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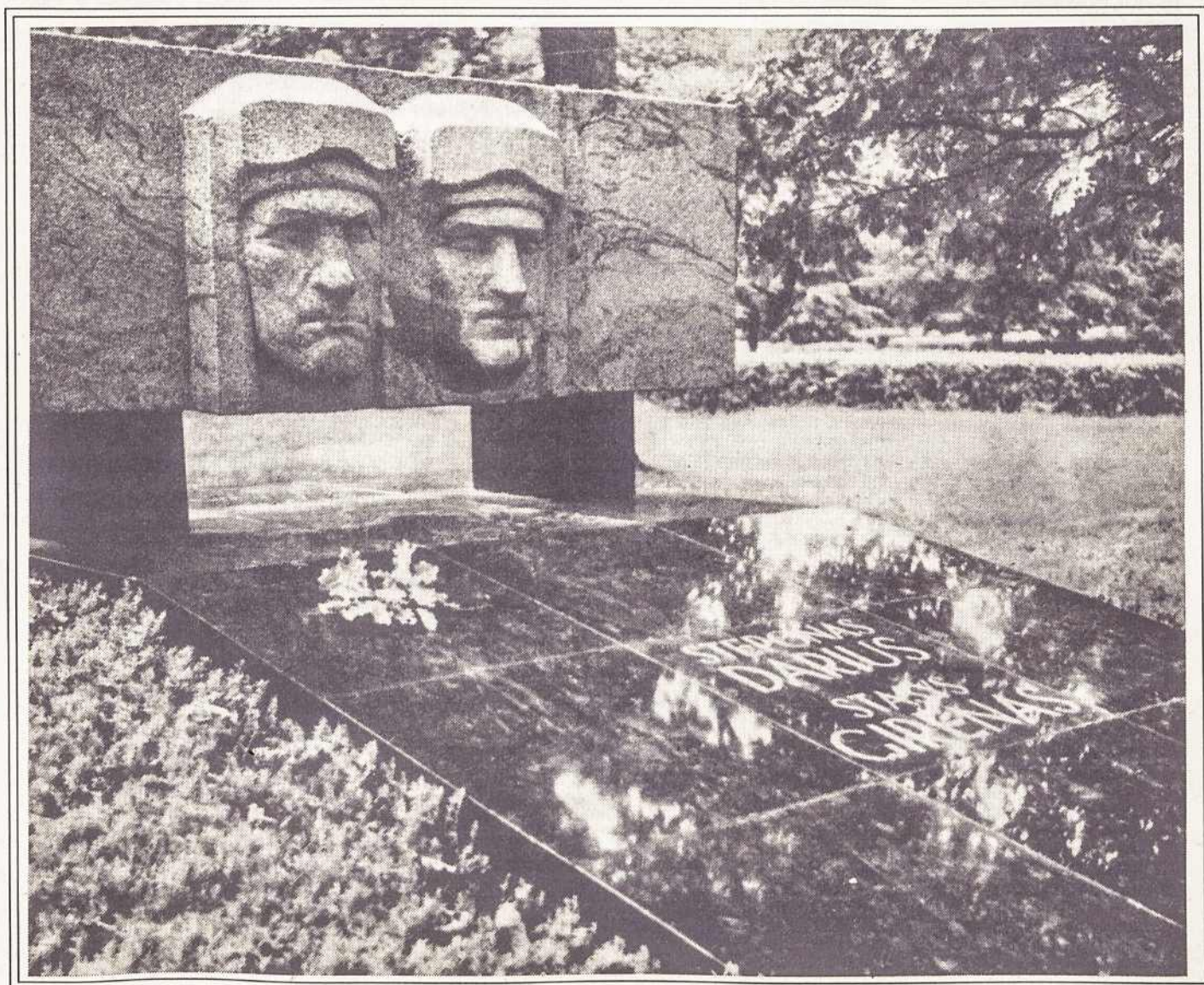
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

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VYTIS

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Happy **4th of JULY**

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Rulers of Lithuania. . .

GRAND PRINCE KESTUTIS (1381-1382)

by Edward Baranauskas



Kestutis became the ruler of Lithuania following a coup d'état that led to the abdication and ouster of Grand Prince Jogaila in November of 1381, but his reign was very brief. His life came to an abrupt and unexpected end in one of the most tragic chapters in the history of the Lithuanian nation.

The exact year of his birth is not known, but it is believed to be about 1300. In fact, some historians are not sure if he was the fourth or fifth son of Gediminas, who has been called the true founder of the Lithuanian state. Kestutis was married twice, but there are no historical sources that show his first wife's name, where she came from, or the year she died. They had three sons, Patirgas (some sources also called him Patrikas), Vaidotas, and Butautas. His second wife was Birute and they were married about 1350. Their chance meeting on the beach at Palanga, and resulting marriage became a romantic legend that still exists

among Lithuanians today. They had six children, and all three of their daughters (Miklause, Danute, and Ringaile) were married to Christian princes. But, the most famous of their offspring was their first child, a son named Vytautas. He became the best known and probably the most revered of all of Lithuania's rulers, Vytautas the Great. Their other two sons were Tautvilas and Žygimantas, who became the Grand Prince of Lithuania two years after the death of his brother, Vytautas.

Kestutis had a real talent as a warrior and a war leader, and was respected by his enemies. The Chronicles of the Teutonic Order praised him as a brave, humane and a just man. When he prepared to attack, he would give due warning and did so promptly. After a battle, he would restrain his men from cruelty and improper behavior towards the prisoners. All sources emphasized his dynamic personality and courage. Thanks to him, the Crusaders started to respect Lithuania as a country that observed the ethics of war.

The Lithuanian Chronicles of 1338 mention Kestutis and his six brothers for the first time, and the lands that their father Gediminas appointed them to govern. Kestutis was assigned to rule the western part of Lithuania, which at that time was known as the principality of Trakai. This territory stretched from Livonia (Latvia) in the north to Volynia (Ukraine) in the south. It included the land of Samogitia, known today as Žemaitija. Its capital was Trakai, which was the ancient residence of Lithuania's rulers, and second only to Vilnius in importance. At the time of his father's death in 1341, Kestutis was the Prince of Trakai.

Jaunutis, the youngest of the brothers, became the ruler of Lithuania following the death of his father. He was not a capable leader as the unity of the nation was in jeopardy because of domestic and foreign conflicts. The Teutonic Knights and their allies were planning a crusade against Kestutis in the west just as the Livonian Order was threatening Algirdas in the east. Algirdas, his older brother, was the Prince of Vitebsk and ruled this Slavic principality,

located about 210 miles northeast of Vilnius. These dangers convinced both brothers that Jaunutis had to be replaced if the Lithuanian nation was to survive. In the winter of 1344-45, Kestutis and his army marched into Vilnius from nearby Trakai, occupied the palace and dethroned Jaunutis. Algirdas and his army arrived shortly thereafter. Even though Kestutis recognized his older brother as the supreme ruler of Lithuania, they agreed to be equal partners in government and to support each other. The chronicles of the Teutonic Order sometimes referred to them as "both kings" (*ambo reges*).

Because the Lithuanians regarded religion with indifference, they paid a terrible price for their pagan beliefs. The Teutonic Knights were their most powerful and dangerous enemies whose ultimate goal was to conquer and convert them to Christianity. Kestutis had to carry the heaviest burden of the fighting against them, and participated in every battle. In 1361, he had the misfortune of being captured and was sent to their headquarters in Marienburg. At first, an attempt was made to put him to death. When his captors discovered, much to their surprise, that he was the Lithuanian ruler, he was taken before the Grand Master of the Order. He promised them that he would become a Christian, and was imprisoned in the castle. Six months later, with the help of a Lithuanian Christian who was living in Marienburg, he was given a Crusader's uniform and a horse, and managed to escape. He eventually made his way back to Lithuania.

Algirdas and Kestutis made an agreement, according to the Lithuanian Chronicles, that their sons should continue the policy of joint rule because it worked so well for them. In 1377 at the age of 81, Algirdas died and his son Jogaila became the Grand Prince. Kestutis remained the Prince of Trakai and hoped that the same policies would continue. Jogaila was given the same courtesy and respect that his father received. Vytautas, son of Kestutis, was to succeed his father after his death. Jogaila wanted autocracy and did not want to share power with anyone. He wanted no part of such an agreement, and was arranging a plot against Kestutis. This precipitated a major crisis for Lithuania.

Without the consent and knowledge of Kestutis, Jogaila signed a secret and traitorous treaty with the Teutonic Order in 1380. Under its terms, he surrendered a major portion of Žemaitija, which was a part of Kestutis' domain, and promised not to come to his uncle's aid should the Teutonic or Livonian Orders invade any of his lands. In 1381, an astute Kestutis began to suspect that his enemies and Jogaila entered into an alliance between his nephew

did nothing while his lands were being invaded and ransacked. Also, by a strange coincidence, Jogaila's territories were immune from attack. His suspicions were confirmed when he learned of the existence of the secret treaty from the Commander of the German Order, and his brother-in-law Prince Janush of Masovia.

Jogaila left Vilnius with a military force in the summer of 1381 for Polotsk, leaving his brother Skirgaila to protect the city. In November, suddenly and unexpectedly, Kestutis and his army occupied Vilnius and the castle. During a search of Jogaila's quarters, he discovered a copy of the secret agreement. When Jogaila returned to Vilnius, he and his family members were made captives. Kestutis forced his nephew to resign from the throne, and proclaimed himself as the Grand Prince of Lithuania. The Teutonic Order was overjoyed because they succeeded in pitting the Lithuanians against each other.

Kestutis did not seek revenge against Jogaila. Vytautas pleaded with his father to set his treacherous cousin free and to restore his personal property back to him. Jogaila was given his freedom after promising his uncle he would be loyal to him and not raise arms against him. He was then assigned to govern the family lands of Kriavas (today it is called Krevo, a town in Belarus about 30 miles east of the present Lithuanian border) and Vitebsk. This forgiveness was a mistake which would cost Kestutis and Vytautas dearly later, as Jogaila did not intend to be a vassal of Kestutis, or to be loyal to him.

In April of 1382, Kestutis gathered his forces to confront the Teutonic Order in the west. Word reached him that Kaributas, brother of Jogaila and Prince of Novgorod-Seversk, had rebelled. (This Slavic region, about 400 miles southeast of Vilnius, was then a part of Lithuania but today is located in the eastern Ukraine). Kestutis was forced to change his plans and left with his army to quell the rebellion. Vytautas stayed behind to take charge of Vilnius. This, in fact, was part of a plot prepared against Kestutis by his two nephews, Jogaila and Kaributas, and a German merchant living in Vilnius by the name of Hannike. He and Jogaila's loyal supporters were able to take possession of the city under his direction. They proclaimed the restoration of Jogaila as the Grand Prince who hurried back to Vilnius from Vitebsk. Vytautas' efforts to retake the city failed and he had to fall back to Gardinas (now called Grodno, located in Belorussia today).

On July 6, Jogaila signed a mutual assistance pact with the Teutonic Order. With their help, his brother Skirgaila seized Trakai, the residence of Kestutis and was appointed

its governor. Kestutis was not able to return until late July, and he and Vytautas made plans to restore his government. They each organized military forces and their combined armies marched on Trakai on August 3, 1382. They were confronted by the forces of Jogaila, Skirgaila and the Teutonic Knights. Before the fighting could start, Jogaila sent Skirgaila to meet with Kestutis and Vytautas. They were invited to come to his camp for peace negotiations and were promised, under oath, that they would not be harmed and would be able to return freely to their troops. It is not known how big were the respective armies, but considering the fact that Jogaila first suggested peace negotiations, it is possible that Kestutis' forces may have been more powerful. They accepted the offer and entered Jogaila's camp, where they were seized and made prisoners. When night came, Kestutis' forces were told that they could disperse and go home because the rulers had reached an agreement and left for Vilnius to finish negotiations. Vytautas and Kestutis were taken to Vilnius, where Vytautas was detained while Kestutis was transferred to the fortress of Kriavas, and thrown into a dungeon. Thus, through the treachery of Jogaila, Kestutis found himself a helpless captive in the hands of his own relatives.

The life of Kestutis came to a tragic end on August 14, 1382 at the age of 82. Lithuanian Chronicles and other sources state that he was put to death by hanging, and they blame Jogaila for his murder. He is probably at fault in his uncle's death, but there is insufficient proof that he was involved, or who gave the order. Jogaila tried to conceal the real reason for the murder by spreading rumors that Kestutis committed suicide. Some historians exonerated Jogaila on those grounds, but his indirect collaboration in his uncle's death cannot be denied.

Kestutis was the last in line of great Lithuanian princes who did not accept the Christian faith. He was the last Lithuanian ruler to be cremated, and under pagan rites. The solemn funeral took place in Vilnius.

Birute, the wife of Kestutis and mother of Vytautas, did not escape the wrath of Jogaila. Some Chronicles state that she was killed on Jogaila's orders, while some disagree. Her brother, Vydimantas, and other relatives of Kestutis were also executed, as some historians claim, on instructions by Jogaila. Considering the fact that he wanted to eliminate his personal enemies in order to consolidate his power, it could very well be that these allegations are valid.

Vytautas had a close call. He was transferred from the prison in Vilnius to the fortress of Kriavas, the scene of his

father's murder. He assumed that he was also to be a victim of his cousin's revenge. His wife Anne, accompanied by her maid, was allowed to visit him every day. They devised an escape plan. During one of the visits, the maid Alena (Mirga) donned Vytautas' prison uniform and took his place in the cell. He left the prison in her clothing, and the escape was a success. Vytautas made his way out of Lithuania and was given refuge by the Teutonic Knights. It is not known how Anne gained her freedom, but she was able to join her husband.

After Jogaila heard of Vytautas' escape from prison, he ordered the execution of Alena (Mirga). She sacrificed her life to save a great leader and the Lithuanian nation. If it were not for her courage, there may never have been such a person as Vytautas the Great.

Kestutis devoted his entire life to serve his homeland and its people. For many years he brilliantly defended Lithuania against the invasions of the Teutonic Knights and her other enemies, and in these struggles many times escaped death. To realize that this great warrior and leader perished from the hands of his own relatives is a black chapter in the history of the Lithuanian nation.

Many sons of Lithuanian parents are named after, or in honor of, its nation's heroes. One can find many men named Mindaugas, Gediminas, Algirdas, Kestutis and Vytautas, but it is practically impossible to find anyone named after Jogaila.

AMERICA'S CLOAK

The cloak that binds America together

Is woven of a strong yet delicate fabric.

It serves to shelter alike the rich and poor,

The native and foreign-born, Jew and Gentile, black and white,

Let no one tear it asunder, for we do not know

Where we shall find its like again.

Brad Menkes

THE COMING OF AGE OF AMERICA

by Louise Cassano

"If the American Revolution has produced nothing but the Declaration of Independence, it would have been worthwhile ... The beauty and cogency of the preamble, reaching back to remotest antiquity and forward to an indefinite future, have lifted the hearts of millions ..."

—The Oxford History of
the American People

Recently, I was asked by a European if I thought America was an old country or one still in its infancy. Without giving the question — or the answer — much thought, I responded with what reflected, perhaps, more of an excuse for America's shortcomings than a reflection of America's accomplishments.

I am, after all, aware of the birthplaces of western civilization and cultures that predate America by thousands of years. I am aware American roots are anchored in histories of the Egyptians, Romans, Huns and Vikings and other tribes whose subsequent generations were among this country's forefathers. I am acutely aware we judge the beginnings of our country in terms of its philosophies rather than by the history of its inhabitants.

Using the standard of time elapsed since our independence was declared, America is, at best, in its prepubescent stages. Despite the bogies that threaten and are perceived as attempts to steal the ideals that were the foundation for our democracy, we are still a trusting people dedicated to the proposition of independence, liberty and justice for all.

The European was not trying to outwit me. He did succeed in making me look at the receptacle of American history as being half-filled as opposed to half-empty.

But, of what this European mentor reminded me, is that the republic of America, the form of government for which we stand, has remained intact longer than most other governments of the western world. Of that, we can be proud!

REV. MSGR. BULOVAS CELEBRATES 50th ANNIVERSARY

Rev. Msgr. Frank Bulovas was born in the small hamlet town of West Pullman which is located on the outskirts of Chicago, IL on April 21, 1916. When he and his sister Violet were of school age, their parents migrated East and settled in Brooklyn,



Rev. Msgr. Frank Bulovas

NY. Msgr. Frank attended public elementary school and Cathedral High School in Brooklyn. His college years were spent at Marianapolis College in Thompson, CT where he graduated with a BA Degree in 1939. He attended Marian Hills Seminary in Clarendon Hills, IL and was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on August 8, 1943.

For ten years, Msgr. Frank labored zealously for the Marian Fathers Congregation. He fulfilled assiduously diverse assignments, i.e., assistant pastor at parishes, taught high school students and conducted missions and novenas.

In 1953, Msgr. Frank applied for admission to serve in the Brooklyn Diocese. Most Rev. Archbishop Thomas E. Malloy gladly accepted him into the Diocese. It has been 40 years since Monsignor entered the Diocese. He served as an Assistant Pastor in Our Lady of Miracles Church, St. John the Evangelist Church and for the past 35 years at the Church of Transfiguration in Maspeth, NY and its pastor for 19 years. He was elevated to the rank of Monsignor on July 3, 1982 and now serves as Pastor Emeritus.

Monsignor Frank is involved in Maspeth Community Affairs, participates in the Memorial Day Parade and other functions. He is the chaplain for the Transfiguration Catholic War Veterans Post #869, and the Auxiliary, the Catholic Chaplain for the United Veterans and Fraternal Organizations of Maspeth.

He likewise is the spiritual director for the Mid-Atlantic District, Great Neck C-109 and Maspeth C-110 Knights of Lithuania organizations having attained his Fourth Degree in August, 1986.

Concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated at the Church of the Transfiguration, Maspeth, NY on August 8, 1993. The homilist will be Rev. Stasys Raila. Gala reception will be held at the Terrace on the Park Restaurant in Flushing, NY. Guest speaker for the occasion will be Rev. John Pakalniskis, pastor-emeritus of Annunciation Church, Brooklyn, NY.

Eliminating the Penny

The Penny has become Public Nuisance No. 1. Pennies are always piling up by the billions in desk drawers, Mason jars, sofas, sewer gratings and garbage cans. Without any effort, one can accumulate 8 or 10 pennies every day. The penny has been part of American life since 1783, when it could buy a meal or a night's lodging; but today it can buy nothing. A penny saved is a pain in the neck.

How useless is the penny? Let us count the ways: To throw one in the church collection plate is to risk eternal damnation Burglars ignore them because they're too heavy to be worthwhile There are penny stocks, but you can't buy one share at a time Those chocolate mints at restaurant cash registers cost at least a nickel Nearly all parking meters are now penniless The Internal Revenue Service won't take them Pennies from the tooth fairy? Kids want at least a buck To redeem pennies for real money at the bank, you may have to roll your own - and the bank might charge for counting them Many stores now offer a communal dish filled with pennies — "Take them if you need them, leave them if you have them."

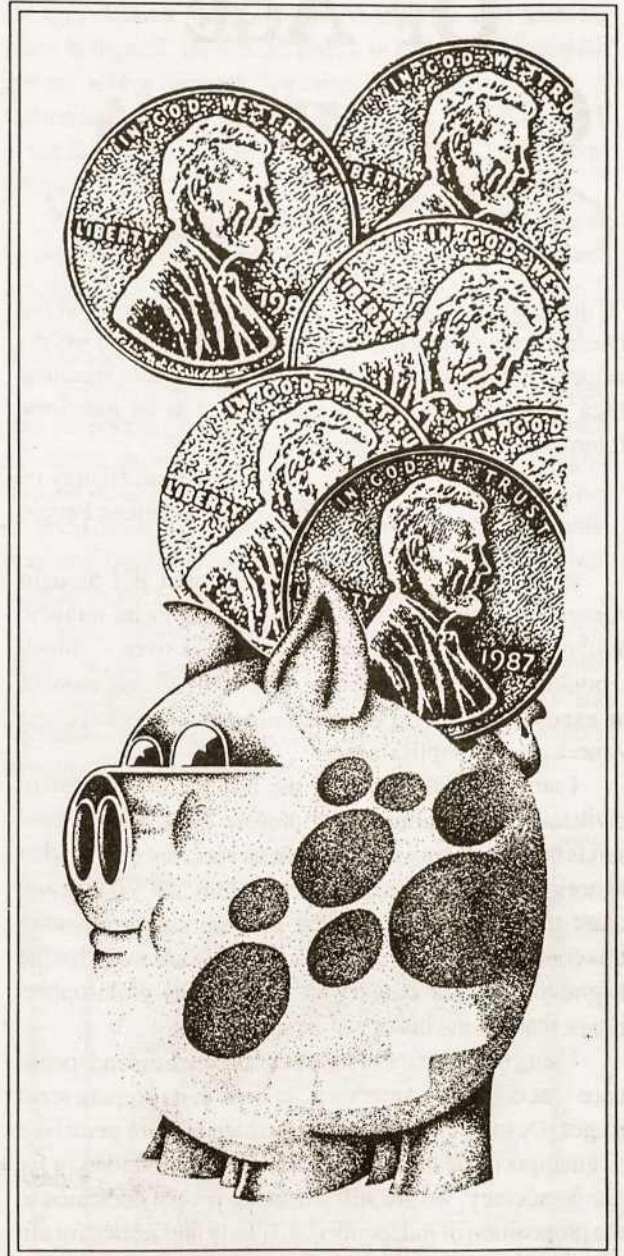
One reason they call Lincoln "Honest Abe" was that he once walked miles to return three pennies to a widow who had been overcharged; these days a stunt like that could cost him the election - or encourage reporters to stake out the widow's apartment.

But, alas, there are two sides to this coin. The penny does have some uses even today.

Pennies are flipped to decide who kicks off in a neighborhood football game. Handymen drill holes in them to use them as washers. Pennies are skipped across ponds, offered for thoughts and tossed in wishing wells. A penny will buy anything you want at a one-cent sale, provided you pay full price for the first item. And a penny will buy 12 records or tapes provided you agree to buy "just eight more selections at our regular low club prices over the next two years."

The British have found a use for their penny. Two stacks of them are kept atop the pendulum of Big Ben, and by removing or adding one or more the timekeepers can slow the pendulum enough to give it the leap-second created by the earth's erratic rotation. This is done twice a week.

Pennies will buy revenge. After he was divorced in 1987, Patrick Jackson was ordered to pay his former wife's



legal fees of \$1,000. He wrapped 100,000 pennies and dropped them off at the law office of Silva in Rhode Island. Silva sued, charging the payment constituted contempt of court, but he was turned down.

But for all practical purposes, the penny has ceased to be legal tender. The day does not seem far off when Boy Scouts will mount penny drives, asking people to place

their pennies outside their doors for collection on Saturday mornings. Abolishing the penny seems like a good idea. Yet for fiscal 1989, the U.S. Mint planned to make 12 billion pennies, an increase of nearly 2 billion pennies over fiscal 1988. Pennies will account for 75% of all coins minted in the United States, and for 25% of all the coins produced in the world. The mints at Philadelphia and Denver will work round-the-clock to meet the production schedule.

You should know that there is technically no such thing as a penny in the United States. A penny was the English coin used in America before the Revolution, and the word just carried over to the American version, which is properly called a one-cent piece by mint officials and numismatists. The original American "penny" was the Large Cent, and although it really would buy something, few people used it because it was unattractive and cumbersome in the pocket. But it did have its uses.

Large Cents were used to treat ringworm; doctors instructed the afflicted to place a Large Cent in a saucer, barely cover it with vinegar, and then apply the resulting patina to lesions. Arthritis sufferers were told to punch a hole in a Large Cent and wear it around their necks. Housewives tossed Large Cents into the pot to keep their apple butter from scorching, and undertakers used them as weights to keep corpses' eyes closed.

The Lincoln Penny was introduced in 1909 bearing a likeness of the Great Emancipator designed by Victor Brenner. On Aug. 2, 1909, the first day of its issue, the Treasurer's New York office was mobbed by speculators who overwhelmed police and took home all 700,000 of the pennies, which they hoarded, made into jewelry and kept as lucky pieces. When the mint decided to redesign the coin in 1959, it was felt the Brenner's Lincoln was so good that it should not be changed, and so, only the reverse side was changed. The original had as its central feature the words, "ONE CENT;" the post-1959 penny features the Lincoln Memorial.

Federal law prohibits the government from spending more money to produce a coin than the face value of the coin, and by 1974 the shrinking value of the penny plus the rising cost of copper produced panic at the mint. The pennies disappeared faster than the Mint could make them. Within a few years, banks were offering free baseball tickets to penny depositors. A bank in New Mexico paid \$1.25 for every 100 pennies and quickly took in a million of them, including 120,000 from a man who brought in his hoard in wheelbarrows. McDonald's Restaurants across

the nation offered free desserts to customers who paid for their burgers and fries in pennies.

Meanwhile, the Mint looked at shifting to other metals. The zinc, aluminum and steel industries stepped forth eagerly. The copper industry warned that a zinc coin would ooze lethal acid into the American pocket. Zinc proponents produced a radiologist who warned that if aluminum pennies were swallowed, they wouldn't show up in X-rays of the American stomach. Zinc advocates added that steel pennies could jam the American vending machine. Zinc prevailed, and in 1982 the Mint began making a penny that was 97.2% zinc, with a 2.5% copper coating.

There is a group lobbying Congress to abolish the penny. It's called the Coin Coalition, and it's made up of groups representing vending machine companies, convenience stores, parking garage operators and blind people. Its primary mission is to get rid of the dollar bill in favor of a dollar coin. Congress has been considering a bill that would phase out the 126-year-old one-dollar bill in favor of a copper-coated dollar coin. The Coalition claims that the changeover would save \$50 million a year because the coins - while costing slightly more to produce - would last about 20 years, while the average paper dollar is in circulation only 18 months. They add that the coin's copper color would save it from the fate of the Susan B. Anthony dollar coin, which was introduced in 1979. The problem was that it felt and looked like a quarter. It was rejected by the public and is no longer circulated.

To end the dependence on the penny in cash transactions, the Coalition advocates a system whereby half of all purchases would be rounded up to the nearest nickel and half would be rounded down; namely, those ending in 1, 2, 6 or 7 go down, those ending in 3, 4, 8 and 9 go up. Rounding would not be necessary, of course, on purchases made by check and credit card. If that sounds radical, you should know that retailers already round off sales taxes - and always in the government's favor. If the tax on your purchase comes to 6.1 cents, you pay seven cents.

Another reason pennies are necessary in the marketplace is odd-pricing. There's never been much evidence to suggest that odd-pricing-charging \$39.99 instead of \$40 - sells anything. Moreover, a 1986 Purdue University study found that more and more retailers are going to a nickel discount - that is, charging \$39.95 instead of \$40. Twelve years ago a consultant handed the U.S. Treasury a report recommending that the Mint throw out the penny entirely. Instead, they threw out the report.

So who's against abolishing the penny? Most retailers

who don't want to be bothered rounding prices off, and state and municipal officials who see it as a threat to sales tax revenues. But the big opponents are politicians in general and Congress in particular. To them, doing away with the penny is to admit the unpleasant reality of inflation. But astoundingly the penny continues to be a coin of the realm. A 1986 survey at the Disney Epcot Center found that the average American adult has 993 pennies lying around the house and that millions of pennies are just thrown away each year. In the past 30 years, the Mint has

turned out about 200 billion pennies - yet only about 40 billion of them remain in circulation. If that's not a mandate for abolition, what is?

Perhaps it was best summed up by an economics professor at Princeton University: "Today if it rained pennies from heaven, only a fool would turn his umbrella upside down: the money caught would be worth less than the ruined umbrella." *(Excerpts from an article by*

William Ecenbarger in the Elks Magazine).

BRINGING LITHUANIAN CULTURE TO THE STAGE

Rev. William L. Wolkovich

"Sodauto" of Greater Boston is unique among Lithuanian folk groups in the United States, as it researches history to illustrate various aspects of Lithuanian life. The ensemble's most recent program is of special interest to the Knights of Lithuania, providing a multi-media collage of the early immigrant miner's experience. "By the Mountains of Coal" (*Ten kur anglių kalnai stėri*) has been performed in communities such as Brooklyn, Boston, Philadelphia and Eckley's Miners' Village, Weatherly in Pennsylvania. Sodauto gave eight performances in as many cities in Lithuania itself in July, 1992. The presentation in Vilnius gained permanence on videotape, aired several times in the succeeding nine months.

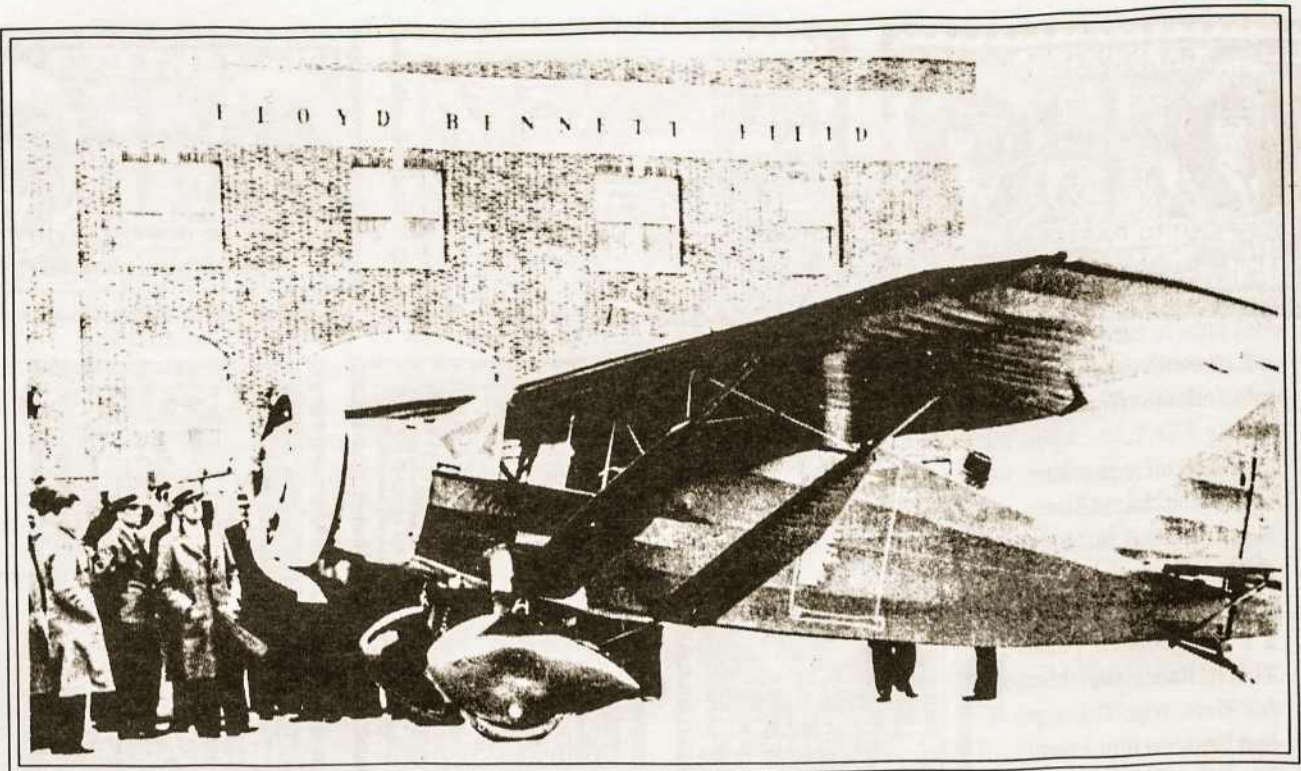
The "Coal" program consists of songs, dances, news-

paper excerpts, and "personal" testimony depicting life in the mines of the early 1900s as experienced by Lithuanian immigrants. Violin, accordion, zither and percussion instruments add color to the lively performance.

Founder and director, Gita Merekevičiūtė Kupčinskienė of Walpole, MA rehearses twenty-six dedicated amateur singers and musicians of Lithuanian roots at nearby St. George Lithuanian Church in Norwood. Membership spans more than two decades in age, drawing from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. "Sodauto" has performed other programs in Toronto, Montreal, Los Angeles and Chicago. The ensemble represented Lithuanians in the millennium observance of Brussels, Belgium and at the Lithuanian Youth Congress in Frankfurt, Germany in 1979.



Sodauto, Boston Ensemble



Lituanica shortly after the arrival of Darius & Girenas at New York's Floyd Bennett Field on a windy day in May 1933. A group of supporters stand by, some of whom have made last minute contributions to have their names inscribed on the fuselage as can be seen just behind the rear wing support. (Photo: Edmund Jasiunas)

The Two Lithuanian-American Transatlantic Flights

by Fred W. Baumgartner

Near the corner of Chicago's 67th and Sacramento Streets stands a brooding sentinel of dark rose-colored marble. This monument in the northeast corner of Marquette Park, is about twelve feet tall. On the front is a black metal globe, and on either side are the busts of two Lithuanian-American fliers — Captain Stephen (Steponas) Darius and Lieutenant Stanley (Stasys) Girenas.

These men dreamed of flying from the United States to Lithuania in the early 1930s to "put Lithuania on the map." They almost succeeded, flying a Bellanca CH300 Pacemaker from Floyd Bennett Field (the starting point of Lindbergh and other transatlantic fliers) and traveling more than 3,965 miles, as far as Solodin, Pomerania. A fatal crash, the cause of which is still unknown, ended this record-making flight just 650 miles short of its goal of Kaunas, Lithuania.

Both pilots were born in Lithuania in the 1890s and

were brought to this country as children when their parents immigrated to the United States.

Girenas became a pilot in the 136th Air Squadron of the U.S. Army in the 1920s. Darius was an artillery man in the 42nd Division and was wounded in France in World War I. After the war, Girenas, with some other Lithuanian-Americans, returned to aid in Lithuania's war for independence. He rose to the rank of captain in the Lithuanian air force.

Darius was in Paris in 1927 when Lindbergh made his famous trans-atlantic flight that ended there, and the idea of

These men dreamed of flying from the United States to Lithuania in the early 1930s to "put Lithuania on the map."



a Lithuanian-American trans-atlantic flight was born.

Several years later, back in the United States, Darius shared his ideas with Girenas. They raised \$3,200 to purchase a used Bellanca plane. The Bellanca was ideal for such a trip. This type had been used in a number of other pioneer flights of the time, including the Danish *Liberty* attempt of Copenhagen (1931), the Pengborn-Herndon *Miss Veedol* round-the-world flight (1931), and a half dozen others.

With no personal fortunes, Darius and Girenas spent the summer of 1932 barnstorming to air shows around the country in an attempt to raise the necessary funds to recondition the plane for the flight. Their largest fundraiser that summer was at the Harlem Airport (87th and Harlem, Chicago), where 10,000 people attended. Nickels, dimes, and quarters were contributed during this severe Depression era.

Having completed the rebuilding of the plane in Chicago over the winter but still short of money, the fliers obtained a mail-carrying permit from the Department of Commerce in February 1933. While neither flier had any particular interest in philately, the permit allowed them to keep the two dollars they would collect for each letter to be carried on their flight. They proceeded to print 1,500 envelopes, which were to be sold to help finance the trip. In actuality, 983 covers and five newspapers were in a single mailbag at takeoff.

On May 7, 1933, Darius and Girenas flew their plane, renamed *Lituanica*, to New York's Floyd Bennett Field for



Lithuanian issues of May 18, 1934 commemorate the crash of the Darius-Girenas plane in Germany just 650 miles short of its goal. Engraved and printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson, Ltd., England.

final preparations while awaiting proper weather conditions. For the next six weeks the weather was atrocious over the North Atlantic. In July, the Italian Balbo and his twenty-five seaplanes were making a leisurely flight from Rome to the Century of Progress exposition in Chicago, an event that caught the imagination of the country and much headline space. Also, at the same airport, Wiley Post was preparing for his round-the-world flight. On July 14, Post announced his departure time as early the next day. The impatient Lithuanian-bound fliers scheduled a "final" test for the same day. Post took off at 4:10 a.m. on July 15. The *Lituanica* took off one hour and fourteen minutes later and headed east.

The fliers already had decided to go the day before that "final" test. During the night they had gassed their plane and made final adjustments. Their assistants had applied a cachet to all mail reading "LITUANICA July 15, 1933." Then the mail was taken to a nearby Brooklyn post office for cancellation of the stamps. In most cases, the stamp was the common 3-cent Washington definitive (Scott No. 729). All mail was returned to the plane shortly before takeoff.

Balbo's fleet of planes had landed successfully in

Lake Michigan at Chicago on the day they took off. The next day, Post landed in Berlin. July 16 also was Lithuanian Day at the Century of Progress Fair. There the Lithuanian ambassador received a nineteen-gun salute, and great cheers arose when he announced that the Darius-Girenas flight was in progress. Several Chicago families awaited news of the flight: Darius' mother sat by her radio at 3239 So. Halstead Street, while a cousin of Girenas and her family did likewise at nearby 3433 W. 61st Place.

The night of July 16 and 17 was clear. Darius and Girenas' expert night navigation had them on course, but their fuel supply was all but exhausted over Pomerania. They looked for a place to set down, but all that could be seen at midnight were heavy forests. As they struggled with a landing, the mailbag was tossed free. A fatal crash followed near the village of Kuhdamn, close to the town of Soldin in East Prussia.

Meanwhile, 25,000 people had been waiting at the Kaunas airport for the arrival of the plane from America. As dawn broke, they dispersed. News of the crash was relayed to German authorities by the nearby farmers, and the bodies of the two fliers were laid in state in a nearby chapel under the watchful eyes of an honor guard of Nazi brown shirt troopers. A day later the bodies were transferred to Stettin and then flown by Derluft (the German commercial airline) to Kaunas, escorted from the border by Lithuanian military planes. A state funeral was held on July 20.

The recovered mail was sorted in the Kaunas post office, and all of it was backstamped "Kaunas Cntr. 18 VII 33." On the front of the covers, a purple cachet reading "New York-Kaunas" was applied with the date of crash and names of the plane and pilots. The mail was then dispatched to the addresses by surface transport.

These U.S. citizens (by virtue of their U.S. military service) became national heroes of Lithuania. A period of national mourning was proclaimed. The fliers were laid to rest in the Aukštieji Sančiai Cemetery in Kaunas and a fitting memorial was erected.

The monument in Chicago's Marquette Park was unveiled on June 28, 1935, before 60,000 people. The following year a monument was built by the Lithuanian Aero Club at the crash site (now part of Poland). This still stands, and, in 1983, a thousand Lithuanians commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the flight at this spot.

Lithuania issued a set of six air mail stamps (Scott Nos. C79-84) on May 18, 1934, to commemorate the ill-fated flight. They were designed by the Lithuanian artists and

engraved and printed in sheets of 100 by the security printing firm of Bradbury, Wilkinson, Ltd., in England. The three lower values were printed in a quantity of 2.5 million and the three higher values in quantities of 500,000, 200,000, and 100,000.

Felix Waitkus, 1935

A second transatlantic flight to Lithuania was discussed during the late summer of 1933. After several false starts, a committee called ALTASS was formed. The Lithuanian acronym translates as the American-Lithuanian Transatlantic Flight Association. ALTASS was led by the Lithuanian language daily newspaper in Chicago.

During the balance of the year and most of 1934, ALTASS raised funds by holding aviation days at airports around the country and by accepting donations from individuals and businesses, including a sizable amount from the Lithuanian Aero Club in Kaunas.

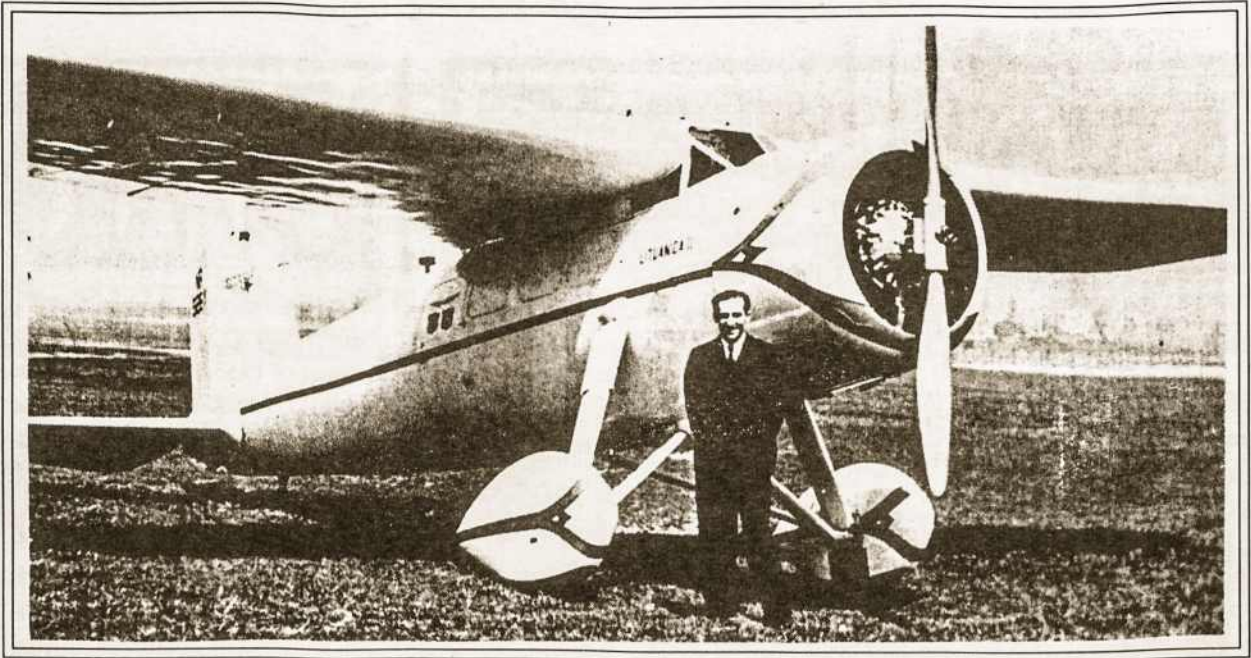
A Lockheed Vega plane was purchased in early 1934. This was the same model used the year before by Wiley Post for his round-the-world flight and for his record high-altitude flights and by Amelia Earhart for her transatlantic flight. At about the same time Felix Waitkus was selected as the pilot by ALTASS.

Felix Waitkus (Feliksas Vaitkus) was born in the Bridgeport area of Chicago in 1907. His father owned a plumbing shop in Chicago, an area to which the Waitkus family had immigrated a few years before Felix's birth.

Waitkus finished Chicago High School in 1926, attended the University of Chicago for two years, and then enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps, where he became a pilot. After going into the reserves as a first lieutenant, he worked with his father-in-law, who operated a flying school in Kohler, Wisconsin.

The summer of 1934 was consumed with money-raising activities, while the plane went to Kohler for an overhaul, including the installation of a new engine, the new variable pitch propeller, a radio compass, and additional gas tanks. By late September, with reconditioning still unfinished, the flight was postponed until 1935. Among the many money-raising events was the sale by the ALTASS committee of covers to be carried on the flight. The cost was \$2.50 each and \$5 for registered covers, which included return by surface mail.

After Lindbergh's transatlantic flight in 1927, only four other pilots - Wiley Post, James Millison, Jimmy Mattern, and Amelia Earhart - had made the solo flight over



Felix Waitkus standing in front of his newly reconditioned Lituania II at the Kohler, Wisconsin airport. Note that the passenger windows under the wing have been sealed to accommodate the additional gasoline tanks for the flight. (Photo: Edmund Jasiunas)

the North Atlantic. Many others tried, some with fatal consequences. To ensure the success of the *Lituania II* flight, the plane was prepared carefully and tested extensively, which ultimately prevented it from arriving at New York's Floyd Bennett Field until the end of May 1935.

The wait continued at Floyd Bennett Field. Dr. James Kimball of the New York U.S. Weather Bureau kept all fliers off the transatlantic route that summer because of unseasonably poor weather over the ocean. Finally, on September 21, 1935, lift-off of the *Lituania II* was accomplished at 6:45 a.m. The plane carried 700 gallons of gasoline, more than 1,000 letters, sandwiches, and a small rubber boat. Most covers had 6-cent U.S. air mail stamps (Scott No C16) affixed by the committee. All were taken to the nearby post office, where they were canceled "Brooklyn, NY, Sep. 21, 5 A.M."

After flying over Nova Scotia, Waitkus ran into fog. Snow, sleet and rain followed, so that most of Waitkus' navigation had to be by his new radio compass. His shortwave radio told him that east of Dublin to England and the Baltic Sea were fogged in. Without enough gas for a detour, he decided to land in Ireland. Finding Dublin also in fog, he flew back westward and found it clear around Ballinrobe in County Mayo. Finding no landing fields, he picked what appeared to be a pasture and attempted to set down. Unfortunately, the rough landing damaged the plane's

landing gear and wing tip too much to allow refueling for continuation of the flight to Kaunas.

In the 21.5 hours aloft, Waitkus had covered 3,200 miles, more than two-thirds of his route. By this time, thousands of people had gathered at the Kaunas airport only to be disappointed when he was reported down in Ireland.

Waitkus remained in Ballinrobe for several days, overseeing the disassembly and packing of his plane for surface transport to Lithuania. By way of London, Berlin, Koenigsburg, and Klaipeda (Memel), he made his way towards Kaunas, stopping for various receptions along the way. All of the time he carried the mail sack with the 1,000 letters. Lithuanian military planes met him at Klaipeda to fly him the final 125 miles to Kaunas.

When Waitkus arrived in Kaunas on October 2, he received the welcome of a national hero. Thousands were awaiting his arrival at the airport, and he was treated as an honored guest for more than a month before departing for home and America.

The mailbag was turned over to the Kaunas post office upon his arrival. All letters were given a receiving cancel of "Kaunas Centr. 2 X 35" on the front. The post office also applied a violet commemorative cachet, "Lituania II New York-Kaunas." The Lithuanian Aero Club applied a small circular cachet, and all covers were signed by Waitkus. It

took a while for the cachets, autograph, and the two Lithuanian air mail stamps (Scott Nos. C79-80) to be placed on the covers. When ready for dispatch, a final cancel was placed on the Lithuanian stamps, "Kaunas Centr. 1 XI 35."

The Lituanica IIS was purchased by the Lithuanian government, restored, and entered into the service of its air force. Upon Lithuania's occupation by the Russians in 1940, the plane was confiscated. The Russians are reported to have destroyed it while using it as a bombing target.

A set of three commemorative stamps (Scott Nos. C85-87) was issued by Lithuania on March 24, 1936. The stamps, which used a single design by a Lithuanian artist, were printed by Spindulys, the government printing establishment in Kaunas. Quantities were 200,000 each for the two lower values and 100,000 for the higher value. This was the final air mail issue before the Russian occupation of 1940.

Upon return to the country, Waitkus completed his studies at MIT. He reentered the U.S. Air Force during World War II, where he was a test pilot for Boeing B17 and B29 bombers. Recalled during the Korean War, he remained in the service, becoming a full colonel. He died of a heart attack in Wiesbaden, Germany, and is interred in Kohler, Wisconsin.

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The Author:

Fred W. Baumgartner, a retired controller of Sears, Roebuck merchandise testing labs, became a stamp collector when he joined Captain Tim's Ivory Stamp Club in the 1930s. He resumed collecting about fifteen years ago when a friend passed along a set of Minkus Lithuanian album pages and is active in the Lithuanian Philatelic Society of Chicago.

(Reprinted from *May 1933 American Philatelist* with permission.)



Prayer for Lithuanians

Almighty God, benign Father of all peoples of diverse nationalities, may the tri-colored Lithuanian flag, yellow, green and red, once again freely wave over Lithuania, the land consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of the Holy Virgin. Yellow stands for the sun shining over Lithuania. Green represents Lithuania's fields, farms and forests. Red symbolizes the blood of Lithuania's heroes and martyrs: blood shed in struggle for Lithuanian self-identity; blood shed in the struggle for freedom to speak the ancient Lithuanian language. You, O God, gave the people: blood, shed in the struggle for freedom to worship You.

May Your sun, O Lord, represented by the color, yellow, on our Lithuanian flag, once again dawn brightly over the green fields, farms and forests of Lithuania, casting out every shadow of oppression from this country, so tiny, yet so very precious to us, because Lithuania, so far away on the shores of the Baltic Sea is the place of our origin. Lithuanian soil is precious to us, Lord, because it is a soil seeped with the blood of Lithuanian martyrs and drenched with the continuous tears of its present living "martyrs" whose spirits are shackled by the heavy chains of foreign occupation at the present time.

O Holy Spirit, we pray you to strengthen our Lithuanian countrymen with renewed courage, perseverance, and nobleness of purpose as symbolized by our Lithuanian national emblem, the Vytis, the Knight in armor astride his white steed. May the Lithuanian wayside cross again appear throughout the land. May the church bells once again ring out resoundingly in villages, towns and cities, giving joyous notice to the Lithuanian people that they are free once again, free from hostile aggression, free to live and to work in peace, free to worship You, their God. Amen.

Written by: Rev. Clement Kasinskas, C.P.

United States Congressional Record April 9th, 1970. Page 11123

ELLIS ISLAND REVISITED: A First-Hand Account

by Robert Balzekas

Robert Balzekas visited Ellis Island Immigration Museum in October 1990, shortly after it opened.

When Ellis Island opened in 1892, America and much of the rest of the world were on the move. Millions of immigrants would be processed through the complex that sits on the 27 acre island in upper New York harbor. Immigrants previously arrived at a number of locations, such as Staten Island and Brooklyn. Ellis Island replaced them all.

Originally known as Oyster Island to the early Dutch settlers, the island got its modern name from its late 18th-century owner, Samuel Ellis. The federal government bought the parcel in 1808. Both a fort and a powder magazine occupied the island before it opened as the country's primary immigration station under the administration of Pres. Benjamin Harrison. From most accounts, the facility served this purpose exceedingly well. The average time spent by an individual on Ellis Island was only four hours. Two well-knowns got their starts in the facility by helping new arrivals: future New York Mayor LaGuardia served as a clerk and translator, and what is now known as the American Express Co. had the first concession to exchange currency within the main building.

My visit to Ellis Island fostered two things of special note, one directly tied to the new National Park site and another an indirect consequence of it.

Ellis Island's main building is imposing from a distance, stately upon entering and not the least bit threatening inside. The interior of the main processing room, the "Great Hall," is distinguished by a white glazed-tile ceiling-bright, clean and handsome. It had been originally designed and built by immigrants to America, namely Raphael Gustavino and his son who had come from Barcelona in the 1880's. This very ceiling impressed the recent renovators because Ellis Island stood neglected for decades, exposed to elements, damp and unheated. They found it virtually intact - only 17 of more than 28,000 tiles had to be replaced 68 years after it was built - and only in need of simple cleaning.

For the second matter of special note, one must travel to mid-town Manhattan to the Central Research Library of the New York Public Library at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street. There, one can find an unobtrusive plaque set into the marble floor a few steps directly inside the main entrance on Fifth Avenue. It brings to mind exactly what

Ellis Island is all about.

Martin Radtke was born in Lithuania in 1883 to a peasant family. The exact date he came to the United States is not known, but he was here before World War I. After the war, he moved to Manhattan and studied in the Library's Economic Division, learning about stocks, bonds, marketing and accounting. He made and then lost a fortune in the 1929 market crash, returning to brokering in 1946, after 17 years of working as a gardener, as he had upon first arriving in America. He continued to spend his free time at the Library until he died in 1973. In his will, he left his estate amounting to \$368,000 to the New York Public Library.

The plaque, "In memory of Martin Radtke, 1883-1973," begins with a dedication from the Library, "*Inscribed here are the words of an early immigrant whose life was transformed by the Library and whose estate today enriches it.*" The inscription finishes with the following words from Mr. Radtke's will: "*I had little opportunity for formal education as a young man in Lithuania, and I am deeply indebted to the New York Public Library for the opportunity to educate myself. In appreciation, I have given the Library my estate with the wish that it be used so that others can have the same opportunity made available to me.*"

The hour-long tour I took of the Library ended at the plaque. The docent emphasized that in the midst of all the splendor of the building and its collections, this bequest was one that the Library held most precious, because it represents the mission of the Library to make knowledge available to everyone. People at the Library refer to it as the "tomb of the unknown donor."

I highly recommend a visit to Ellis Island and a stop at the New York Public Library. The two sites tie together what the immigrants went through and what they were able to achieve.

(This article originally appeared in Vol. I, No. 4 of Genealogija, published by the IHG Dept. of the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture.)



ONE NATION UNDER GOD — OR NOT?

by Leo Venckus

The liberal media and anti-Christian, anti-family group want to convince us, that their left-wing opinions are those of mainstream America. They work hard to make us believe that most U.S. citizens support abortion on demand, special privileges for homosexuals, condom distribution in schools, tax-supported pornographic art, etc.

The liberal anti-family propagandists say that is O.K. They tell us that there is no right or wrong. That "everybody is doing it." That integrity and decency are old-fashioned. But we know, that our nation could use a huge dose of "old-fashioned common sense and adherence to God's Commandments!"

We must make our voices heard above the din of liberal bias. Years of brain-washing by TV programs that condone every kind of sin has left many Americans indifferent to moral issues. Our young people, therefore are becoming increasingly disillusioned and confused. All across America the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is trying to remove Christian symbols from public places. In Ohio, for example, the ACLU forced City Hall to remove a cross at Christmas time. In Bloomington, Michigan, they are supporting a 17-year old high school student who demands the School Board remove a picture of Jesus from the wall of a school hall. In big cities and small towns alike, the ACLU has successfully forced the removal of Nativity scenes and other religious symbols. This has to stop!

LET US KNIGHTS

JOIN THE FIGHT

FOR CHRISTIAN RIGHTS!

We do not have to fight like the anti-abortionist Michael Griffin who recently killed Dr. David Gunn with a gun at Pensacola, Florida, to prevent this mass-murderer, who has killed hundreds, if not thousands, of unborn babies, to perform more baby killings in the profitable abortion clinics he owned in three States. "Killing is not the answer," writes the Sunday Visitor (March 28, 1993) and "Pro-lifers across the country condemn the actions of an unbalanced man who has tainted the pro-life image."

There are other ways to fight for our Christian rights. God tells us to speak out. To stand up and be counted as one of HIS! It is gratifying to note that during these first months of the new presidential administration, which are crucial to America's future and direction, many well known Chris-

tian leaders like Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson and D. James Kennedy, to name just a few, have decided to continue and intensify confronting liberal activist groups like the ACLU stronger than ever before, or risk losing the precious rights that made America a free nation.

Having in mind and trusting that we all - Knights and family members alike - approve of the ecumenical bonds that unite us Christians, who especially now, should unite in their fight for Christian rights, I would like to introduce to you a non-Catholic scholar who really works hard to reclaim America for Christ. Dr. D. James Kennedy does it through weekly television and daily radio broadcasts, through personal appearances in many places, through articles and publications, video cassettes, etc., some of which I have read.

If and when I attend Mass on Saturday evening instead of Sunday, I often listen to Dr. Kennedy on his 7 a.m. TV broadcasts on Sunday mornings, and I like what I hear. He is convinced that the average American believes in traditional family values and religious liberty. They want our nation to reflect its Christian foundation. They want a moral America, says Dr. Kennedy, "... whose people believe in honor, decency and the sanctity of life." He often tells his listeners that contrary to the now almost popular and widespread belief that the First Amendment supposedly states: "... there should be a wall of separation between Church and State" - this is NOT so! What the First Amendment says is this: "CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR FORBIDDING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF." Sounds neutral. You'll find more convincing evidence that we Americans should not be deprived of our religious rights when reading a recent publication by Dr. D. James Kennedy, entitled, AMERICA: A CHRISTIAN NATION.

"First of all, I would like to simply review with you some of the evidence to the fact that this is a Christian nation - that it was founded as such - and then consider what we ought to do to maintain it and to pass it on.

All nations that have ever existed have been founded upon either some theistic or anti-theistic principle - whether we think of the Hinduism of India, the Confucianism of China, the Mohammedanism of Saudi Arabia or the Atheism at the establishment of the Soviet Union. If we know

our history, we know that America was a nation founded upon Christ and His word. Those foundations, indeed, are crumbling in our time.

There are those in our country today who are busily tearing apart that foundation, who would gnash their teeth at the idea that this is a Christian nation. They will not be satisfied until they have removed every vestige of our Christian heritage, from not only the minds of the people, but also from the monuments of this country.

But let us go back to the beginning..... to those intrepid Pilgrims who set sail from Holland to come to these shores after fleeing their native England twelve years before. Their governor for thirty or more years was William Bradford, who gives us the only history of that period. Before they set sail from Holland, he described their motives in coming. He said they had '... great hope and inward zeal....of laying some good foundation, or at least to make some way there unto, for the propagating and advancing of the Gospel of the Kingdom of Christ in those remote parts of the world; yea, though they should be but even as stepping stones unto others for the performing of so great a work.'

After a fearful journey of sixty-six days without ever being allowed up onto the deck of the Mayflower, because of the great gales and storms, the Pilgrims at last sighted the inhospitable shores of a winter New England coast. They harbored there in the bay, but before setting foot upon the rocky coast, they met in the captain's cabin and drew up the first contract of government (or a 'covenant' as they would call it), America's 'Birth Certificate': the Mayflower Compact."

The Mayflower Compact begins with these words: "In the name of God, Amen." Then it continues "... Having undertaken for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia" And so, they themselves officially declared and signed that, which their governor had said about them before they left Holland, that they came for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith. That is how America began.

In his booklet, "America: A Christian Nation", Dr. D. James Kennedy then continues, "Ah, but there are those who don't like to hear that! Surely, that must have ended with those first Pilgrims. But it did not. When finally the New England settlements gathered together, they formed their first bond in what is known as the New England Confederation. They said in that document: "Whereas we all came into these parts of America with one the same end

and aim, namely, to advance the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ."

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence of the Christian origin of this country is voluminous; it would take years to quote it. It was thoroughly studied by the Supreme Court of the United States and in 1892 they gave us what is known as the Trinity Decision. In that, the Supreme Court of the United States declared: "These and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances, that this is a Christian nation." That is where this nation began; that is the place from which we came.

John Quincy Adams, sixth President of the U.S. said: "The highest glory of the American Revolution was...." Was what? That it secured our independence from England? It got rid of the Stamp Tax? The tea-tax? It dissolved our bonds with Parliament and the King? NO! Then what was the highest glory of the American Revolution? Listen well, *mielieji Vyčiai*, and let's remember what John Quincy Adams said: "The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected, in one indissoluble bond, the principles of civil government with the principles of CHRISTIANITY. Didn't they teach you that in school? "One indissoluble bond" - Government and Christianity! Well, today there are those who have come with their solvents of unbelief, skepticism, Atheism, Marxism, Humanism, and Secularism and are doing everything in their power to totally dissolve that "indissoluble bond". We need to give ourselves, especially today, to the task, that this bond not be dissolved, or else the principles of Christianity will be replaced by the secular principles of Humanism and Atheism. If so, life will lose its significance and its meaning; life will become cheap as it presently is in a time when Humanistic principles are prevailing in more and more spheres of our nation.

Someone might ask or say "... yes, but doesn't the First Amendment state that there should be a wall of separation between Church and State?" If we went out into the streets and took a survey today, I wonder how many people would say... "yes, the First Amendment says there should be a wall of separation between Church and State." Why do they say that?

I wonder how many Americans, including our Knights of Lithuania, that were born here in the U.S. have been brain washed over the years to believe that today? If you, too, are one of those who believe this lie, let me quote what Dr. James Kennedy reminds us of. He writes, "The First

Amendment never mentions 'a wall', it never mentions 'separation', it never mentions the 'Church', and it never mentions the 'State'. Other than that, they are pretty close. The First Amendment says: "CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR FORBIDDING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF."

It was Thomas Jefferson, in a private letter to the Danbury Baptists who used the phrase, "a wall of separation between Church and State." They are by no means the

same thing. A wall inhibits people equally on both sides; the First Amendment inhibits only the Congress: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion Congress shall make no law forbidding the free exercise thereof. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution says absolutely nothing about what Christians, Jews, or people adhering to any religion, or ministers, or rabbis, or clergymen, or Churches may or may not do. That, mieliėji Vyčiai, is the truth and you better believe it.

THROUGH THE EYES OF LOVE

Sr. Helen Ivanauskas

The calendar read January but almost February, the weather snowy, cold, dark, but somehow all this went unnoticed when a group of surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, photographers and a nun gathered at Boston Logan Airport to leave for Lithuania on a medical mission, sponsored by Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc. of Boston.

What a send off! So many gathered to wish them well. From TV camera to songs and dances, hugs and tears and a thunderous "Su Diev" - the medical mission was off! The arrival to Hotel Lietuva was a continuation of the send off. Songs and dances greeted us at the hotel, gentle snow falling, "hot water" in our rooms made us feel at home.

Next morning, the excited group boarded the bus to take us to our mission field - the Children's Hospital in Vilnius where all the surgeries would take place. As we walked into the hospital, our hearts beating with excitement, we were welcomed as heroes. The lobby was filled with people from every walk in life, clapping and cheering for us. The day was spent in getting acquainted with the staff, hospital, moms and especially the children. There were not enough tissues and hankies to go around as the tears started flowing when we witnessed some of the deformed faces of these cherubs. A few were as young as six months old.

Tuesday morning arrived on time and this was the day for which months of preparation took place; to do surgeries on 28 facially deformed children. Our mission was not only to perform surgery but also to teach surgeons, anesthesiologists and nurses the modern way of medicine. Early in the morning, the young mother was told to bring her 6 month old daughter to the operating room. Bravely with every ounce of courage, and with tears flowing down her cheeks, she carried her precious one and handed her over to these foreign doctors. At that moment, the world stood

still. All the hoopla from yesterday was gone and reality had set in. Up to this point, I really wasn't sure of my job - O.R. nurse I'm not. At this moment I found myself hugging and comforting the mom. I knew now what my role was — official "mom hugger" and teddy bear dispenser. Could any child go to the hospital without a teddy bear? Best investment I ever made! After the surgery, a sigh of relief rang thru the hospital. The child was in the recovery room. There are no recovery rooms in the hospitals in Lithuania. We converted one of the O.R. rooms and trained the nurses in recovery room techniques.

As one day followed the next, slowly a bonding began to take place and friendship became evident. In fact, one of the surgeons wanted to go hunting and every effort was made to arrange the trip on the day off, Saturday. Yes, he even shot a wild bore! One of the wonderful events was a get-together for all those involved in our medical mission. This event was held at our hotel. Everyone was so proud to be there. We had the opportunity to meet with the temporary Pres. Brazauskas, American Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis and his wife. All were delighted with our contribution to Lithuania.

Two weeks just flew by. We found ourselves on the last day coming to work with heavy hearts. How do we say good bye to these wonderful people? The mood was heavy, it seemed everyone was feeling the eventuality of "Su Diev". Routine rounds were made to all patients. We then met in the hallway wherein the mothers and patients presented us with a bouquet of flowers and a Juosta (woven sash). Tears of joy, tears of hope, tears of pride, tears of humility befell all of us. These are my people, the great people of Lithuania. God bless them all - let Freedom Ring Forever.

(Cont'd Page 26)

A Rare Coin from the Historic Cemetery at Bečiai

Aleksandras Radzius

In 1985 an archaeological excavation was conducted by the Lithuanian Cultural Ministry for the Preservation of Cultural Monuments at the ancient cemetery at Bečiai, Ukmergė county. A surface area of 276 m² was excavated and about 5200 items were uncovered. It was determined that the cemetery dates from the late middle ages and that the cemetery belonged to the old town of Vepriai. Vepriai had a castle which was plundered by the Teutonic Order in 1384. The written records of Vepriai cease for a period after 1384. The findings from the 1985 excavation will help to fill the gap.

The oldest sites were from the 15th century. These were rich sites. The graves of women contained many brass ornaments and those of men contained tools and weapons. But coins made up the vast majority of the finds. Fifteen of the sites contained over 50 coins each. Most of the coins were from the first half of the 17th century (1600-1650). Generally the coins were of the smaller denominations, i.e., groschen and shillings. The coins were from mints in Lithuania, Prussia and Riga. Found were a dinar minted in Vilnius by King Alexander (1492-1506), a half-groschen minted by King Sigismund the Old (1506-1548) and a number of two-dinar coins of King Sigismund August (1544-1572). It is interesting that a Teutonic Order shilling from the second half of the 15th century (1450-1500) was found together with coins from the era of King Sigismund Vasa (1587-1632).

Of particular interest was a woman's grave labeled No. 69 by the archaeologists. Found at this site were a clay pot, a star shaped broach and a silver coin. The coin is about 14mm in diameter and weighs 0.451 grams. This piece is of the early Lithuanian coinage. Generally this type of coin has on the obverse coat of arms of Lithuania, the Gedimino Vartai, and on the reverse a knight facing heraldic left. The coin found in site No. 69 differs from the expected in that the Gedimino Vartai is composed of double lines! This type of coin had not been described before.

A coin with the Gedimino Vartai composed of double lines on the obverse and a lion on the reverse has been described by Karys. Numismatists agree that this coin was minted by Vytautas at Smolensk after 1401, after Vytautas had deposed Duke Jurii Sviatoslavich. This coin of Vytautas together with a coin minted by Duke Jurii Sviatoslavich was found on the Drozdov estate in Ruzsk county near Moscow in 1915. These Smolensk coins of Jurii Sviatoslavich and Vytautas are also about 14mm in diameter and weigh about 0.5 grams. These coins are currently housed with the Medieval Lithuanian Coin Collection of the Leningrad State Archives. Jurii Sviatoslavich was installed as Duke of Smolensk by the Lithuanians after the death of his father in 1386. Later he was replaced by a palatine appointed by Vytautas. Smolensk revolted in 1401, the palatine was killed and Duke Jurii Sviatoslavich was brought back. In 1404 Vytautas deposed Jurii Sviatoslavich.



x2
Jurii Sviatoslavich
1386-?, 1401-1404

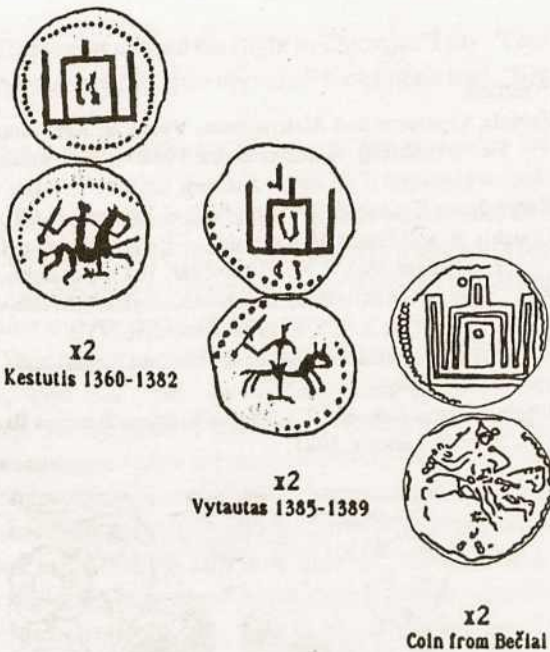


x2
Vytautas the Great
after 1404



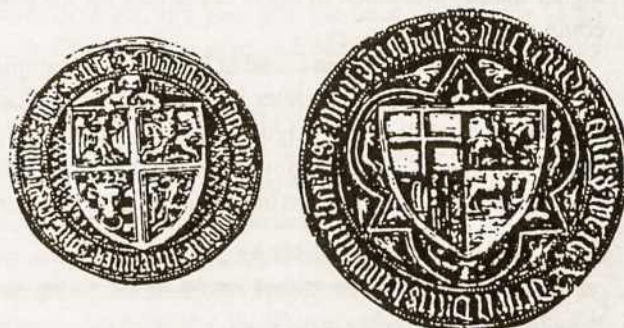
x2

A comparison of this coin from Bečiai with similar coins minted by Kestutis 1360-1382 and by Vytautas 1385-1389 reveals that this coin is technical more advanced than its predecessors. In contrast to its predecessors, this coin is round, the Gedimino Vartai is composed of double lines and the knight on the reverse shows much more detail and realism. The craftsmen who produced the dies used to mint the Bečiai coin must have been much more skilled than the craftsmen who produced the dies used to mint the earlier coins of Kestutis and Vytautas.



A review of the historical events in Vytautas' life between 1390 to 1410 may help in appreciating this coin. With the Treaty of Astrava in 1392, Jogaila gave Lithuania to Vytautas to rule as his regent. With time, Vytautas became increasingly independent. In 1395, Vytautas began to use a new Latin title of sovereign - Magnus Dux. This new Latin title is of Asiatic, two-word structure brought to Europe by the Mongol invasion. In Ruthenian, this title of a sovereign was translated as Velikii Kniaz. Previously, all Lithuanian sovereigns titled themselves and were titled Rex in the Latin language. The indigenous Lithuanian speaking population continued well into the 17th century to title their sovereigns Kunigas, linguistically derived from the German title of a sovereign - König. In the Ruthenian language, all sovereigns, domestic and foreign, were and continued to be titled Velikii Kniaz. A showdown developed. Jogaila played his hand in 1398 by having Jadviga, his queen, demand submission from Vytautas in the form of tribute. Vytautas' move was to present the demand to his Council of Nobles. They rejected the demand. Vytautas escalated the issue by having his Council of Nobles proclaim him King of Lithuania on the Island of Salynas in 1398. Having established himself sovereign of Lithuania, Vytautas had an armorial seal (62mm diameter) manufactured similar to the armorial seal of Jogaila when in 1386 Jogaila became King of the Lechian-Polonian confederation as well, Jogaila was already King of Lithuania since 1377. In 1401 Jogaila acknowledged Vytautas sovereign of Lithuania with the

Treaty of Vilnius-Radon. With the Treaty of Vilnius-Radon, Jogaila and Vytautas also established that the office of the sovereign of Lithuania was separate from the Jogaila's domain of Lechia and Polonia and the territory of Lithuania was separate from Jogaila's territories of Lechia-Polonia. Vytautas signed the Treaty of Vilnius-Radon with his new royal armorial seal. This armorial seal of Vytautas is also known from documents dated 1404 and 1410. Every sovereign of Lithuania after Vytautas used this new title of a sovereign - Magnus Dux. Now, not only were the offices of the sovereigns and the territories of Lithuania and Lechia-Polonia made separate and distinct, but the titles of the sovereigns were made separate and distinct.



46mm diameter
Armorial seal of Jogaila
1386, 1388

62mm diameter
Armorial seal of Vytautas the Great
1401, 1404, 1410

Subsequently, Vytautas had a great seal (100mm diameter) manufactured for himself along the style of other monarch of the time. This great seal of Vytautas is known from documents dated 1407, 1412, 1413, 1426 and 1430. Visually, Vytautas' great seal gives an unmistakable message - Vytautas holds Lithuania in his hand - he is sovereign of Lithuania.



100mm diameter
Great seal of Vytautas the Great
1407, 1412, 1413, 1426, 1430



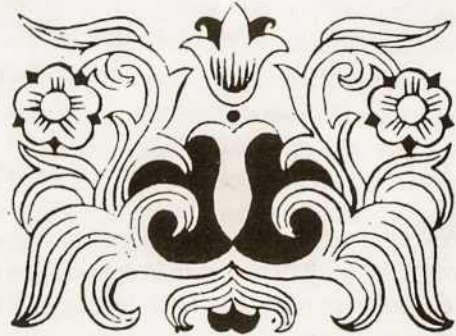
120mm diameter
Great seal of Jogaila
1385

Having established himself as sovereign of Lithuania and expressing his new status with new elegant royal seals, it is not uncharacteristic that Vytautas should engage higher quality craftsmen to make better dies for his new coins.

It appears that the coin found at Bečiai is an example of coins minted by Vytautas after 1398, after Vytautas had established himself as sovereign of Lithuania. This newly discovered coin of Vytautas, together with the other finds at Bečiai, is currently housed at the Ukmergė Ethnographic Museum.

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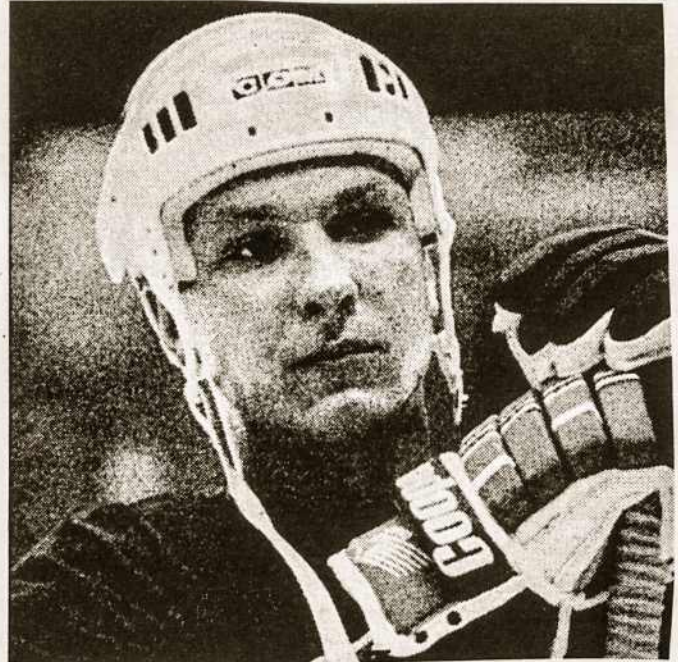
HOW DO YOU SAY TOUGH GUY IN LITHUANIAN?

Kasparaitis, the Islander Rookie, is a Free Spirit who also Hits Freely on the Ice

Darius Kasparaitis drove his new, black BMW from Long Island to Manhattan and parked it illegally at a curb. When he returned, the car was gone. A police officer told him, a defenseman for the Islanders, that the car might have been towed. When the rookie from Lithuania arrived at the car pound, he found his vehicle, and a long line of fellow motorists waiting to pay their fines.

"I just say to guy, 'I play on Islanders; I must leave for Chicago in one hour' " recalled Kasparaitis, whose improving English isn't always perfectly phrased but is usually blunt in tone and clear in meaning. "I don't want to stand in line. He say 'O.K., O.K., let's go.' I pay money. Two hundred dollars."

But the team wasn't really going anywhere that night. Kasparaitis and his friends resumed their tour of the city, parking the car, illegally again. Pretty soon, another tow truck took it away. This time Kasparaitis saw it and followed on foot. "I running five blocks," he continued. "Say, Police! Give me car back! It's my car!" He ended up paying the same fine again to the same clerk, who asked,



Defenseman Kasparaitis from Lithuania with the Islanders NHL.

why Kasparaitis missed his flight to Chicago. "I say, 'Late my plane; somebody steal my car,'" Kasparaitis said, "Big joke."

One would say Darius Kasparaitis and his money are easily parted, but that doesn't mean he's anybody's fool. He's just new in these parts, learning his way around like a sailor on shore leave, playing hockey like a sailor in a bar fight. Talented and feisty on the ice, he hears his fans chant his name and opposing players curse it.

"He's got the world by a string," said the Islander's coach, who can't talk about Kasparaitis long without smiling. "He is a piece of machinery." He has made friends with teammates. Other introductions make enemies. Most of the opposing players don't like him when he kicks in a fight, knocked another player into a net with cross check and hits another in the face with the butt end of his stick. Several players have commented that he's young and it's going to catch up with him. "You live by the sword, you die by it."

"I don't understand why people mean here 'Big Star, can't touch,'" Kasparaitis said. "Guys can't touch these persons? I like touch sometimes." Sometimes he makes the players laugh. His teammates couldn't keep a straight face when Kasparaitis displayed his scrambled command of English trash talk. Sometimes, in the visitors' locker room, his name is part of obscene graffiti on the chalk board. In his own locker room, he is not exactly the humble rookie. It is said that "he likes to bug guys by sneaking up behind them at a practice and hit in the back of the head when you aren't looking. Darius is not shy."

Kasparaitis was the first and only Lithuanian to play on the national team of the former Soviet Union. He is the first Lithuanian to play in the N.H.L. At the 1992 Olympic Winter Games in France, to represent the Unified Team, which ended up beating Canada for the gold medal, he had to sign away his eligibility to play any sport for a Lithuanian team. "You feel good when you win Olympic Games," he said. "You can be rich guy but you never buy Olympic championship. Big title for all life. Have children, show children picture and medal. Gold medal. It's great."

Kasparaitis has signed a two year contract with the Islanders averaging \$450,000 per season. He said, "I have money, I feel rich now. If I like something like suits or jacket, I buy everything. I never see price. Guys on team tell me 'You must save money.'" He lives in an apartment with his girlfriend. Their phone bill, with calls to Lithuania, is about \$1,000 per month. Earlier this season, he had to call his mother, Laima, after a game because she was worried

about a story in a Lithuanian newspaper that said the Devils Team wanted to kill him. "So," said Kasparaitis, "I have to call her and say 'I still live.'" "

Kasparaitis mother has visited him in the States and attended games that he played. When a puck injured him in a game, his mother left her seat. "She come in my locker room and cry!" he said, shaking his head in amazement. "I say, 'Mom, you do this again and you go home. Can't cry. It's hockey. It's my game.'" He recalled the time when he and his mother both cried and she sent him away from home. This was after Kasparaitis had left Lithuania at the age of 14 to play hockey for Moscow Dynamo. After his first year, he was homesick. "I come home for holidays. I tell my mom, 'I don't want to play hockey and live with Russian people,'" Kasparaitis recalled. "My mom cry and say: 'Go back. It's your job. Go back to Moscow.' I go back. Cry. I was 15 years old. Now, I very thankful to my mom."

Although Kasparaitis is listed as 5 feet 11 inches tall, he appears shorter. Despite his small size - he is listed at 187 pounds - he is the team's hardest body-checker, sometimes sending foes sprawling across the ice. Against the Rangers recently, Kasparaitis took the ice with a black eye. Three minutes in the game, he crashed one player into the boards. Along with a penalty, the Rangers player began flailing at him. Kasparaitis fought back. When he sat down in the penalty box, he was laughing. "It's my game, my style. Sometimes I hit guy and guys want to hit me back and make me hurt. I must be always ready, careful." His agent said Kasparaitis "is very dangerous on the ice and has eyes in the back of his head."

Recently, his agent took him to a financial consultant to invest some money. Kasparaitis said he is not sure of his citizenship, although he wants an American passport and carries a Russian one now. Kasparaitis admits he is tired from the long NHL schedule, a common problem with European players. But he said that the last two years have been the best of his life, and that he has no real problems or worries.

Going over his past, he commented, "Win world junior championship, win Olympic Games, play in world championship. Then, drafted by New York Islanders. Come and see America. Play in N.H.L. Unbelievable! Hockey is a great life."



Lithuanians in the News

HISTORIC "COLUMBUS" TAPESTRY TO RETURN TO SITE OF WORLD'S FAIR

One of Lawrence, MA's treasures took a trip to Chicago and became part of "Grand Illusions: Chicago's World Fair of 1893." which opened in May.

A tapestry, 3-1/2' x 6', woven by Lawrence's Arlington Mills for Chicago's World Fair of 1893 returned to that city 100 years later for another exhibit. Lithuanian historian, Jonas Stundza is probably the tapestry's No. 1 fan. He remembers seeing it as a child in the Lithuanian Citizen's Club. The Club donated the tapestry to the city when the club closed in 1963.

For many years the tapestry languished in storage. Jonas Stundza spear-headed a move to have the tapestry cleaned, restored and hung. He also alerted Chicago officials of its existence. After Chicago, the tapestry may become part of a traveling exhibit on the fair. It would probably not be back in Lawrence, MA for months.



Carolyn Kiel

WILL DESIGN THE 1995 CALENDAR

Carolyn Kiel, daughter of Janet & George Kiel and granddaughter of Catherine & William Ward,

22



COLYMBVS SIGHTING AMERICA

DESIGNED AND WOVEN AT THE
ARLINGTON MILLS
LAWRENCE MASSACHUSETTS U.S.A.

members of C-110 Maspeth, has been selected to design the 1995 calendar for the United Nation's Women's Guild which will be for sale in early 1994.

PIZZA PANNING OUT IN LITHUANIA

The pizza at Ritos Virtuve, or Rita's Kitchen, smell like pure Chicago - the garlic, dough and baking cheese emitting a heavenly deep-dish aroma unrivaled, and previously unknown, across the Baltic States.

Pizza is providing another education in the Soviet



Rita Dapkus who used to live in Marquette Park, Chicago, has begun a new venture in Lithuania.

legacy for Rita Dapkus, 31, an activist from Chicago's Marquette Park who served as Parliament spokeswoman and has now started her own pizza parlor. Since she opened Ritos Virtuve, she has fired seven people. The staff has swelled from 8 to 18 as her clientele has grown. "The Soviet influence shows even on the young people," she said, "and the only way to get it out of them is money." So Dapkus pays better than average salaries - about \$40 a month. And when drivers disappear for two hours on one delivery, or other employees slack off before her 4 a.m. closing time, she fires them.

Dapkus has had to deal with old habits from the days when virtually everything in the workplace was government property and, therefore, considered ripe for theft. When she allowed her workers to use the kitchen's supplies to prepare lunches for themselves, she found they were eating food worth almost half what she paid in salaries, and she made them cut back.

In the old Communist tradition of redistributing wealth, Lithuania imposes high taxes on private businesses. To run her pizza parlor, Dapkus has to pay an 18% sales tax, 27% profits tax and 30% of employees' salaries as social security.

For all her problems, Dapkus is betting that the Lithuanian character will triumph over the Soviet model, just as the republic's 1990 bid for independence led in the end to full freedom. Her compatriots will return to their pre-Soviet diligence, she said - "You just have to give it time."

(Chicago Sun-Times)

MEDICAL STUDENT TO SERVE RESIDENCY



Paul A. Bizinkauskas

Paul A. Bizinkauskas, son of Veronica Bizinkauskas of Brockton, MA and member of C-1, will begin a three-year residency program at Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester. He graduated from Boston University School of Medicine in May. A 1981 graduate of Brockton High School, he earned his undergraduate degree in biology at the University of Massachusetts in Brockton in 1985 and in 1986 was

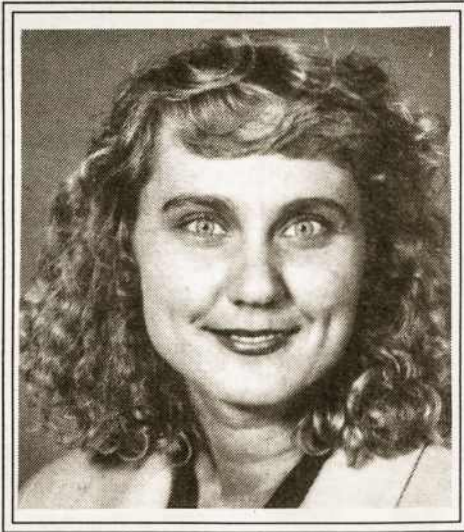
awarded a Master of Science degree. From 1982 to 1986 he served as a medical services technician at Cardinal Cushing General Hospital in Brockton. In 1990 and 1991, he was awarded the Plymouth County Massachusetts Medical Society Scholarship.

He is a member of the American Medical Student Association as well as the American Medical Association and the Massachusetts Medical Society.

Paul is also a son of the late Peter Bizinkauskas, who was a well-known educator at Bridgewater State College and a leader in Brockton's Lithuanian community. Congratulations!

PROMOTED

Vida Gecas, member of C-96 Dayton, was recently appointed Captain in U.S. Army Reserves & Special Agent in the State Dept.'s Diplomatic Security Services. After graduating from University of Dayton, she was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant to serve active duty in the U.S. Army. She has served in South Korea and Germany. She has been with the U.S. State Dept.'s Diplomatic Security Service and resides in the Washington, DC area. She has participated in several missions both in U.S. and overseas. These missions included protecting Gorbachev, Prince Charles and accompanying Sec. of State Baker to Munich, Germany. She has also visited Helsinki, Finland, Tblisi, Georgia and Moscow, Russia on official business. She has also visited relatives in Lithuania. Vida has been promoted and transferred to the Mobile Security Division. This



Vida Gecas

division specializes in sending security training teams to visit critical and high-threat embassies to instruct U.S. Marines. We congratulate Vida on her accomplishments.

142 and reside in Woodbine, MD. Ted and Veronica, as well as their two children and 14 other relatives are going to Lithuania in August 1993 to visit family homesteads and relatives residing in the Vilnius and Šiauliai areas. We congratulate Theodore Mariani on receiving this great award!

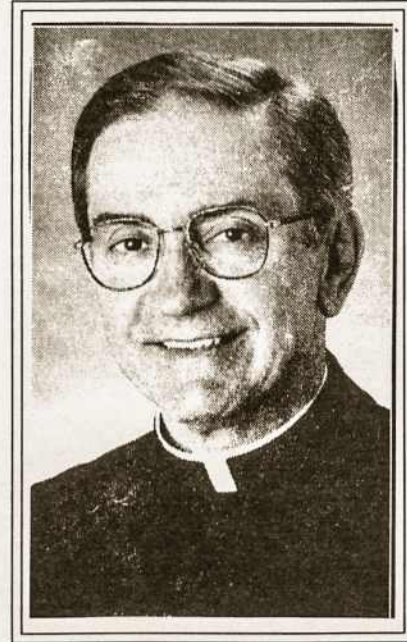
WINS 1993 KEMPER AWARD

Theodore F. Mariani, FAIA, Washington, DC, whose tireless efforts and energy have helped to receive The American Institute of Architects' (AIA) 1993 Edward C. Kemper Award. Named in honor of the AIA's first executive director, the Kemper Award recognizes significant contributions to the Institute and profession of architecture. Mariani received the coveted service award at the AIA national convention June 18 in Chicago.

His accomplishments in the field of architecture have been many. As an architect, consulting engineer and professional planner, Mariani has practiced in the nation's capital since 1957. His award-winning 20-person firm Mariani Architects-Engineers, P.C., specializes in large-scale institutional projects, including the Georgetown University Medical Center, the University of the District of Columbia's (UDC) Van Ness and Mount Vernon Square campuses, the Catholic University of America master plan and the National Rehabilitation Hospital.

Born in Philadelphia, Mariani was reared in Washington and received a BS in civil engineering from the Virginia Military Institute and an MS in architectural engineering from MIT. After service in the US Army, he pursued graduate studies in city and regional planning and urban design at Catholic University.

Over the years, Mariani has received numerous regional and national awards and honors for his architecture and public service. He is the son of the late Victoria Adomunas and Victor Mariani. Theodore Mariani and his wife, Veronica Budreckas Mariani, are both members of C-



Msgr. Peter Madus

CELEBRATES 25th

Msgr. Peter Madus of St. Joseph's Church, No. Scranton celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood on May 23. Receptions honoring the jubilarian followed in the church hall and at a restaurant.

Msgr. Madus was born in Scranton, the son of Peter & Jean Zvikas Madus. He received his early education in Scranton public schools and graduated in 1960. Three months later he became a student at St. Charles Minor Seminary in Catonsville, MD. He was ordained in St. Peter's Cathedral on May 25, 1968. Following ordination he also completed requirements for three degrees: bachelor of arts in English (1974), master of science in religious formation (1975), and master of arts in psychology (1979). In 1987 he assumed the pastorate at St. Joseph's Church in Scranton. We wish Msgr. Madus Ad Multos Annos!

Lithuanian Kitchen

Lietuviška Virtuvė

PICNIC CHICKEN BAKE

1 cup chopped onion	3 cups cooked chicken or
1 cup chopped celery	turkey, cut up
1 cup chopped pepper	1/2 loaf white bread,
3 tbsp. oil	cubed
3 cloves garlic, chopped	1-1/2 cup cracker crumbs
2 cups sliced mushrooms	3 cups chicken broth
3 eggs, lightly beaten	Salt/pepper

Saute onion, celery, pepper, garlic, mushrooms in oil until lightly translucent. In large mixing bowl, add bread cubes and 1 cup of cracker crumbs. Stir in broth, eggs, all sauted vegetables and chicken. Season as desired. Spoon into a buttered casserole and sprinkle remaining cracker crumbs. Dot with butter. Bake at 350° for 1 hour or until done.

PORK CHOPS AND SAUERKRAUT

4 - 6 pork chops	1 large onion sliced
1 large can sauerkraut - (washed twice & drained)	3 tbsp. dark brown sugar
1 large apple, peeled and chopped	Salt/pepper
	1 cup water or tomato juice

Mix sauerkraut, apple and sugar in bowl. In large deep saute pan, brown chops with onion; drain fat. Remove chops from pan; add sauerkraut mixture to pan and then place chops on top of sauerkraut. Add some liquid to pan. Cover and cook until meat and sauerkraut are cooked. Add more liquid if needed. This recipe can also be baked as a casserole at 350° for about an hour.

PINEAPPLE APRICOT DESSERT

Drain 1 can (30 oz.) apricots and 1 can (20 oz.) crushed pineapple, reserving juices. Cut apricots into quarters. Dissolve 1 - 6-oz. pkg. Apricot Jello in 2 cups boiling water. Add 1 cup reserved fruit juices and chill until slightly set. Fold in 1 cup miniature marshmallows and drained fruit. Pour into 9" x 13" pan. Chill until firm.

Combine 1/2 cup sugar, 3 tbsp. flour, 1 egg and 1 cup reserved juices. Cook and stir over medium heat just until thick. Remove from heat. Add 2 tbsp. butter.

When cool, fold in 1/2 cup whipped topping. Spread over gelatin. Sprinkle with 1/2 cup chopped pecans (optional). Chill until serving. Makes 12 servings.

COLD STRAWBERRY SOUP

1 qt. fresh strawberries, washed, hulled	2 tbsp. lemon juice
2 - 8 oz. containers strawberry yogurt	Whipped cream or topping (optional)

Set aside a few large berries for garnish. In blender or processor, combine rest of berries, yogurt and lemon juice and puree. Refrigerate until very well chilled. Serve in chilled bowls. Garnish with whipped cream or topping and float several berry slices on top.

PINEAPPLE CRANBERRY MOLD

1 - 6 oz. pkg. raspberry gelatin
1 - 16 oz. can whole cranberry sauce
1 - 8 oz. can crushed pineapple, not drained
1 - 7 oz. bottle ginger ale (or 7/8 cup)

Heat cranberry sauce in sauce pan until almost boiling; remove from flame. Add gelatin and stir until dissolved. DO NOT boil and DO NOT add water. Stir in undrained pineapple and ginger ale. When fizzing stops, pour into a 5 cup mold and chill. To serve, unmold onto serving dish and garnish as desired.

CHOCOLATE ECLAIR CAKE

2 - 3 oz. pkgs. instant chocolate pudding mix
8 oz. whipped chocolate cream topping, thawed
1 lb. box graham crackers 3-1/2 cup milk

FROSTING:

8 tsp. cocoa	3 tbsp. butter/oleo, soft
2 tbsp. oil	2 tsp. vanilla
3 tbsp. milk	2 tsp. white corn syrup
1-1/2 cup sifted confectioners sugar	

Butter bottom of 9" x 13" baking or glass pan. Line with 1/3 graham crackers in one layer. Prepare pudding mix according to directions on package using only 3-1/2 cup milk. Blend in whipped topping after pudding has thickened. Pour half of pudding mix over graham; place another 1/3 layer of graham over pudding. Pour rest of pudding into pan and cover with another 1/3 layer of graham. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hrs. Combine frosting ingredients beating until well blended. Spread frosting over top layer of graham. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until serving time.

Official News

Oficialus Skyrius

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN LITHUANIA ADOPTED BY KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

The Knights of Lithuania have responded to a request from the religious communities in the United States that have Lithuanian roots (Sisters of Immaculate Conception, Sisters of Jesus Crucified, Sisters of St. Casimir and Sisters of St. Francis).

Several councils have already "adopted" a religious community in Lithuania. The Hudson-Mohawk C-136 adopted the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Help in Kretinga, Lithuania and have sent one of the "care" packages to the sisters in Lithuania. A letter introducing the Knights of Lithuania and their council was sent with the package. C-12 in New York City plans to visit their adopted

community when their representatives travel to Lithuania in September.

The Sisters of Kretinga are one of eighteen communities whom the Knights are seeking to help by sending care packages and letters of encouragement. A few communities remain "unadopted". If your council or district is interested in adopting a community, write to Bernice Aviza, 6 Tremont St., Albany, NY 12205. She is coordinating the project. She will send you the name and address of the community, a list of suggested gift items and instructions for sending the gifts. Suggested gift items range from pencils and pens to personal health care items to knitting and sewing materials. Not too expensive or elaborate, but very much appreciated.

Bernice Aviza, Public Relations Chair

IN MEMORIAM

ANNA KRATAGE
C-79 Southfield, MI
† May 1, 1993

VICTOR RUSONIS
C-86 DuBois, PA
† May 19, 1993

STANLEY YURKUS
C-112 Chicago, IL
† May 21, 1993

JOHN BARIOU
C-90 Kearny, NJ
† May 29, 1993

MILDRED MIOLIA
C-90 Kearny, NJ
† June 14, 1993

THROUGH THE EYES OF LOVE

(Continued from Page 17)

Our team returned home, tired but oh so happy and thanks to America, the wonderful country and people who gave so much to another country so they could have their dream and hope that someday they will give back what they received and look at the world thru the eyes of love.

To clean your wedding rings - as well as any other silver, gold or diamond jewelry that's lost its shine - soak them overnight in a glass of vodka.

Did you know a quarter has 119 grooves around its outer edge and a dime has one less?

Visiting the United States for the first time, a Russian woman said, "Here it is simply amazing! In this grocery store I buy powdered milk, mix with water and get real milk. I buy powdered fruit juice, mix it with water and get real fruit juice." And as she turned to go down another aisle, she exclaimed, "And just look at this - baby powder!"

Prosperity is the fruit of labor. It begins with saving money.

Council News

Vyčiai Veikia

C-1 BROCKTON, MA

The merry month of May lent itself to the beauty of life as our "fearless" leader, Veronica Bizinkauskas, witnessed her youngest son graduate from medical school. Now we have a doctor among us - Dr. Paul Bizinkauskas. Naturally, this called for a celebration. What an event! Our council partook of the festivities. Dr. Paul will take up his residency at University Hospital. Congratulations!

Practice makes perfect. C-1 perfected the art of dining and entertaining for the residents of St. Joseph's Manor Nursing Home. This was the second annual K of L supper for the residents. A real Lithuanian meal from kugel to kapustas, to kielbasi, to "K"alories. Our logo was "I ate the big 'K' dinner - Knights of Lithuania." Singing the oldies (Lithuanian songs) were a hit. Those tra la la's sounded real good.

Our pastor, Rev. Peter Shakalis, sponsored another organ recital to benefit Lithuanian Children's Relief. What a great turnout. C-1 served delicious cakes and coffee to all who attended. The variety was super and quantities sufficient. To help keep the Lithuanian Dream Team memory alive, our Council presented the Grateful Dead basketball shirt to our local Sports Bar. The manager, Mr. Twoomey, was delighted to receive it. It will be hung with pride besides the other sports shirts (Celtics, Bruins, Red Sox and Patriots). Need we say more?

The sixteen children, spouses and grandchildren of Bob & Emily Dillis

were very anxious when daughter Pamela was one of the finalists on Wheel of Fortune TV Game Show. Unfortunately she did not get to be the grand prize winner; however, we congratulate her on her efforts and courage Our member Scott Kelley graduated from High School and is heading for Bridgewater State College. We wish the best to Scott and are so happy that he is part of our council.

We hope to see all K of L members at the convention in Worcester.

Daisy Ruta

C-10 ATHOL-GARDNER, MA

Should one happen to drive to the west end of South Street in Athol, one will see color in the air as the Lithuanian tri-color and the American flags join. A Lithuanian color windsock flies on the flagpole along the Old Glory against a blue sky on a sunny day. The K of L windsock may be obtained from Frank Jurgaitis, 5553 So. Moody Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 while the supply lasts. *Leonard Davidonis*

C-26 WORCESTER, MA

A meeting was held on May 11 at Maironis Park with everyone in a quiet mood. Kazys & Theresa Adomavicius are back from a trip to Las Vegas. Terry endorses the Vegas Shows, the hot dry weather and the reasonably priced meals Ellie & Steve Walinsky, Jr. vacationed in Phoenix, AZ ... The Pantos family spent spring break in San Juan, Puerto Rico with the daughter, Andrea, who is a Junior at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA.

Ruth & Vito Gadilauskas celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary in Branson, MI at the new Oprey Land Our best wishes to Robert & Mary Lovett on their 32nd wedding anniversary Also, Ruth & Chuck Sarafinas celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary at the Cliff House in Ogonquit, ME Best wishes are extended to Mark Walinsky on his upcoming marriage in September in Vale, CO. His parents are Ellie & Steve Walinsky, Jr. of Millbury and his grandparents are Ann & Stephen Walinsky, Sr. of Worcester.

Bill Leseman received the bowling prize for Mister Congeniality at the NED Bowling Tournament. Con-



C-26 Worcester: Aldona Waska, Victoria Augustine & Lillian Kondrotas

gratulations, Uncle Bill Members Leonard Matulis & Barb Pantos have completed the Worcester Diocesan Cursillo. The Spanish word Cursillo means little course in living Christianity. The purpose of Cursillo is to restore Christianity to our daily living environment and, more simply phrased, "make a friend, be a friend, and bring your friend to Christ."

The June picnic has been postponed because of date conflicts for a fund raiser. A Fall bazaar will be held on Nov. 6 instead of our picnic Our condolences are extended to Rose Chestnut on the death of her mother, Stella, age 97. Also to Bill & Anne Leseman on the death of her nephew, Bernard Arrell of Naragansett, RI. May they rest in peace.

Convention plans are progressing well, reports Ruth Sarafinas. Plans were made to host the National Executive Board on June 19. Come join us here in Worcester for the 80th National Convention in August. Meet new friends and renew old friendships.

Barb Pantos

C-36 CHICAGO, IL

We've been rather busy with quite a few activities that many of our members participated in. On May 8, a few juniors, their parents and regular members enjoyed the 50's dance sponsored by the Junior K of Lrs. We surely were in the swing. It was nice to see everyone enjoying the dance and being with friends.

The May 17 meeting was highlighted by the presentation of our mothers' and fathers' pictures. It was interesting and impressive to view the wedding pictures of our parents. We honored them thus with our love in a special way that was so satisfying and appropriate. We remembered them with prayers whether they were here

on earth or in heaven We pray for our deceased members, Mr. Malik and Edwin Sypien. May they rest in peace.

On May 26 our Jr. K of Lrs had their special May procession. Rev. Fabian Kirelis led us in procession as we carried lighted candles. Mr. Soudaitis and the Lithuanian choir sang Ave Ave Marija. Josephine Novak crowned the Blessed Mother statue. Audrey Novak, Eva, Matthew & Anthony Aponavicius, Mary & Anna Cius, Sabina Henson, Johanna Johnston, G. Meilus and others were dressed in their costumes with yet others wearing the Lithuanian juostas. The May devotions show our special love to the Blessed Mother. To all who attended, we say thank you. All this took place not in Fatima but Immaculate Conception Church.

We look forward to learning that our sick members will soon be in the best of health. Ona Naureckas has not been with us at the meetings because of a bad back.

Sabina (Rucas) Henson

C-52 ELIZABETH, NJ

Our spiritual advisor and pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul Lithuanian Church, Rev. Alfred Zemeikis, observed the 30th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on May 25, 1993. Congratulations! The parish's annual summer festival took place on May 30.

Marion Dudis, K of L member and parish school secretary, received the Citizens Award for community service on May 21 during the 4th annual Elizabethport Community Pride Day. A local priest and founder of Elizabethport Pride Day said about Marion, "She has been involved and active in many community endeavors and is a real advocate for her neighbors and a real spokesperson for a lot of people who feel overwhelmed by

government." Marion's dad, the late George Vitkauskas (Wycosky) was a detective in the Elizabeth Police Dept. Congratulations! *William Senkus*

C-63 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA

Our May meeting was well attended, which again speaks well of the membership, most of whom are enthusiastic participants in council affairs. It also explains why Lithuania's cause is so well publicized in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley and northern New Jersey, our territory. As example, final plans were laid for operating our blynas (potato pancake) stand at Bethlehem's Christmas City Fair on July 16, 17 and 18. This event is becoming a tradition and not only is it a good source of revenue but it also acquaints several thousand people with the Knights of Lithuania and Lithuania, in general. If any who read this are in our area during this period, we invite you to visit us. Our Vice Pres., Delores Connolly will co-chair the event with Pres. Robert Klova.

Two very successful ventures which doubled our treasury's assets were a cash drawing chaired by Doris Lushis and a flea market sale co-chaired by Valerie Smickle & Dora Lushis. These two ladies and their hard working crews deserve many thanks. First prize was for \$300, second prize \$100, two third prizes of \$50 each and four fourth prizes of \$25 each made up the cash drawings. The more choice items of clothing were segregated at the flea market for shipment to Lithuania.

Council welcomes our newest member, Rose Ahlum, who hails from Sellersville, PA. Pres. Klova administered the oath of membership Long-time member Nora Barcoucky is still on the ailing list. She is recuperating at her son Leonard's home in Pittsburgh.

Prior to his move, Len was president of our council and the former editor of the Bethlehem Globe-Times newspaper. Our prayers are with Nora for a quick recovery and return.

Joseph F. Ogint

C-74 SCRANTON, PA

We attended the Immigration Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral which was televised and were happy to see our neighboring Knights from Pittston and Forest City attending.

Our condolence goes out to Casimir Yanish and Ann Matulevich, on the death of their brother John; Della Zvirblis on the death of her grandson; and Evelyn Zewicki on the death of her brother Vincent Ann Lisowski & Ann Huffstutler are recuperating after their stay in the hospital Our Knights donated \$1,000 to St. Joseph's Lithuanian Cemetery Fund for the Benefactorial Memorial We are planning an Ethnic Day at the Anthracite Museum on Sept. 12 with everyone invited.

Many of our Knights attended the 25th anniversary of Msgr. Peter Madus' ordination to the Priesthood, with a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Joseph's Church and a reception honoring the jubilarian in the church hall and at Fiorelli's in Peckville.

Marie Laske attended a dinner at Keystone Junior College honoring Jonas Tamulis. He was one of the founding fathers of Lithuania's newly re-founded Democratic Republic and was a member of Lithuanian Parliament, 1990-1992. He is presently working independently to promote environmental and economic reform in Lithuania. He spoke on "Lithuania's Political Business and Environmental Future." *M. Laske*

C-79 SOUTHFIELD, MI

Our May meeting began with the awarding of first degrees to Margaret & William Dapkus and Sylvia Jarosz. By special arrangement, Marge & Bill also received their second degrees Helen Santorum, our Lithuanian Affairs chair, spoke enthusiastically and passed out literature on the importance and benefits of "Divine Mercy" services and individual participation.

We were informed that our council lost (through death) one of our senior members, Ann Kratage, who passed away May 1. Our sympathy is extended to Joseph, Jr., Virginia & Marion, her children.

We were reminded of our next money-making project: the annual catered Luncheon & Card Party on Sept. 22. Let us cooperate and not refuse when asked to help at this affair and the upcoming Annual Fall Festival scheduled for Nov. 14 A sumptuous lunch was served by our "DH" (designated hostess) of the month, Sylvia Jarosz. Previous non-attendees should take advantage of the time change: meetings are now held at 11 a.m. the first Wednesday of the month.

Bee Jay

C-90 KEARNY, NJ

It is with great sorrow that we say Sudiiev to lifetime member Irene Belza who passed away on April 9. Irene was such a driving force in our organization that she will never be replaced. It is also with great sadness that we extend our sincerest condolences to the family of Jack Bariou who passed away on May 29.

Some of our members participated in the Baltimore Lithuanian Festival



C-90 President Theresa Bilaitis

by driving by car since a bus was not scheduled. A good time was had by all Word from Stephen Nakrosis is that he is working on the press corps advance team in preparation for the Pope's visit to Lithuania in September. He is working hard and adapting very quickly to the culture and language.

Mark your calendars - the Ethnic Festival in Jersey City will be held in September and we will be participating as in the past. It should be fun - as we all know! Lithuanian classes for beginners will be starting in September. If anyone is interested, please let us know. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful teacher - it's an opportunity not to be missed.

Our last meeting of the season was held on June 9 at LCC. Juliana Liana from Elizabeth C-52, who acts as our intermediary with Srs. Dolorita & Michele, attended our meeting and gave us a firsthand report and showed us some pictures of the nuns with our 'refrigerator'. A wine and cheese social, hosted by Audry Przybielski & Lilly Sudol, followed the meeting.

C-100 AMSTERDAM, NY

Pres. Irene Tice and husband

Harold were welcomed back after spending a few months in Florida. MAD Pres. Bernice Aviza and National Treasurer Ed Barkowski, both from C-136 Hudson-Mohawk were in attendance at our April meeting. Sister Mavis Jewell of the Daughters of Charity from Albany also attended as our guest. She and Sr. Marilyn Perkins were sent to Lithuania by St. Peter's Hospital, Albany, to study the needs of the hospitals. They visited numerous hospitals throughout Lithuania and found them to be in dire need of equipment, medical supplies, etc. Sister showed us movies of their trip which included the Hill of Crosses. Cultural Chair Mirga Bablin spoke on the Lithuanian Easter traditions. A Lithuanian tablecloth covered the table where a variety of snacks were prepared by Bea & Bill Jasewicz, Ann Czerw, Helen Radzevich, Joan & Stanley Rimkunas.

After attending the Lithuanian Mass celebrated by Fr. Grabys, we gathered at Fr. Baltch's Social Center for our May meeting. Present at the meeting were guests from Lithuania, Danute Jurevicius and her son Raymondas. Mirga Bablin spoke on the Lithuanian language: keeping it pure and also reminding us that it is the oldest living European language. C-100 approved a donation of \$100 to the National Scholarship Fund and a half-page ad in the convention program book. Our sick list included Ann Radzevich, Stanley Stankes, Christine Tambasco & Joan Rimkunas. Refreshments were handled by Walter & Sophie Malkowicz, Adeline Raila, Jennie Burimaskas & Helen Zytkowski.

C-100 is scheduled to hold the next Mid-Atlantic District meeting on Sept. 26. Further details will follow.

Smile & Sparkle

C-102 DETROIT, MI

Congratulations to Tim Baibak and the new young members of C-102 for hosting the MCD weekend. With the help of our older members, the weekend was a great success. We were honored to have SC Pres. Fran Petkus who also belongs to our District, and District Pres. John Baltrus in attendance. Also, a big thank you to C-16, C-19, C-25, C-79, C-86, C-96 and C-139 for attending. Our Sunday Mass was beautiful and the choir couldn't have sound better. Most of the bowling winners seemed to be from our C-102 and Cleveland C-25. Ruth Wagster donated the first place trophies in honor of her husband, Mart. The winners of these trophies were our C-102 team, The Baibaks. A beautiful traveling trophy, hand carved wooden plaque with a Knight, carved by George Mikalauskas, C-96 Dayton was donated by Charles & Nelda Machutas of C-25 Cleveland in honor of their deceased son, Charles. We were happy to have Chicago participate in the bowling this year - Janeen Perutis, Mary Beth Slakis & Robert Martin. They worked at the World Medical Relief in the morning packing boxes to Lithuania and then bowled with us in the afternoon. Mary Beth Slakis won the District's 50/50 Raffle consisting of \$500, of which she gave a generous donation to the World Medical Relief for Lithuania. The music for our Saturday night sing-along was graciously donated by John Stanievich and Joe Stark. Honored guests at the Sunday dinner were two students, one from Lithuania and the other from Estonia, studying at St. Joseph's Hospital in Pontiac, MI.

In May, a very emotional farewell dinner was held for St. Anthony's assistant pastor, Rev. Semaitis. Father is ill and retired to Lithuania to be with

his family. Best wishes and good health were in the gift to him from C-102.

Congratulations to Tim & Chris Baibak on their first born son Deepest sympathies are extended to our cultural lady, Donna Stanievich, on the death of her mother. Also, to Bea Cramblet on the death of her sister, Josephine Ramierez who was a social member of our council. Also to Virginia Antakli on the passing of her mother. Virginia and her brother have donated \$10,000 in their mother's memory, Mrs. Kratage, to George Perles, football coach at Michigan State University for a golf tournament in July. The proceeds are to go to the Aid to Lithuania. Many local sports figures will be attending.

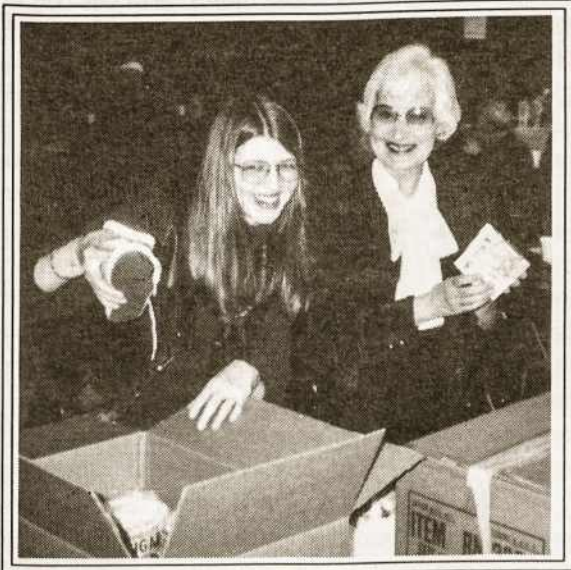
A surprise visitor to our MCD weekend was our Florida member, Evelyn Galinas Barry. She was a house guest of Ruth Wagster. Our meeting was surprised with Vytalia Thompson and daughter Angela attending all the way from Carson City, MI Get well wishes are extended to Edna & Bill Klucens.

Thanks again to Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Dayton, DuBois, 139 and 79 Detroit in making our MCD weekend a big success. *Meriuté*

C-110 MASPETH, NY

As our C-110 prepares for summer, Pres. Bruno Rutkunas had members approve generous donations, to include the Franciscan Fathers, additional shipments of food and clothing to Lithuania orphanages, and a variety of other Lithuanian causes An application for first degree was submitted for Nancy Greiner.

Members attended the annual Memorial Day parade in Maspeth on May 30. Our ladies wore the traditional Lithuanian costumes and we proudly waved both the American and



C-110 Mary Abbott & Ann Morrissey pack boxes of clothes and food for shipment to Lithuanian orphanages.

Lithuanian flags in honor of our deceased war heroes Plans were also started by member Ann Morrissey to honor the 60th anniversary of American Lithuanian pilots, Stephen Darius & Stanley Girenas, who made a historic transatlantic flight in 1933 from Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, which ended with their tragic crash in Germany. On Sat., July 17 at 11 a.m., a memorial service is planned at Floyd Bennett Field's Hangar #1. Lithuanians from our area organizations are encouraged to attend and make this a memorable event with prayer, song and picknicking Other events included a golf tournament on June 15 at Sunken Meadow. Chair Joe Stelmokas invited the wives to participate in the golfing which ended with a get together dinner.

Member Ann Morrissey still works tirelessly in her drive to ship food, clothing and necessities to the Lithuanian orphanages. She is working on shipments of much needed diapers, as more boxes were shipped at the end of May. Members and friends

are encouraged to donate clothing, shoes, food items, bandaids, aspirin, etc. to help these children of our own heritage.

Members who celebrated spring wedding anniversaries included: Roman & Sophie Wensek, 57 years; Peter & Sophie Zuyus, 53 years; Anthony & Helen Yakstis, 50 years; Catherine & William Ward, 48 years; Helen & John Cummins, 45 years; Amy & John Girdauskas, 45 years

and John & Mary Abbott, 9 years. God bless them on their secrets to a happy marriage!

Mary Abbott

C-112 CHICAGO, IL

Congratulations to 3rd Vice Pres., Denise Zakarka, and the Juniors on their very successful dance on May 8 in I.C. Church Hall. With a D.J. and kugelis made by Terry Vaitkus, everyone got into the mood and enjoyed the '50's theme. Hope it's only the beginning of many more successful events.

We all miss Eleanore Laurin's cheery presence at our meetings and socials. Everyone sends their best wishes for her recovery and we pray that she will soon be able to rejoin us Julie, Denise & Rita Zakarka did not quite complete their pilgrimage to Conyers, GA on March 12. That was the weekend of the "big snow." After traveling to within a hundred miles of the Blessed Virgin Shrine, the bus driver called it quits because of closed highways and they ended up spending the night in a public building. A number of people in the bus entourage had interesting experiences to relate when

they were finally able to get back home What's the big attraction in Florida? It seems everybody is heading south and it's not even winter in Chicago anymore. You can see sun-tans on Julie Zakarka, Aldona & Al Brazis, Terry Vaitkus, Robert & Al Mockus - just to name a few.

Thanks to Dolores Wainauskas for sending us interesting and extremely professionally, well done quarterly council bulletins throughout the year. We appreciate your efforts; it's a big job.

Julie Zakarka did a tremendous job of organizing our March St. Joseph's table. We had quite an assortment of dishes. It just goes to show you - our ladies (and men, too) really know their way around a kitchen Our guest speaker at the April meeting was Fr. John Kuzinskas. He spoke on his involvement with the beatification of Mother Maria Kaupas, i.e., delivering to Rome testimony weighing 45 lbs. from 58 witnesses. Thank you, Father, for an interesting talk.

We brought our aches and pains to the May meeting because we knew our guest speaker was a chiropractor, Dr. Leon Kolodziej. I had the honor of introducing the good doctor since he helped me tremendously with a twisted knee and back problems. After a short, interesting talk, Dr. Leon found himself at the center of a group of people, all of whom sought his advice, for a variety of different problems. Thanks, Doctor, for sharing your knowledge with us.

Gerrie

C-136 HUDSON-MOHAWK, NY

Our news column has been among the missing for a few months. Sim & Dorothy Richmire's daughter, Anne-marie, was married on March 6. Shortly after the wedding, Sim & Dot enjoyed a two week vacation on the west coast,



C-136 members Bernice Aviza, Ed Barkowski and Joan Parker sending "Care" packages to Lithuania.

taking in the sights of San Clemente, Capistrano, Los Angeles & Las Vegas. California is a nice place to visit, but there is no place like home.

In Feb., we celebrated Lithuanian Independence Day by hearing Mass at Holy Cross Church with Fr. Bernard Gustas officiating. Following Mass, we enjoyed a delicious buffet prepared and enjoyed by our members and guests. Guest speaker, Joan Andrejko, gave us an interesting account of her recent visit to Lithuania. She teaches 6th grade social studies and is of Ukrainian background.

Feb. and March brought us devastating news of the loss of two members: Frances Max who served well on various committees and Margaret (Peggy) Fuerst, who most recently participated in the development of our Junior Council. Peggy was killed in an automobile accident and was the mother of two children: Richard, a student at Union College and Kristin, a high school student. Both members will be sorely missed and we extend our sympathy and love to their families.

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adopt a religious community in Lithuania and, at our next meeting, members will be donating articles desperately needed by Lithuanians. We hope to be able to send a huge box shortly thereafter. Our next meeting will take place at a local restaurant so that we may celebrate our last meeting until the fall.

In August, we will be enjoying our annual summer picnic, a joint effort with C-100 (Amsterdam). Hopefully, it will be a nice day filled with sunshine. C-136 wishes all members and their families a happy, healthy and safe summer and we hope to see some of you at the convention.

Dorothy Richmire

C-141 BRIDGEPORT, CT

Before the May meeting officially began, we enjoyed delicious refreshments presented by hostesses Helen Baranauskas, Violeta Seliga and Ilona Zakarauskas. The 50/50 raffle followed and drew these lucky winners: Inga Seliga, Barbara Schmidt and Mitch Marcinauskas. Pres. Clem Miller welcomed members and asked Walt

May was the time of our Festival of Nations. Our booth was one representative of the various ethnic offerings of food and artifacts. We transformed 100 lbs. of potatoes into potato pancakes and, surprisingly, we ran out of pancakes and left people wanting more. Next year, God willing, we will have more potatoes, more help and more pancakes. At our May meeting, we voted to

Barius to open the meeting with a prayer. She then introduced newly-sworn in member, Richard Haux and two guests visiting from Kaunas - Violeta Seliga's mom and dad who will be spending the summer with her and her family in Bridgeport.

Ray Buzak, former English teacher and actor/director at Polka Dot Playhouse, was privileged to attend the Lithuanian International Theater Festival for two weeks in Vilnius. There were performances and workshops by eleven theater companies from around the world. Besides, he was able to see Lithuania for the first time and enjoy the scenic tours of important places - and practice his Lithuanian language.

Rose & Walt Barius are now residents of Florida and are only visitors in Bridgeport Congratulations to Joe Janiunas who received the 3rd degree at the NED meeting in Providence Recently a raffle was conducted for the benefit of St. George's parish. Nearly \$5,000 was realized - a real boost for the many repairs and renovations needed. It showed real teamwork in our multi-ethnic parish Joe Janiunas reported on current events in Lithuania, covering troop withdrawal, soil pollution from fuel and various poisonous chemicals. The growing social and economic problems indicate a high rate of unemployment and the poverty-level standard of living are causing a rise in crime and theft epidemic. The cost of everything including necessities is unbelievably high.

Stella Marcinauskas brought in a huge well lit cake to celebrate Alice Wilcinkas' birthday in May. After singing Happy Birthday, we discovered another birthday for Helen Baranauskas. Lee Marcinka would have been the third May baby but she was absent due to illness. Blessings to all

of you and many more.

Please remember John Marcinka in your prayers who is seriously ill We all enjoyed the NED Retreat in Kennebunkport in June.

Aldona Marcavage

C-147 ST. PETERSBURG, FL

At our meeting on May 6, Aldona Kirstuk donated a delicious "Napoleon" in honor of Mother's Day. It was large enough to satisfy the appetites of all those attending our meeting. Our recording secretary, Victoria Kleivas, read a lovely passage about mothers. Very well done, Victoria and thank you Aldona Three of our members, Antanas Gudonis, Valerija Lescinskas and Veronica Pleskis spent four days in Las Vegas in April. It was four days "WELL SPENT" Victoria Kleivas & Antanas Grabauskas left for Lithuania on May 24 Genovaitė Bakas had to cancel her trip to Australia because of illness and was hospitalized Ona Semolevicius was also in the hospital this May. We wish them both a quick recovery Vladas & Ursula Eidietis are moving to Niles, MI due to the illness of Vladas. They were two of our original members in 1976 when C-147 was formed. We will truly miss them.



C-147 Rec. Secretary Victoria Kleiviene with great granddaughter. Sole charter member of St. Petersburg council.

C-147, when formed, had twenty members and was the first council in Florida. Officers at that time were: Spiritual advisor, Rev. Gasiunas; Pres. & Cultural, Anthony Mazeika; Vice-President, A. Kraujalis; Rec. Sec. & Correspondence, V. Kleiviene; Treasurer, A. Paleckis; Fin. Sec., V. Kraujaliene; Lithuanian affairs, etc., Victoria Jacobson. *Dolores Jonaitis*

C-152 EASTERN LONG ISLAND, NY

On Sunday, May 23, a day of spectacular beauty and ideally suited for an outdoor ceremony, our council hosted a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island, a 67-acre facility maintained by the Montfort Fathers in Eastport, NY. Our purpose in sponsoring this event was to observe the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Knights of Lithuania and to commemorate the inspiring record of service by the Knights to the cause of preserving the cultural and religious heritage of Lithuania among those of Lithuanian ancestry resident in this country.

Our procession to the outdoor altar was colorfully highlighted by U.S. and Lithuanian flags, appropriate banners (including one especially created for the occasion by Cam Dykovitz), the national costumes worn by many of our own ladies and guests, and the singing of the Sveika Marija. Mass was celebrated by our spiritual advisor, Rev. William Scryll, with readings in Lithuanian by guest-Knight Polly Ziausys and a brief tribute to the work of the Knights of Lithu-

ania spoken by MAD President Bernice Aviza. A selection of Lithuanian hymns rendered by a choir led by Fred Lucka and with an organ accompaniment by Joe Thomas, provided a truly inspirational musical background to the Mass.

Mass was followed by an informal bring-your-own luncheon in the picnic area of the Shrine's spacious grounds. Our socializing at our *al fresco* luncheon was made particularly memorable by the presence of Povilas Katilius, Pres. of the Christian Democratic Party and a member of Lithuania's Parliament, where he serves on the Committee on State and Law. Coming from such an authoritative source, his answers to the many questions put to him on the current conditions in Lithuania (delivered in Lithuanian, but ably translated by a young gentleman accompanying him) were, his listener's felt, of singular value. We were left somewhat saddened to learn from Mr. Katilius that, although people of Lithuanian ancestry comprise some 80% of the total population, Communists still outnumber the Christian Democrats in party strengths. One would have thought that 50 years of submission to Marxism would have conclusively shown the futility of this dismal philosophy to all!

This brief outline of our Pilgrimage must include our special thanks to Beatrice Lucka, for chairing the event and painstakingly overseeing the numerous details required for its success.

Finally, we ask our readers to spare a prayer for Joseph Petrowski, recently deceased brother of our member Peter Petrowski, and for our ill fellow Knights, Marian Bealis, Edward Shemet, Loretta Rhinow & Bill Newalis. *Tom Tarmey*



C-152 Celebrating 80th Anniversary of Knights of Lithuania at Shrine of Our Lady of the Island, Eastport, NY.

C-154 SPRING HILL, FL

The summer months find our council dividing into two groups. One half of our membership takes wing and become "snow birds". The other half takes advantage of the numerous activities the sun coast has to offer.

A picnic at Crews Park sounded a farewell for those leaving for points far and wide. Pick up your maps and follow the travels of our Knights. The Gnezevich's have a travel plan that staggers the imagination. First, a drive to Austin, TX where grandson, Craig Thomas Phillips, picks up his engineering degree from the University of Texas. Then a trip to Houston, TX to spend time with granddaughter, Allison and her husband. Next, a drive up the east coast to the Berkshires where they will visit with Bill's sister, Anna Stack, a K of Ler from the Maspeth council. On to Chenango Forks, NY

and a stay at the Walluks, fellow K of Lers from Florida. Climax-now, Chicago and some quality time with daughter, Annette Jo and her husband. Did you keep tract of the miles cov-

an ordinary dancer - she and Ray really dance up a storm!

Alex Walluk had to forego his propensity for golf, fishing, gardening and home improvement to undergo



C-153 Treasure Coast: Jim Marcinkus, Florence Miskinis, Frances Daniels, John Tomasauskas, Nellie Balbota. Rear: Kestutis Grikenis with flag from C-72.

ered by these wanderers?

A copy of VILTIS (Hope) a magazine not to be confused with VYTIS (the Knight) came to our attention. This magazine dedicated to folklore and folk dance is published by Editor, Vytautas F. Beliajus. Imagine our surprise when we found a contribution by our own Virginia Kentra. Further research uncovered the fact that Virginia had been a dance student of the editor some years ago. We should have guessed that Virginia was not just

major surgery. His recovery is just short of unbelievable. Our prayers were answered.

Enjoy a safe summer!

S. G. Petraitis

MID ATLANTIC DISTRICT

Newark, NJ C-29 graciously hosted our June meeting. The day began with a high Mass concelebrated by Rev. Peter Stravinskas and Fr. Zygmunt Pikula. Hymns were sung in Lithuanian, Latin and English for the special feast of Corpus Christi. Although attendance was lacking, members who did attend were served individually to a delicious home-cooked meat loaf dinner with all the trimmings - which included a glass of wine and dessert. After the meeting, all enjoyed hearty sandwiches and a variety of home-baked cakes. Their president, Kazys Sipaila, and members deserve special thanks for their hard work and wholehearted warm hospitality. Our thanks to all!

District Pres. Bernice Aviza spoke of encouraging members to work on committees, and advised that a workshop would be planned for the future so that members could find out procedures. Ms. Aviza added that a drive for new members is needed, pointing out that the "baby boomer" generation, those between ages 35 and 50, are scarce. She urged members to get their children and grandchildren involved in the K of L.

Plans have been finalized and members urged to attend the 60th anniversary celebration of the Darius & Girenas trans-Atlantic flight which will be held at Floyd-Bennett Field in Brooklyn, NY on Saturday, July 17 at 11 a.m. Music, singing and dancing in a picnic atmosphere are planned with a ceremony marking the place where the two brave pilots took off on their

journey. An interesting program with some well-known speakers has been arranged. All members and their friends, as well as ALL Lithuanians, should attend to show our support for this very memorable event.

A committee was formed to study the feasibility of moving a statue dedicated to Darius & Girenas from its Brooklyn location. The monument consists of a beautiful marble flag-pole with an inset plaque depicting the two pilots. The marble base has been marked with graffiti, as the area is no longer populated by Lithuanian residents. Members Bruno Rutkunas, C-110, Joseph Russell, C-29, and Bill Kumeta, C-41, were assigned to the committee to seek assistance from other organizations in the Lithuanian community.

Delegates voted to support the two area Lithuanian radio programs with a donation of \$50 each to Dr. Jack Stukas, emanating from New Jersey, and to Romas Kezys, from Queens. A monetary gift to Msgr. Frank Bulovas, our District Spiritual Advisor for many years, will be presented on the occasion of his 50th Anniversary celebration to be held August 8. Ilgiausiu Metu, Msgr. Resolutions were also passed to donate to the National Scholarship Fund, Aid to Lithuania, Inc. and to take an ad in the Souvenir Journal of the upcoming National Convention in Worcester, MA.

The new revised edition of our District bylaws (in a pink covered booklet) has now been printed by Mary Kober. Copies may be obtained at \$1.00 each from Josephine Zukas, District Treasurer.

Delegates to represent the District at the National Convention will be Edward Baranauskas, C-100 and Helen Matulonis, C-110. Alternates are Anne Ackalaitis, C-110 and Helen

Radisch, C-29. Through the efforts of Dalia Bulvicius, and financially supported by the District, a demo-tape on interesting moments in the life of our beloved late HM Joseph Boley, will be viewed at the convention. Don't miss it!

Nominations were presented for openings on the Executive Board with elections to take place in September. Additional nominations will also be accepted at that meeting, and members are encouraged to make a commitment to become a vital part of a successful, energetic, working Board.

Our next meeting will be hosted by Amsterdam, NY C-100 on Sept. 26. Our St. Casimir's commemoration and meeting is slated for Albany, NY on March 13, 1994 with Hudson-Mohawk C-136 hosting.

Marytė Abbott

VACATION IN SUNNY FLORIDA.
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Room with semi-private bath \$150.00 per week. Includes continental breakfast, heated pool, air conditioning. Near shopping malls and beach. A. Zupko, 5886 Guest Court, North Fort Myers, FL 33903. Tel. (813) 656-5886.

Pat O'Malley was going into a pub as his pastor was passing by. He said, "Pat, don't you know that when you go in that place, the devil goes with you?"

Pat replied, "Father, if he goes with me, he'll have to buy his own beer."

— Ponas Jonai, jūsu karvių pienes turi per didelį procentą vandens!

— Gali būti, nes karvės vakar per visą naktį stovėjo lietuje.

Convention Memories!

Allentown 1992



Anna Helen McDonald, C-144; Ellie Kasputis, C-112; Helen Chesko & Olympia Zelinski, C-144.



Robert Martin, Mary Beth Slakis, C-16, Victor Stepolavitch, C-3. Back row: Irene Svekla, C-3, Bill Kumeta, C-41, Marytė Sepikas, C-133.



CALENDAR of EVENTS

- July 17, 1993 - C-79 Southfield, MI - Family Day Picnic.
- July 17, 1993 - 60th Anniversary Darius-Girenas. Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, NY, Hosts: Knights of Lithuania
- August 12 - 15, 1993 - 80th National Convention, Marriott Hotel, Worcester, MA - hosted by C-26.
- September 2 - 17, 1993 - K of L Tour to Lithuania.
- September 22, 1993 - C-79 Southfield, MI - Annual Luncheon & Card Party.
- September 26, 1993 - NED Meeting. Hosts C-17 So. Boston, MA.
- September 26, 1993 - MAD Meeting. Hosts C-100 Amsterdam, NY.
- October 1-2-3, 1993 - MCD Meeting & Pilgrimage, Cleveland, OH. Hosts: C-25
- October 9, 1993 - C-29 Newark, NJ Dinner & Dance.
- October 17, 1993 - NED Cultural Festival, Maironis Park, Shrewsbury, Hosts C-17 So. Boston and C-116 Worcester, MA.
- October 24, 1993 - C-29 Newark, NJ Chinese Auction.
- November 14, 1993 - C-79 Southfield, MI - Fall Festival.
- March 13, 1994 - MAD Meeting - Hosts: C-136 Hudson-Mohawk, NY

ATSKREND SAKALĖLIS

Liaudies daina



At - skrend sa - ka - lė - lis per ža - lią gi - re - lę.



At - mu - šė spar-ne- lius į sau- są eg - le - lę. lę.

Pažiūrėk, mergele,
Į sausą eglę:
Kai pradės žaliuoti
Tai tu būsi mano.

Ar už jūrių marių,
Ar už vandenėlių,
Ar kitas mergeles
Mylėti pradėjo?

Sausoji eglė
Žaliuoti pradėjo,
Kur gi tas bernelis,
Kurs mane mylėjo?

Nei už jūrių marių,
Nei už vandenėlių,
Tik kitas mergeles
Mylėti pradėjo.



AUGO GIRIOJ AŽUOLĖLIS

Liaudies daina



Au - go gi - rioj a - žuo - lė - lis, au - go gi - rioj



a - žuo - lė - lis, au - go gi - rioj a - žuo - lė - lis, pas tė - ve - lj



sū - nai - tė - lis, pas tė - ve - lj sū - nai - tėlis.

Rūpinosi tėvužėlis,
Kad jo mažas sūnaitėlis.

Užaugo tavo sūnaitėlis,
Bus Lietuvos kareivėlis.

Nesirūpink, tėvužėli,
Užaugo tavo sūnaitėlis.

Man nereikia kareivėlio,
Man tik reikia artojų.

Nepabūves kareivėliu
Nebus geras artojų.

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 Two Bayview Avenue
 Port Washington, NY 11050

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 LITHUANIAN INF. CTR.,
 5620 S. CLAREMONT
 CHICAGO IL 60636

MY DREAM FOR AMERICA

JULY 4, 1993

Ever since I was in college in the 1960s, I have always hoped that America would close out the twentieth century having made humanism and industrialism compatible.

For in my judgment, this nation needs a heart as big as its brain.

The truest measure of a nation's greatness, lies in the depth of its sensitivity;

For sensitivity is the language of humanity;

It is the one thing we all understand, regardless of our differences; it is the one thing, which, if we seek to appreciate and find in each other, will form the foundation to resolve all of our problems;

So my dream for America, is for a nation with heart; a nation, rich and abundant in sensitivity; and a nation in which all of us reach out to touch one another, for surely we are altogether, the children of God and the family of humankind.

—*anonymous Poet*