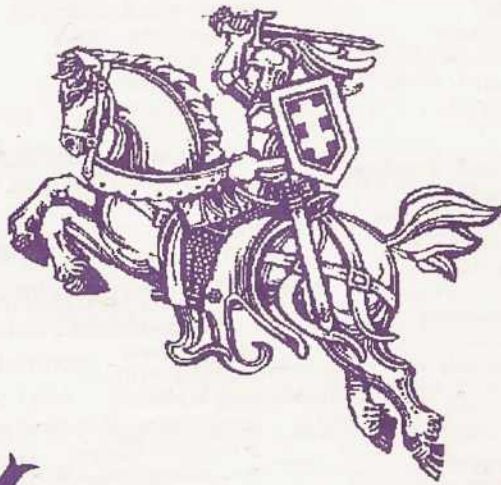


VYTIS
THE KNIGHT



80th Anniversary

LAPKRITIS / NOVEMBER

THE FALLING OF LEAVES, "LAPŲ KRITIMAS" IS WHERE THIS MONTH GETS ITS NAME. IN LITHUANIA, THE WEATHER IS COLD, WET AND MUDDY, WITH SHORTER DAYS, AND NIGHTS PERFECT FOR STORYTELLING.

VYTIS

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
SUPREME COUNCIL
OFFICERS
1995-1996



Lapkritis / November 1995 Volume 81: No. 9

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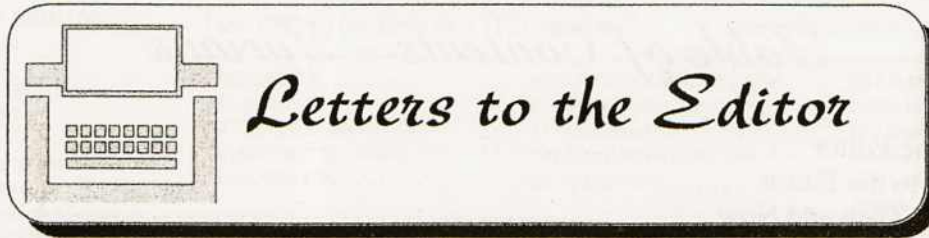
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All correspondence should reach the editor by the **first of the month**, two months in advance of the issue and should be typewritten and double spaced. Except for the information contained in the Official News, the Knights of Lithuania and editors assume no responsibility for the statement or opinions made by the contributors or no obligation to return any material or photos unsolicited. Use of material from VYTIS is permissible only if credit is given to VYTIS, its authors, artists or photographers.

At the Detroit convention, someone asked me why I took on this task as editor, when bigger dollars can be made using my time and talents elsewhere. The answer is probably in the eyes of a child who first saw a 1960's VYTIS on her grandmother's dining room table and glanced through it asking a lot of curious questions. In my case, the desire to know about our Lithuanian heritage began there.

When researching articles for this special issue, I read how difficult it was for the first editors to publish VYTIS. Students living in two small rooms on meager wages, produced the first articles on a make-shift table, getting the message out that Lithuania needs our help. What has changed in 80 years? VYTIS is now desktop published from a small home office. Its editor in chief also has another career in marketing, and Lithuania still needs our help.

The importance of this publication is not only to keep you informed about the workings of the K. of L. It is hoped by me that one of your children or grandchildren will pick up your VYTIS copy left on a dining room table, look through it and also become curious about their Lithuanian heritage.



LEAKS AT THE ŠILUVA CHAPEL

Dear Editor:

Yesterday, Sept. 17, along with over 150 other local Lithuanians from the Baltimore/Washington area, I attended the Feast of Our Lady of Šiluva belatedly held at the Basilica at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. During the announcements, Fr. Pugavičius said he received a letter from Bishop Baltakis informing him of the need for some major repair work on the Šiluva Chapel. Apparently, the stained glass windows at the apex of the cupola have deteriorated and developed a leak that could threaten the surrounding mosaics. The Shrine is seeking funds from the Lithuanian community for repair work.

- Vincent B. Boris, Lithuanian Affairs Chairman

Editor's note: Donations may be sent to Julia Berlen of C-142 for our National Shrine. See page 15 for the address.

HAPPY 80TH, VYTIS!

Dear Editor:

Having saved all the issues of VYTIS, except for a few "misplaced" copies, since joining the K of L in 1948, the VYTIS has and is a very valuable "tool" for me. I used information from it to develop articles last term for the Junior Section of the VYTIS. The VYTIS has been a source of information for council ritual work. Had and have the pleasure of writing council news articles. As an active member, meeting members throughout the organization, reading the Council News Section gives me the opportunity to send cards to members in the other councils for special occasions listed. Many articles have been both very informative and interesting. I definitely look forward to receiving VYTIS!

HAPPY 80th ANNIVERSARY!

-HM Frances Petkus, C - 96 Dayton, Ohio

VYTIS - THEN AND NOW

On October 21, 1915 some Lithuanians with envy, others not, gazed on the first issue of Vytis. It was illustrated and 28 pages, counting the colored covers. The cover was decorated with an optimistic, futuristic and artistic drawing. It was by the artist Isidorius Ilekis who had studied at the Chicago Art institute.

The magazine soon became one of the most important and popular publications among American Lithuanians. It attracted many young writers and served as a cultural vehicle not only for the young people, but also for the adults throughout the United States, Canada and Europe.

Like many other aspects of the Knights of Lithuania, VYTIS, had its high and low points, its great and infamous editors, those that ushered in changes from set type to offset to computers and now beyond, communicating via the written word to our Knights of Lithuania and helping Lithuanians maintain our own truly unique identity.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN - from the journals of the first editor, Aleksandras Račkus who began VYTIS with Kazys Pakštas and Leonard Šimutis

"The first time I met Leonardas Šimutis was in Chicago in 1915 July 2, during the 3rd Knights of Lithuania Convention where the Knights had voted to publish "Vytis". At that time the organization had about 3,000 members and all felt the need to have a magazine. I was elected the first editor,

assisted by Kazys Pakštas and Anicetas Linkus, and Leonardas Šimutis was the administrator.

At the end of the convention this friendly looking fellow came up to me and extended his hand. Congratulations mister editor, let's work together. That was Leonardas Šimutis. The first meeting was on a Saturday evening in September 1915 where three cavaliers without

capas Pakštas, Račkus and Šimutis met at the home of professor of music and president of C-4, Aleksandras Aleksandravičius (he later had his name changed to Aleksis and wrote the Vyčių Hymnas) Here in the cozy apartment is where we discussed how Vytis should be produced. We had to hurry since the Knights were impatient and our so-called enemies made fun of us. Leonard found us an office on the second floor; two rooms (731 W 18th St.) near the Dievo Apvaiždos Lithuanian Church. The place was ideal, rent was reasonable - only five dollars a month. The owner of



VYTIS first cover

the house Raštikis we believe was pressured to be kind to the Knights. We were happy. We moved in immediately. This became not only our working place but our home. Later, we hung a sign in the window and another one on the door.

VYTIS - Youth Magazine Jaunimo laikraštis

We had a writing table and three chairs. Someone had left a spittoon. Nothing else was in the room but a cross on the wall. The other room was Pakštas storage, a huge pile of

suitcases, books and other things. Somewhere hidden behind it was two suitcases of Šimutis and Račkus, their meager student treasures.

In the beginning we did not have beds; we spread newspapers on the floor and slept. We covered ourselves with our coats. We got used to it and it was o.k. Only after a couple of months, each one bought himself a metal folding bed. After a restful sleep, we folded the beds and put them together, put a tablecloth on it and put books on it. It almost looked like a real table. The very first article to appear in VYTIS was written on this table.

Editors of Vytis included 22 men and 12 women. Out of the men, two were priests.

1915-16	Aleksandras Račkus, Kazys Pakštas
1916-20	Matas Zujus
1919-20	Jonas Karosas
1921-26	Ignas Sakalas
1923-25	Matas Zujus
1926-30	Pranas Zdankus (also 1931-32)
1927	Kazys Jonaitis
1930-33	Antanas Lapinskas
1933-35	Konstant Savickus
1935-36	Fr. A. Valančius
1936-37	Antanas Lapinskas
1938-39	Joseph Petraitis
1939-41	Antanas Lapinskas
1941-42	Edvardas Kubaitis
1942	Jonas Pilipauskas (one issue)
1942-46	Ignas Sakalas, Phyllis Grendal
1946	Jonas Kumpa
1946-47	Kazys Pakštas
1948-51	Antanas Vaičiulaitis, Phyllis Grendal
1951-61	Juozas Leimonas, Phyllis Grendal
1961	Fr. Petras Cinikas, M.I.C.
1961-63	Loretta Kassel
1963	Anne Pieža,
1964	Linda Vaičekauškas
1965-70	Irene Sankus
1971-81	Loretta Kassel Stukas
1981-85	Aldona Ryan
1985-87	Bernice Aviža
1987	Dalia Bulvičius
1988-93	Mary Kober
1993-94	Eduardas Meilus
1995	Marytė Abbott

Shortly after we moved in, Pakštas awoke one morning with a very bad cold. The coughing and sneezing were so loud that it woke me up, but still I remained on the floor. All of a sudden somebody was knocking on the door. Then I heard a familiar voice behind it, "Let me in if you are still alive in there. Don't be afraid, I am a friend."

I jumped up from the floor and opened the door. There stood Prof. Aleksandravičius. As soon as he came in he spied Šimutis in his shirt laying on the floor. No pillow. He saw Pakštas gargling, making a strange kind of music. He saw Račkus hurrying to put his pants on. Aleksis Aleksandravičius burst into laughter. Is this really the editorial offices of VYTIS? No, this is not the editorial offices but a monastery of those without pants.

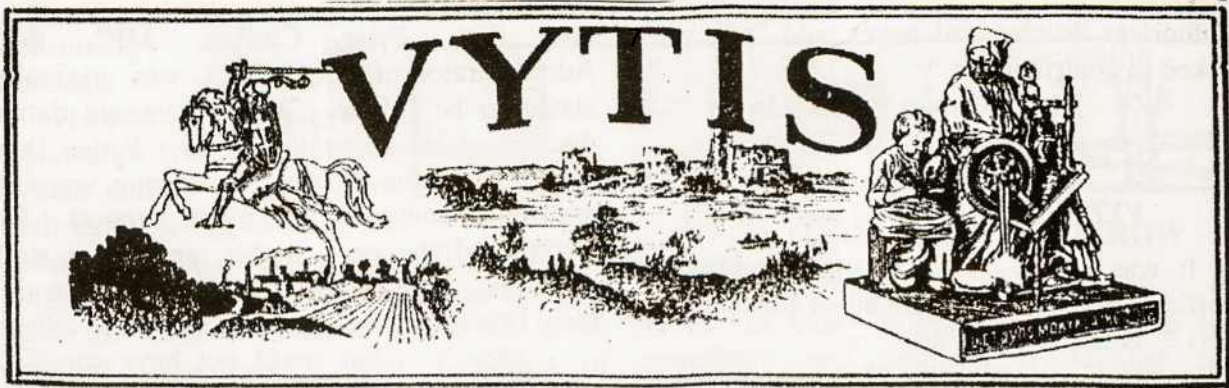
"Get up at once and come to my apartment for tea," he ordered.

Aleksis needed no further inducement. We had already feasted at his home and were surely to get a treat. We hoped our shabby appearances were not going travel any further but, no, Aleksis had told a few young ladies and thus the name of the Vytis office became *Aleksandryno vienuolynas - the monastery of Alexander*.

Soon all of Chicago was talking about this monastery., where three young Knights - Pakštas, Račkus and Šimutis, barely scraped together a living, attended the university and published a magazine for the youth.

The content of the first Vytis was quite serious. Everybody liked a poem written by L. Šilelio (Šimutis pen name) At first this poem called *Meile* was recited at almost all Lithuanian gatherings, since the words were very touching and emotional. Later Prof. Aleksis composed the music for this poem and the publisher Tananevicius published it and it became popular. Then, wherever you went, in the halls or at home you always heard the song *Meile*. (See pages 24 and 25.)

As I was making up the first issue of VYTIS with Šimutis two poems *Į darbą* and



Meile, plus his intriguing comedy for the stage, *Kumutes*, and other writings I thought to

VYTIS 1945 masthead

myself. Not I, but the talented Leonardas must be editor. And that is what happened. Today I am only a medical doctor saving patients lives, but Simutis is a great editor, he is saving all of Lithuania with his pen.

VYTIS was born then when the First World War devastated Lithuania. VYTIS was needed for the young energetic patriots urging them to save Lithuania. At that time, the German Kaiser's troops were reigning in Lithuania and the populace suffered immensely. America was still neutral, so the Lithuanians in America could receive news through Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Switzerland from Lithuania about the bad conditions. The news was devastating. Editorials in almost every issue urged, "Save our Fatherland. Lithuania is dying. Our poor parents, brothers, sisters and friends are suffering, hungry and cold. Our Fatherland is calling us. Knights, don't let this cry fall of deaf ears."

These editorials did not fall on deaf ears the Knights with Šimutis urging helped Lithuania very much."

THE UNWILTED VYTIS

The first issues were published bi-weekly, even though Editors M. Zujus (1916-1920) had planned a weekly publication. Zujus had also changed the size of the publication to a

standard page size, slightly larger than our present day issues. Active duties in WWI

caused change. In 1919, at the seventh K of L National Convention, it was decided to support the Lithuanian Freedom Guard organization and to establish a fund to provide the chief of the Lithuanian army, Gen. S. Zukauskas, with a golden sword.

The controversial introduction of English language articles occurred in 1927. English was deemed essential for the sake of survival and as ammunition for our efforts to keep the Lithuanian cause before the eyes of those who can do something about Lithuania's plight.

In 1942, service in WWII left VYTIS staff lacking in many talented writers, as well as councils without their male leaders and members. At the request of S.C. President, P. Razvadauskas, Ignas Sakalas, who diligently kept records of the K of L and for 30 years, decided to serve again.

Another milestone occurred in 1943 when the VYTIS press was liquidated from lack of funds, and the publication was transferred to South Boston, where the Darbininkas presses would print it. Once more, an old stand-by of the K of L and the first co-editor, Prof. K. Pakštas took over the helm.

When Dr. J. Leimonas assumed editorship in 1950, he appointed the first woman assistant in Phyllis Grendal as English language editor. Although she never took the editor in chief role, Ms. Grendal was the tireless promoter, writing hundreds of

authorless articles and never said "no" when asked to contribute.

First Woman Editor Moves Into the "Offset Era"

*by Loretta (Kassel) Stukas
VYTIS Editor, 1961-63 and 1970-81*

It was 1961. VYTIS, was an attractive "official organ" of the Knights of Lithuania. It was being prepared on letter-press, a process that produced a beautiful product, but was very time-consuming, resulting in regular publishing delays, and was extremely expensive, dipping too deeply into K of L resources. A bold decision was made by the Supreme Council at a meeting in early 1961 that VYTIS be changed to be produced in "Offset Printing", then a new and not fully tested, but much more convenient, and less costly, procedure. A printer -- ViVi Printing -- was chosen. The problem -- VYTIS was being published from Boston, with the printer in Putnam, CT. The new printer was located in Chicago, which meant not only new procedures but a new staff as well!

The new VYTIS survived a few trivial problems and some major traumas, but the operative word is "survived". A staff was selected, and had to learn the "offset" ways of cut and paste, photo placing, proofing, etc., while lining up new writers and notifying correspondents of new rules. But the desired effect was achieved. VYTIS became more versatile and timely, and the organization's finances improved greatly, allowing for initiation of new and worthwhile projects.

As we celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VYTIS, let us recall some of the people who helped launch VYTIS into this new and exciting offset era. A big "thank you" goes to Bob Boris, the Supreme Council President who boldly pushed through this change. The

late Rev. Peter Činikas, MIC, then Administrator of DRAUGAS, was originally slated to be Editor. When increased duties disallowed his becoming editor, Father Pete helped train the new staff, offering ongoing assistance, material, and moral support. He also found the new printer, and some staff additions. May he rest in peace. Yours truly, then Loretta Kassel, became the new editor,

but could not have survived with the help of the rest of the staff -- layout editor and administrator Marilyn Kareiva, Council News Editor Theresa Strolia (then Pupinik), Business Manager the late HM Eleanore Laurin, close advisor and contributing editor, the late Irene Sankus. Thanks to all of them, and may God grant Irene and

Eleanore His Peace also. Much thanks also go to Printer Vladas Vijeikis, who helped us with counsel and tolerance and provided us countless photos, drawings, and other materials for use in enhancing VYTIS. A big Lithuanian "ačiū" also goes to the pre-offset long-time editors, the late Juozas Leinionas and HM Phyllis Grendal, whose cooperation smoothed the transition into the offset era.

VYTIS Enters the Age of Computers

*By Mary R. Kober
VYTIS Editor 1988-93*

Prior to 1989, VYTIS was typeset and mailed by Mr. Vijeikis of ViVi Printing in Chicago. Typesetting was done and the editor was provided with galley forms. If an error was made by the printer, the entire galley had to be returned for correction. When returned, it was necessary for the editor to paste these pages in proper order and sequence for each issue. The mailing of the magazine was done also by Vi Vi Printing. Labels were imprinted on the magazine with an addressograph machine. All of the above was time



consuming and hardly accurate.

When I took over the Editorship, I found the above system entirely unsatisfactory, both as far as typesetting was concerned and also the mailing of the magazine in as much as the computer age was upon us. The time came for a bid to be received from Rev. Peter Čibulskis of DRAUGAS. Since I owned a Macintosh computer, Rev. Peter based his bid on a camera-ready VYTIS. The Executive Board approved the bid and VYTIS became computerized in 1989.

When the mailing list was inherited from Vi Vi Printing, it was on physical typed cards produced by the addressograph machine. I transferred the list to a Macintosh computer, i.e., approximately 3,500 names and addresses were typed on a keyboard and entered onto a disc. The information was processed by the staff in manageable portions for insuring accuracy. Once the computer disc was produced, it was possible to create labels for the entire membership. The disc was mailed to Draugas and, rather than mailing labels to Chicago, it was suggested the labels would be produced by Draugas on their similar computer equipment.

From time to time, changes to the mailing list were received not only from the post office but from financial secretaries involved. Each month the disc was updated and sent to DRAUGAS for mailing purposes. Typesetting was also done by myself and camera ready copies were mailed to Fr. Čibulskis for printing.

As time went on, the number of issues returned by the post office became fewer and fewer. In fact, out of some 3,500 names and addresses, only from 0 to 5 copies, or .05% total issues mailed, were ultimately returned per month. The .05% margin of error is something this Editor and her staff were very proud of.



VYTIS TODAY AND TOMORROW

by Marytė Abbott

VYTIS today is computer set using two computers and printers, a scanner and editor-friendly programs. Like its former editors, it is not the sole project of one person. VYTIS today is also a good example of teamwork. With input from past editors, Loretta Stukas and Dalia Bulvičius, with the best of assistants from the "invincible" Vince Boris; to our President, Evelyn Oželis, and business manager, Richard Niedvares, and the printers at DRAUGAS in Chicago, we are able to produce these issues. I could not leave out my husband, Jack, who seems to get all the computer maintenance work! God bless all.

Writers and historians still take their time to send in material with a fresh viewpoint. Musicians, like our HM Faustas Strolia, are able to work with computer programs to transcribe music. Poets, chefs and photographers send in material to enhance the look of the publication. Some of our writers now send material on disc. We're always looking for new contributors to enhance VYTIS, so readers do not be shy about material and suggestions.

Tomorrow? Perhaps VYTIS may be e-mailed from machine to machine to places all over the world. Someday readers may receive a monthly e-mail or disc or on some new technology yet to be discovered.

*Compiled with translations by Dalia Bulvičius from **Aplankius Lietuva** (What I knew about Leonard Šimutis by Dr. Aleksandras Raškus) Chicago, IL ©1995; **Lithuanian Fraternalism, 75 Years of the U.S. Knights of Lithuania** by Fr. Wolkovich-Valkavičius; VYTIS Golden Anniversary Issue article by Eleanore Laurin (Oct. 1965); plus former editors HM Loretta Stukas and HM Mary Kober.*

November 2

VĒLINĒS - THE DAY OF THE SPIRITS

by Vincent B. Boris

Despite the obscuring mists of time in the unrecorded history of pre-Christian Lithuania, knowledge of the life and beliefs of the people can often be discerned from folk tales and songs; from surviving practices rooted in pagan antiquity but now sublimated into Christian ritual and occasionally from the writings of foreign historians. An example of this can be seen the observance of VĒLINĒS, now joined with the liturgical Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, or as is popularly known, All Souls Day.

Pre-Christian Lithuanians believed in an after-life in which the spirit of the deceased remained somehow connected to the real world, although in a different dimension. We know this because ancient burial grounds have revealed that often the deceased was buried along with implements, utensils and other items that would have been part of daily life. Since use of cemeteries is a fairly recent practice, certainly post-Christian, in early times, the deceased were interred near the homestead. The spirits continued to "reside" near where they had lived their lives and were aware of what was happening to their surviving family members. Thus, they were in a position to protect surviving family from misfortune, assist their prosperity or cause mischief, chastisement or harm, if warranted. Thus, it behooved the living to keep the spirits happy and in a benevolent mood. Obviously, one never spoke ill of the dead; always maintained the gravesite in good fashion with flowers and plantings; made frequent visits to the grave, and offered prayers for ease and comfort of the dear departed.

Over the years, it became a custom that on a

special day in late summer or early fall, that the family would gather at the gravesite, spend a major portion of the day reminiscing about the deceased or listening to the family elder recount the tales of their venerable forbearers. Food would be brought along, so that a banquet honoring the deceased could be held near the grave. Special foods, usually pork, were also prepared and left for the dead after the family returned home. The graves might be cleaned-up and beautified with fall flowers a few days before the event.

Essential to Christianity, is the belief that beyond death, believers will be with God. There also came an awareness in early Christianity that at the moment of death, we might not fully be as we should, hence came the belief that a process of purification would follow death before we share life with God. Thus developed with Christianity, a tradition of prayer for the dead and a special day of remembrance on November 2. In the liturgy of every Mass there is a special Memento in which God is implored to grant a place of happiness, light and peace to all those who have fallen asleep in the Lord. The celebration of Mass has always been the principal means of fulfilling towards the dead the great commandment of charity. Masses for the dead can be found as early as the 5th Century; but it was St. Odilo, the fourth abbot of Cluny, who was responsible for the institution of the general commemoration of all the faithful departed; he instituted it and fixed its celebration on November 2, the day after All Saints. The practice soon spread to the rest of Christendom. A special privilege, which allowed a priest to celebrate three Masses on

this day, was granted by Pope Benedict XIV to Spain, Portugal and their possessions in the New World. During the first World War, this privilege was extended to the whole Church by Benedict XV.

It was inevitable that these two great traditions would merge once Christianity came to Lithuania and persist in the life and culture of the nation even to the present day. The general aspects of the observance included prayers for the deceased, morning Mass at the church followed by a procession to the cemetery where candles would be placed on all the gravesites. Often the children would be sent out to find seemingly abandoned or neglected gravesites and place a candle there, lest the spirit residing therein be dejected by isolation and become jealous of the attention being paid to others. (Recalling the malevolent potential of unhappy spirits certainly seems to have a greater impact on the children than an appeal to Christian charity to pray for the lost and forsaken.) To a large extent, these outward manifestations and accompanying folklore harkened back to the pre-Christian era. For these reasons and because of the depth of the cultural tradition in



the people, observance of *VĒLINĒS* was tolerated even through the Soviet years. It continues to play a significant role in the cultural/religious life of the people.

Postscript: At least to the knowledge of current members, there is probably no direct linkage between a long-standing practice of Council 96, Dayton, and this Lithuanian cultural tradition. Nevertheless over the past 40 years, there has developed a tradition in Council 96 of making a yearly "in corpore" pilgrimage to the cemetery to visit the gravesites of deceased members of the local Knights of Lithuania family. It regularly takes place on the second Sunday of September. Along with the prayers for the repose of their souls, a flower is placed on each grave. The pilgrimage often ends with a dinner at a local restaurant. Memories of the individuals are recalled and tales of their accomplishments are recounted. In many ways, it could be a direct derivative of the Lithuanian tradition of *VĒLINĒS*. I sincerely hope that it is maintained; and further suggest that it might be a model for other Councils that would like to implement a practice that directly derives from our Lithuanian heritage.

In Memoriam



Paula E. Shatos
C-10, Athol, MA
Aug. 12, 1995

Birutā Balukunis
C-17, S. Boston
Aug. 22, 1995

Florence E. Casper
C-17, S. Boston
Aug. 15, 1995

Stella Pavis
C-36, Chicago
Aug. 2, 1995

Helen Pius
C-36, Chicago
Aug. 14, 1995

Br. Thaddeus Margis
C-36, Chicago
Aug. 29, 1995

Bernice Zemgulis
C-36, Chicago
Aug. 15, 1995

Joseph B. Lucas
C-50, New Haven, CT
Apr. 30, 1995

Anna Lisowski
C-74, Scranton, PA
May 16, 1995

Wilhemina Verbitsky
C-144, Anthracite, PA
Aug. 31, 1995

Amžiną Atilsį Duok Mirusiems, Viešpatie

by Dr. Virginia Vaitekoniš Obando

In Lithuania there is a tradition to carry mourning wreaths in the mourning procession as a sign of love and respect to the deceased. The wreaths usually are decorated with linen or silk ribbons which carry the inscriptions made by the deceased person's family members, relatives, friends or co-workers. These inscriptions are short phrases of the last "Sudiev".

Here are some examples of them:

Šis kuklas vainikas - Tau paskutinė dovana.

This modest wreath is the last gift for you.

Lai šviečia kelią, Viešpaties -šviesa.

Let the light of the Lord light your path.

Žeme, motina geroji, Tu priglausk visus skausmus.

Earth, our generous mother, take in all our sufferings.

Tegul amžina Rekviam Jums pušys ošia,

Te ramų poilsį šlama rasoti Tėviškės beržai.

Let the pine tress sing to you everlasting Requiem

Let Lithuanian birches, covered with dew, whisper to you "peace".

Tesaugo ramų miegą Tėviškės kapų tyla.

Let the silence cemetery guard your peaceful sleep.

Tavo gyvybė užgeso, bet mūsų meilė neužges.

Your life died out, but our love never will.

Mirtis ateina ir neklausia- pasiima patį brangiausią.

Death comes and takes away the dearest one, without even asking.

Širdis taip troško gyventi, bet mirtis užmerkė akis.

Your heart desired to live, but death closed your eyes.

Tėvai, dėkojame Tau už gyvybę, už meilę ir už viską, kas gera pasaulytė.

Daddy, thank you for life, for your love and for everything that is good in this life.

Skambės varpai, liūdes namai, o Tu išėsis amžinai.

The bells will toll, home will be in deep sorrow, and you will be resting in peace.

Amžina ramybė Tau, begalinis skausmas mums.

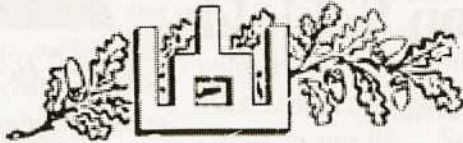
For you - eternal peace, for us - everlasting sorrow.



Lai Šviečia kelią, Viešpaties šviesa.

K. of L. Creates A¹³ Global Experience

by Frances R. Petkus
C-96, Dayton, OH
2nd Prize Winner
1995 K. of L. Essay Contest



Where does one begin sharing how the Knights of Lithuania has enhanced ones life after forty plus years of membership? There is no one aspect or experience but many years of exposure to the organization that have been beneficial to me.

My Catholic faith has been re-enforced many times over through the Knights in their following the teachings of the Church. My Lithuanian heritage has been strengthen through knowledge and association. Through the activities of the Lithuanian Affairs Committees, I have become more politically aware not only of Lithuania's needs but, also, the United States government.

Going to Europe had never entered my mind. Would I have ever gone to Rome and had a special audience with the Pope? Would I have attended Mass in Rome with the Pope the main celebrant? Would I have visited Vienna, Salzburg or Munich? Traveling to these cities brought to mind my history classes. The trip to Salzburg made me a "lover" of Mozart. All this was experienced through the Knights.

Limited in the Lithuanian language, would I have dared a trip to Lithuania? Would I have ever had the thrill of standing atop the Hill of Three Crosses in Vilnius and wonder which streets and byways my father had walked through? Would I have ever visited the many cities of Lithuania and waded in the Baltic Sea? Would I have ever visited the Hill of Crosses and participated in the first Mass the Pope held in Lithuania? Would I have ever participated in Mass at St. Casimir's Chapel in Vilnius; Our

Lady of Siluva's Shrine in Siluva; Ausros Vartai in Vilnius? This, and so much more was experienced through the Knights.

As an active member traveling throughout various cities was made possible within District and Supreme Council functions. Extended trips were planned around areas of the many national conventions. This opened opportunities to see and learn more about the United States.

Traveling enabled me to develop many friends. Through these friendships we have learned we can agree or disagree and remain friends. Because of this, strong bonds have been created.

The Knights allows one to be active or a name on the roster. As an active member, one develops leadership which carries over into your family and business life. Lacking in speaking the Lithuanian language is no longer a drawback. BUT one is encouraged to learn the language and customs. This brings personal growth and strengthen one's feeling for their heritage. Before joining the Knights, I was not exposed to many of the Lithuanian customs. The celebration of Kucios; Mass for St. Casimir; the Lithuanian Resurrection Mass, etc., have become traditional for my family.

One of the purposes Mr. Norkunas organized the Knights was to bring Lithuanian youth together. Meeting my husband was the best experience in being a Knight. Upon his passing, the condolences from the membership were overwhelming!!

The Knights of Lithuania has enhanced my life, brought many challenges and has been my extended family!



The Comic Side of Helen Shields

by *Dalia Bulvicius*



Helen Shields & Dalia Bulvicius

It seems like yesterday that Loretta Stukas and I were sitting in St. Kazimiers church in Philadelphia, just a stone's throw away from Helen Shields' house, listening to Supreme Council spiritual advisor Father Joseph Anderlonis eulogy. It is hard to believe that Helen Shields passed away on November 9th, 1990. She was big in stature, said Father, but even bigger in spirit. After Father Anthony Jurgelaitis, OP, resigned as spiritual advisor, I believe that Helen was instrumental in procuring for the Supreme Council our golden voiced Father Joe.

A couple of months after Helens death, Loretta wrote a beautiful article about her (see *Vytis*, January 1991) to which one could not add or subtract. This is my prospective on a dear friend and one of our "great knights".

I had the pleasure of meeting Helen in 1976 when I joined C-12 in New York City. Helen was our honorary member in residence. Since she was employed and lived in New York she attended our meetings but her heart was in her hometown Philadelphia and C-3. Helen, the *modus vivendi* of our council, always knew what to do and what to say. During meetings, when everybody got bogged down on some point of trivia and all wanted to speak at once, our gazes fell on Helen. Slowly Helen would rise and give us a perfectly timed "Jack Benny" look. After a long pause, she spoke, "I do not know what is wrong with you people," I remember her stating more than once.

In a few minutes we knew, she had settled the matter to the satisfaction of all. This was

the serious side of Helen, familiar to many of the Knights.

But there was another side to her. She enjoyed good humor, especially when coupled with her side kick sister, Tillie, who was a regular comedienne. Their brother, Frank, often joined in the family merrymen.

I distinctly remember a MAD Board meeting in Philadelphia. President Larry Janonis was presiding and all was going well, when the door opened and in came this bag-lady. She was all disheveled, carrying two big paper bags with a variety of items and hair that must have been combed with an egg beater. "Could you spare some extra change?" she asked. I have not eaten for three days.

For a second, even Larry became speechless. I glanced at Helen, who rolled her eyes towards heaven and whispered, "O no, its Tillie again." Everybody had a good laugh.

What I remember most fondly were the many New Years happy hours at Helen's Philadelphia home. Her house was such a cozy place, full of nooks and crannies. It was over one hundred years old with many rooms and fireplaces. The thick walls made it warm in the winter and cool in summer. Before the visit Helen instructed us on what to wear, what to bring and how to have fun. On one occasion she told us that all ladies must wear long gowns. She had a original mind and always came up with something new. When the clock struck 12 we all spilled onto Whorton street with all the neighbors joining us. We all had various costumes and lookd like a bunch of Mummings rejects, With Helen playing a mean

guitar, and us singing our hearts out, we welcomed in the New Year.

New Year's day was special. By a huge buffet table we all watched the Mummers parade on TV. One year it rained and the parade was cancelled, so to keep within the mood we watched, a tape of last years parade. Soon a group of K of L former juniors (whom Helen had nurtured in our organization for many years) dropped in and they were amazed that we were watching the parade. "Is it on again?" they asked. "Yes," said Helen wearing a poker face.

After the parades, some of the marchers always dropped over. Their club houses were in Helens neighborhood. During those times Helens house became Grand Central Station - departures and arrivals all day. The door never closed. Helen was a great cook and you would not dare leave her house without a full stomach.

Our 70th convention in Philadelphia was one of the best. Helen was one of the chief organizers and everyone worked like the dikens. It was filled with Lithuanian music and cultural exhibits. They even had a huge model of Traku castle. After the get-aquinted, the cultural nights, and the banquet many trooped to Helen's suite. We knew exactly where it was. We just followed our noses to where the

delicious aroma of dešros was emanating. As soon as the elevator opened, we knew we were on the right floor. One could not believe how many people could fit in one room. It was worse than rush hour in New York on the subway. Tillie was the hostess and the bathtub was used as a cooler. I never saw so many ice cubes in my life. Song books were distributed and we sang until the wee hours, accompanied by the talented Strolia boys on their accordeons. Helen, sitting on a huge double bed was the conductor. Especially beautiful was the song:

Leiskit i tevyne (Let me go to my homeland).

But one sleepyhead did not appreciate our talents. Sticking his head from the room across the hall, he shouted - "Eikit po velnių, kas jums neledžia." Next morning, we sad bleary eyed and hoarse at morning Mass.

But what impressed me most about my dear friend was that after half a century in existance, the K. of L. organization finally ordained that a woman was fit to be president in 1963. The honor went to Helen.

To end my tribute I would like to quote a sentence from Loretta's article: The greatest treasures of life are the people that enter our lives. Amžina atilsj mieloji drauge.



Welcome New Members

C-7, Waterbury, CT

Adele A. Klencke
Colette Shukis
Marion Jenusaitis
Mary A. Undratis
David Karpavich
Florence Karpavich
Walter Casper

C-16, Chicago

Rimantas Pencyla
Rita Pencyla

C-102, Detroit

Pamela Acromite

C-112, Chicago

Paul Zajac

C-141, Bridgeport, CT

Claire Sulinsky
Mary Sulinsky Spelman

C-133, Los Angeles

Ale Vilcinskas
Donna Butkus Elliot
Dorothy M. Miniskey
Elena Karalius
Kest Karsokas
Leonard Mikusauskas
Nancy Aleksa
Ramute Albert
Robert Aleksa

C-26, Worcester, MA

Rita B. King

C-36, Chicago

Audrey Petkunas

C-90, Kearny, NJ

Stanley Przybylski



THE LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Compiled & edited by Edward Baranauskas, C-100

The first time the United States Census Bureau asked questions about a person's ancestry was in 1980. The census taken ten years later was used to make a comparison of the population changes between the two, and the data compiled was very interesting.

Lithuanian-Americans numbered 811,865 in 1990, an increase of over 69,000, or about 9.4 per cent. They were the 37th largest ancestry group, or about 0.3% of the nation's population.

About one out of every three resided in Illinois, Pennsylvania and New York. However, Lithuanian numbers in each of these states actually decreased over two percent in 1990, showing that perhaps they were moving out and heading South and West. Other states showing a decrease in its Lithuanian-American residents were Connecticut, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

The largest numerical increases took place in Florida, a gain of 13,000 or about 47 percent; in California with 11,050 or 20.9 percent., and Texas with 4,700 or 50.4 percent. These three states accounted for a 42 per cent increase in the number of Lithuanian-Americans.

There was growth in states where they were extremely small in number in 1980, and the 1990 figures disclosed an increase of 50 per cent or more in many of them. South Carolina had the largest increase of any state, 118 per cent; Alaska was second with 109.1 per cent with North Carolina not far behind with 98.2 per cent. The southern states, surprisingly, had large increases in their Lithuanian-American population. The figures: Tennessee 78 per cent; Alabama 71 per cent; Oklahoma 57 per

cent; Mississippi 56 per cent; Virginia 47 per cent and Louisiana with 44 percent.

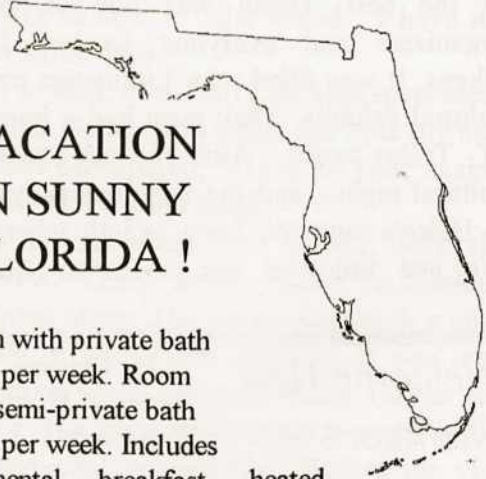
Despite all of these changes, the states with the largest Lithuanian-American populations remained the same. Illinois had 109,417; Pennsylvania 103,272; New York 70,397; Massachusetts 68,447; California 63,871; New Jersey 49,870 and Florida 41,713.

The overall increase in the Lithuanian-American statistics perhaps can be credited to awareness of its Lithuanian heritage and nationality, and a natural increase in its birth rate.

Source- *Lituanus*, Summer 1994 issue, Vol.40 no. 2



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In the Spirit of ¹⁷Thanksgiving...

Consider supporting our Knights of Lithuania causes:

Priestly Vocations through the St. Casimir's Guild, a semi-autonomous activity dedicated to the support of the Lithuanian Pontifical College of St. Casimir in Rome. The Guild sponsors three programs: collection of donations for a general endowment fund administered by the Rector, obtaining Mass stipends for the support of Lithuanian priests studying in Rome, and coordinating a program of "adopting" seminarians from Lithuania by providing regular contributions to their non-academic needs. Checks should be made payable to: **The St. Casimir's Guild** and mailed to:

HM Anna Klizas Wargo, 125 South Morris Street, St. Clair, PA 17970

Humanitarian Aid through Aid to Lithuania, Inc., a semi-autonomous organization under the aegis of the Knights of Lithuania, that provides medical supplies, equipment and medicines to Lithuania during this crucial transition period from a Soviet-occupied and suppressed nation, to a free and self sufficient democracy. 40-foot containers of donated materials are shipped each calendar quarter; this past year, 11 of these containers were shipped. Checks should be made payable to: **Aid to Lithuania, Inc.** and mailed to:

HM Robert Boris, 4557 Fairway Court, Waterford, MI 48328

College Education through K of L Scholarship Awards presented each year to deserving members who are pursuing studies at the college level. The Scholarship Fund is totally dependent upon donations and bequests from members. Checks should be made payable to: **Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Fund** and mailed to:

Maria Deksnis, 3330 W. 85th St., Chicago, IL 60652

Cultural Advancement through the K of L Foundation, an endowment fund which supports and funds projects to further the cultural, religious or humanitarian objectives of the Knights of Lithuania. Donations are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to: **Knights of Lithuania Foundation** and mailed to:

HM Loretta Stukas, 234 Sunlit Drive, Watchung, NJ 07060

Upkeep of the National Shrine - The development of an endowment fund to support the upkeep of the Chapel of Our Lady of Siluva at the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception located in Washington, D.C. was adopted at the 75th Knights of Lithuania Anniversary Convention. Donations are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to: **Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception** and mailed to:

Julia Burlen, 2403 Belair Drive, Bowie, MD 20715



Foster Grandparents at Camp Neringa

by HM Frank Petrauskas

At the Detroit National Convention, my wife, Irene and I had the opportunity to visit with Sister Igne. During our conversation, we asked how the Summer camping season went at Camp Neringa. We were curious because we sent all 7 of our children to Camp Neringa while they were growing up and we have a soft spot in our hearts for this Lithuanian summer camp. The mere mention of Neringa brought a bright glow to Sister Igne's eyes and right away she delved into a deep conversation about it. "We had a good summer", she said, "and next week is our Lithuanian Heritage Family Camp". How would you and Irene like to come and join with us and be our foster Grandparents"? She caught us off guard. Just a minute before I never dreamed of going to camp and now she made us an offer which was difficult to refuse. We said we would talk it over and then get back to her.

We decided a few days at camp would be good for us so we spent Friday, Saturday and Sunday there. Camp was already in session. It started on Thursday. There were about a dozen young families and older people. The children ranged in age from an infant to about 8 years old. They were really enjoying themselves as this was a whole new experience for most of them. They found new playmates and with the schedule set up by Sister Igne and her assistant Ausra Kelly, there were plenty of activities to keep them occupied from morning until night.

At Neringa, there was a young and handsome part Lithuanian priest who was visiting camp. He took part in the activities also. He was a black robed Franciscan, Father Michael Goodavish, who is stationed at St.



Francis in southern Indiana near Louisville, Kentucky. He has been a priest for 10 years. Recently Father Mike wanted to find his Lithuanian roots. This year he spent some time in Lithuania where he learned much about the language and culture. I made sure that Father Mike learned about the Knights of Lithuania and our activities. He seemed quite interested in the K of L.

Camp officially began on Thursday. Some families arrived on Wednesday and the remainder on Thursday. The first activity was Eucharistic Liturgy in the Chapel celebrated by Father Mike. Next came breakfast, general clean up and flag raising. The rest of the morning included a nature walk, sports and games, and the learning of 5 Lithuanian words for your meal ticket.

After lunch, there was family time with the learning of a few Lithuanian songs and circle games. Then the children were grouped together for stories, arts and crafts, and nature. The parents had a discussion on "Lithuania Today" which was led by Ausra Kelly and Father Mike. During supper each family was quizzed on the 5 Lithuanian words and

allowances were made for the younger children. No one was denied food.

After supper came flag lowering which included SUKIS. Each family had to give a little slogan or a few catch words. This was done at both flag raising in the morning and lowering in the evening. Each day the families became more imaginative and they produced some very fine rhymes, songs and ditties. The rest of the evening was spent playing games.

Friday was pretty much the same as Thursday. The children had their various activities and the parents theirs. In the morning, there was a panel discussion for the parents. Three college students from Lithuania spoke on, "How they sustained their Faith in Lithuania and Basic Family Values". It was very interesting and they were well received by the parents. In the afternoon Egle Zikaraite-Calabrese spoke on "Lithuanian National Symbols". This was followed by the parents discussing their own experiences with their Lithuanian Heritage. The evening program for Friday was Lauzas or bonfire. We gathered around the fire and told stories and sang songs. It was interesting to see how the fire relaxed both the parents and children.

Saturday was a day filled with much activity. This evening we planned our KUCIOS-KALEDOS celebration and there was much preparation to be done. I spent most of the day using my gardening talents pruning and trimming the trees and shrubs around camp. The ladies used the pine and fir boughs to decorate the dining area. I cut a 3 - 4 foot fir tree and they decorated it with straw ornaments and lights. They brought in hay for the table and straw for the manger.

The decorating crew was mainly K. of L.'ers. Ruth Krecioch and her daughters Regina, Ann and Marcy along with my wife, Irene. They did a beautiful job. Sister Igne was so impressed that she decided to leave the decorations in place for the Sister's Retreat which was to take place after we left.

Meanwhile the kitchen staff were busy all day cooking and baking the delicious food for our special evening meal.

19 Earlier in the day Marija Stankus-Saulaite spoke to us about the meaning and method of Lithuanian Christmas. We enjoyed her presentation.

At meal time we were led into the dining hall by the Lithuanian students who were dressed in costume. They played appropriate music for the occasion and when we all settled into place Sister Igne asked me -- the foster grandfather -- to give the blessing. I did so and I had a bottle of holy water with which I sprinkled each family. We then enjoyed a very delicious meal.

Sunday morning after breakfast, flag raising and clean up, we all gathered outside of the dining hall. Father Mike then had us process to the outdoor Birch Chapel for Sunday Mass. He had the parents and children participating in the Mass which made for one of the most beautiful services I have ever attended. It was really a lovely experience.

After Mass we all started to pack and load up our cars and bid fond farewells to one another. Parting is always sad when you're in good company. Most families were talking about returning next year. Sister Igne said there would be another Lithuanian Heritage Family Camp next year about the third week of August. It's a beautiful experience for young families and even for old timers like Irene and myself.

Camp Neringa is located in southern Vermont off Route 9 a few miles west of Brattleboro. It has a nice pond for swimming, boating and fishing, fields and courts for athletic events, trails for hiking and nature study and just a general relaxing atmosphere. It is owned and run by the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception from Putnam, Connecticut. If you would like to attend next year I would advise you to contact Sister Igne early as she is limited to the number of families she can accept.



Did you know Thanksgiving "begging" was as popular as Halloween today? Children dressed as beggars seeking candy, apples and nuts on Thanksgiving morning. This tradition was popular in Brooklyn, NY, among the immigrant communities in the 1920's.



Lithuanian Special Olympians Win Gold Medals

by Florence Morkus
C - 7 Hartford, CT

The World's Special Olympics were held in New Haven, CT. on July 1 - 9. Over 7,000 Olympians participated from 120 countries. The town of Haddam, CT sponsored the 23 Lithuanian Olympics delegation. There were 4 women and 13 men ages 18 - 19 and 6 sponsors. Many activities were planned for them in Haddam before departing for the games in New Haven. They needed translators and a few of us from Holy Trinity Parish in Hartford volunteered.

Earlier in April, we planned a Pot Luck supper to acquaint the town's people to Lithuanian culture. A dance group dressed in Lithuanian costumes performed folk dances to Lithuanian music. This was greatly enjoyed. They even were invited to participate. There was a mini museum with Lithuanian articles. With my husband, Vincent's assistance we packed a car trunk full of gifts I had received from relatives on my 5 trips to Lithuania. On display were linens, sashes, amber jewelry and books with colored pictures. The public was very interested in all these items.

We met with the Olympians the day after they arrived from Lithuania on June 28 for a picnic by the dockside in Haddam.

Later we accompanied them on the Connecticut river boat cruise. We gave them souvenirs from the state and Dorothy Krancunas sewed each of them a shopping bag. On the boat we had a banjo player and we sang our state song "Yankee Doodle" and other favorites and then sang lovely Lithuanian songs. It was a lovely sunny day for a cruise with enough breeze to fly the American and Lithuanian flags.



We said our good-byes, took many pictures and wished them all the best to win gold medals at the games. It was a great surprise for us when after the games the Lithuanian Olympians made a return visit to Haddam and we were all get together again for a cookout at the Porters lovely home and grounds. The team won 11 gold, 7 silver and 2 bronze medals. Each Olympian received a Eunice Shriver silver dollar coin. I matched that with a Kennedy silver half-dollar coin and told them that now they have the brother and sister coins.

When I asked Arvydas Balchiunas a gold medalist for running 1/2 marathon if he enjoyed the games and the opening ceremonies where the President and First Lady participated and the spectacular 4th of July fireworks he said "yes, but the best time was in Haddam." That phrase made our day.

V.E. DAY VET SHARES EXPERIENCES

Daniel P. Shimkus of C-26 (Worcester, MA), who served as a Sergeant during World War II in the Army in the European Theater, was invited recently on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of V. E. Day to share his experiences. He spoke of freedom with sacrifice before a huge throng gathered by Worcester's City Hall, attended by public officials, veterans and the citizen public. A great privilege! Following the 2nd World War, Daniel remained in Europe to serve at a displaced persons camp in



Coburg, Germany. Here he met many Lithuanians, an experience he calls a great privilege. Upon his return home, he entered the Army Reserves. Dan retired in 1983 with the Army rank of Colonel. He is an active member of our council and is an officer of the Lithuanian War Veterans who continue to spread Lithuania's fame by their frequent participation in both Lithuanian and American events with their impressive Color Guard.
Submitted by "Olga"- C-26

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

by Irene Tice, C-100

In the public library of Amsterdam, NY, on July 25th, in the middle of the Summer heat wave, children from K to 6th grade, their parents and friends enjoyed a special program on Lithuania. Mirga Bablin, cultural chair of C-100, gave a short history and told the children the Lithuanian Cinderella story that was recently in VYTIS.

I presented a show and tell table with Lithuanian linens, dolls and flags. A miniature Christmas tree, decorated with Lithuanian straw ornaments attracted plenty of attention, along with a lesson on egg coloring.

Mrs. Edna Gustar of St. Casimir's Parish made mushroom cookies, displayed in a woven basket and later enjoyed. Everyone liked the amber display. Mirga's bracelets were passed around for all to see. When asked if the story reminded them of any other tale, one child said, "Jurassic Park", the recent movie.

Christine Tambasco and Joan Rimkunas arrived with the dance troupe dressed in Lithuanian costumes. The dancers included Robert Tambasco, Stanley, Rimas, Lucas and Victoria Rimkunas. Music started and the dancers began to whirl and twirl and everyone kept time with the music. It was a perfect finale - children entertaining children, and we felt rewarded for our efforts.



(top) Victoria Rimkunas, C-100's youngest dancer enjoys performance; (bottom) Gene Kunsitis, Cleveland's orchid man and some of his orchid beauties



21 The library asked us to return to do a Christmas program for the tree festival in December.

CLEVELAND'S ORCHID MAN

by Richard Marks, C-25

Gene Kunsitis, a long time member of C-25, Cleveland recently received awards for his prize winning orchids. Gene has been growing these delicate flowers for a number of years, keeping his hobby to himself until his recent recognition.

About 15 years ago, Gene attended a local flower show and was fascinated by the Moth Orchid (phalaenopsis) and decided to try growing them. Beginning with a window box in his home, Mr. Kunsitis later converted a screened porch into a small greenhouse. His interest in this flower expanded and he has grown over 100 plants including Lady Slippers, Cymbidiums and others. When the Kunsitis built their new home, a beautiful solarium was included in the plans to handle this expansion.

He has volunteered at the Cleveland Greenhouse assisting personnel in growing orchids. He is also a member of the greater Cleveland Orchid Society and has

assisted judges awarding orchids at shows. The Society has requested Gene to design a pin which will be presented to delegates and sold at the Mid-America Orchid Congress. On St. Casimir's

Day, Gene presented a White Cymbidium Orchid as one of the Offertory gifts carried to the altar.

His wife, Ursula, volunteers with Gene at various exhibits and is also very knowledgeable about orchids. She said if

Gene's plants don't produce flowers in a few years²² they better start looking for a new home. He's a tough boss, but they love him.

SPECIAL BREWERY TOUR

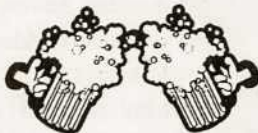
by Al Cizauskas, C-142

Members of C-142 recently embarked upon a most unusual, enjoyable and education excursion into the sudsy history of what is arguably mankind's oldest drink, beer and its sister beverage, ale. Tom Cizauskas, son of Gene and Al, and currently brewery manager of the micro-brewery, Oxford Brewing Company, was the genial host who escorted members on a fascinating tour into the past and present of a beverage older than the Pharaohs of ancient Egypt. Sanskrit scholars believe there is credible evidence that the word "ale" might have originated in Lithuania itself as "alus" and then spilled over into other countries.

Oxford is one of the rapidly growing micro-breweries in this country specializing in a multitude of beers and ales which the larger commercial breweries are reluctant to risk in a highly competitive market. Oxford was opened in 1988, the first new brewery in the Baltimore region since the 1950's. Its popularity with the discerning drinkers in the Washington and Baltimore area is strikingly evidenced by the rapid escalation of the sales of its products from 4,300 barrels last year to a current annual output of over 7,000. Council members were shown the steps by which the various grains and even fruit are converted at the Oxford Brewery into premium beers and ales.

Tom has also brewed a private ale which he has donated several times to enliven the Council's summer picnics and Christmas parties. He christened this drink, "Smetonalus" due to its creamy texture and in honor of one of Lithuania's prewar presidents.

So, Council 142 lifts its collective glass to Tom, a Lithuanian brew meister, "ANT SVEIKATOS".



LITHUANIA EARNS THE BASKETBALL SILVER MEDAL IN ATHENS

by Edward Barnakauskas, C-100

Yugoslavia defeated Lithuania, 96-90, to win the gold medal in the deciding game of the 1995 European Basketball Championships played in the Athens Olympic Stadium on July 2. Lithuania, as a result, took the silver medal while Croatia earned the bronze. This triumph marked Yugoslavia's return to international play after a three year ban.

The Lithuanians played very well against the best European teams, winning seven games. This was not an easy task to accomplish as they played three tough games in three days without a day of rest. On June 30 they defeated Russia, 82-71, and qualified to participate in the 1996 World Olympics to be held in Atlanta. The following day, July 1, they won over Croatia, 90-80, a team with two well-known NBA stars on its roster.

The deciding game was played against Yugoslavia, and it was a bitterly contested game to the very end. The Lithuanians led, 49-48, at halftime. Arvydas Sabonis, who reportedly signed a contract with the NBA Portland Trailblazers, fouled out late in the second half. Lithuania clung to an 83-81 lead with four minutes left to play. The Yugoslavs fought back and took a six point lead-with two minutes left. The Lithuanians were penalized for protesting a disputed foul and refused to continue playing in protest against the referees' many controversial calls against them. It looked like the game would end in total confusion, but eventually the Lithuanians were persuaded to return, in a losing argument.

Lithuanian coach Vladas Garastas claimed that the calls made by the US referee were terrible, that Yugoslavia had the green light from the start to win the tournament, and that it was a question of politics. The crowd of 20,000 spectators apparently felt the same way, for they booed very loudly and yelled "It's fixed". It's fixed." as the Yugoslavs raised their trophy in victory.

Yugoslavia's coach later admitted that they were not happy with the referees either.

The star performers for the Lithuanians were Arvydas Sabonis, Sarunas Marčiulionis, who plays for the NBA Seattle Supersonics, and Arturas Karnishovas, who was an outstanding player for Seton Hall University a few years ago before he returned to Lithuania. Marčiulionis was voted the tournament's most valuable player.

Basketball was always Lithuania's most popular sport. Had they defeated Yugoslavia, it would have been Lithuania's third European Basketball Championship. The other two times they won the title were in 1937 and 1939, in happier days of independence before the outbreak of World War II.

Lithuania's love for basketball has increased ever since the team won the bronze medal in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. With their near victory in Athens, thousands of fans jammed Vilnius' Zalgiris Stadium to welcome them after they returned home. President Brazauskas honored the players and coaches by awarding them with the Order of Gediminas.

Coach Garastas said that Lithuania did accomplish its goal in Athens by qualifying to participate in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, and that they will be a much stronger team then. This will be the team's next chance to make Lithuania proud of them.

BACK IN TIME IN PENNSYLVANIA

by Len Barcoucky
C-19, Pittsburgh

A bus full of visitors to Southwestern Pennsylvania traveled back in time recently, taking a trip "From the Nemunas to the Monongahela."

The Knights of Lithuania, Pittsburgh Council 19, and The Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania cosponsored the first-ever tour to a half dozen sites of cultural and religious significance. More than a century of

Lithuanian-American history was viewed and reviewed during the 6-hour bus ride.

Guides on the tour included Rob Medonis, Len Barcoucky, William Kolicius Jr. and Margie Turner, all members of Council 19. Other speakers included Sisters Virginia and Kathleen, both members of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God, a Lithuanian order, and Veronica Gomey.

Lithuanians were among the smaller ethnic groups to have been thrown into the Western Pennsylvania melting pot. While the first immigrants arrived in Pittsburgh in the 1870s, Lithuanians did not come in significant numbers until the last decade of the 19th Century. They arrived not only on the banks of Pittsburgh's Monongahela River but scattered throughout the region in places like Bridgeville, Homestead, Braddock, Apollo and DuBois.

Their cultural centers in Allegheny County include two Lithuanian cemeteries, a convent serving as the mother house for a Lithuanian-American religious order and a busy social hall, where language classes still are held and where several fraternal organizations meet regularly.

Tour highlights included the following:

* St. Casimir's Church, the religious center of the immigrant life. Built in 1901 on Pittsburgh's South Side, it served as both an ethnic and community parish until 1991. The high-domed, baroque-style church is famous for its hand-carved wooden stations of the cross and other statuary. While tour visitors could not go into the closed church, they saw slides of the interior.

* St. Casimir's Cemetery, located in nearby Whitehall, is the burial site for many of the Lithuanian priests who served the Pittsburgh diocese. There also is a large area set aside for the graves of nuns belonging of the Lithuanian Sisters of St. Francis, whose mother house is nearby. At the entrance to the cemetery stands a Marian shrine put up by the late Rev. Magnus Kazenas, the most influential of the region's Lithuanian priests.



C-19 member,
William Kolicius leads
history tour

* Sister of St. Francis convent. Most of the buildings are being renovated, but visitors were able to enter and tour the chapel. Its stained glass windows tell the story of the life of St. Francis.

* The original St. Casimir's Church. Built as a Protestant church on Ninth and Carson Streets in Pittsburgh, it was used by Lithuanian Catholics for about five years at the turn of the century.

* The 19th Street site of St. George's Lithuanian National Catholic Church is nearby. Founded by Lithuanian religious dissidents, it was used as a worship site for more than a decade.

* The Lithuanian Hall on Pittsburgh's Jane Street. Lithuanian language classes are conducted there, a dance troupe practices there and many ethnic organizations, including the Knights of Lithuania, still meet there.

* Moultrie Street in Pittsburgh's Soho, at one time the city's most Lithuanian neighborhood. Around the corner on Orr Street was the Lithuanian Literary Society (now the Squawkers Club) and the home of a Carpatho-Russian family named Warhola. The Pop artist Andy Warhol had his "first 15 minutes of fame" when he lived in a house on this street.

* Esplan, the site of both a Lithuanian Communist Club and both old and new St. Vincent DePaul Church. Both began as ethnic Lithuanian parishes.

Rob Medonis, vice president of C-19, was tour chairman and organizer. Copies of the guides' commentary were presented to both the council and to the historical society.

The historical society runs several ethnic tours each year in the Pittsburgh area. This past year was the first time that a Lithuanian trip was offered. While most tour participants were from Pennsylvania, visitors on the bus trip came from Massachusetts, Ohio and California.

Norwood Council Hosts Historic Exhibit

William Wolkovich-Valkavicius, C-27 Knight and noted author of our 75th Anniversary history book, was the Master of Ceremonies at the Morrill Memorial Library, Norwood MA on June 5.

24 The Library was opening an exhibit "In Remembrance of Lithuanian Righteous Gentiles," to pay tribute to courageous Lithuanians who were executed for trying to save Jews from the Nazis, or who risked life and limb in such a heroic effort.

Consul General of New York, Petras Anusas, represent the government of Lithuania. Knights of Lithuania Norwood C-27, led by Paul Zukas were sponsors of the program. Special wreaths were unveiled and the singing of "Marija, Marija," concluded the program.

Morkus attends Groundbreaking for Women in Military Service

C-7, Hartford member, Florence Morkus attended the groundbreaking for the Women in Military Service for America Memorial on June 22nd. The Memorial will be built at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, our most honored military resting ground. Dedication will be in 1997.

Attending were 4,000 service women from all the States. It was the largest gathering ever. Honorary chairman, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke, as did President Clinton and other honorary guests. Florence even got a chance to shake hands with the President as he was leaving.

During World War II, she served in Navy Communications in Washington, DC.

Anna Helen McDonald Reads Poems on Korean War

When Anna Helen McDonald of C-144, Anthracite, PA, remembers the Korean War, she remembers a scared 19 yr. old watching scorpions and black widow spiders crawl all over her barracks in Camp Breckrenridge, Ky. Fears and a lifetime of memories caused her to write about her 18 month tour during the Korean War called, "Lest We Forget".

Anna read some of her poetry at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, at a dedication to Koran Veterans earlier this year in Washington, DC. Over 500,000 veterans and families attended the event.





Juniors Forum

News & Views about Juniors

by Elena Mikalauskas

As the new Supreme Council Third Vice President, I would like to thank Fran Petkus for her efforts with the Junior Knights of Lithuania over the past year. One of her projects that captured my interest was collecting junior photos. I would like to build upon Fran's idea of collecting photos by asking everyone to continue searching their personal and council albums for pictures to forward to me. It is never too early to begin creating our display for next year.

I am also asking anyone who has been a Junior Knights of Lithuanian member to send a photo. The photo does not have to be from when you were of "Junior age", it could be recent. The idea is to show how many people that were juniors, are still involved with the Knights of Lithuania Organization today.

To the active junior councils, please take photos throughout the year at activities you are participating in. Also feel free to send any flyers, letters or crafts that you are creating. For the councils that no longer have an active junior council, I will be concentrating my initial efforts on reestablishing your Junior Councils. Of the fifty-nine Knights of Lithuania councils in our organization, only ten have active junior councils.

Continuing the Heritage:

C-100, Amsterdam NY, mother and daughter, Christine Tambasco (Junior Counselor) with Juniors Pres. Mikalina Tambasco in Lithuanian traditional costumes.



When I think back to my days as a Junior Knights of Lithuania member, I can only smile as I reminisce about our Saturday morning meetings and activities. Wouldn't it be nice to provide opportunities for our youth to develop their own memories from their involvement with the Knights of Lithuania?



SUMMER CONTEST WINNERS

Five Juniors from Mid Atlantic District won prizes in a district sponsored cultural contest. Poems, watercolors and prose about Lithuania was the topic. Winners were: Mikalina Tambasco, C-100; Robert Haynor, Sean Haynor, Anna Butwell, and Eva Rogers all of C-136. (See MAD news in C-news section)

I. DARBA

L. Silelis

Tempo di marcia

Al. Aleksandravičius

ff Sto - kim, bro - liai, tuoj i dar - ba Dėl i - dė - jų
Lai jau - no - joj mūsų Krū - ti - nėj Zy - di mei - lė

mūs bran - gių. Dėl gar - bės tē - vy - nės var - do Nes' - gai -
Lie - tu - vos. Tad pra - žys ir mūsų tē - vy - nei Lai - mė

lė - ki - me jė - gu! Gar - sia, dai - na už - dai -
jai ant vi - sa - dos. *ff* Sto - kim, bro - liai, tuoj i

nuo - kim. Viens už ki - to te - ki - ni; Dra - siai
dar - ba Dėl i - dė - jų mūsų bran - gių, Dėl gar -

ženg - kim ir ko - vo - kim, Mūs i - dė - ja pra - kil - ni!...
bės tē - vy - nės var - do Nes' - gai - lė - ki - me jė - gu!

rit.

Notes About the Music

by HM Faustas Strolia

The song, *[Darba*, on pg. 24 was the first song published in the first Vytis in 1915. Mr. Aleksis, (as he called himself in his later years) the composer, told me at a convention in Chicago, that he composed in those days only because they had no one better. He was a humble man. He later composed the *Vycių Hymnas*.

Regarding this song, one has to recognize that he chose to coincide the accents of the language and the accents of the song in a good way. His first three measures and last two are very good. The rest does not get higher off the ground in spite of high notes, lacking harmonic rhythm.

It is most unusual that he uses a marching tempo in all 4 phrases of 5 measures each. He is to be praised for all his idealism and life long activity with American-Lithuanians and especially the K. of L.!



Also included in the first VYTIS was the poem, *Meilė*, which was later set to music and became very popular among the Lithuanian community.

Meilė

Kas rymo prie lango nakties gilumoj?
Kas ašaras lieja karčiasias?
Kas trokšta išgirsti kur-nors tolumoj
Lakštingalos giesmes grandžiasias?
Prie atviro lango plaukais palaidais
Kas liudėsio pina vainika?
Su plakančia širdžia, veidais raudonais
Kas verkia, sveikata naikina?...

Kam širdis suspausta, aštriausiais digliais
Erškėčių perversa krutinė?
Kieno lekia mintys erelio sparnais
Svajonių versme begaline...
Kas rymo prie lango nakties gilumoj?
Kas ašaras lieja?... - mergelė.
Kas trokšta išgirsti kur-nors tolumoj
Lakštingalos giesmę? tai meilė.

- L. Šilelis

Thanksgiving message...Do it Anyway!

Some people are unreasonable, illogical and self centered. Love them anyway.
If you do good, people may accuse you of selfish motives. Do good anyway.
The good you do may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.
Honesty and transparency make you vulnerable. Be honest and anyway.
What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.
People who really want help may attack you if you help them. Help them anyway.
Give the world the best you have and you may get hurt. Give the your best anyway.
The world is full of conflict. Choose peace of mind anyway.

-Anonymous

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LITHUANIAN CHEFS

Lietuviška Virtuvė

Here's a few Fall favorite main dishes we thought you'd enjoy. Editors welcome your favorite recipes, so please send them in to the address on the front inside cover. Ačiū.

STUFFED CABBAGE

ROLLS KOPŪSTAINAI

2 lbs. lean chopped meat (a mix of beef, pork or sausage may be used)
1 medium onion
1 egg
1 head of cabbage
1 small can tomatoes
2 tablespoons tomato paste
1/2 cup sour cream
1/2 tsp. salt
pepper (to taste)
1 cup rice

Remove dark leaves from the head of cabbage and simmer the cabbage in salted water to soften leaves. Some chefs prefer to remove all the leaves being used, then simmer them.

When leaves are softened, let cool a bit to make them easier to work with.

Cook rice according to package directions. Add chopped meat, finely chopped onion, egg, salt and pepper and mix well.

Place one tablespoon of the mixture in each cabbage leaf, roll and (if necessary fasten with a toothpick). Some chefs prefer to brown each roll in shortening prior to cooking, but it is not necessary. Put stuffed cabbages in a heavy pot, add tomatoes.

Saute over low heat until tender, about 1 1/2 hours. When done, add tomato paste and sour cream. Serves 8.

LITHUANIAN BEEF

BIRDS

LIETUVIŠKI RIESTINIAI

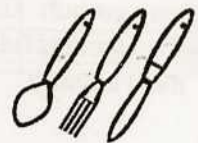
3 lbs tender beef
2 oz. butter
2 onions
1 cup black bread crumbs
4 dried mushrooms
1 egg

1 tablespoon flour
1 carrot
1/2 cup sour cream
1 1/2 cup broth
Salt, pepper to taste

Cut meat into thin square slices against the grain, being careful not to tear the meat. Rub with flour and pepper and set aside. To make stuffing, saute finely chopped onion in butter, add cooked chopped mushrooms, bread crumbs, salt and egg. Mix well and if the mixture is too thick, add some broth or sour cream.

Sprinkle the meat with salt, spread with the stuffing, roll up the meat fastening the ends; brown in a frying pan in hot fat. Place the meat in a heavy pot, add grated carrot, pan drippings and broth and braise over low heat. When almost done, add black bread crumbs.

When birds are tender, remove from pot and remove fastenings. Strain braising liquid for gravy, add flour, simmer, stir in sour cream and heat. Place birds on a serving dish and pour gravy over them. Serve with fried potatoes, noodles or rice. Pickles, saurkraut or marinated vegetables also work well with this dish. Serves 8.



WHEN MOTHER AND HER FRIENDS MADE SAUERKRAUT

by *Antonia M. Wackell*

29



Harvest time was a busy and demanding season on all farms. It was also a lively, concentrated period for the young Lithuanian housewives both in the city and country. So much had to be done: The canning of blueberries, apples to be wrapped in tissue papers hoarded from oranges or solicited from the grocers, potatoes to be sorted, and especially, the preparation of sauerkraut for the family's winter table. All to be stored in cool places which meant dividing the small dirt-floored cellars into storage areas so that everything would be within reach.

When fresh garden vegetables were ready, a two-horse wagon would arrive, rumbling and rattling along the unpaved street to stop at the most convenient backyard. A large unfenced yard to admit horses, wagon and housewives was most desirable. The house we lived in had just that kind of a yard which also contained a tall wide-spreading tree that would protect the horses, produce and several neighbors from the sun.

It was always a welcome interruption to see farmer Jonas at the reins with his noble watchdog, Rudis, beside him. Springing down from the his wagon seat, Jonas reached for some apples - treats for his horses and the watchful children. Jonas arranged his produce neatly and then shouted: "BULVIU. . KOPUSTU..... ir OBELIU!" - (Potatoes, Cabbages and Apples!)

No matter what the housewives had been doing, they immediately abandoned their chores, quickly covered their hair with pretty dust caps, tied clean aprons around their waists, collected infants and small purses and hurried

to the waiting wagon. They hurried, (these new Americans with varied accents and brogues) because they knew that Jonas was a busy man and he had other neighborhoods to cover. Orders for winter cabbages had to be taken before he left the city.

Once the orders for cabbage heads were given, and dates of deliveries had been set, then modest deposits and receipts exchanged hands. Rudis knew when sales were completed because he climbed to his place and waited for Jonas to come and drive on.

A housewife with a vacant room was fortunate. There the cabbage heads would be stacked easily by the farm hands. Kitchens, in those days, were large so if a room was not available, the kitchen corner served as the temporary quarters for the load.

Husbands, too, had some responsibilities in the preparation of the appetizing vegetable. They were expected to borrow, rent or purchase a special, well-seasoned vat, washed carefully and dried. Also needed were two beams (2 by 4's) used on which the filled barrel would rest in the cellar. A bag of salt (a necessity), a clean, unpainted, unvarnished flat board and sizable stone were necessary. In addition, the husband was expected to recruit a few of his friends to help him in his time of need.

No later than three days after the delivery, when fathers left for work and school children trudged off to school, mother's friendly helpers arrived equipped with their cutting boards, large basins and pails and the essential slicing devices. Three eager pre-schoolers came to "help" their mothers and tetas.

Placed in the center of the kitchen, the round oak table now covered by an oil-cloth³⁰ was ready and waiting. After greeting each other, someone would suggest, "Na, sesutes, prie darbo!" ("Now, dear sisters, to work!")

Quickly, plain and fancy boards were placed on the table, knives set conveniently, basins to receive the shredded cabbage near the boards, and pails into which denuded cores would be consigned, occupied the door space beside each friend. They, now, set to work with a purpose.

The children, raring to help, tore off the thick outer leaves with giggles and zest. They knew just when to supply each "teta" with a new head of cabbage. It was a fascinating game!

As the friends shredded cabbage, they sang softly, recalling youthful days in Lithuania, and their sadness in parting from parents and friends, perhaps never to see them again ... they were young mothers in their early and middle twenties.

As in their country, so in this new land, cookbooks were not yet available. The unusual products in stores puzzled them. However, anything new they had learned in the meantime, they now exchanged their knowledge and even some American recipes with each other.

Since they came to spend the day (dienavot), mother prepared slices of dark bread and ham sandwiches, and bolony sandwiches with sliced cucumbers and tomatoes, milk and milk crackers and the favorite beverage - an imported tea served in tall glasses, not in cups.

Luncheon finished, knives were sharpened once more. Every cook had developed her own recipe. So, too, mother had her way of preparing her sauerkraut and what ingredients she wished to add.

After each layer of the shredded cabbage was spilled into the waiting barrel, she tampted the contents down to eliminate any air spaces (spaces caused spoilage) sprinkled salt

generously, added cored unpeeled apples, cranberries and caraway seeds until the vat could hold no more and not a head remained. One of the little workers who had missed her nap time decided to have her rest on the bed of castoff cabbage leaves. It had been an unusually busy day for all.

School children would soon be home and suppers had to be prepared, so the friends gathering their possessions and children, thanked mother for a happy day. Mother, in return, expressed her appreciation for their generous time, their company and their fine shredding.

After a light supper, father's friends began to arrive. The vat was very heavy. It was cumbersome. Descending to the cellar required caution and slow maneuvering, but they accomplished their aim without spillage or a slip of the foot. Once the barrel was set upon the two by fours, mother tampted the cabbage again, added more salt, covered the contents with a damp white cloth, placed the flat board and finally topped it all with a good-sized scrubbed stone. At last all was done to everyone's satisfaction. Father invited his friends to share a snack. A small keg of liquid refreshment, pretzels, and pleasant conversations completed a successful project.

We all looked forward to enjoy roast pork, baked apples, mashed potatoes, fried onions with mother's sauerkraut in a few months.



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Council News '95

New England District

by Aldona Marcavage

A slightly smaller group of NED Knights refreshed themselves spiritually and physically at the annual June retreat in Kennebunkport this year. Retreat master was Father Robert Barber, OFM. All conferences were interesting and held our attention. The accommodations, as usual, were great. Sumptuous breakfasts were served to the guests in true Lithuanian fashion and our pleasure. Between conferences many new eateries were explored in and around Kennebunkport - and many delicious lobsters were enjoyed. The fun part was the few pleasant hours with people who share the same beliefs, the same language and heritage. To quote: "Those who pray together, stay together." All are looking forward to next June in Maine.

Helen Dallalis worked hard for nine years as retreat coordinator and did a great job. It was not easy to please everyone, but she knew how to do it well. This year she placed the responsibilities into the capable hands of Al Akule, who is managing just fine.

Worcester hosted the fall convention September 17th, 1995. It was chaired by the president of C-26, Ann Leseman.

Did you remember to support the NED Scholarship Fund by attending the Cultural Festival at Maironis Park in Worcester on October 22, 1995? It was co-hosted by Norwood and Providence.

Prayers are requested for Father Al Janiunas, C-78, Lawrence, who retired in July. May the Lord restore his health so he will be able to serve Him for many more years.

Mid Atlantic District

The good Lord blessed us with lots of rain on Sunday, September 17. Although it was wet, Long Island, New York had even made national news with the wild fires in the driest August on record, so most of us were grateful for the "liquid sunshine".



NED Knights on retreat in Kennebunkport.

Our District convention, hosted by Eastern Long Island Council 152 received almost 120 delegates and guests in Cutchogue in spite of the weather; some traveled over six hours to get there.

A noon Mass at Our Lady of Ostrabrama was celebrated by Rev. Msgr. John Nosser, it's Pastor. He thanked the Knights and welcomed the added voices to his Lithuanian Sunday choir. The interior of the church reminded many of similar churches in Lithuania with its beautifully woodcarved beams.

The meeting was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Cutchogue, a site chosen for its proximity to the church. After a delicious hot meal and home made cakes for dessert, the meeting began with a prayer and welcome by C-152 president, Muriel Lekstutis. The following officers were elected to MAD for 1995-1996 year: Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Msgr. Frank Bulovas, President, Edward Barkowski; 1st Vice President-Membership, Maryte Abbott; 2nd Vice President-Juniors, Bernice Aviza; Secretary, Muriel Lekstutis; Treasurer, Josephine Zukas; Trustees, Mirga Bablin, Ann O'Neill and Frances Jakatt; Lithuanian Affairs, Romas Kezys; Public Relations/Vytis Correspondent, Mary Kober; Cultural; Anthony Yacavonis; Mandate, Rita Sussko; Sergeant at Arms, Joseph Stelmokas; and Resolutions, Tom Tarmey. The Ritual Committee positions were tabled until the next meeting.

The district-sponsored Juniors cultural contest entries were proudly displayed, although only five were received. Poems, prose and watercolor paintings of the Vytis and flag, plus a painting



(left) Mid America District President Algerd Brazis presides over the summer district meeting held at the Michigan City Yacht Club. Also pictured are Fr. Anthony Zakarauskas, Evelyn Ozelis and Teri Vaitkus. (right) MAMD attendees enjoy the sun at the summer district meeting.

depicting the *Legend of the Iron Wolf* gave us an idea of how some of our Mohawk Valley Juniors think of their heritage. Winners were: Mickalina Tambasco, C-100 (Amsterdam); Robert Haynor, Sean Haynor, Anna Butwell and Eva Rogers, all from C-136 (Hudson-Mohawk) Congrats to all.

Edward Barkowski, outgoing 1st VP, gave awards for the district membership drive to: C-41, C-153, C-12 and C-110. Individuals who received awards were Bruno Rutkunas (C-110) and John Tomasauskas (C-153).

An overabundant raffle from beautiful handmade items to a basket of cheer to bags of fresh Long Island cabbages gave many of the delegates goodies to take home along with the pumpkins and gourds. A hundred dollars was raised for Aid to Lithuania through the sale of convention caps and tote bags. An enjoyable time was had by all, thanks to our hard working hosts.

Our next district meeting is scheduled for March 10 to be hosted by C-90, Kearny, NJ.

C-10, Athol Gardner, MA

by Vincukas

On June 4 about 30 K. of L. members attended "A Celebration of Life" at the home of Paula Shatas of Erving, who was terminally ill. Daughter Pamela and son-in-law Armand Bouthillier treated us all to a Lithuanian style dinner. In honor of Paula we planted a tree. On this beautiful day Nellie Melaika and Dr. Henry Gailiunas received their 3rd degree.

Congratulations to you both. We all stayed late and sang into the evening. Thanks Pam and Armand.

We were all deeply saddened to hear Paula passed to her eternal reward on August 12 after a long battle with cancer.

The K. of L. conducted their ritual at the wake. The funeral was well attended. Mass was offered at St. Blanche's Mission Church, Erving. During the Mass, Howard Beaudette and Helen Simkunas placed the Lithuanian juosta on the coffin. Mass was offered by our spiritual advisor Fr. Joseph Jurgelonis. The funeral dinner was held at the K. of C. hall. About two hundred attended.

Paula was a graduate of the gymnasium in Birzai, Lithuania. She was one of four children. She was a substitute teacher for 20 years. She also taught sewing and tailoring. She was a member of St. Blanches Parish, St. Mary's Womens Guild and our K. of L. Paula was a kind pleasant and lovable person and a friendly neighbor. Her funeral proved it. She will be missed by us all. Amzina atilsi miela Paule, iki pasimatymo aname gyvenime.

Congratulations go out to Father Albin Janiunas of Lawrence on the occasion of his 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Marge Senk attended the National Convention in Detroit as a C-10 delegate.

Walter Mikas was guest of honor at a 80th birthday party held at the Lithuanian Club in Gardner. His picture appeared in our local paper. Walter, we wish you many more healthy years.

On June 11th, Brone and Bill Wisniauskas were guests of honor at a reception on the occasion of their 25 wedding anniversary at St. Francis Church. The Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Messier, Pastor



C-10 members gather at "Celebration of Life" for Paula Shatas on June 4

and Fr. John Petrauskas, MIC of Gardner. Dinner followed in the parish hall. Many K. of L. members attended. Both local dailies carried write-ups and pictures.

Condolences are extended to Nellie Melaika and Ann Zielinski on the recent death of their beloved brother Frank. Condolences are also extended to Fr. Joe Jurgelonis, our spiritual advisor on the recent death of his mother in Millsbury. May they both rest in the peace of the Lord.

C-19, Pittsburgh, PA

by John Baltrus

Council 19 is alive and well, even though we do not make the news too often! On Sunday, July 30th a dozen members traveled to Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Natrona Heights, PA to congratulate our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Francis Plantes, on the 50th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Fr. Plantes graciously volunteered to become the spiritual advisor of our council in 1990. It was a very convenient and beneficial relationship for our council at that time, since Fr. Plantes was the pastor of the last truly Lithuanian parish in the Pittsburgh area, Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Homestead. Unfortunately, it too was closed during the diocesan parish consolidation in 1992. Fr. Plantes then moved to Natrona Heights, which is some 25 miles north of Pittsburgh. This made it difficult for us to visit and celebrate Mass with him, but he still makes the effort to attend wake services for our deceased members.

The occasion of his 50th anniversary finally gave our members the perfect excuse to travel for

the first time as a group to his parish for Mass. Although the more formal celebrations took place earlier in the year, this gave us the opportunity to have our own private celebration. Following Mass by Fr. Plantes, at which he acknowledged our group's presence, we retreated to a local restaurant for an informal luncheon. Fr. Plantes was ordained on St. Casimir's Day in 1945. He reminisced about the priesthood in those days, when there was an oversupply of priests in the diocese and priests had to wait for parish assignments, in part because the parishes could not afford the meager monthly stipend for the priests. Education costs were not even fully reimbursed. Fr. Plantes served several parishes in the Pittsburgh area, including being pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church for over 25 years. We were also able to reminisce about the Lithuanian parishes in the Pittsburgh area and some of the Lithuanian priests serving the Pittsburgh area during his 50 years. It was a very enjoyable and informative day for all who attended. We look forward to visiting with Fr. Plantes again sometime soon.

Our members organized the Lithuanian food and display booths at the 39th Annual Pittsburgh Folk Festival, which was held Memorial Day weekend. Many of our Knights volunteered to work in those booths and prepared Lithuanian delicacies sold at the food booth. Some of our younger members belong to the Neris dance group, which performed that weekend. The Lithuanian's participation in the



C-19 members celebrate Fr. Plantes' 50th Anniversary in the priesthood.

festival would not be possible without the help of our K of L members.

Our council meetings this year have been very informative. We have featured several guest speakers, including representatives of the Catholic Action League and Opus Dei. The latter organization has sent their members to Lithuania the last few summers to help organize religious camps for children. We also featured the showing of a short film "Lithuania: Land of Martyrs" narrated by Bob and Penny Lord. The film is in English and explains the significance of several religious sites in Lithuania. To our surprise it started at the Hill of Crosses and showed a close up of the K of L cross!

C-26, Worcester, MA

by Olga

Mmmm good! Ann Walinsky and daughter-in-law Eleanor Walinsky and committee prepared the May spaghetti dinner which received raving notices. Then in June, Lillian Kondrotas, Aldona Waska and Bill Leseman and their committee planned and executed a most successful indoor picnic at Maironis Park. Kazys Adomavicius is our member and he's also president of Maironis Park. Special thanks to Kazys who continues to give his all in providing us with Maironis' facilities.

The N.E.D. annual retreat held at the Franciscan Saint Anthony's Monastery in Kennebunkport, Maine in June was attended by 80 retreatants. Father Robert, O.F.M., was retreatmaster. Among those from our council in attendance were Lillian Kondrotas, Aldona Waska, Victoria Augustine, Rita Margosian, Christine Delonis, Angela Busky, Rita Pinkus, Ann Bucinskas, Alfred and Vivian Rodgers, John Putis, Joan Wojciak, and Tony and Adele Dailida.

Congratulations to Beatrice and Tony Anton on the beautiful occasion of their 50-year golden anniversary this year.

Everyone remembers the beautiful work Sister Ignata, S.S.C., did here in Worcester at our St. Casimir's Church and School. She's at Yilla Joseph Marie in Holland, Pennsylvania. Sister Ignata was an active member of our council and so we want to express our sincere condolences to her upon the

death of her dear mom, Barbara Zemeikis, who died in early summer at age 106! God rest Mrs. Zemeikis' precious soul.

Miss Marilyn Buckleyo, daughter of Bill and Ann Buckley, never ceases to amaze us with the medals she continues to earn. This summer, in Special Olympics, Marilyn was awarded Gold and Silver Medals in swimming and a Silver Medal in bowling. Congratulations, Marilyn! Receiving her Ph.D. Degree at a relatively young age hasn't stopped Diane Skrocki one iota. She's spending the summer doing further studies at Fitchburg State and Framingham State Colleges.

Prayers for recovery please for: Chuck Serafinas, Vincent Grazulis (living in California) Rita Karrytais, Adele Degutis, Edwina and Francis Ginkus, Frances Kulakuskys and Bill Leseman. Before closing, we'd like to commend Daniel P. Shimkus who continues to spread Lithuania's fame by his active involvement in the Lithuanian War Veterans. He received a special privilege this summer. The Worcester Committee for Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of V.E. Day invited Dan to speak. See Dan's picture and description in *Lithuanians in the News* section in this issue.



*Fr. Robert Barber,
OFM, Kennebunkport
retreat master with
Helen Dallalis, C-27
coordinator for 9 years.*

C-27, Norwood, MA

by Albie J. Jarvis

This year, K. of L. C-27 offered a three part observance of the sufferings of World War II. There was an exhibit at the library in remembrance of Lithuanian righteous Gentiles. It honored those who were killed for saving Jews or attempting to save them. It was well attended. Several honored guests participated in the opening of the exhibit. Most Rev.

Bishop Daniel Hart and Petras Anusas, Consul General of Lithuania, State Senator Marian Walsh, State Rep. John Rogers, Timothy McDonough, Chairman of Board of Selectmen, Library Director, Mary Phinney, and Library Trustee, Eileen Sullivan were a few of the many participants.

A Mass was offered on June 11th to continue the observance. It was followed by a short program by Father W. Wolkovich explaining as to how this observance became an annual event commemoration honoring the memory of the heroes of these tragic events. Siberian exile folk songs were sung by all. The accompanist was Katherine Perednia.

The third part of this commemoration took place at the Italian club where a film was shown depicting how priests and nuns in Italy helped to save Jews from persecution. Public knowledge of these tragic days was not made evident until well after the end of World War II (1966).

Our council thanks and praises Paul Zukas for his tireless effort in his bottle/can drive which resulted in \$551.00. Donations from the Tragic Days observance netted \$257.00, and with an anonymous gift of \$92.00, the total came to \$900.00. So, Paul was able to send a generous check to Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid in Brooklyn, NY.

Norwood Council 27 co-hosted with the Providence Council, the annual New England K. of L. cultural festival at Maironis Park, Worcester in October.

Sunny days, prayerful sessions, warm friendships awaited the New England K. of L'ers at the Franciscan Monastery in Maine. Frances and Stanley Medveski drove up from Woonsocket, RI. Helen and Stan Dallalis came from Cape Cod. Leisure times were spent bike riding by John and Betty Skricki; antique hunting by Ted and Lillian Callahan; Swimming and sunning with the others were Albie and Lenore Jarvis. Tony and Mary Kober came up from Long Island to be with their many friends.

For those who stayed, Sunday night was celebrated with a gala "Surum Burum". Music, dancing, laughter, refreshments. Just like old times.

Iki pasimatymo! Zaibas.

C-29, Newark NJ

by Rita Sussko

Sadly, C-29 has lost several long standing members, including our beloved VYTIS Correspondent, Eve Coll. It will be a difficult task for anyone to serve as efficiently as Eve did. She is missed. Also, sadly missed are Peter Savage, Anne Ruth Remeika and Mary Bittner. May their souls rest in peace.

Rita Sussko has now completed her term as National Financial Secretary. She was succeeded by Dorothy Banos; we wish Dorothy every success.

On August 27th, Holy Trinity Lithuanian Church Council, which consists mainly of members of Council #29, hosted a luncheon chaired by Parish Council President, Ann O'Neill. Despite the high summer temperature, the luncheon was a success. All proceeds went to the Parish.

Our first meeting of the season was held on Sunday, September 10th. Prior to the meeting and immediately following the Mass, C-29 held a Day of Prayer for Lithuania. We extend an Aciu Labai to Fr. Pete Uhde, our Spiritual Advisor and Nellie Krynicki, Chairperson, for the impressive service.

Our next affair will be Council #29's Dinner and Dance on October 8th, celebrating our 80th Anniversary, chaired by our Sunshine Lady, Marie Guoba.

We wish you all a HAPPY & HEALTHY new season.

C-43, Forest City, PA

by Blanche Motsko

Here are the highlights of our busy schedule during this past year:

On 3/16, our K. of L. commemorated the feast of St. Casimir by attending Mass offered by our spiritual advisor, Father Sitko. All members wore ethnic clothes and marched in a group. After Mass, we had breakfast at Mary Ann's Restaurant with a lot of socializing. It was a beautiful event.

We had 2 delegates from C- 46 attending Amber District meeting in Philadelphia. Josephine and Frank Opecka reported all the highlights of the convention. It was a fruitful event. There was some discussion about another trip to Lithuania.

7/7 When our president, Beatrice Tanis, died suddenly we were all shocked. Our sincere sympathy is extended to her family. Many of our members attended the funeral which was held in her hometown, Montrose. God rest her soul.

7/9 The Frackville picnic was attended by: Josephine and Amy Morris and Dorothy Andzulis. It was a breezy day, but an enjoyable picnic, with lots of food and socializing.

Our annual picnic was held in Kennedy park. The weather was hot and perfect. Each member brought a covered dish. Hot and cold food were more than plentiful.

The following were nominated for next years officers: Alice Puntas - president; Anthony Youorosky - vice president; Josephine - Joan Opecka - treasurer, Frank Cyzeski - secretary, Albert Kuzacavich, John Gudaitis and Stasia Wallis - trustees; John Morris - Ritual; Amy Morris - sunshine; Charles Cyzeski - public relations; - Blanche Motsko - Vytis correspondent. Bingo games followed. The prizes were given out by Joan Opecka, Stasia Wallis and Alice Puntor.

Our faithful member Frances Youorosky, has been hospitalized. We wish her a speedy recovery.

A large crowd attended to pay tribute and hear some interesting speeches at our unveiling ceremony at the William Penn Park of our Miner's Memorial.

C-50, New Haven, CT

by Audrey Toole



We welcome Father John Cassey as our new spiritual advisor. Father is now the *Rev. John Cassey* administrator of both St. Casimir's and St. Boniface churches in New Haven. We certainly appreciate his help.

We pray for the good health of several members who are in various stages of recuperation: Frank Antin, Charles Dekas, Al and Eleanor Gutauskas, Helen Klimaszewski, Evelyn Lepensky, Helen Lostys and Ella Medley.

Marion Meshako is to be applauded for chairing another successful Lithuanian Festival for St. Casimir's church. Many K. of L. members helped

and worked at this annual event. Cooking and serving the delicious Lithuanian food were Theresa Strimaitis, Vida Masto, Mary Geipel, Magdalen Cronin and Mary Meshako. Many others helped in food preparation and serving, ticket sales, home baking and raffle prizes. The workers included: Al and Anne Berzins, Viola and Al Plant, Anne and Walter Lukaszewski, Anne and Tony Kordorky, Irene and Mike Meizies, Mary and Bill Bachinski, Elizabeth and Frank Gybowski, Mary Ann and Tom Meskako, Edith Kazlauskas, Pat and Leo Tamulis, Izabel Peterson, Helen Medley, Betty Macknis, Anne Gedrim, Helen Bohan, Frances Prishwalko, Eva Cheslock, Audrey Toole, Al Papeika and Robert Peterson. The Vetra dancers added to the afternoons enjoyment.

The National Convention was attended by Isabel Peterson, Helen Medley and Ed and Audrey Toole. Isabel worked on the greetings committee. All related that the convention both informative and enjoyable. In spite of the hot weather, the closing Mass was just beautiful.

C - 74, Scranton, PA

by Marie Laske

Ann Lisowski died May 16, 1995. She was a 4th degree member, but she had accumulated enough points for at least several of them. Ann was a willing worker and a friend to all. She was financial secretary for C-74 for many years. For the last few years Ann was homebound due to a severe illness. She was a devoted wife. For 20 years she cared for her sick husband. Surely she earned her way to heaven, for all her dedication to others.

Ann, you are missed! Amzina atilsi! Rest in peace dear friend.

Lee Bozenko is on the mend after surgery. God speed, you cannot keep good worker down. Lee is our cultural chairperson.

We attended the Amber district meeting at Whipperwill. Father Peter Alisaukas celebrated Mass. The lectors were Richard Laske and Len Kapoches. The weather was very cold so we put on our sweaters, and raincoats.

We were all saddened by the news that Beatrice Stanis from Forest City died.



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 C-74 members in front of St. Joseph's Church for it's Centennial celebration.

Father Callahan was presented a wayside cross for his good work with the Lithuanian people.

The Rev. Clement Kasinskas, CP, led the Stations of the Cross and the Benediction at St. Ann's Monastery. Joining him were: Father Peter Alisaukas, Msgr., Michael Ozalas and Msgr., Peter Madus. The program was coordinated by Marie Laske and Nellie Bayoras members of C-74 and C-143 carried many beautiful Lithuanian artifacts. Helen Moran was organist, Alphonse Bulavich led the singing.

We attended an old fashion Lithuanian picnic at the home of Dr. Richard Fitzimmons at Falls, PA. His grandparents on the mothers side are Lithuanian. The food was delicious and plentiful. We were entertained by Lina Raisyte from Lithuania. She played beautiful Lithuanian songs on the organ.

Dr. Fitzimmons was a terrific host. His brother Thomas took us sailing on his Pontoon boat. Nellie Bayoras cold beet soup was very delicious and so was all the other foods. We had a wonderful day.

Our officers for the next year are: Msgr. Peter Madus - spiritual advisor; Marie Laske - president, Rose Stanches - vice president; Edward Romanauskas - treasurer; Helen Churi - recording secretary; Martha Brack - financial secretary; Helen Cravath - Lithuanian affairs, Lee Bozenko - cultural chairman; Peg Romanausky - ritual chairman; Sgt-at-arms - Richard Laske; Della Svirblis public relations; Marie Laske - Vytis correspondent, Lee Zewicki, John Romoska, Jerry Costello - trustees.

We enjoyed a visit from Joseph Samowskas from Florida, who is a member of the K. of L.

The K. of L. had a picture taken for St. Joseph's church celebrating 100 years. We had a good turnout.

In September we help the "Little Sisters of the Poor" with their annual bazaar, There were our K. of L helpers and about 8 others. Chairperson was Marie Laske. Usually we make from \$4 -5,000 dollars. It is much work but rewarding. The Little Sisters have the most beautiful nursing home in the United States. Wherever you live and wish to volunteer, they could use your help.

We are happy to hear Rose Stanches, our vice president, who broke her hip is mending. We miss her at our meetings.

C-79, Southfield, MI

by Bee Jay

Our hosting of the semi-annual MCD meeting and Bowling Tournament in May now but a memory, the June meeting was taken up predominantly by preparations for our annual Family Day Picnic.

It was held Saturday, July 22 at Divine Providence Parish's grove - a lovely, handy little woods beyond the church parking lot. Pres. Margaret Dapkus and husband Bill were in charge of the Bar-b-qued hot dogs. Typical picnic fare, fried chicken was also enjoyed by many. Various side dishes were brought by members and Joe Panavas supplied us with beverages.

After indulging in the sumptuous meal, we either sat around in groups catching up on news since our last get-together or separating into clusters for a variety of card games. Horse shoes were tossed by a few strong males.



"Hula dancer" from C-79 at the MCD luau on 5/20/95

A goodly (or Godly) number attended 5:00 PM Mass. It was an enjoyable day for approximately 30 members plus some friends -with Mother Nature supplying us with a typical, sunny summer day.

Our next important project is the annual Fall Festival, scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 12, 1995.

C-90, Kearny, NJ

by Lilly Sudol

Plans are underway to erect a Lithuanian wayside cross in a local park. Committee members are in the process of making arrangements for fund raising events which will take place in the near future. We have also been working hard on "sprucing up" the Lithuanian Catholic Community Center located in Kearny which is where our monthly meetings and social events are held. Members are busy cleaning the grounds, redecorating etc. A big "thank you" to the volunteers for their time and effort. Additionally, Schuyler Savings Bank which is located near the center and is a significant contributor to the Lithuanian community, generously donated 75 trees to the town of Kearny in celebration of the bank's 75th anniversary. Several trees were planted on the grounds of the LCCC, after which council members Eleanor Rokas and Ann Pringle spent many hours in the Summer heat planting lovely flowers around each tree. We commend them on their hard work and "green thumbs".

Members Becky and Cathy Nakrosis attended the Lithuanian Youth Convention in Washington, D.C. on May 6 and 7 and we enjoyed listening to their informative report on the activities held.

Council 90 has received the honor of hosting the Mid-Atlantic District Convention in March, 1996 and members are making plans to make this an enjoyable event for all.

Our Spiritual Advisor and Pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Monsignor Dominick Pocus celebrated his 50th Anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on May 7. The parish honored his many years of service with a Mass of Thanksgiving, followed by a Testimonial Dinner. Many of Monsignor's family and friends, as well as a significant amount of parishioners attended this wonderful celebration. Our congratulations to

Msgr. Pocus and we pray that God will continue to bless him and keep him in his care.

Council members are planning to attend a Lithuanian Festival being held on November 4 and 5 at the Lithuanian Music Hall located in Philadelphia, PA. We arranged a bus trip for council members who are anxious to attend this ethnic event.

Members Becky Nakrosis and Audrey Przybylski are currently working on publishing a C-90 photo/history album. Also, translators are hard at work, trying to decipher minutes from Council 90 meetings held as far back as 1917. Iki Pasimatymo!

C - 102, Detroit, MI

by Mariute

After a solid year of careful planning, a standing ovation goes to Tim Baibak and his committee for a successful National Convention. You never saw Tim without his briefcase and Regina Juska was always on the run.

Donna Bunikis and Terry Medonis did a great job with the pre-convention trip to Frankenmuth. Those who were interested in helping at World Medical, were guided there by HM Bob Boris and Bill Zager.

The smiling face of Oneta Selenis greeted guests at the registration desk. The following C - 102 members helped stuff the goodie bags: Pat and Della Zyren, Albina Kurpovic and Merri Hofner.

The opening Mass was organized by HM Bob Boris and Richard Straksys. Vince Boris prepared the misselets for both the opening and closing Masses of the convention, plus the songbooks and other programs. The Mass was held at the beautiful St. Mary's Chapel of SS. Cyril and Methodius seminary in Orchard Lake. The Mass was concelebrated by Msgr.. Algimantas Bartkus, Rev. Dr. Joe Anderlonis, Rev. Stanievich and Rev. Grusas.

Our president, Larry Hofner, welcomed all delegates and guests at the opening session..

The Thursday night picnic was more fun for Helen Smolek and Joe and Maryanne Guerriero, who ran the Even - Odd Candy game. Joe Stark and John Stanievich played party dance music and were

Rev. J. Walter Stanievich, former National Spiritual Advisor and Pastor of St. Anthony's Church, addresses convention.



joined by their wives, Eve Stark and Donna Stanievich in the sing-along. Also enjoying the picnic was Brian Baibak, the little son of Tim.

Friday the energized, Irena Vizgirda, spent all day with the Juniors at Camp Dainava. It is a 80 mile round trip. And in the evening she still had enough energy to MC the Cultural Night. The Dayton Dancers were great with popcorn intermissions, followed by a film festival that included a Lithuanian opera "The Devils Bride."

Terry and Mike Shea did a beautiful job on the Saturday Night banquet. Fr. Stan was our MC, with guest speaker George Perles, who gave us his favorite recipe for kugelis. Congratulations to our new Supreme Council officers, the two new honorary members - Faustas Strolia and Frank Petrauskas; and Glen Hayden the recipient of the Friend of Lithuania Award. Last but not least the scholarship winners.

After Sunday brunch, Ruth Wagster, Terry and Ray Medonis made sure that all got on the busses to St. Anthony's Church for the closing Mass. The celebrant of this Mass was His Eminence Adam

Cardinal Maida, Archbishop of Detroit. the concelebrants were: His Excellency Bishop Paulius A. Baltakis, OFM, Msgr. Algimantas Bartkus, Rev. Alfonsas Babonas, Rev. Dr. Joseph Anderlonis, Rev. J. Walter Stanievich, Rev. Gintaras Grusas, Rev. Christanavich and Rev. G. Michael Bugarin. Terry Medonis and John Stanievich did the readings and Frank Bunikis joined the choir of beautiful voices and music. Before Mass, 4th Degrees were bestowed on our long deserving members: Vincent Boris, Ruth Wagster and Donna and John Stanievich. Congratulations. Dr. Michael Acromite and his beautiful bride, Nurse Pam, who were ready at the back of the steaming hot church, with a water cooler and oxygen for emergencies. Thank God they were not needed. With the heat in church, now everyone has some idea what Hell will be like, so keep praying and doing good.

Our photographer, Michael Vichinsky, with the help of his wife and daughter, never missed a shot. The pictures came out great.

Congratulations to Council 102 Detroit and St. Anthony's Lithuanian church on their 75th anniversaries. Thanks to all council delegates and guests who made the 82nd National Convention in Detroit, such a success.

In June, our council hosted the Supreme Council officers who were preparing for the convention. Regina Juska prepared a beautiful appetizer tray to greet the officers. Jerry Barbals helped chauffeur the guests to the beautiful lake home of Joe and Eve



Marquette Park C-112 members welcomed guest speaker, Mary Rudis, president of BALFAS, to their June meeting. She presented an interesting talk on the history of the organization and afterward was presented with a \$100.00 check from C-112 for BELFAS.

Stark, where, with the help of Terry and Ray 40 Medonis, a barbeque was enjoyed. Before the barbeque Fr. Stan offered Mass.

In July our meeting was held at the beautiful home and gardens of Mr. and Mrs. Sedaka. After the meeting, where we finalized many of our convention duties, a picnic lunch was held in the beautiful gardens. Members brought gifts for a raffle and Regina Juska and Donna Bumkis sold chances for it. The raffle realized \$200.00. It was donate to HM Bob Boris to be given to Aid to Lithuania.

C - 102 members, along with C-139 and C-79 helped dismantle St. Peter's church to send to Alytus Lithuania for the new church that is being build there. They will name one of the chapels in honor of St. Peter in thanksgiving for this generous donation.

C-110, Maspeth, NY

The brisk Fall weather brought 60 or so of us together for our first meeting of the year. Following the Lithuanian Mass celebrated by Msgr. Frank Bulovas, a picnic luncheon with babka and coffee welcomed us. Our meeting was filled with lively discussions; our council donated another two hundred dollars to Aid to Lithuania, as members who did not go to the Detroit convention purchased caps and bags. The remaining merchandise will be included in our orphanage shipments to familiarize others with the Knights of Lithuania. Ann Morrissey recently worked with the Maspeth Lions Club who donated 2,000 hospital sheets, 500 pairs of eyeglasses and 1,000 sterile gloves to two hospitals in Lithuania. Ann continues this splendid job of coordinating shipments and urging members to sign petitions for Lithuania's inclusion into NATO.

Our October annual Halloween dinner dance was chaired by our President, Bruno and his son, Brian Rutkunas. Food by the Klimas chefs father and son team, John and Joe; performance by Vetra dance group and music by Joe Thomas and band.

C-136, Hudson-Mohawk, NY

by Dot Richmire

Greetings to all members and we hope that everyone is enjoying the summer season. It sure has

been hot and sultry, perfect vacation weather for the beach or mountains, perhaps, but not good for the farmers or those of us who have to toil in non-air conditioned areas.

Our closing social occasion for the year turned out to be a successful dinner out at a local restaurant. Everyone ate more than enough and we enjoyed the fellowship. Our annual picnic was enjoyed in August. We joined Council #100 Amsterdam and everyone brought something to share. As always, the variety is wonderful and so good. The weather cooperated and it was a perfect day for enjoying the outdoors. The site of our outing borders the Mohawk River and is a place where Nature's beauty can truly be appreciated to the fullest.

Our president, Lynn McCafferty and her mother, Helen Hayner recently traveled to Lithuania and visited their relatives. Also since my relatives lived in the same village and on the same street, they visited them also. What a thrill it was for me to see pictures of them and of the area of their home.

Be happy and healthy.

C - 140, Bridgeport, CT

by Aldona Marcavage

The steamy days of summer scattered our friends in all directions. Our dancing couple, Paul and Barbara Schmidt, perform not only with the Lithuanian folk dance group "Vetra" but also with the German Harugari Schulplattler dancers. In July, they flew to Milwaukee to participate in a Gaufest competition dance festival with groups from all over the world.

Alice and Steve Wilcinkas grand daughter, Bonnie Gulas, C - 141 Jr., joined a group of Milford teens in a People to People Student ambassadors program.

Attending the National Convention in Detroit were Lee Marcinka and Clemencine Miller. Representing the Jr. Council was Sarah Miller.

Our very busy member, John Rigely, is a full-time deacon at St. Mary's Church. He also serves at St. George church when needed. He is also an active volunteer at the Milford Senior Center and still finds time for community assistance. He is the chairman of the city's Inland - Wetland Agency.

St. George administrator, Rev. Jose Rebaque 41 celebrated the 25th anniversary of his priesthood August 6, 1995, with a beautiful Mass of thanksgiving. The joyful sounds of the Spanish choir accompanied by an orchestra filled the church with great music. Lithuanians joined the Spanish in honoring beloved Fr. Jose. On the committee planning and actively assisting were Clemencine Miller, Sophie Putrimas, Stella Witkavich. The dinner/reception followed in the newly redecorated church hall, the entire day was very special because Father Jose, who is a bolt of pure energy, is loved and respected by everyone.

Many of our members traveled to Putnam July 23rd for the annual Friendship Day picnic on the lovely grounds of the ICC Convent. What a disappointment - none of us won that trip to Lithuania. However, we were able to receive the special first Mass blessing from the newly ordained priest from Lithuania - Rev. Julius Sasnauskas.

We are proud to have two very special winners in our midst. It was announced during the National Convention that Jennifer Laukaitis-Vasquez had won the \$1,500 dollar scholarship offered by the Supreme Council. Junior member Bonnie Gulas captured first prize in the National essay contest.

Please pray for Mitch Marcinauskis, faithful members, who has recently passed away. Our deepest condolences to wife Stella and her 4 boys and their families. Amzina Atilsi.

C-143 Pittston, PA

by Dotty

Our Council was busy in July and August. On July 12th, we had our annual covered-dish summer social with a short meeting. Marian Chepalis and Pat Weiksner hosted this affair with all the Lithuanian dishes and desserts. The Galloping Gourmet better give up!

July 20th saw us traveling to Whisperwill Park in Frackville for our Amber District Picnic hosted by Council 144 Anthracite. Our Pastor Emeritus, Father Peter Alisaukas, also Amber District Spiritual Advisor, began the day with Mass at noon. Then came all the Lithuanian goodies! Next, we had our district meeting followed by singing and enjoying each other's company. Before we left,

more good food! Making the trip from our Council: Father Pete, Anne and Steve Soha, Nellie Bayoras-Romanas, Martha Warnagiris, Jean Kapochus Mihalick, Helen Mary Karpovich, Mary Timek, Rosalie Kizis, Anna Nalatkas, Annamarie Sewatsky and yours truly.

On July 26th, we traveled to St. Ann's Monastery in Scranton to prayerfully attend the Lithuanian services to St. Ann. Nellie Bayoras-Romanas organized our Council for this event. Council 74 - Scranton, also took part in the services.

In August, Detroit welcomed the Knights for the National Convention. Making the trip for our Council were delegates-- Jean Mihalick and Helen Karpovich; District Delegates--Nellie Romanas; and Dotty Banos, Scholarship Chair. 1996 will see Nellie as National Ritual Chair and Dotty as National Financial Secretary. Best wishes to the Supreme Council, as they govern the Knights for 1996.

Lastly, on August 19th, our Council participated in the annual Pittston Tomato Festival Parade. Marcella Bartoli and Pam Smith led our Council, carrying our banner. Next, Annamarie Sewatsky walked, carrying a basket with ruta and tomatoes, followed by cars (one) Ann Soha, President, and Steve Soha; also Mary Timek; (two) my car with me. Nellie Romanas, Rosalie Kizis, and Anna Walatkas. Next, we had an open Bayo Surrey with Martha Warnagiris and Rosemary Durling and nieces and nephews tossing candy and gum to the children watching the parade-which is always a big hit.

Till the next time, Su Dieve Vytiskai.

C - 144 Anthracite, PA

by Anna Wargo

We are grateful to Father Bernard Shimkus, who although retired and not in the best of health has consented to offer the monthly Lithuanian Mass for us. We have moved back to St. Casimir's church in St. Clair, where our council was born thanks to Father Ronald Jankaitas, our new spiritual advisor. Sirdingai aci to both priests and the Friends of Siluva choir who will continue singing the beautiful Lithuanian hymns. The Mass will be offered at noon

on the last Sunday of the month followed by our meeting and anyone visiting our area is welcome.

June was a busy month. Our very good members Joe and Pauline Martunas celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Pauline, who has been seriously ill was able to make the celebration. Thank God! They renewed their vows at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Minersville and the Friends of Siluva choir sang at the Mass. Joe is our Lithuanian Affairs chairman and he and Pauline have been very active members since we organized.

Two weeks later we had the thrill of a lifetime when Mother Theresa visited St. Joseph's church in Mahanoy City. (Those of you who took the pre-convention trip at the Allentown convention will remember St. Joseph's church as that was on that you visited). Mother Theresa's nuns reside in the St. Joseph's convent. The Mass was concelebrated by our Bishop Welsh, Msgr. Anthony Wassel of St. Joseph's and Msgr. Gerald Gobitas of Annunciation church in Frackville. Father Shimkus was also concelebrating - the Mass was televised throughout the area; thousands stood outside the church and the Mass was transmitted outside. Mother Theresa came out after and spoke to all the people. It was a beautiful experience.

Our council hosted the Amber district meeting with a picnic in July. Co-chairpersons were Victor and Evelyn Prep and they and their committee did an excellent job in preparing the food and seeing to it that everyone enjoyed themselves. Aciu to Vic, Evelyn and their committee.

Delegates to the National Convention were: Anne Wargo, Eleanor Vaicaitis, Elsie Kosmisky, Helen Chesko, Evelyn Prep, Anna Supernavage. Evelyn received her 4th degree.

Eleanor Vaicaitis was chairman for this year's Lithuanian Day which was held at the Schuylkill Mall August 19 - 20. She and her committee did a wonderful job in making this a super Lithuanian Day. We hope our brother and sister Knights enjoyed the Lithuanian food, entertainment and displays.



K. of L. C-146 August '95 picnicians

C - 146, Harrisburg, PA

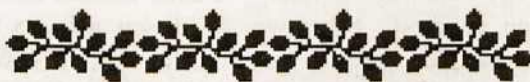
by Edvardas Zemaitis

Our summer season ended on a high note with a picnic held at the home of Helen and Vity Grabauskas. Everyone pitched in and had a wonderful time. Vity's in ground swimming pool was refreshingly inviting, however, it seems that everyone except Vity forgot their swim suit. (I wonder why?)

All who attended the festive outing brought some sort of picnic food. Needless to say, no one went home hungry. Some of the food items included desros, homemade baked beans. Lithuanian sauerkraut, potato and pasta salads, deviled eggs, chips, dips and desserts. Also a variety of liquid refreshment was available. A tape deck was on hand which heightened the spirits with Lithuanian music all afternoon. Ed Zemaitis was there to photograph the Olympic swimmers, but none showed up. However, he did get some excellent shots of the pool and the revelers at this festive occasion. (actually, Vity was the only one to brave the 80 degree water).

Gene and Eleanor Rusatsky, who recently returned from Lithuania were there to give us a report on the conditions and happenings in our Homeland. Apparently, the economic situation has not changed very much.

A short meeting followed the festivities with Father John Smith presiding. President Joanna Gilbert closed the meeting, thanking all the members for their participation in the success of our annual outing.



C-147, St. Petersburg, Fl.

by *Dolores Jonaitis*

We are truly happy to see Father Mattas Cyvas and Father Jonas Gasiunas back at our 1 o'clock Sunday Mass at Holy Name Church in Gulfport. We wish you both "GOOD HEALTH" forever.

Our Council "St. Petersburg Vyciu Kuopa", last year sent \$150 to "Lietuvos Naslaiciu Globos Komiteto" Chicago, Il, for 1 year, for naslaitei Rasai Gervickaitei - (a Lithuanian orphan), Garliavos Gyveniete, Kaunas, Liepos 35 - Bt 1, Lietuva. Her caregiver is Vladze Batutiene. She has requested our council 147, to please support this cause for another year, to help Rasa Gervickaitei. Dr. Aldona Valis accepted the responsibility to contact individual members to raise \$150.00, rather than take it out of the treasury. Therefore she mailed it to "Lietuvos naslaiciu globos komitetas" in Chicago on behalf of Council 147, St. Petersburg, Florida. The 15 donors who participated, in alphabetical order, are: P. Elena Bacevicius, Rev. Matas Cyvas, P. Irena Diktanas, Rev. Jonas Gasiunas, P. Antanas Gudonis, P. Dolores Jonaitis, P. Victoria Kleiviene, P. Violet Kraujalis, P. Ona Miniatiene, Dr. Juozas Petrikias, Father Steponas Ropolas, OFM, P. Brone Urboniene, Dr. Aldona Valis, Dr. Anthony Valis, Anonymous.

Our faithful member, Bertha Stann, passed away on July 25th, 1995 in St. Anthony's Hospital, St. Petersburg, after a short illness. Bertha and her husband were scheduled to attend our 82nd Convention in Detroit. She transferred to our Council #147, from Council #142, Washington D.C., eleven years ago. She was living in Silver Springs MD. at the time. She was born in Lowell Mass. and was a 3rd degree member. We extend our deepest sympathy to her husband Frank, her two sons John and Leonard, her daughter Irene, her grandchildren, her brother Frank and her sister, Lillian. May she rest in everlasting peace.

Delegates to our 82nd Convention from C #147, were Aldona Kirstuk, John and Dolores Jonaitis. 4th degree was awarded to Elena Bacevicius who was unable to be present because of her health. The official presentation will take place at a later date in St. Petersburg.

43 C-152, EASTERN LONG ISLAND, NY

by *Tom Tarmey*

What we are encouraged to believe may just become an annual tradition of our Council took place on Monday, June 26th, with the holding of our picnic at Orient Beach State Park, at the extreme North Fork tip of Long Island. In the face of an ongoing threat of rainy and blustery weather (certainly not a day to work on your tan!) some 30 Knights and guests persevered and, despite itself, the weather presented us with a most enjoyable, even if moody, face.

On Sunday, August 13th, C-152 held a bake sale after the Masses at the Church of Our Lady of Ostrabrama, in Cutchogue, NY. We also had the honor of hosting the Mid-Atlantic District Meeting on Sunday, September 17th, with Noon Mass at Our Lady of Ostrabrama, Cutchogue, NY, with luncheon and meeting immediately following at Knights of Columbus Hall, located just down the same street. (See MAD district story.)

This past May 6th witnessed an honor paid to our brother Knight, Peter Dykovitz, at the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY. For his services with the Merchant Marine during World War II, Peter was awarded the Mediterranean-Middle East War Zone Medal and the Atlantic War Zone Medal. The medals, given for "true and faithful service," were presented by Rear Admiral Thomas Matteson, USMS. Among his other attainments, Peter currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of the Peconic Bay (NY) Chapter of American Merchant Marine Veterans.

As ever, we are reminded of our mortality by the deaths of loved ones: our sister Knights, Louise G. Senken and Bernice (Malinauskas) Scheibl departed this life on June 19th and June 29th, respectively. Also, we have been made aware of the recent loss of a sister to our fellow Member, Felix Zorskis. May God's ample mercy attend them all !



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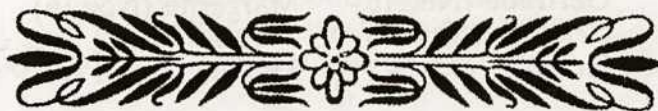
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NOVEMBER - 1995 - LAPKRITIS

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord
And let perpetual light shine upon them.

*Amžinąjį atilsį duok mirusiams, Viešpatie,
ir amžinoji šviesa jiems tešviečia...*

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Nov 1 **Feast of All Saints.** During the year, the Church celebrates one by one the feasts of the major saints. On this date, she joins all, known and unknown in one festival.
- Nov 2 **Commemoration of All The Faithful Departed.** (In Lithuania - *VĒLINĖS - MIRUSIŲJŲ DIENA* (See article in this issue.)
- Nov 8 On this date in 1953, Archbishop *Mečislovas Reinys* died while incarcerated in the Vladimir Prison in Russia. The Lithuanian Church asks for prayers that his cause for beatification be accepted.
- Nov 10 World Youth Day.
- Nov 11 In the U.S. - **Veteran's Day.** We honor and pray for the intentions of all who have served their country in the Armed Forces.
- Nov 16 In Lithuania - **Feast of Mary, Mother of Mercy.** Madonna of the Gates of Dawn - Aušros Vartai. An 8-day atlaida is observed in Vilnius.
- Nov 18 On this day in 1946, a sentence of death by firing squad was carried out in Vilnius against Bishop *Vincentas Borisevičius*, of Telšiai. We are asked to pray for acceptance of his cause for Beatification.
- Nov 23 In Lithuania, **Armed Forces Day** is celebrated on the anniversary of the formation of the Lithuanian Army in 1918.
In the U.S., **Thanksgiving Day.** We thank God, of whose mercies there is no number and of whose goodness the treasure is infinite.

Congratulations to those celebrating a name's day in November:

Albert (Nov.15)	Edmund (Nov.16)	Hubert (Nov.3)	Pauline (Nov.9)
Andrew (Nov.30)	Elizabeth (Nov.5)	Laimutis (Nov.22)	Ramantas (Nov.13)
Andrius (Nov.30)	Ernest (Nov.7)	Leo (Nov.10)	Rimdaugė (Nov.19)
Ašmantas (Nov.6)	Felicity (Nov.23)	Leonard (Nov.6)	Stanley (Nov.13)
Audronė (Nov.19)	Felix (Nov.20)	Leonard (Nov.26)	Stephen (Nov.27)
Catherine (Nov.25)	Gertrude (Nov.16)	Margarita (Nov.16)	Sylvester (Nov.26)
Cecilia (Nov.22)	Getautas (Nov.17)	Martin (Nov.3)	Sylvia (Nov.3)
Charles (Nov.4)	Gregory (Nov.17)	Matilda (Nov.19)	Vaidilas (Nov.15)
Clement (Nov.23)			Zacharius (Nov.5)

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

For further information contact:

Festivals

Nov. 4 Lithuanian Festival - Lith. Music Hall, Phila. PA

Nov. 12 C-79, Southfield, MI Fall Festival

Supreme Council Meeting

Agnes Mickunas (609) 931-3306

March 23, 1996 Hosts, C-19, Pittsburgh, PA

Sts. Peter & Paul Centennial Celebration - C-52 Elizabeth, NJ

Dec. 18 Parish Christmas Party

Lorraine Staboris (908) 352-2271

Jan. 7, 1996 Closing Centennial Mass at 12 noon

Kucios Dinners & Christmas Parties

Dec. 3 Christmas Party

Muriel Lekstutis (516) 744-5986

C-152, Eastern, LI

December 17 Kucios 21st celebration

C-110, Maspeth, NY

Bruno Rutkunas (516) 628-2292

District Conventions

Mar. 10, 1996 MAD Spring Convention

Hosts C-90, Kearny, NJ

Becky Nakrosis (201) 998-3526

1996 National Convention

Aug. 1996 Host: C-1, Brockton, MA

Veronica Bizinkauskas (508) 586-0650

(Note: If your council/district has a scheduled function that's not listed, please inform the VYTIS Editor, so we may include it here. Ačiū.)

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and Happy Birthday!

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THE KNIGHT



80th Anniversary



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