcester, MA - Mr. & Mrs. Rades, Livonia, MI - Mr. & Mrs. Rawlickis, Dearborn Hgts, MI - S. Bartkus, Detroit, MI - V. Lelis, Sterling Hgts, MI - Agnes Shoendorf, Maspeth, NY - Mrs. J. Juskiene, Detroit, MI - Mrs. J. Sayus, Warren, MI - Marija Zilenskiene, Detroit, MI - P. & A. Savickus, Dearborn, MI - Peter Kausteklis, Warren, MI - Pranas & Julia Zaranka, Redford, MI - Raymond Sakis, Rochester, MI - Robt. Jansauskas, Dearborn Hgts, MI - Stanislava Bublys, Birmingham, MI - Stanley Naumus, Dearborn, MI - Stase Bliudzius, Southfield, MI - Stase Vyclusiene, Detroit, MI - Stasys & Danute Petrauskas,

Detroit, MI - Stasys Slizys, Dearborn, MI - Ursule Vitiene, Detroit, MI - Vera Kobosh, W. Bloomfield, MI - Vincas Brazys, Livonia, MI - Vladas Slikas, Livonia, MI - Vytautas & Ona Valys, Detroit, MI - Stefanija Gladkauskas, Detroit, MI

\$15

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\$10

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Sun City, AZ - Ona Janaviciene, Detroit, MI - Peter Pack, Detroit, MI - Romas & Liuda Macioniai, Southgate, MI - Shirley Flynn (IMO Chas. Lapinskas), W. Boylston, MA - Simonas Bosas, Detroit, MI - Stase & Petras Bitleris, Detroit, MI - Stasys Garliauskas, Manchester, MI - Stella Podolski, Allen Park, MI - Theresa Vaitkunas, Detroit, MI - Tim Burke - V. Zebertavicius, Newport, MI - Vince Pacaitis

\$5

A. & Z. Janusis, Livonia, MI - Al Cicciora - Albina Lingis, Redford, MI - Alexandra Sedlickas, Detroit, MI - Elena Augaitiene, Detroit, MI - Elsa Kobel, Ornstead, MI -

Frank Szakaly, Detroit, MI - Julia Kisonis, Dearborn Hgts, MI - Laurel Sanderson (IMO Chas. Lapinskas), Worcester, MA - Linda Mingela, Sterling Hgts, MI - Rose Coporale (IMO Chas. Lapinskas), E. Douglas, MI - Mr. & Mrs. Bruno Sharkus (IMO Chas. Lapinskas), Worcester, MA - Mr. & Mrs. S. Carp (IMO Chas. Lapinskas), Worcester, MA - Adele Ulevich (IMO Chas. Lapinskas), Worcester, MA - Ona Kildusis (IMSO Chas. Lapinskas), Worcester, MA - Ona Kopacz, Southfield, MI - P. Mikstas, Dearborn Hgts, MI - Petras Petrauskas, Dearborn Hgts

\$2

Richard Strakys, Allen Park, MI

IN MEMORIAM

VITO AUGELIUS
C-116 Worcester, MA
† November 15, 1991

MARGARET ZUKAUSKAS
C-143 Pittston, PA
† February 4, 1992

SR. M. ALPHONSINE
C-36 Chicago, IL
† February 23, 1992

PETER MACIJAUSKAS
C-90 Kearny, NJ
† November 28, 1991

BEATRICE SHIMKUS
C-144 Anthracite, PA
† February 14, 1992

ANNA KAPAVITCH
C-50 New Haven, CT
† February 25, 1992

AGNES KISHEL
C-143 Pittston, PA
† January 23, 1992

JOSEPH VENSUS
C-110 Maspeth, NY
† February 15, 1992

VYTAUTAS JURGELA
C-17 So. Boston, MA
† March 8, 1992

WALTER SONGILE
C-90 Kearny, NJ
† February 3, 1992

FRANK YUDISKAS
C-153 Treasure Coast, FL
† February 18, 1992

SAMUEL MESHAKO
C-50 New Haven, CT
† March 9, 1992

FREDERICK BRENNAN
C-144 Anthracite, PA
† February 19, 1992

Reality is when your ship comes in and you find the IRS already on board — taking inventory.

There is hardly anybody good for everything, and there is scarcely anybody who is absolutely good for nothing.

Guest Speaker: "I wasn't always a speaker. Years ago I used to be a stockbroker and that's a fascinating business to be in. You'd be surprised how many people used to drive to our office in a Mercedes to get financial advice from people who came to work in a bus."

LIAUKITĖS AŠARAS LIEJA

Muz. A. Aleksis

Ligu - ki - tės a - ša - ras lie - ją, nu - liū - di - ma pa - mes - kit.
Vieš - pa - tie mūs! Je - zau Kristau, mes širdin - gai mel - dia - me,

Ir i Kris - tu i - ti - kė - jė, šir - džiai ra - my - bė ras - mit.
Duok mums, Tau Jau Pri - si - kė - lus, ka - da ir mes kel - si - me,

Nes, Jūs kė - lės štai gar - bin - gai, kaip pra - ne - ša mums tei - šin - gai,
Su Sventai - siais Dan - guj' bū - ti, am - ži - nai mums ne - pra - zu - ti,

Al - le - lu - ja, Al - le - lu - ja, te - gul skam - ba Al - le - lu - ja.



Council News

Vyčiai Veikia

AMBER DISTRICT

This is a belated report for the Amber District and the meeting held in Pittston on Oct. 6. C-143 graciously hosted the gathering and the members provided a large measure of hospitality in the form of delicious meals, friendly and helpful courtesy.

Ceremonies were opened with a procession of American and Lithuanian flags followed by the newly acquired Amber District flag carried into St. Casimir's Church. Mass was celebrated by Msgr. Gerald Burns, pastor. C-143 members contributed to the Lithuanian character of the ceremony by wearing ethnic costumes and bearing gifts in the Offertory procession consisting of picture of St. Casimir, a lily, branch of ruta, image of the Vytis knight on his horse, and a cross depicting a wayside shrine which preceded the water, wine and wafers.

C-143 pres. Nellie Romanas welcomed the Amber District delegates and Fr. Rosetti led the invocation before dinner. Current officers presented their reports and members enjoyed the informative coverage provided by the delegates to the national convention in St. Petersburg. Agnes Mickunas & Elsie Kosmisky were proud to announce that sixteen Amber District members received their Fourth Degrees at the convention. Of the four scholarships awarded, three of them were received by members of the Amber District.

A letter from the national president Fran Petkus, advised that all councils must conduct elections at their October meeting. The District followed suit with re-election of many incumbents with a few officers elected to new duties. They are as follows: John Mickunas, pres.; Elsie Kosmisky, vice pres.; Agnes Mickunas, rec. sec.; Eleanor Vaicaitis, treas.; trustees, Charles Yuscavage, one year, Nellie Bayoras Romanas, 2 yrs.; Albert Klizas, Lith. Affairs; John Mankus, cultural; Anna Helen McDonald, pub. relations; Ausra Maknys,

Vytis corres.; Ritual, Anne Challon, one year, Helen Chesko, 2 yrs., Diane Drumstas, 3 yrs.

C-118 Hazleton graciously volunteered to host the meeting held on March 8 in Hazleton. *Ausra Maknys*

C-1 BROCKTON, MA

As the world focused on the opening of Winter Olympic Games in France, Brockton, too, had their own winter Olympics, the 48th Snowflake Ball.

The evening was perfect, the scene of falling snow as only God could arrange, was so majestic to 150 brave, courageous, excited polka athletes who found their way to the Canoe Club. It was a scene to behold. They were dressed in their finest suits and dresses, new and old shoes, jewelry and, of course, amber made its debut. The tables were decorated with Lithuanian flags. Flowers on the stage stood proudly in their striking colors of yellow, green and red beside the awesome banner announcing "Lithuania is Free". Our mistress of ceremonies, Veronica Cote, welcomed everyone to join in a prayer of thanksgiving for Lithuania's freedom. A moment of silence was observed to commemorate our heroes who died for freedom and with joyful love to sing our national anthem, "Lietuva Tėvyne Mūsų.



C-1 Brockton Snowflake Ball Committee: Fran Bunila, Doris Fralick, Sylvia Shukis, Sr. Helen, Florence Carnilla, Dianne DiBoig. Seated: Veronica Bizinkauskas, pres., Edward Cominski, vice pres.



Vytas Ivanauskas & wife of C-17 So. Boston reigned as King & Queen of Snowflake Ball sponsored by C-1 Brockton.

receive the gift of hearing. Aušra was born without an ear and through the efforts of Lithuanian Children's Relief (formerly SOS Vaikai) is here for surgery.

The event of the evening, the selection of the King and Queen, was upon us. Mr. & Mrs. Vytas Ivanauskas of So. Boston were the winners. They were presented with flowers and a gift certificate to a restaurant. The new king and queen were called forth to dance for us. A tango was their choice. God bless our King and Queen. As the evening came to a close, everyone stood holding hands and sang "God Bless America" with all the praise and glory that belongs to God.

Other events of the week celebrating our independence were the flag-raising by our Mayor at City Hall. Mass at St. Casimir's Church preceded the ceremony.

C-1 Vyčiai may not be many in number but our spirit cannot be matched.

RUTA



C-3 Phila. hostess to National Exec. Board meeting: Diane Drumstas, Ona Kowrak, Lillian Greymas & Irene Ozalis.

The program was turned over to Veronica Bizkaskas, our president. She introduced Aušra Stogytė who is so blessed to be in the U.S. to

C-10 ATHOL-GARDNER, MA

In Feb. our council sponsored the first anniversary of the newly restored independence of Lithuania in St. Francis Church hall. The observance began at 2 p.m. with the singing of the national hymns followed by the invocation given by Pres. Bill Wisniauskas who also served as master of ceremonies for the occasion. Ann Kiley, select woman of Athol, extended the greetings from the Town of Athol. The Berzelis Dance Group of Hartford under the direction of Jonas Kodis received a standing ovation. A sing-along followed. The program ended with the singing of "Marija, Marija". Council members treated the capacity crowd to coffee and goodies. A sit down supper followed for members, invited guests and dancers.

Nellie Melaika and Natalie Berghenti were refreshment co-chairs. Howie Beaudette was set up chairman, Bill Wisniauskas handled publicity. Brone Wisniauskas decorated and Blanche Genaitis was in charge of greetings.

Condolences are extended to Julie Meshan and family on the untimely death of son-in-law. Rest in peace!

Vincukas

C-50 NEW HAVEN, CT

Congratulations to Viola & Albert Plant who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary! Welcome to Anthony & Eileen Dickus who were recently sworn in as new members.

Lithuanian Independence Day began with the raising of the Lithuanian flag on the New Haven Green on Feb. 16. Members and friends attended this observance. The following Sunday, after Mass, a wreath was placed at the Wayside Cross at St. Casimir's. Soon after, the church hall provided the setting for speakers and refreshments which were planned by Lithuanian Culture Chairman Joseph Karmuza.

The St. Casimir's Day dinner was a time to share good food, music and the company of K of L members and St. Casimir's parishioners. Thanks go to Frank Antin and his committee.

C-50 is preparing to host the Spring New England District meeting. Audrey Toole

C-52 ELIZABETH, NJ

Governor of New Jersey, Jim Florio, signed a proclamation recognizing the anniversary of independence of the Lithuanian State occurring on Feb. 16, 1918. Attending were council members Ruth Brazinski, Ann Baronas, Vincent & Mary Mackelis, Stanley & Ann Valatka,

together with a number of parishioners.

C-52 commemorated St. Casimir's Day on March 1 at Mass in Sts. Peter & Paul Church followed by a buffet dinner in the parish hall. Rev. Alfred Zemeikis, pastor, celebrated the Mass. Gina Zingerman was the soloist at Mass. Julius Veblaitis, a retired educator who recently participated in a cultural exchange program in Lithuania was the guest speaker.

Bill Senkus

C-74 SCRANTON, PA

The 13th Annual Diocesan Ethnic Rosary was held Feb. 2 at St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton. The rosary was recited in Lithuanian, Gaelic, Slovak, Italian, Polish & Ukranian. The Knights from C-74 and C-143 together with members from American Lithuanian Community, and parishioners of St. Joseph, St. Michael & St. Casimir churches joined to say the third decade in Lithuanian. Alicia Foley carried the crown and Eliz. George crowned the Virgin statue.

Our annual flag raising at Scranton City Hall with Mayor Connors proclaiming Feb. 16 as Lithuanian Independence Day was held. The Lithuanian flag flew from City Hall for the month. Richard Laske was chairperson. There were many other participants. Marie Laske & Ann Lisowski served refreshments.

Our Lithuanian Independence Day Mass was celebrated at St. Peter's Cathedral and was televised. Those in the procession included Marie Laske, Anna Saka, Rosalie Kistis



C-74 & 143 in pocession at Ethnic Rosary at St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton.

and Nell Romanas. Immediately after Mass, we were served refreshments in the Chancery Building. *Marie Laske*



C-103 Providence at Citizen of year Mark Zelonis banquet, attending were Beatrice Mathieu and Bertha Stoskus.

C-103 PROVIDENCE, RI

St. Casimir's Day was celebrated with Mass followed by breakfast in the church hall.

Fr. A. Jurgelaitis, OP was invited to speak to our council at our regular meeting. He showed us a tape which he made while visiting Lithuania this past September. He happened to be in Vilnius when the coup took place and it was kind of scary. The people were told to do what the coup said or else would be punished. All TV and radio stations were shut down including the telephone lines. Father was there when they took down the statue of Lenin. He even brought back with him a small piece of the statue. His film showed many beautiful paintings in the churches, the people and the parks.

At this meeting, the new officers were installed. Tony Sidla received his Second Degree. *Tony*

C-110 MASPETH, NY

February was a busy month for us. During the first week, our council received a warm thank you from the "Jiezno" Orphanage for the six packages of clothing we sent to them in Lithuania. Many of our members helped Ann Morrissey pack, sort and label 26 cartons of miscellaneous clothing which were later taken to the Lithuanian Culture Centre for shipment to Lithuania in their huge cargo container.



C-110 Maspeth at New York City Mayor Dinkin's Office receiving proclamation on Lithuanian Independence Day.

On Feb. 11 about 36 members witnessed the proclamation declared by New York City Council and Mayor Dinkins honoring Feb. 16 as Lithuanian Independence Day. Our council represented 75% of the attendees. Thanks to Al Marcel, our Lithuanian publicity representative.

On Feb. 16 after Mass, Msgr. Bulovas helped us celebrate Lithuanian Independence Day with special prayers of thanksgiving. We enjoyed a light brunch. Al Marcel received a proclamation from Gov. Cuomo honoring this special day which was viewed and read. Later in the afternoon, Iggy & Evelyn Walles, Jean, Brian & Bruno Rutkunas, Ann Akalitis, Helen Matulonis, Helen Venis, Dot Sakal, Kazys & Elena Vainus joined Rev. Wicks and Msgr. Bulovas to attend the special events and concert at the Cultural Center sponsored by the Lithuanian American Community. We heard music by Mozart, Schubert, Puccini and others performed by Lithuanian artists.

A K of L Wake Service for Joe Venskus was held at the funeral home. There were many K of L members who attended. May he rest in peace and solitude!

C-100 AMSTERDAM, NY

The 74 anniversary of Lithuania's Independence was observed with a special Mass at St. Casimir's Church with Fr. J. Grabys as celebrant and homilist. The entrance procession with the carrying of the American and Lithuanian flags by Gerard Drenzek & Daniel SantaMaria included members in native costume. Readers were Assemblyman Paul Tonko in English and Polly Ziausys in Lithuanian. Dinner and program followed in Fr. Baltch's Social Center with over 100 in attendance. Mirga Bablin was the mistress of ceremonies.

She presented our special guests from the Amsterdam Memorial Hospital and thanked them for their participation in providing medical aid for Lithuania. In gratitude for the medical equipment, an artistic silk screen was presented to Fred Quist who represented the hospital. Bernice Aviza, Polly & Ed Ziausys were also recognized for their work in transporting donations to Catholic Religious Aid in Brooklyn.

Assemblyman Paul Tonko presented Gov. Cuomo's proclamation for Lithuanian Independence Day in the State of New York. Vice pres. Gobis read the proclamations of Gov. Cuomo, Sen. Farley and Mayor Villa of Amsterdam. Main

speaker Elva Marciulonis, recently arrived from Lithuania spoke about her practice in the City of Kaunas where she is also a member of Caritas. She was born in Siberia when her parents were exiled. Upon returning to Lithuania, she noticed that the land was the same but the country's freedom was completely suppressed by the communist government.

Twelve members of the Samburys Lithuanian Folk Dance group from Boston danced a number of lively folk dances. At the conclusion of the event, we remembered our past spiritual advisor Fr. Baltch and past pres. Anthony Radzavich who were with us in spirit.

We commend the following committee for their good work: Regina Kot, Betty Kuzmich, Bill Burimauskas, Walt Sargalis, Wm. Jasiewicz, Ed Bablin, Kristin Olechowski, Julianne Nikstenis, Sophie Olbie, Gerry Drenzek, Michael Mikolaitis, Adeline Raila, Mirga Bablin, Ed Ziausys and others that the council news editor may have missed. A special thank you to Polly Ziausys for her chairmanship.

C-112 CHICAGO, IL

C-112 members welcomed Zenon Petraikis as guest speaker at their Feb. meeting. Most appropriately — he is a tax expert — and we paid close attention to his words of advice. It was also announced that our 50/50 raffles held after the meetings since the start of the year have netted \$145 for medical supplies for Lithuania.

A degree presentation ceremony was held after the meeting. Receiving First Degrees were Sr. Angela Balciunas, Joanna Danilevicius, Dr. Ferdinand Kaunas, Saulius Kuprys, Sr. Maurita Sharko, Lillian Muzereus, Donald Petkus, Vincent Petrosius, Regina Pollack and Stanley Yurkus. Those



C-112 Chicago Pres. Don Petkus

Before the meeting, members gathered to pay their last respects to long-time member, Mike Lawrence. Mike was a familiar face at many K of L events for many years and he will be missed. Our condolences to his wife, Terry, and family members. Friends and relatives gathered at a one-year memorial mass for Al Zakarka on Feb. 22. His presence is still very much missed at all K of L functions.

Thanks to C-112 members Al Brazis, Ellie Kasputis & Estelle Rogers for working so hard to make the Memories of Lithuania banquet a success. They are truly Super-Super ticket sellers. As usual, it was a pleasure hearing Robert Mockus playing the accompaniment for the singers on the program.

Gerrie Chaplin and Ruth Dagis hosted a surprise 85th birthday celebration for their mother, Stella Kantaut. Friends, relatives and C-112 members helped make this a memorable day for her

Gerrie

C-136 HUDSON-MOHAWK, NY

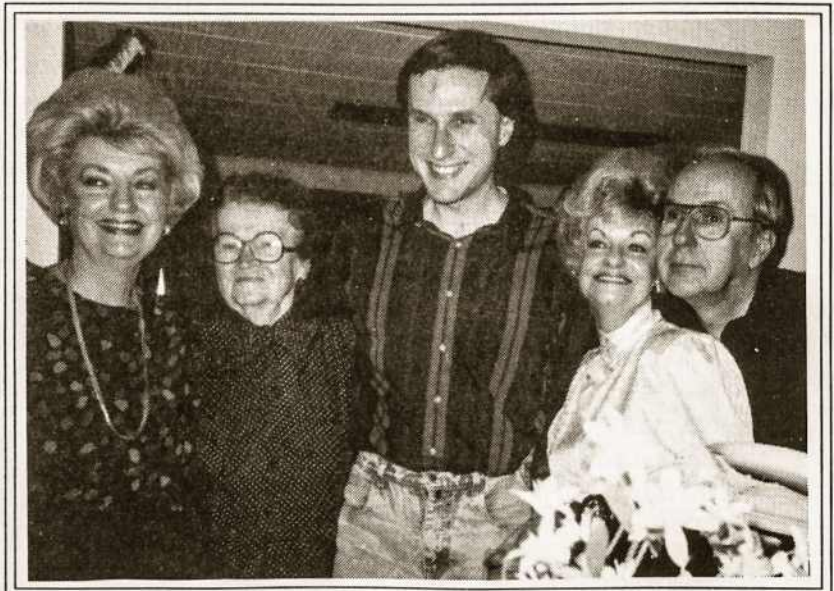
At our Feb. monthly meeting, members observed silent prayer in honor of our dear departed sister, Anne Zebuda. Her husband Frank and her sister Gen Deery who survive her, are loyal members and true friends. We will all miss Anne and we offer our love and sympathy to her family.

In response to requests, our council voted to donate \$100 each to the Aid to Lithuania Fund and the Lithuanian Embassy Fund. We felt they were both worthy causes desperately in need Members, Bernice Aviza, Ed & Virginia Barkowski, Helen LaPierre, Betty

receiving & Joan Parker, Fran Stanonis and Dot & Sim Richmire all attended the celebration of Lithuanian Independence hosted by C-100 Amsterdam. It was a time for prayer and reflection, good fellowship, excellent food and celebration Members attended the MAD meeting in Brooklyn on March 8. Ed Barkowski, Bernice Aviza, Helen LaPierre, Shelly Levine & Betty Parker represented our council Irene Tice & husband in Florida....Our celebration of Lithuanian Independence was held on March 12. We began with Mass offered by Fr. James Mackey and our spiritual leader, Deacon Frank Yankowski, assisting. A covered dish supper followed. C-100 was represented. *Dot Richmire*

C-141 BRIDGEPORT, CT

Who would have believed just a few years ago that Lithuanians the world over would be celebrating a true independence day this Feb. 16. We, in Bridgeport, filled our church with hymns and prayers of thanksgiving during Mass on Feb. 16. A bountiful brunch and program followed in the church hall. The Vetra Folk Dancers entertained beautifully. Main speaker, Gita Kupcinkas, a highly qualified professional member of APPLE, who spent last summer in Vilnius in seminars in valuable exchanges of ideas and methods with teachers in Lithuania. Her captive audience found her presentation interesting and it was obvious she enjoyed the experience. She plans to repeat it again next summer. She informed us that it is now possible to join the Peace Corps and work in Lithuania if you are qualified.



C-112 Chicago members Gerrie Chaplin & Ruth Dagis with their mother Stella Kantaut sharing 85th birthday festivities. Grandson Robert Mockus and his father Al Mockus were also present.

The next day a large group gathered at the Baldwin Plaza for the annual flag raising ceremony. Both national anthems were sung. "Marija, Marija" was added asking her everlasting protection of the beloved land of our forefathers. A breakfast at a local diner ended the morning in a warm camaraderie.

Recently hospitalized were Peter Radzwillas, Ann Petrus, Charles Yokstas, Bob Marcavage, Al & Terry Trainis. May good health be theirs in the future. We wish you well.

Aldona Marcavage

C-144 ANTHRACITE, PA

In an atmosphere of mixed emotions, both solemn and joyous, members of C-144 held a Mass and buffet luncheon at Our Lady of Siluva Church in Maizeville to commemorate the 74th anniversary of Lithuania's independence on Feb. 16. Mass was celebrated by spiritual advisor Fr. Matthew Jarasunas. Concelebrants were Msgr. Anthony Wassel, pastor of St. Joseph's in Mahanoy City and Fr. Bowler, pastor of Holy Cross in Mt. Carmel. Friends of Siluva Choir sang the Lithuanian hymns. Co-chairladies were Pat Roberts and Anna Helen McDonald with a cooperative committee. Pres. Olympia Zelinski welcomed members and guests. She also read Gov. Casey's proclamation for Lithuanian Independence Day. Proclamations were also received from House of Representatives and the Senate presented by Rep. E. J. Lucyk and Sen. James Rhoades, respectively. The speaker was our newly elevated Msgr. Anthony Wassel.

We had two very special guests from Lithuania. Irene Zdonaviciene and Lucy Zorbaitė received the first two visas issued by the American Embassy in Lithuania. Lucy recited some of her poems while Irene spoke briefly. Tom McDonald provided music during the meal.

Before the program came to a close, the choir had the members joining in a sing-along. Many of the songs brought back fond memories. It concluded with benediction by Fr. Jarasunas, the singing of Lithuanian hymn and a Sirdingai Ačiū from co-chair Anna Helen McDonald.

Schuylkill County Commissioners Conway, Sheers & Shollengerger adopted a proclamation declaring Feb. 16 as Lithuanian Independence Day in Schuylkill County. Anna Helen McDonald, secretary of C-144 and Joseph Martunas, C-144 Lithuanian affairs chairman were present Anna Klizas Wargo and Helen Chesko witnessed

the signing of the proclamations declaring Feb. 16 as Lithuanian Independence Day in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by Gov. Robert Casey in Harrisburg.

C-144 mourns the passing of Frederick Brennan, a charter member on Feb. 19 and Beatrice Shimkus on Feb. 14. Fr. Jarasunas and Joseph Yezulinas conducted the wake service for Beatrice Shimkus of Mahanoy City. Pres. Zelinskas & Fr. Jarasunas led the members in the wake service for Fred Brennan of Frackville. May they rest in peace.

Congratulations to Jack Joseph who was recently honored as the "Man of the Week" by the Evening Herald, our local newspaper. Jack is a loyal Knight, a good Elk, a friend of the veterans, and a valuable citizen working for the betterment of the community.

C-146 HARRISBURG, PA

Our council was notified that the Foreign Policy Assn. of Harrisburg was going to have as their speaker, Lithuanian Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis from Washington. At Gigantes Restaurant many of our members were present. However, that evening we were informed Mr. Lozoraitis would not be present since he was called to Italy. Victor Nakas who serves as Press Secretary at the Embassy was sent in his place. He proved to be very knowledgeable and informative. He was very helpful in answering questions from the audience. Pres. Lorraine Grabauskas and Vice Pres. Eileen West were invited to sit at the head table.

The Grabauskas family traveled to Washington in Jan. to see Carol Grabauskas receive her Masters in International



C-146 Harrisburg vice pres. Eileen West, Victor Nakas of Lithuanian Embassy in Washington and president Lorraine Grabauskas attending Foreign Policy Association dinner in Harrisburg.

Education from American University. She is employed as Program Officer for Graduate School USDA in Washington.

Our Feb. meeting was held at the home of Joan & Dan Suders. We were thankful for the good weather that enabled many of our members to attend. We thank the Suders for their hospitality and beverages served after the meeting.

Pres. Lorraine Grabauskas and some members attended the Amber District meeting on March 8 ... Our bank account needs replenishing. Our president will arrange for a bake sale at Capitol City Mall in the near future. *Helen Grabauskas*

C-150 KANSAS CITY, KS

Two members of our council, Charlie & Paul Purduski were presented plaques in recognition of their contribution to the Lithuanian Community in Kansas City at the Ethnic Council's "Winterfest" dinner-dance on Feb. 1. Charles & Paul Purduski's parents came to Kansas City in the early 1900's and were active in the old St. Casimir Church and Lithuanian activities during their lives, as their family has continued to be. We congratulate the two brothers. In addition, the Mayor of Kansas City, Kansas presented a proclamation recognizing the freedom of Lithuania to Kazys Zemaitis. The Lithuanian Aidans dancers were featured performers during the evening. A lovely time was had by all.

Kansas City's newly formed K of L Choir gave their debut performance at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church on Feb. 16 at a special Mass commemorating Lithuania's original declaration of independence in 1918. Members of the choir are: Marion Koia, organist, Dolores & Paul Purduski, Anita Strumillo, Edith A. Christine, Dave Tollefson & Lou Ann Rayn, director. Gail Varnum assisted with Lithuanian language. After Mass, the community met for a social hour and dinner at St. Joseph's Church Hall sponsored by the Lithuanians of America organization. Speakers at the dinner included Francis Slobotnik, a member of the Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family & Property, which obtained over five million signatures on a petition requesting freedom for Lithuania last year.

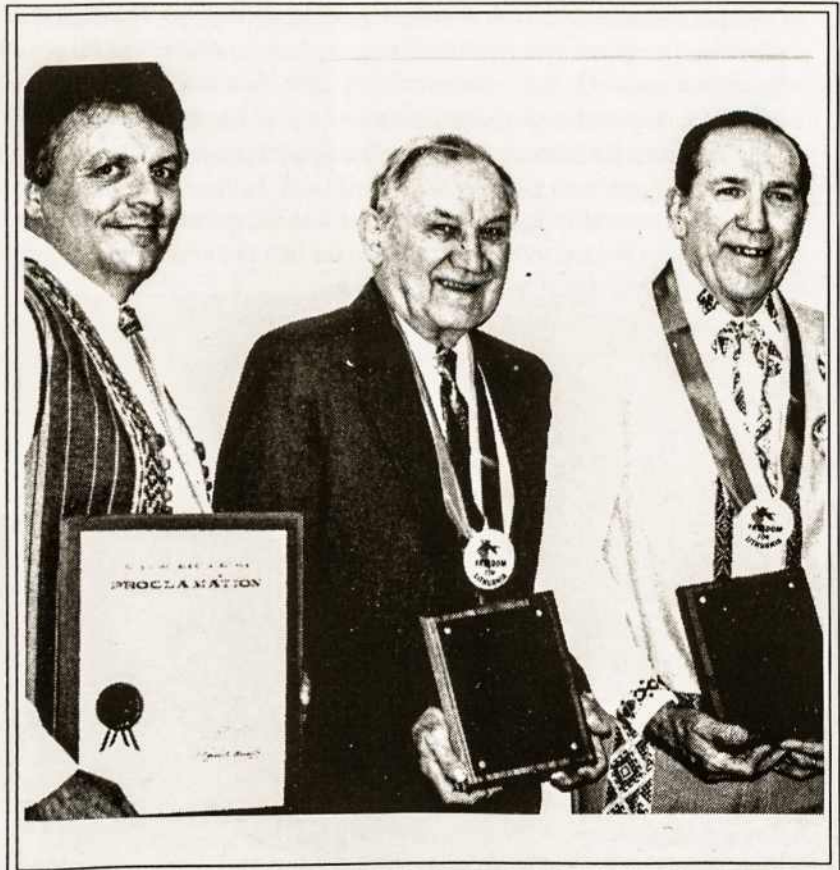
The Kansas City group hopes to launch a fund drive to assist the Lithuanian Embassy with expenses as its 1992 project.

Lou Ann Rayn

C-152 EASTERN LONG ISLAND, NY

For our council, the high point of the winter season is our annual tribute to St. Casimir, observed by Mass and Communion in his honor, followed by a meal and social gathering for our Knights, their friends and guests. This year, on March 1, we celebrated this event with Mass, offered by our spiritual advisor, Fr. William R. Scrill, at Our Lady of Ostrabrama Church in Cutchogue, NY and attended by a very gratifying number of Knights and guests. The ethnic significance of the occasion was emphasized by the wearing by many ladies present of their colorful national costumes. A selection of traditional Lithuanian hymns was presented during Mass by a choral group led by Fred Lucka.

Immediately prior to commencing the Mass, Fr. Scrill inducted two groups of our Knights into the First and Second Degrees. The First Degree was awarded to Peter Kenny, Doris Marcinka, George & Monica Mutlos, Donna Summers, Delbert & Sabina Vance. Recipients of the Second Degree were Agnes Dunn, Edith & Frank LoPiccolo, Millie Monteiro, Walter Niksa & Antoinette Sakal. Our heartiest



C-150 Kansas City, Kazys Zemaitis, Charles Purduski and Paul Purduski.

congratulations to all!

Immediately following Mass, Knights and guests adjourned to the Southold Town Recreation Center in Peconic, for a sit-down lunch enjoyed by over 100 persons. Our guest speaker on this joyous occasion was Msgr. Frank Bulovas, recently retired after many fruitful years as pastor of Transfiguration Lithuanian Church in Maspeth, NY. Many thanks to Committee co-chairpersons Muriel Lekstutis Zambuto and Agnes Marma.

Finally, the continued prayers of our readers are asked for God's mercy upon our long-suffering brother, Tony Zambuto.
Tom Tarmey

C-154 SPRING HILL, FL

We dedicated the month of February to the freedom of our beloved Lithuania. There were no "bombs bursting in air" but there was a show of our flags, supplied by Josephine Zukas of Great Neck C-109 as we attended the sacrifice of Mass at St. John's Church in St. Petersburg. This joyous celebration emphasized the taste of victory following that struggle for freedom. The celebrant, Fr. Contons concelebrated the Mass. In the sanctuary, Bishop Pumpys and the Rev. Dr. Gerulis of the Lithuanian Lutheran community in St. Petersburg, added their prayers to ours in the spirit of ecumenism. Fr. Contons delivered a stirring homily. He outlined the noble efforts of those Lithuanians who so hungered for freedom that they suffered humiliations and even death to once again be free. In conclusion, Father declared that we can really say World War II is finally over. May peace and freedom be forever the reward.

The Lithuanian Choir of St. Petersburg provided the music and songs during the liturgy. At the recessional, we raised our voices in singing the Lithuanian National Anthem. What a stirring conclusion to this Mass of Thanksgiving. God has indeed heard and answered our prayers.

Following Mass, we toured St. John's Place, a waterfront community. Then we had dinner at "Scandia", a famous restaurant in St. Petersburg.

The following week, our council went to Gulfport to the Most Holy Name of Jesus Church where we participated in an all Lithuanian Mass. Fr. Steponas, assisted by a number of Lithuanian priests concelebrated this beautiful ethnic Mass. After Mass, we attended dinner at the American Lithuanian Club of St. Petersburg, where we were warmly greeted by the local K of L.

Mid-February we attended a pot luck dinner with the American-Lithuanian Social Club members of Spring Hill. Following dinner, we were invited to attend a seminar

sponsored by the new hospital - HCA Bayonet Point/Hudson Medical Center. We were made aware of the health care programs initiated by this very modern institution. Questions were fielded from the audience. This



*C-152 Eastern Long Island, NY Pres.
Muriel Lekstutis Zambuto*

was an excellent opportunity for us to voice our concerns insofar as our health problems are presenting themselves. This proved to be a very worthwhile endeavor.

On Feb. 26 we went to Clearwater to Bill Irle's Theatre to have lunch and then to view a presentation of the play, "The Owl and the Pussycat". A real treat for us who love live theater.

Although the month of Feb. came to an end, our concerns are prayers for our Lithuania which will never see an end.

Sadye G. Petraitis

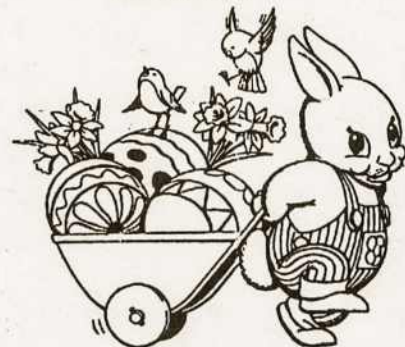


Blessed and Happy Easter

from

Irene & Edward Senken

**C-12 New York, NY
members**



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1992



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AH, SPRING IS HERE



Spring is officially here— Nothing you hear, smell or see can change it.

Even if the snow drifts block our paths as it did on the East coast the last day of winter, the season will still be spring. Officially, it arrived at 10:02 EST March 20 as a welcome interlude between winter and summer which arrives June 21.

Marked by longer days and warmer weather, Spring is a state of mind. With the blossoming of the first hyacinths, lilacs and daffodils, thoughts turn to spring cleaning, home improvement, home buying, lawn maintenance, planting and spring fashions plus plans for a summer get away.

As flowers bloom, barbecues, picnic baskets, lawn mowers and holiday preparations begin to appear. When warmer temperatures advance, there is a renewal of the spirit — the body mechanism adjusts to slow us down in preparation of the lazy and warm days of summer.



THE WORLD NEEDS

A little more kindness and a little less creed,
A little more giving and a little less greed;
A little more smile and a little less frown;
A little less kicking a man when he's down;
A little more "we" and a little less "I"
A few more laughs and a little less cry;
A few more flowers on the pathway of life,
And fewer on graves at the end of the strife.

