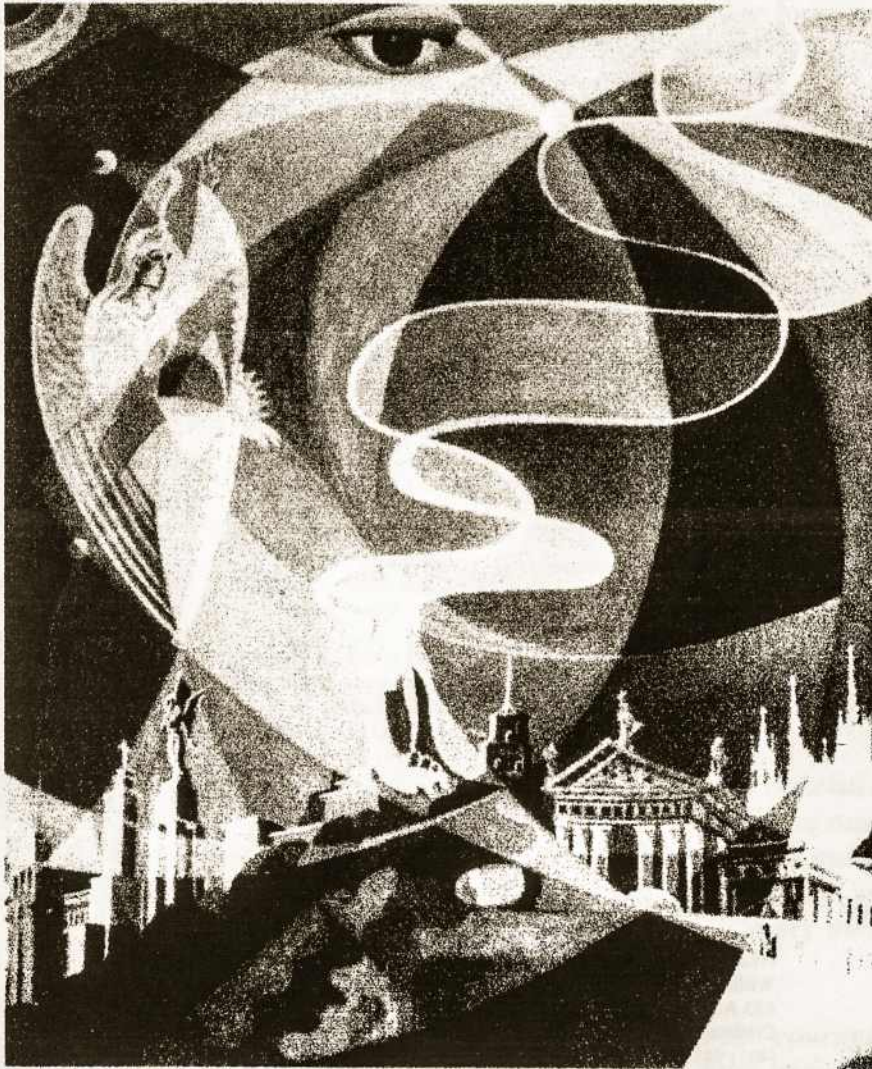


VYTIS



The Knight - volume 84 no. 6

June



J. J. J.

Birželis

1998

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*The Knights of Lithuania
endeavors to instill in its
members an attachment to
Lithuania, the land of our
ancestors, and a knowledge,
appreciation and love of the
Lithuanian language, customs
and culture.*

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Cover art - Malda už Tėvynę - Prayer for My Country Jurgis Juodis, 1967

Dieve, duok man drąsos pakeisti tai, ką galiu, turėti kantrybės nekeisti to, ko negaliu, ir išminties atskirti vieną nuo kito.

This is one of our favorite morning prayers. Do you know what it means in English? Say it every morning and it will make your day.

Lord, give me the courage to change that, which I can, have patience with that which I can't and the wisdom to know the difference.



Kazys Šimonis, 1966

TO MY FELLOW KNIGHTS

By the time our reader's see this issue, our Knights of Lithuania Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Joseph Anderlonis will be elevated to Monsignor. Ceremonies will take place on June 14, according to Cardinal Bevilacqua of Philadelphia. Valio, Msgr. Joe!

Other Lithuanians also recently made the news, were K of L'er, John Strolia, (C-36) who won another Emmy from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for camera editing on the Oprah Winfrey Show and Sabina Henson, also of C-36 (see story on page 20). And just as we were going to press, another Lithuanian basketball star, Zydrunas Ilgauskas of the Cleveland Cavaliers was named on the NBA's all star rookie team, which is chosen by the NBA's 29 coaches, who are not allowed to vote for their own players.

Besides our usual features, in honor of Father's Day, we present Edward Shakalis' account of his father's life in the Czar's army (on page 5). And because we will soon celebrate the 65th anniversary of the pilot's Darius and Girenas historic trip across the Atlantic in 1933, Edward Baranauskas gives us a most interesting account of the event and how one can see a replica of the original *Lituanica* today.



Letters to the Editor

Foundation Essay Contest Remarks

Dear Editor,

It is commendable that the Knights of Lithuania, through its Foundation, encourage young people to write essays about Lithuanian subjects. I enjoy reading them very much in *Vytis*. My only disappointment is that while the essays are well written and show the writers' pride in their Lithuanian heritage, their knowledge of Lithuanian history seems quite slim. For example, in the March issue's essay about St. Casimir, the writer states that the saint was "...the son of Casimir IV and Elizabeth of Austria..." If we mention Elizabeth of Austria, why not tell everyone who Casimir IV was? He was the Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland, a descendant of King Gediminas, one of the greatest Lithuanian rulers. In another sentence the writer states that St. Casimir was "...a representative of his father in Poland". Although this is correct, nowhere in the essay we learn that St. Casimir spent quite a few years in Lithuania where he was in charge of the Chancellery of the Grand Duchy and also represented his father, the King. Or that he died in

Lithuania and was buried in Vilnius. Although St. Casimir is also venerated by the Poles, many people don't realize that neither he nor his father had an ounce of Polish blood. It just happened that they were also rulers of Poland.

I don't wish to sound picky or to diminish the quality of the essays. They are excellent! My only suggestion for future essay writers would be to spend a little more time researching the subject. And also to give more emphasis to those facts which relate to us Lithuanians and make us proud. To say that St. Casimir's mother was Austrian without mentioning that his father was a great Lithuanian ruler, somehow misses the point.

Sincerely,

Val Ramonis

Publisher / Editor *Lithuanian Heritage Magazine*

Humorous Thoughts on Retirement

To the Editor:

I am a member of C-25 Cleveland who received a fourth degree at the Wooster Convention in 1969. At present, I am living in a nursing home and am 84 years old. This tells how I feel about the golden age.

"Seniors are the nation's leading carriers of aids - Hearing aids, band aids, rollaids, walking aids and most of all, monetary aid to their kids."

Mary Trainy, C-25, Cleveland, OH

K of L President Mankus Attends Special Embassy Events

by John R. Mankus

The following is a brief report to the K. of L. Membership on my attendance at the Republic of Lithuania Embassy in Washington, D.C. for the Lithuanian Independence Day Commemoration and the March 28th meeting of leaders of Lithuanian-American organizations, Lithuanian Embassy staff and leading members of Seimas (Lithuanian Parliament). Besides meeting with many influential Lithuanian leaders and contemporaries, the meetings were most informative and interesting.

After celebrating the Lithuanian Independence Day commemoration and Mass at St. Joseph Lithuanian R.C. Church in Binghamton, NY, I was invited to participate at the Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, DC. Ambassador, Stasys Sakalauskas and members of his staff greeted approximately 200 guests including U.S. State officials, a large number of members of from Lithuanian-American organizations and many European state officials attending the commemoration. Also in attendance was a significant number of Ministry of Economy and Security officials from Lithuania. They will be attending special bilateral work sessions in their respective fields and will be meeting U.S. federal and state officials. In my discussions with the Lithuanian delegates, the struggle against organized crime and corruption remain among the top internal priorities. Ambassador Sakalauskas thanked attendees for their support and assistance during Lithuania's struggle to regain independence and appealed for their continued support in the days ahead.

On March 28, Ambassador Sakalauskas invited the presidents and leaders of Lithuanian



(L to r) Seimas members of Foreign Relations Committee, Rimantas Dagys, and Mecys Laurinkus with K of L President John Mankus and head of Seimas Delegation to the North American Assembly, Vytautas Dudenas

American organizations to attend an informational meeting, the first meeting of this type, ever, at the Embassy. Representatives from **Amerikos Lietuvių Taryba, Jungtinių Amerikos Valstijų Lietuvių Bendruomenė, Lietuvos Vyčiai, JBANC, Amerikos Lietuvių Tautinės Sąjungos and Pasaulio Lietuvių Bendrominė** attended.

What may be of interest, just as at the 50th Jubilee Banquet in Rome, the meeting and discussions were all in Lithuanian. Ambassador Sakalauskas explained Embassy activities and objectives, including Baltic security, economic reform, assistance and trade, NATO and European Union entry and expressed the desire for a closer working relationship with Lithuanian-American organizations. Embassy staff personnel also reviewed their activities and responsibilities. Lithuanian-American leaders discussed their organization activities, accomplishments and goals. Seven leading members of the Lithuanian Parliament (Seimas) also joined the discussions.

A reception in honor of the Seimas delegates followed the formal phase of the meeting. Seimas delegates included Andrius



K. of L. Pres. Mankus with Seimas Members Feliksas Palubinskas (Deputy Chairman of Seimas), Povilas Gylys (Member of Foreign Relations Committee and former Minister of Foreign Affairs 1992-1996) and Andrius Kubilius (First Deputy Chairman of Seimas)

Kubilius, First Deputy Chairman of the Seimas; Feliksas Palubinskas, Deputy Chairman of the Seimas; Mečys Laurinkus, Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee; Emanuelis Zingeris, Chairman of the Human Rights Committee and Chairman of the Parliament Group for the Relations with United States; Vytautas Dudėnas, Head of the Seimas Delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly; Rimantas Dagys, Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and Povilas Gylys, member of Foreign Relations Committee and former Minister of Foreign Affairs (1992-1996). Two Seimas staff people traveling with them were Snieguolė Žiukaitė and Andrius Avžius. They will be meeting with US Federal government officials in Washington and some will travel to meet with Lithuanian American organization members in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

Since Lithuania has been isolated from the diplomatic arena for fifty years, one of the main tasks of these visits and meetings is to establish good working relationships between the Lithuanian Embassy, Lithuanian American organizations, Lithuanian Parliament delegates and US government officials. However, the primary and perhaps the two most important foreign issues are NATO and the European Union. Lithuania is very actively preparing for both.

Ambassador Sakalauskas summarized

Lithuanian internal activities in preparation for NATO entry. Defense and security policy is based on NATO membership, Lithuania meets all membership criteria in accordance to "Study on NATO Enlargement", She is implementing NATO Planning and Review Process, which includes English language training and the acquisition of NATO compatible defense and communication equipment, a stable economic growth where

FDI (foreign direct investment) has reached almost one billion dollars and GDP growth rose to 6.4%. Lithuania has also signed border treaties with all of its neighbors, including Russia.

In the US Senate, there is a Baltic Freedom Caucus consisting of co-chairs Senators Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Slade Gordon (R-WA). Other include Senators Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL), Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), Charles E. Grassley (R-IA) and recently joined member, Senator Charles Robb (D-VA). Our members can assist Lithuania entering NATO by contacting their Senators and Congressmen, expressing their views and requesting support.

Ambassador Sakalauskas plans to continue the dialogue of these meetings in a timely manner.



In Honor of the Lithuanian Language

O šventas lietuviškas žodi,
Kaip ramunė mūs žemėj pražydęs,
Iš gimtųjų mūs sėdžių ir sodžių,
Tu skambėk stebūklingas ir didis.

Stasys Barzdukas
Dainava camp

a reluctant soldier in the Russian tsar's army

By Edward G. Shakalis

Many of the Lithuanian men who came to America in the early 1900's, had been through the experience of being drafted into the army of the Russian Tsarist Empire. Some Lithuanians, like my father served reluctantly while others said "pasisvilpk!!! (go whistle)" and took off for America to avoid a Russian dominated military system. In those days, according to my father's army record, it was mandatory that you serve for 20 years in the Tsar's army. My father, Ignas Šakalys, served on active duty for 3 years in the Russian army before coming to the United States. I am fortunate to have his army documents which tell me something of what he did in the army and I would like to share this information with you.

First, allow me to give you a short biography about my father.

Born, Ignas Šakalys, also known as Ignatius Shakalis (Americanized version), his passport shows Schakalis (German spelling) and on the Cambridge Mass. marriage certificate his name was misspelled. He was born in the village of Lažariškis, Pandelys, district of Rokiškis, Lithuania, not too far from the Latvian border. His Russian army document indicated his date of birth was Nov. 7, 1881. However, his citizenship papers indicate that he was born in 1883, a 2 year discrepancy which is still a mystery.

His father's name was Kazimeras and his mother's maiden name was Justina Tamosiunas. Ignas had two brothers, Povilas and Juozas, and two sisters, Natalija and Petronele. My grandfather and his sons bred and sold horses in Lithuania. You might say my



1941 photo of
Ignas Šakalys

father and two uncles were "Lithuanian cowboys". When I was young my father often told me stories about his horses in Lithuania; especially about the "Žemaitukas", a hardy horse that was small in stature but had great endurance, was very strong and capable of carrying 60 percent of his weight. He spoke of horses with such love and respect that I, too, share the same feeling. One of the stories I remember my father telling me that his father,

Kazys, who had horses and a wagon was hired to haul bricks from the Jakiskis and Velykalnis brickyards to the construction site of "Šv.Mato Apastalo Parapijos Bažnyčia" (St. Matthew the Evangelist Church) in Rokiškis. In Petras Blaževičius' book "Churches of Rokiškis Land", he says that it took 700,000 bricks to complete the project. Grandfather Kazys and his horses must have been very exhausted hauling all those bricks. I'm sure Kazys must have had some help.

In 1903 my father was drafted into the Tsarist's army and served on active duty from 1904 to 1907. He held the rank of private in the First Calvary Regiment. I remember my father telling me the story while in the army he was tending a pack of horses when someone made a loud noise that frightened the horses. They stampeded and knocked my father down to the ground badly injuring him. His injuries were bad enough that they sent him home to recuperate. This accident left my father with scars on his left chin and upper lip. He grew a mustache which covered up the scar above his upper lip.

While recuperating from his injuries, he corresponded with his brother Juozas who had left Lithuania in 1906 and was then living in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He invited my father to come to America and live with him. As I understand it, Juozas paid for my father's passage to America. My uncle Juozas lived in the United

States for about 13 years but went back to Lithuania in 1919 with his wife Albina and his 5 year old daughter Vince. An old friend of my family told me that they went back because Albina could not cope with life in America and was homesick for Lithuania. Uncle Juozas died in 1937 and Vince died in 1948.

A short time after the Russians invaded Lithuania in 1940, Albina and her 4 surviving children, Albina, Anele, Juozas and Stefa were sent to Siberia for 9 years. Juozas was sent to Magadan and worked in the coal mines and his mother and sisters were sent to Irkutsk to work in the forest. When I was in Lithuania in 1978, my cousin Juozas told me that he and his family were sent to Siberia because the Russians caught him working for the Lithuanian underground. A neighbor had turned him in to the Soviet police. I often wondered what it would have been like if Uncle Juozas and his family had stayed in the United States. In 1914 Ignas married my mother Marijona Vilkaite. They had 5 children Peter, Acquila, Edward, Leo and Alfonse. Ignas died in 1947 in Cambridge Massachusetts.

Let us now focus on the period that Ignas Šakalys was in the army and look at some of the entries in his Russian army documents.

11. Age (birth date): 1881 November 7

12. Married or single: single

13. Religion: Catholic

14. Discharged:

a) Province; Kovensk (Kaunas)

b) District; Novoaleksandrov

c) Police district; Ponedelsk

d) (city, town or village) ---

15. This discharge is written in the city of: (written in script and hard to read) Dec. 10, 1907 No. 3383

signature commander of the Regiment Col. (signature, not legible)

The following information on page 5, outlines how Ignas Sakalys was to serve his 20 years in the Tsar's army.

Subject To Transfer:

1) From the first to second class October 1, 1914

2) From 2nd class to the Infantry Dec. 31, 1914

3) On reaching 43 years of age subject to exemption from infantry on December 31, 1924

Novoaleksandrov Military Officer: (signature not legible) Ignas was expected to serve from 1904

to 1924, twenty years. I can understand why my father or any other Lithuanian not wanting

to be a slave to the Russians for 20 years. What a lousy life they must of had before coming to

Excerpts From Ignas Šakalys Army Documents

The translation from some of these pages is as follows: Ignas Sakalys

4. Inducted into service in Novoalksandrov District on October 28, 1903, start of service is calculated from January 1, 1904.

5. Campaigns: none

6. Honors: none

7. Because of distinguished performance in front-line training, can be assigned to reserve unit: no

8. While in service he learned: cavalry

9. Skills/Trade: none

10. In the troop list enrolled under no.: ---

Ignas Šakalys' Russian Army document excerpts (below and pg. 7); lower left inset, Žemaitukas breed of horse

ВЪВЕДЕНІЕ ВЪ СЛУЖБУ ФОРМ. 1 1 1 2 Служба: 281 N 100 100	
ОБЪЕДНЕНІЕ	
Имя, фамилия и отчество по русскому языку, по которому он зачислен в службу, по какому роду войск, и какому классу, и какому классу по выслуге лет, и какому классу по выслуге лет.	
Дата и место рождения по русскому языку.	
	ОШЕТА На службу при зачислении N 40780.
ДИВИЗІОНЪ	

the good old USA.

Another excerpt on page 8 which I thought to be a bit humorous says:

"On receiving the call to mobilize, you are obliged to appear at a place and time indicated by the draftee's local district in the notice of the mobilization.

If private Sakalys, on being drafted into active service, brings with him his own boots with tops not shorter than 9 vershoks (1 3/4 inches) suitable for wearing for not less than 6 months and underwear suitable for use for one year, then when he reaches his regiment those things will be considered supplies, and he will be paid money for them. In the time period before Jan.1909 the prices are: for a pair of boots- 5 rubles, for one shirt- 50 kopecks and one pair of underpants- 35 kopecks. Of these things we can count only one pair of boots, two shirts and two underpants. Besides that if the draft falls from 1 September through 1 February, then for suitable warm clothing brought, payment will be: for a jacket- 4 rubles, for gloves- 26 kopecks, for earflaps- 11 kopecks and cloth foot wrappings or in place of them woolen stockings or socks (no fewer than 2 pair) 72 kopecks each."

This sounds like an army from one of the banana republics.

Another important entry on page 12 in

the Russian army documents indicates that my father was called back to active duty and was ordered to report by Dec. 13, 1908 to an army camp in Syzran,Russia. Looking at a map, I found Syzran to be about 600 miles south east of Moscow. In trying to piece the puzzle together, I looked at at my father's passport and found that he left Lithuania and went to America on February 18, 1909 from Libau, Latvia. The next question is how did he do it.

In 1975, I interviewed my father's first cousin Nellie (Anele) Grigalunas who was then 81 years old, told me how my father, her brother Povilas and a cousin had paid 10 dollars to a "book smuggler" who arranged for them to escape from Lithuania. The "book smuggler", according to Nellie, sold prayer books, rosary beads and skapulers. He knew how to make the necessary arrangements to go to America and which of the Russian border guards to bribe. Nellie said that the "book smuggler" told them that they had to meet at a given time and place when the Russian guard would not be at his post and they can cross over to the German side of the border. She told how they had to jump over a ditch in order to get to the German side (East Prussia). My father and Nellie's brother Povilas made it but their cousin ended up in the ditch and had to go back and try another day. He must have gone home and practiced long jumping because he cleared the ditch the next time he tried.

In her interview, Nellie recalled that when she was about 7 years old, my father was the best man for her oldest sister Grace's wedding and that my father was the only one who came back from the party and brought candy for her and her sister Elizabeth, and that her father commented saying: "look at that, only Sakalys thought of the children".

This act of kindness is the way I always remember my father, not only was he kind, he also was very generous.

It was interesting for me to read my father's army documents and passport but it also left me

Копия из дела № 28

ИРЕЗЕНА Копия из дела № 28
Бирзелис ун.принт.

ПОСЛУЖНОЙ ЛИСТЪ.
Мана, ун.принт. Копия из дела № 28

ИЛИНІЯ ФІРВІЗА.

1. Родина: Литва, Новоярминский уезд, с. Бирзелис.
2. Род. 1884 г.
3. Образование: начальное.
4. Служба: в 1-й Литов. Кав. дивизии с 1904 г.
5. Звание: в 1907 г. в звании вольноопределяющегося 1-го разряда.
6. Место жительства: в настоящее время в г. Вильно.

7. Семейное положение: холост.

8. Имя отца: Фирвиза.

9. Имя матери: Анна.

10. Место рождения: в г. Вильно.

11. Место жительства: в настоящее время в г. Вильно.

12. Место службы: в 1-й Литов. Кав. дивизии.

13. Место назначения: в 1-й Литов. Кав. дивизии.

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In Memoriam

Della Marcaitis
C-140, Syracuse, NY
April 13, 1998

Ruth Alansky
C-118, Hazelton, PA
Jan 26, 1998

Robert C. Barsh
C-156, Shamokin, PA
Jan. 1998

Katherine Paulis
C-10, Athol, MA
April 4, 1998

Sr. Tereselle
C-144, Anthracite, PA
Jan. 13, 1998

Elizabeth Tumas
C-144, Anthracite, PA
March 21, 1998

Helen Labadis
C-144, Anthracite, PA
April 8, 1998

Mary Catherine Ratkus
C-142, Washington, DC
April 29, 1998

Mary Sarka
C-147, St. Petersburg, FL
April 24, 1998

Francis J. Bernardicius
C-30, Westfield, MA
March 30, 1998

Theresa A. Alkocaitis
C-30, Westfield, MA
April 19, 1998



Aldona Basgil
Frances Grdina
George Nugaris
Paul Shukis
Stasys Skripkus
C-90, Kearny, NJ

*May their souls, and all the
souls of the faithful
departed rest in the Peace
of Our Lord, Amen.*

with a lot of questions which probably will never be answered. Once I asked my father if he would like to go back to Lithuania to live and he said: "If I liked it there I never would have left". He also reminded me how lucky we were to be living in such a great country as the United States of America. I might add that he was not happy when the USA and the USSR became allies during WW II. He said: "You can't trust those Russian bastards, they are nothing but a bunch of RAZBAINIKAI! (gangsters)".

I am sure the Lithuanian men who came to America in the early 1900's had other reasons than to avoid serving in the Russian army. The economic situation in Lithuania was a disaster and they must have felt that there was no future for them in Lithuania living under the Russian rulers. History shows that Tsarists and the

communists exploited and mistreated the Lithuanians, but let us not forget that the common denominator in both cases was the Russian national military and ethnic domination of Lithuania.

Acknowledgements:

My sincere thanks to Dr. Judith M. (Arlauskas) Mills for translating Ignas Šakalys Russian army documents. Judith has a PHD in Russian Language and Literature and is Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty at Salve Regina University in Newport R.I. I also want to thank my son William E. Shakalis for his help with editing this article and encouraging me to write it.



LEARNING FROM THE PAST

By Len Barcoucky, Lithuanian Affairs Chairman

Talking with Mecys Laurinkus is a lot like talking with an American mayor or member of Congress. Like many U.S. politicians, he appears friendly and outgoing, but he is very careful in his speech. He is quick to make a joke and just as quick to turn aside, unanswered, a question he does not like.

Laurinkus, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Lithuanian Parliament, or Seimas, visited Pittsburgh in March. He was part of a small delegation that traveled to the United States to discuss NATO expansion and to encourage American investment in Lithuania. On his one-day visit to Pittsburgh, he was accompanied by Rimantis Dagys, deputy chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee; Darius Semaska, political counselor at the Embassy of Lithuania; and Andrius Avizius, a Seimas staff member.

While in Pittsburgh, Laurinkus and Dagys were the guests of Pittsburgh Council 19, Knights of Lithuania, and the Lithuanian Citizens Society of Western Pennsylvania. John Baltrus, president of the Pittsburgh K. of L. council and national treasurer, served as one of the hosts.

During a stop at the Lithuanian Club on Pittsburgh's South Side, Laurinkus and Dagys held an informal press conference for about 30 Lithuanian-Americans, including many Knights. They spoke both in Lithuanian and English.

They faced lots of questions about Lithuania's new president, Valdas Adamkus. Adamkus fled Lithuania in 1944 and has lived most of his life in the United States. Now 71, he retired after working for many years as an administrator for the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Laurinkus and Dagys noted that presidential duties in Lithuania centered on foreign affairs. They



John Baltrus, center, displays a medal presented to the Knights of Lithuania by two members of the Lithuanian Seimas during a recent visit to Pittsburgh. John is president of Pittsburgh Council 19 and national treasurer of the K of L. Ben Burdulis, president of the Lithuanian Citizens Society of Western Pennsylvania, left, received a similar medal. Seen in the photo, from left, are Burdulis, Seimas members Mecys Laurinkas and Rimantas Dagys, John Baltrus, and Andrius Avizius, a member of the Seimas staff.

predicted Adamkus would do well, despite his limited familiarity with domestic conditions. They admitted, however, that his election did make the Russians nervous, because of his American roots.

They also made a plea for American investment in Lithuania. After several rough years, conditions are improving, they said. Unemployment has dropped to 7 percent, the currency is stable and gross national product is growing a healthy 8 percent this year, they noted. That growth comes at a time of higher unemployment and slower growth in Western Europe.

One sign that times really have changed in Eastern and Central Europe came when the Lithuanian parliamentarians talked about expanding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Their appeal emphasized regional cooperation rather than just national interest.

Their visit came at a critical time. The question of first-round expansion of NATO to include Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic now rests in the hands of the U.S. Senate. Despite

Official News

Proposed Amendments to K. of L. Constitution - 1998

In order to eliminate any reference in the K. of L. Constitution to the specific amount of dues to be paid by members' spouses, the following amendments are proposed. Spouse's dues will then be set at the 1998 National Convention according to Article VI, Section 1. (Membership dues are set by the National Convention.)

Be it resolved that. Article VI, Section 4.d. of the Knights of Lithuania Constitution be eliminated. Section 4.e. will become 4.d.

(This eliminates under the section: "The following members are exempt from dues payment: " the following subsection: "spouses of members paying full annual dues, except as follows: When the spouse of a member paying fall annual dues first joins the organization, he/she pays half dues for one year, but thereafter is exempt from dues payment.")

Be it further resolved that. Article VI, Section 5 and all its subsections be eliminated. Sections 6, 7 and 8 will become 5, 6 and 7, respectively.

(This eliminates the section: "The following members pay half dues:")

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strong lobbying by President Clinton and former Presidents Ford, Bush and Carter, the final vote is likely to be close.

Laurinkus and Dagens made arguments for regional security and emphasized the importance of multi-country action. At the same time that Lithuania looks to future NATO membership, it also seeks to develop stronger ties to its Nordic neighbors and to maintain good relations with its Slavic neighbors, they said. Lithuania also is working toward membership in the European Union, the economic partnership that has created the largest free-trade zone in the world. All three Baltic countries and the United States recently signed a Baltic Charter of cooperation.

They urged Lithuanian-Americans to strongly support efforts by Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to join NATO now, and cited several reasons for doing so.

One is obvious. There are many more descendants of Poles, Hungarians and Czechs in America than Lithuanians. If we support them, they are more likely to return the favor when Lithuania and its Baltic neighbors apply for NATO

membership several years from now.

This seems like such a healthy and sophisticated approach, and it offers quite a contrast to conditions after World War I. One reason countries like Poland, Czechoslovakia and Lithuania were so easily overrun and occupied by the Nazis and the Communists was because they had few regional ties. Old hatreds and feuds kept small nations separate just when they most needed to speak in a unified voice and be ready to take collective action against their larger neighbors. Judging from the intelligent, well-thought-out remarks the Lithuanian legislators made in Pittsburgh, they are not going to make the same mistake twice.



Did You Know? *Separate Guest Rooms*

While visiting Neringa on the Baltic Sea, note the unique old architecture of the Pamarys (seacoast region). The old fisherman's houses are partitioned into two parts, one for the family and one for guests. The partitions are divided with a corridor about two meters wide and constructed of squared logs, facing the lagoon.

St. Casimir's Pontifical College in Rome Update

This year, on Sunday May 3rd, we celebrated the 35th annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Each year the Holy Father reminds the entire Church-clerics, religious and laity, of their responsibility to foster vocations. It is not only the quantity, but also the quality of the vocations that depends on our prayers.

On March 4th of this year, St. Casimir's, our patronal feast day, the College commemorated its 50th Jubilee. That day, during the solemn Mass, with His Eminence Cardinal Pio Laghi, the Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education, presiding, we gave thanks to God for all those who had been called and especially those, who received their formation and education at our College. In the College's commemorative album we see that the list of the College's alumni is quite substantial.

At this time **thirteen** young priests from Lithuania are studying at the College, specializing in various fields of the Church's teaching. **Eight** of them are working on their doctorates, **five** on licentiate degrees. During the first semester of this academic year, two priests returned to Lithuania having completed their studies: Fr. Algis Genutis of the Diocese of Telšiai, having successfully defended his doctorate and Fr. Arvydas Kasčiukaitis of the Archdiocese of Kaunas, having earned a licentiate degree. At the end of the last academic year (last June) **seven** priests returned to Lithuania with higher academic degrees and are currently working in their diocese. Truly their stay in Rome justified our hopes and was beneficial for Church in Lithuania and the nation.

Having celebrated its Golden Jubilee, the College turned over an important page in its history. However, its mission is far from over. With concern and hope we look to the Church's and our nation's future. We must be prepared for all the difficulties and uncertainties that lie ahead and be prepared for serious work. Before us lies the year 2000, we have experienced God's blessings in the past, and we believe that He will not forget us in the future. We know well, that the Lord works through people, that is why this years as well, we humbly turn to You,



our College's friends and benefactors, with the same threefold purpose:

1. To request prayers for those who are being called and those who have been called to the religious life. We need many holy priests both in Lithuania and in the diaspora.
2. To invite assistance for our establishment (St. Casimir College in Rome) through **material gifts**. It is our duty to guarantee its future.
3. To invite **new benefactors** into our ranks. Each year we lose (through death, poor health, relocation back to Lithuania, etc.) many of our long time benefactors. Our College will continue to thrive only if their places are filled by others. For that reason we ask our present benefactors and friends to invite their friends and neighbors to join us as benefactors.

We are most appreciative of all your efforts. We are making this same appeal to the entire Lithuanian community through the Lithuanian-language press (and radio): Draugas, Darbininkas, Teviškes Žiburiai, Vytis, Teviškes Aidai, etc... We hope to receive a good response.

On behalf of the entire College "family", I thank all those who have supported us for your assistance and solidarity. Please continue to support us through your prayers and your moral, spiritual and material assistance. For our part, we will as always continue to pray for all our benefactors, both living and dead.

With respect and thanks,

Mons. Al. Bartkus, Rector

Send checks, as well as the names and addresses of new Benefactors to: Pontificio Collegio Lituano c/o Mons. Al. Bartkus V. Casalmonferrato, 20 00182 Roma - Italia

A tax-deductible gift can be made through: St. Casimir Guild c/o Mrs. Anna Wargo 125 S. Morris St., St. Clair, PA. 17970

THE MEMORY OF DARIUS AND GIRENAS LIVES ON

by Edward Baranauskas

I have visited Lithuania several times during the past two decades. My flights over the Atlantic Ocean were virtually quiet, and free from vibration. As I sat in comfort, my thoughts would invariably wander off to the days in July of 1933 when Stephen Darius and Stanley Girenas, two Lithuanian-born pilots, attempted to fly non-stop from New York to Kaunas in a single-engine, propeller driven airplane named *Lituanica*.

There was no radio on board simply because the pilots did not have the money to buy one, and both were confident they could reach their destination without it. Money was hard to come by in those days, as the nation's economy was struggling with a very high unemployment rate following the stock market crash in 1929. Navigation equipment at that time was not as sophisticated as it is today. A compass was the instrument they used to steer them in the correct direction. In addition, Darius relied on a navigator's sextant to calculate the plane's exact location, and also depended on celestial navigation, which requires clear weather. It is remarkable they were even able to cross the Atlantic, which, at that time, was an accomplishment in itself considering the number of pilots who tried and failed.

Darius and Girenas were about 404 miles shy of their destination, or perhaps four hours of flying time, when they encountered extremely bad weather, crashed and perished in a forest that today is a part of Poland. It is possible that having a radio may have made a world of difference.

How many pilots today would be willing to fly the same route that Darius and Girenas did, with the same type of airplane and navigation equipment? Now, people can fly anywhere in the world, sitting comfortably in powerful, multi-engine jetliners. Flight crew's can sit back, relax, and be guided to their

destination with the help of high-tech, computerized navigational and automatic pilot systems.

The memory of 1933 and Darius and Girenas, and of their airplane, will live on forever in the hearts of Lithuanians everywhere.

In Lithuania, as the 50th anniversary of the Darius-Girenas flight neared, a film company wanted to make a movie about them, called "Skrydis per Atlanta" (Flight Across the Atlantic). Those were the days when Lithuania was under Soviet rule, and every phase of the filming, including the use of an airplane, first had to be approved by Moscow. When this subject was discussed, the Soviets laughed, saying: "Do you want to show that Lithuanians can fly? Don't you know that it was a Russian who crossed the Atlantic first?"

One of the first priorities was to make a replica of the Darius-Girenas airplane, named *Lituanica*. The producers felt that a Soviet built AN-2 airplane could be painted orange (the color of *Lituanica*), and that would be sufficient. However, Vladas Kengsaila, a pilot and construction engineer at the Panevežys Aero-Technical Club, was deeply and enthusiastically involved with the project. He objected, and instead wanted a larger airplane, a YAK-12, because he could make a more authentic model of the *Lituanica* from it, and to get one permission from Moscow was needed.

A Yak-12 was located at an airport in Biržai, a town in northern Lithuania, and brought to Panevežys where it was completely disassembled, down to the engine. Kengsaila went to the Kaunas Military Museum where he spent a month studying the drawings of the Bellanca, the airplane from which the *Lituanica* was made. The wreckage of the Darius-Girenas airplane was brought to the museum in 1933 from the crash site in Germany for all Lithuanians to view.



The Lituanica and its pilots

Mr. Kensgaila and his crew of technicians worked long hours, and tirelessly, to construct the new Lituanica as soon as possible. Soviet restrictions prevailed, and the names of the sponsors of the flight were not permitted to be painted on the one side of the fuselage (as per the original), only their cities. Also forbidden was the national emblem, VYTIS.

The Yak-12's fuselage and wings were modified to be a replica of the Lituanica, but the Soviet made engine and propeller that came with it were left as is. The plane was test flown satisfactorily.

After completing the movie, which took two years, the Lituanica was flown and exhibited throughout Lithuania, including the birthplace of Darius. It was not just a simple exhibit, but the makers of the film wanted to show everyone the fragile airplane that Darius and Girenas flew to conquer the fearsome Atlantic. Also, that the Lithuanian people would always remember their two honorable sons who risked their lives to make Lithuania famous, the land where they took their first breath of life, and saw the first light of day.

Later, the Lituanica was flown to the Kaunas-Aleksotas Airport where it was hangered at the Lietuvos Technikos Muziejus until 1993.

Between June and July of 1993, Lituanica was in Kensgaila's shop at the Panevežys Airport, where it was checked out, cleaned, adjusted and repainted.

As the highlight of the 60th anniversary

celebration of the historic Darius-Girenas flight, Lituanica took to the air to complete the flight from the crash site (now a part of Poland) to Kaunas. Vladas Kensgaila was at the controls, and Edmund Jasiunas, now a retired editor of the Chicago newspaper LIETUVIU BALSAS, and a commercial pilot, sat at the spot occupied by Girenas. Lituanica left Kaunas and flew to an airport just north of the crash site. After an overnight stay, Lituanica took off, circled the crash scene, dropped flowers, and returned to Kaunas to

complete the trip that was not completed in 1933. It is interesting to note that because there was no radio in Lituanica, Kensgaila and Jasiunas had to fly under the very low clouds, at a low altitude to conform to standard aviation rules, called VFR (visual flight rules).

After the events of 1993 were completed, Lituanica was flown from Panevežys to Kaunas-Aleksotas and is back home at the Lietuvos Technikos Muziejus.

Footnote:

During my visit to Lithuania in 1996, one of my relatives took me to Kaunas to see the Lituanica at the museum. Here is some information that may be helpful for anyone who may be interested in doing so: Lietuvos Technikos Muziejus, Kaunas-Aleksotas, Veiveriu gatve 132, tel. 29-55-47. The working hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., (1000-1600, Lithuanian time) on weekdays only, closed on weekends. Perhaps the schedule may have changed since I was there, so it would be a good idea to call in advance so that they will be expecting you.

The guide who escorted me, Algirdas Gamziukas, had no objections to my taking all the pictures I wanted. There was one wish that could not be granted, however. I wanted to sit in the cockpit for a picture, and to get an idea of that feeling. But, there were no doors to permit me to do so, and the only way to get in was through an open window. Algirdas told me that a special stand was needed to climb into the cockpit, and this they did not have. So, that

dashed my hopes.

Anyone arriving at the airport in Vilnius can see a model of the Lituanica hanging from the ceiling in the terminal. It is half the size, - was made by Vladas Kensingaila, and installed in the spring of 1994.

I was a little boy in 1933 when Darius and Girenas left Floyd Bennett Field for Kaunas. My parents and I anxiously waited for any news about them. Because the pilots had no radio, listening to their progress was not possible. When I heard the news over the radio of the crash, and that they were both killed, my parents and I cried. It was as if we lost a member of our family.

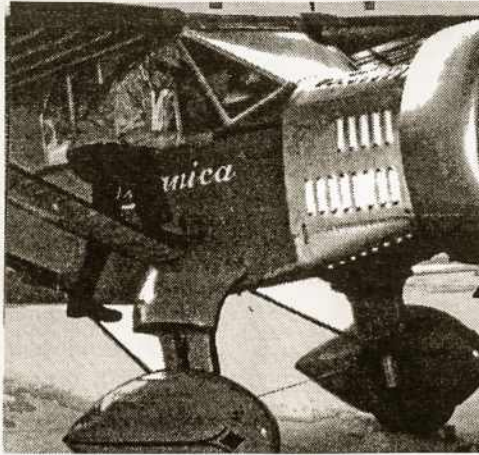
Every kid has his, or her, own heroes to worship, and to look up to. Darius and Girenas were my heroes, and I loved them both, and always will.

THE STORY OF LITUANICA

The period in American aviation history, following the end of the First World War, can "best be described as "Atlantic Fever". Young fliers sought new conquests of the air, and the greatest challenge of that era was to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. It is difficult to realize the price these pioneers had to pay, for many perished trying to do so.

Stephen Darius and Stanley Girenas, two Lithuanian-born pilots, returned to their adopted home in Chicago after-serving in the U.S. Army during the war. They could not resist the challenge, and decided to put Lithuania "on the map".

Darius and Girenas pooled their resources together, and purchased a six-seater airplane, a Bellanca CH-300 Pacemaker, in 1932 from an airport company. This airplane was no stranger to Darius, as he had flown it for about a thousand hours in a three year period before buying it. This model, at that time, was



The writer ready to board "Lituanica"

the most popular aircraft for trans-Atlantic flights.

After announcing their plan to fly non-stop from New York to Kaunas, the Lithuanian community in Chicago formed a Flight Organization Committee to raise the necessary funds to finance this undertaking. This was no easy task, for those were the days of the "Great Depression" when the nation's economy was struggling with a very high unemployment rate, and

money was hard to come by. The Lithuanian communities throughout the United States joined forces and contributed as much as they could for this patriotic cause.

The Bellanca, in its present configuration, was not designed for the planned 45 hour, 5,000 mile non-stop flight. It had to be overhauled, and extensive modifications were needed first. New custom-made gasoline tanks were installed in the cabin to replace the passenger seats, a larger oil tank was placed under the pilot's seat, a new and more powerful engine with a new steel propeller were purchased. Because of the added weight to the airplane, the wing span was increased by about four feet to give it better take-off capability. Larger tires were needed, and the landing gear had to be strengthened.

As time passed on, the next concern was what to name the airplane. Capt. Petras Jurgela, one of the committee members, wrote to Lithuanian newspapers, published in the United States, requesting suggestions from their readers about a suitable name for the airplane. Mr. Jurgela went on to say, that the name should be meaningful, symbolic, sound nice and be short enough. He felt the name should be Lithuanian, but should also sound nice in English because the pilots are Lithuanian-Americans, and Lithuanian-Americans organized and supported the flight. Of course, the pilots could select a name themselves, but it was important that the

Lithuanian community express their opinion about the name. Both pilots supported the idea.

Some of the names suggested were: ŠV. KAZIMIERO DVASIA (Soul of St. Casimir), MAŽOJI GĖLELĖ (Small Flower), AMERIKOS LIETUVIS (Lithuanian-American), VYTAUTAS. However, the name at that time which pleased Darius and Girenas the most was submitted by a Lithuanian-American from Alaska; LITVEGA (LIT for Lithuania, and VEGA, the name of a star).

Later, as more names were being considered, Darius leaned towards LIETUVIU SIELA (Soul of Lithuanians) or DIKTATORIUS (Dictator).

On April 5th, the flight committee discussed the names submitted. They wanted a name that could be easily pronounced by Americans, Lithuanians, and other nationalities, and one that would not require a translation to explain its meaning.

Ten days later, with the approval of Darius and Girenas, the choice was made. They selected the name submitted by Anthony Vaivada, the editor of the Chicago newspaper NAUJIENOS, because it encompassed all Lithuanian interests, ideas, and culture.

The name: LITUANICA

On May 6th at the Chicago Municipal Airport (Midway), the airplane was christened LITUANICA by Prelate M. Krusas. Darius' mother performed the traditional ceremony by smashing a bottle of champagne on the hub of the propeller.

The next morning, a large crowd gathered to bid a fond farewell, and to wish good luck to both pilots. The LITUANICA gently lifted off the runway, headed east towards New York and its tragic date with destiny.

Sources of information

"Darius-Girenas, 1933-1983" by Edmund Jasiunas. "Sparnuoti Lietuviai, Darius ir Girenas", by Petras Jurgela.



Join your fellow Lithuanian Americans at a special commemorative celebration of the 65th anniversary of the historic flight of Darius and Girenas will be held at Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, NY on Saturday, June 27, 1998 from 1-5 pm. For more details, contact: C-110 Connie Nehawadowich 718-769-3666.

Lithuanian Web Watch:

One website worth browsing is **Ramunas** (Blavasčiunas) **Personal Pages** that zoom in on a young, computer savvy Lithuanian who tells about his country through his own Lithuania section and links to other Lithuanian related sites. This is not a new site, and the author was aided by Microsoft with his 1996 design. Besides personal photos, his guestbook was quite interesting and filled with comments from people from all over the world who hunger for their Lithuanian heritage. Most popular was requesting genealogical research on relatives. Address-[Http://www2.omnitel.net/ramunas](http://www2.omnitel.net/ramunas)

LITHUANIAN CONCERT

Jose Carreras, of the "Three Tenor" concerts fame, on April 19, gave a concert in Vilnius Lithuania. He arrived a few days before the concert in order to explore Vilnius. In 1987 Carreras suffered from leukemija. By a miracle he survived and established a fund to aid leukemia victims. In Vilnius, the president of the Seimas, Vytautas Landsbergis gave a reception for the tenor and his home. Jose Carreras also visited with President Valdas Adamkus. According to reporters, Jose is acquainted with Lithuania. He knows the basketball star, Arvydas Sabonis, since Sabonis played in Spain a few years ago. The tickets to his concert were 400-800 litai (100 - 200 dollars). In the near future Mr. Carreras is planning a benefit concert for leukemia victims in Vilnius.

Music**Išėjo Tėvelis į Žalią Girelę**

Išėjo tėvelis į žalią girelę,
 Išėjo tėvelis į žalią girelę,
 Kirs girios medelį, žalią ažuolėlį,
 Kirs girios medelį, žalią ažuolėlį.

Courtesy of Nijolė B. Dėdiniene's Šaltinėlis, 1993.

Moderato

The image shows a piano score for the piece 'Išėjo Tėvelis į Žalią Girelę'. The score is written in 3/8 time and B-flat major. It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The first system starts with a piano (*mp*) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and fingerings (e.g., 5 1, 5, 4, 3, 2, 2, 1 2 4 5). The second system features a first ending bracket. The third system includes a second ending bracket and a dynamic hairpin. The fourth system concludes with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking and a final double bar line. A page number '2' is located at the bottom right of the score.

Folklore -

The Beacon of Happiness

On a very high and steep mountain there appeared a magical beacon. It shone like the stars, clothed in a golden gown on which there were golden letters. Seeing this the people approached the mountain, gazed at it, but being unable to climb the hill they could not read the sign. Finally there appeared a youth, who told the crowd that he could read the sign. The inscription read: "The people's happiness". The whole nation heard this message. This was the only topic of conversation. But nobody knew or could explain to others what these words meant. For long nights crowds kept vigil by the sign, crowds came, crowds went trying to figure out the sign's meaning, All were waiting for a miracle or an explanation.

The beacon did not lessen in brightness but grew brighter and brighter with each day.

One night an old man approached the crowd by the mountain and asked them: "Why are you gathered here and for whom are you waiting?"

The crowd replied:

"A beacon appeared on the mountain with a strange inscription on it, which we do not understand."

"I will explain it to you," the old man replied. "This beacon is your happiness. Whoever climbs the mountain and touches the beacon, will make all people happy."

The crowd became happy and moved like waves of a sea. Even though the mountain was high and steep but the people gazed toward the apex with eyes filled with joy and many already were prepared for the climb.

"Wait a minute, I did not finish," the old man cried out. "It is not as easy as you think to reach the top. The climbers will be approached from all sides by various ghosts and demons; they will shout and howl in various voices, attempting to persuade you to turn back. And those who will become frightened, and look backwards, and stop for a little while will turn

into a rock. Even those, who will climb to the top and touch the beacon, will also turn into rocks. But by their deeds they will bring happiness to the whole country. Once touched, the beacon will break into a million little beacons, who will roll down the mountain enter our homes, our minds and hearts - then you all will find happiness."

Having said this the old man disappeared.

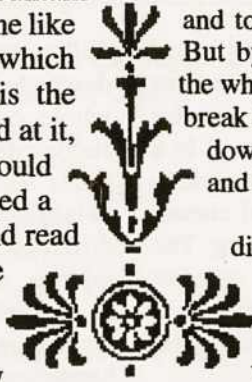
Upon hearing these words the crowd became very sad.. sighed as one and bowed their heads to the ground.

Instead of joy, in their eyes shone tears of unhappiness. They no longer approached the mountain, but began to retreat from it. Nobody wanted to offer up his life. Not only their own life did they want to offer, but they tried to dissuade others from doing so. Parents tried to convince their children, girls their boyfriends, young men their girlfriends, sisters - their brothers. All were frightened and worried about each other.

But there were also brave ones in their midst. At first there were not many but their numbers grew. In secret, the sons and daughters ran from their parents' homes, seldom with their blessings, more often with curses. Sweethearts tried to dissuade one another. There were many opinions. Although some were persuaded to stay, there remained the brave hearts, who hand in hand walked bravely towards the mountain. All came to offer up their lives for the happiness of others, forgetting themselves and their loved ones.

The road up the mountain was a difficult one, could be compared to the Way of the Cross. Even a small mishap, and the unlucky ones became rocks and rolled down the mountain. Meanwhile all kinds of ghosts, as if souls from hell flew around, in the guise of various beasts, tried to frighten them. From the appearances of this various sounds and sights, the brave climbers lost their courage, their bodies became weak and they fell to earth becoming stones.

But in place of the fallen ones, new brave heroes appeared and climbed the mountain. All



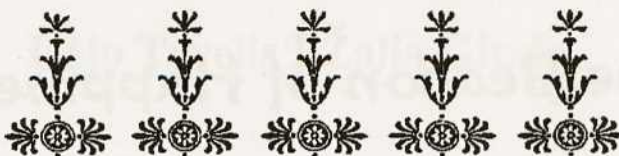
around the mountain a wall of stones was rising that was the bodies of the fallen heroes.

The people of the land now distanced themselves from the mountain as if it were a terrible disease or a plague. And those who lost dear ones- the children for parents, the girls for their loved ones, the men for their sweethearts- tore their hair and drowned in a sea of tears, cursing the beacon. The mountain became a terrible place of unhappiness and curses. But this did not deter new heroes from coming. The spirit of the fallen heroes kindled new ones to approach the mountain. With fire in their hearts they went one after another in order to reach the beacon.

And all the bodies of the heroes trying to reach the summit which turned into rocks and rolled down the mountain started to become another mountain approaching the height of the first. The climb towards the beacon became easier and easier. Many years went by and no one had reached the top and touched the beacon. The people of the land called the climbers either dreamers of idiots, some wept for them, and some made fun of them and were glad that they perished.

But one fine spring day a large crowd of brave ones - young men and women, pale and tired approached the mountain. In all eyes glowed the beacon filled with hope, braveness, love and devotion. All shouted a loud cry as if a wave from the ocean rushed toward the mountain. From all sides various spirits tried to frighten them as they made their way up the mountain. Many gave up and rolled down the mountain as rocks which formed another mountain. The higher they went the more sparse they were in number. Only a handful remained as they approached the top. The ones that survived did not hear the curses of the demons and other vicious forces trying to deter them from their mission. Their eyes were focused on the beacon and nothing could deter them. For this was the end of a difficult odyssey and nothing could deter them from gazing at the beacon of happiness.

Two or three more friends fell, but the remainder reached the summit. They all cried out in a loud voice of victory. And all as if one touched the beacon. In one moment all became rocks and rolled



down the mountain. And a miracle happened. All the evil beings disappeared, and the beacon which was touched by the brave climbers scattered into a

million beacons, who like falling stars from the sky, descended from the heavens and enlightened the whole country. The people of the land all of a sudden felt much happiness in their homes and fields and in their minds a peaceful feeling. In a twinkling of an eye all slavery disappeared, differences between individuals vanished, and all injuries and falsehoods were forgotten. All felt happy and equal. All respected each other and their human rights. All were engulfed in a sea of happiness.

The people knew the reason for all these changes. They remembered the beacon and they all rushed towards that cursed mountain. But the crowd that approached the mountain did not find the beacon. Nor did they find the mountain. It was all covered up with rocks. All understood. Every rock was a hero who died for their happiness.

And from that day on the people called the mountain a place of happiness and honor. From that day on it became a historical monument.

No more did the people turn away and avoid the mountain, as it represented death or a plague. They passed it and bowed their heads remembering those who died for the freedom of the land. Each year the day of liberation was celebrated by the country. On that day, dressed in their best finery they gathered by the foot of mountain. With green wreaths all the young maidens gathered by the hill. The flags born by strong youths waved in the breeze. And in front of all was a wagon with innocent youngsters... All were happy and satisfied.

As they approached the mountain, they surrounded it and sang songs of freedom, and happiness, scattered flowers and laid wreaths on its base. The day was filled with music.

And this day of freedom was commemorated each year. The names of those who died were written down in golden letters, and the people studied their lives and deeds like prayers in a catechism. And all were happy...

--Jonas Biliunas, 1905.IV.15

LITHUANIAN CHEFS



These Summer-cream.

time Lithuanian treats were sent thanks to Ruth Fisher, C-152, Great Neck, NY

Especially enjoy

the quick-to-fix cold beet soup! - editors

Sauerkraut Salad

Kopūstų Salatas

1 no.2 can of sauerkraut
3 tbsps. Salad oil
1 stalk green onion (or 1 small onion, diced and fried in oil)
dash of pepper

Remove sauerkraut to sieve. Run cold water over it. Drain. Chop onion, add to kraut. Pour oil over kraut, mix well. Season with pepper. Chill thoroughly.

Cold Beet Soup

Šaltibarščiai

3 bouillon cubes
4 cups boiling water
1 no. 2 can shoe-string beets
2-3 blossoms fresh dill
1 stalk green onion
1 small cucumber
1 hard boiled egg
½ pint sour cream

Dissolve cubes in boiling water. Add beets. Cool slightly. Add finely cut onion, diced peeled cucumber, finely chopped dill, and salt to taste. Blend in cream. Add diced egg. Chill several hours. Serve in chilled soup bowls, with hot potatoes boiled in jackets. Buttermilk may be substituted for

cream.
Jellied Ham
Kumpis Drebučiuose
1 lb. Smoked ham, cooked
½ lb. Butter of Crisco
1 large onion
½ tsp. Pepper
1 egg
2-3 tsps. Salt
1 slice white bread

Slice onion, fry in butter till transparent. Put ham twice through the meat grinder, together with onion, pepper, salt and bread which has been soaked in water and squeezed dry. Add egg, mixing well. Pack in mold. Cover top of meat with jellied bouillon. Chill.

Jellied Bouillon. Add 3 tbsps. Gelatine to 2 cups clear bouillon. Refrigerate until set. Cut into very small cubes before placing on top of prepared ham mixture.

Jellied Pigs' Feet

Košeliena

2 quartered pigs' feet
2 quarts water
1 large onion
1 bay leaf
1 tsp. Salt
3 peppercorns

Singe and wash feet. Place in pot with other ingredients. Bring to boil, then boil slowly about 2-3 hours or until meat separates from bones. Liquid should be reduced to about ½ of original quantity. Strain liquid into a large bowl. Separate and discard bones. Cut meat into

small pieces, add to liquid. Refrigerate until congealed. Remove fat from surface. Slice and serve cold with wedges of lemon or prepared horseradish or mustard.

Chocolate Refrigerator Torte

Šokoladinis Tortas

1 cup chocolate
1 cup sweet almonds
1 cup sugar 10 egg yolks (hard boiled)

Shell almonds and grind in meat grinder. Cream the hard boiled egg yolks. Add all ingredients, beat well, knead and make two layers. Put one layer on a platter, spread with filling and cover with second layer.

Filling:

½ cup shelled almonds
2 tablespoon sugar
2 tablespoons sweet cream
1 tablespoon vanilla sugar
Beat all ingredients well and spread on the first layer. Cover with the second layer and press together lightly.

Glaze:

2 oz. Chocolate
2 tablespoons sweet cream
1 teaspoon lemon juice
Grate chocolate and melt into hot cream and lemon juice. Beat well, and pour over the torte. Garnish with almonds and nuts. Keep in a cold place.



Lithuanians in the News

AN HONOR OVERDUE

We have known Sabina Rusaitė Henson for many years. She was Sabina Klatt then, raising her brood in a truly Lithuanian household. We first noticed her name from Council News in VYTIS namely C-36 in Chicago. For many years she was on the Supreme Council, District and Council levels. We remember how hard she worked when she was vice president in charge of Juniors. The kids loved her. She edited and published a magazine "Junior Jewels" for them. We always received a copy and it was a pleasure to read. As we heard at the conventions, the Juniors really enjoyed them. It was a sad moment when after 3 years she had to give up that position as the K. of L. Constitution requires.

Recently, for her meritorious service to God and Country Sabina was awarded the Šiauliai (Lithuanian National Guard) Žvaigždė (star). She belongs to the Vytautas the Great Šauliai council in Chicago. Sabina also gives time and money to BALF, is a benefactor of the St. Francis congregation and is the president of the Knights of Lithuania Choir in Chicago. We once asked Sabina, what inspired her to work so hard for the land of her forefathers. It was mamytė, she answered. It was after a Supreme Council meeting, at Sabina's home that we met this fine lady at age 100, three years before she died. What a wonderful woman - she remembered all the Lithuanian words of the songs we sang. Sabina recalled that Mother and Dad often spoke about Lithuania's present and past, the book smugglers, Gediminas dream and Vytautas the Great, the occupation by the tzars and her independence on February 16th, 1918. At the church in Bridgeport, St. George', Sabina recalled, I saw the former president of Lithuania, Antanas Smetona, who had fled communist occupied Lithuania. I read A. Šapokas (a Lithuanian historian) history of Lithuania, and began to understand the words of the Lithuanian National anthem. Truly Lithuania is the land of heroes. Sabina visited Lithuania a few years ago and participated with



Sabina Henson awarded with the Šiauliai (Lithuanian National Guard) Žvaigždė (star)

the Knights of Lithuania Choir under the direction of HM maestro Faustas Strolia in the Lithuanian Song Festival.

We could use more members like you, mano miela drauge! What a perfect candidate you would be for Honorary Membership!

Dalia Bulvicius

Noted Lithuanian Passes

Anna Kaskas, a contralto, who had an association with the Metropolitan Opera from 1936 to 1950 died on March 19 at her home in Wellsboro, PA. She was 91.

At the Met, as the April 27 issue of "The New York Times" reports, Ms Kaskas was a valued as a dependable house contralto. She sang under the conductor Sir Thomas Beecham and with various other opera luminaries.

Born in Richfield Conn, in 1907, to

Lithuanian parents, Ms Kaskas studied in Lithuania and Italy. In 1936 she was a co-winner of the Met's Auditions of the Air. After she left the Met in 1950 she toured as a recitalist and devoted herself to teaching. She was very popular with the Lithuanian communities all over the States and gave many benefit concerts.

In 1942 she married Anthony J. Lukot, Jr., who died in 1992. She is survived by a son Anthony and a granddaughter.



Marijė Bulvicienė receives a posthumous medal from the government of Lithuania in honor of Major Vytautas Bulvicius given by Ambassador Alfonsas Eidintas

LITHUANIA WAS EVERYTHING TO HIM

My Father, Major Vytautas Bulvicius, would have been 90 years old on May 8, 1998. He was the youngest member to serve on the generalinis stabas (the equivalent of US Chiefs of Staff). During the first Soviet occupation of Lithuania in 1941, V. Bulvicius organized the Lithuanian Activist Front and thus for a brief time Lithuania was again free. In 1941, at age 33, he was captured by the bolsheviks tortured and finally shot in a Gorky prison. His family does not know his burial place.

Father had ample time to escape, but he chose to stay. After he saw his family to safety, he remained to aid his beleaguered land.

V. Bulvicius was 10 years old when Lithuania, on February 16, 1998, once again regained her freedom and the Declaration of Independence was signed. How proud he would have been today, to see his beloved land free once more.

This year on February 16th, by the order of President Algirdas Brazauskas, his widow Marija Bulvicienė was invited to Ottawa, Canada to receive a posthumous medal from the government of Lithuania - the Vycio 1 degree order. Lithuania's ambassador to Canada the honorable Dr. Alfonsas Eidintas presented the medal to Marija Bulvicienė.

In her brief speech Mrs. Bulvicienė stated, "When I received the telegram from Prezident Brazauskas, I sighed a sigh of relief. Finally Lithuania has recognized Vytautas, and his colleagues, who gave up their lives for their country. I am thankful to President Brazauskas and Ambassador Eidintas for this great honor. Lithuania was all to Vytautas so he gave his all to her." -*Dalia Bulvicius*

Nurses Reach Out

Nurses at Harrington Hospital in Southbridge, MA along with nurses from Anna Maria College in Paxton, MA shared their united knowledge about modern nursing methods with Lithuanian nurses on various trips to Lithuania. On their first trip to Lithuania in 1996, nurses from Anna Maria observed common items were in short supply such as stethoscopes, latex gloves, sterile disposable syringes, sterile dressings, antibiotics and vaccines. Patient and family education about health and nutrition, wound healing and reducing the risk of high blood pressure were also lacking. Last year, on the second trip to Lithuania, they were delighted to see great strides in "lessons learned".

Recently a dozen nurses with support staff and medical equipment made the trip to

Lithuania to travel to Kaunas, Vilnius and Vilkaviškis with plans to teach seminars to 2,500 nurses and physicians. The last teaching seminars were attended by 2,000 nurses and physicians from all over Lithuania.

Sub. by Stephen Walinsky, Sr. C-26

Pop Star Recordings

During the time of Lithuania's independence (1918-1940) before A. Šabaniauskas there was one to whom he owes his career. That was Danielius Dolskis (1891-1931) He was a pop star of the twenties in Russia, Latvia and Lithuania. He was born in Vilnius.

Before the Russian revolution he sang in the restaurant "Vile Rode" of St. Petersburg and was the idol of the audience. Rasputin, the tsar's favorite, made much of him and Dolskis often sang at his parties. He lived in Riga till 1929, after that he moved to Kaunas. Here Dolskis learned the Lithuanian language and soon became one of the founders of Lithuanian "schlager" (popular songs) music. He wrote words for his songs, jokes and monologues. Dolskis sang in the restaurants "Versalis" and "Metropolis" and enjoyed immense popularity. The great Lithuanian Opera tenor Kipras Petrauskas encouraged Dolskis to record his songs. We treasure a tape of them to this day.

At the age of 40 in 1931 he caught a cold after a concert and died a few days later.

After many years it was a moving experience to hear a voice of my childhood. Mother used to dance to his music I remembered. My favorite song was "Palangos jūroj. The first words were: "Palangos jūroj nuskendo mano meilė, ir šaltos bangos jos neatiduos (My love sank in the Palanga, and the cold waves will never return it.) As kids we made up our own words: "Palangos jūroj nuskendo mano kelnės ir šaltos bangos jų neatiduos. (My pants sank in the Palanga and the cold waves will never return them.)

Dalia Bulvičius



***Nurses teaching in Lithuania included:
Jean Chronis-Kuhn, Lynn Hassett, Elizabeth
Goradeckas and Paulette Remijan.***

Potatoes Get New Twist

The Sacred Heart Church in New Philadelphia hosted a "potato fest" which included Lithuanian recipes for stuffing, pancakes, dumplings and sausage. Lithuanians, Dolores Bartashus and Elaine Dalvet were pictured stuffing casings with potato filling for dešros, and the fest included other Lithuanian recipes, even including one for potato candy.

To celebrate the potato and all its uses, Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia, recently held its 3rd annual Potato Fest, a day long event featuring raffles and Lithuanian potato dishes. The event was created a few years ago when the church celebrated its 100th anniversary and the potato fest has turned into an annual event since then.

Walking through the church's crowded kitchen, people were broken into groups, some doing the actual cooking, others preparing the dishes and still others running back and forth. As one man poured two handfuls of pepper and another handful of salt into a batch of potato pancakes, Jane Shamonsky, one of the festival's founders listed all the ingredients of the dishes that used over 1,000 lbs. of potatoes, 140 lbs. of bacon, 150 lbs. of onions, 60 dozen eggs and 30 lbs of butter.

The dešros were the biggest hit. About 400 people come to the festival every year. *Pottsville, PA Republican and Evening Herald, by P. Ward (3/4/98)*

District & Council News



Lithuanian scenes mural at Annunciation Church Hall in Brooklyn, NY

Mid Atlantic District

Dalia Bulvicius

On April 19th, 1998 all roads led to Brooklyn, NY for the MAD Spring convention. From as far as Amsterdam, Albany and Binghamton and as near as Manhattan they came. The host council was C-41 whose president is Bill Kumeta. About 70 delegates and guests from 8 councils attended.

The pastor of Annunciation parish (home base of C-41) Rev. Vytautas Palubinskas (Father Vito) offered the Mass and in his sermon explained the meaning of the Sunday after Easter (Atvelykio sekmadienis). Before Mass, he blessed 2 Third Degree medals, and with an assist from our ritual chairman, Joe Zukas, bestowed them on Alice Yakaitis (C-110 Maspeth) and Ona Paskas (C-29 Newark). The choir sang beautifully under the direction of Asta Barkauskas. The readings (in

flawless Lithuanian, which is seldom heard today) were done by Petras Sandanavičius.

After Mass we gathered in the parish hall which was beautifully decorated with Lithuanian murals and fresh spring flowers, (donated by Catherine Yacavonis, in memory of her mother Kazimiera Yacavonis and grandmother Ona Rackauskas) which gave the hall a spring-like atmosphere.

The food was well prepared and plentiful. All enjoyed the *Utenos* beer from Lithuania.

C-41 president, Bill Kumeta welcomed the visitors and introduced MAD president Edward Barkowski, who was the MC for the meeting. Ed invited Father Vito to give the invocation. In a well prepared prayer Father prayed that this meeting would be fruitful as well as enjoyable.

The guest speaker was K. of L. National president John Mankus. He spoke about his Lithuanian background and the honor of being K. of L. president.

He also spoke about the recent meeting in Washington, D C of representatives from various Lithuanian organizations in the United States. At the end of his talk he had a pleasant surprise for us. From memory he recited a poem by Maironis: "Oi neverk, motinėlej". He sure got a big hand!

After the reading of the minutes from the last meeting by secretary, Muriel Lekstutis, the reports of the MAD officers were given. President Edward Barkowski, among other matters, spoke about the reopening of St. Casimir's Church in Amsterdam, NY and how much the local council participated in this miracle. He also expressed a most sincere Ačiū labai to Marytė Shallins of C-41 for a generous donation towards the refurbishing of the church. First VP, Marytė Abbott gave various suggestions to increase our diminishing membership. She also asked all to support Sister Helen Ivanauskas T-shirt drive to help the orphans in Lithuania. Bernice Aviza, Second

vice president for juniors reported that she is working hard with her brood in Albany and that they will once again participate in the Darius and Girėnas 65th commemoration at Floyd Bennett field in Brooklyn, NY on June 27. This commemoration is the brain child of Maspeth's "big three" C-110: Helen Matulionis, Anne Morrissey and Connie Nehwadowich. They had one five years ago which was a huge success.



Third Degree recipients at MAD convention: Ona Paskas (C-29 Newark) and Alice Yakaitis (C-110 Maspeth)

Lithuanian Affairs chair and historian, Ed Baranauskas, a talented writer, whose contributions to VYTIS are most interesting, spoke, among other things, about his trip to Lithuania with Father Vito during the Soviet occupation and how the good Father outwitted the soviet customs agents and "smuggled" religious goods into Lithuania.

Our cultural chair Tony Yacavonis once again brought his mandolin and entertained us with Lithuanian songs with a Hawaiian strain. Marytė Shalins as always led us in song.

Various donations were voted on such as: Maspeth parish 90th anniversary journal, Scholarship fund, St. Casimir Guild and others. Council reports followed. It is sad to say that a few councils are barely alive, but on the other hand, others are flourishing.

Among the resolutions was a happy birthday (April 18th) and get well greetings to our spiritual advisor, Monsignor Frank Bulovas. The card was signed by all present. Also a huge

ačiū labai to C-41, its president Bill Kumeta and all his loyal assistants who worked so hard to make the meeting a success. Among them was his lovely wife Marytė, Helen Tumasonis, Onute Dičkūnas, Rasa Vilminienė, Petras Sandanavičius and others.

Council 41 is not a large one, considering we have some with membership into the hundreds. But in hosting conventions it is second to none. Believe it or not C-41 has hosted 4 conventions in 10 years! What other council (besides Maspeth, of course) can make this claim?

C-10. Athol, MA Vincukas

Council 10 was deeply saddened by the passing of our dear member, Kathryn Paliulis on Good Friday. Kay of happy memory died at age 59 after a long battle with cancer. Kay was a graphic artist at the Fort Devens Army Base, Ayer, MA and was forced into early retirement because of her illness. She was an outstanding athlete and was a

founding member of the Orange Devils, a women's basketball team and a member of the Women's Amateur softball Assoc. of Orange, where she was a standard pitcher. she was also an avid hiker, runner and cyclist. Kay as a member of our council worked on many committees and made up our programs for social occasions. Last seen at our Kūčios she was in good spirits and had faith to beat the dreaded illness.

The K. of L. wake ritual was headed by president Dr. Henry Gailiūnas. It was well attended. The Mass was offered at St. Mary's church in Orange and was a real tribute to this unassuming and gentle large-hearted individual. The K. of L. members acted as honor bearers and the Lithuanian juosta was placed on the casket by Bronė and Bill Wišniauskas. Our deepest sympathy go out to her 3 brothers and 2 sisters. She will be lovingly remembered by us all Kay say Labas to our deceased council members. Ilsėkis ramybėje Kay. Sudievu iki pasimatymo aname pasaulyje!

Our council was well represented at the NED convention held in Lawrence, MA on April 26th.

Special kudos are extended to Rev. Albert Janiūnas on the occasion of his 50th anniversary in the holy priesthood. also to Father Anthony Baltrashunas on his 60th.

Pastor Rev. Raymond Messieur was hospitalized. We extend to him get well wishes.

Lil and Phil Erickson enjoyed a pilgrimage to the holy places in Italy.

Our best wishes are extended to shut-ins Ann Ambrose, Anna Wilson, Anielis Vaitkunas, Jenice Poštukas and Mary Gouronsky.



A group of C-10 Athol-Gardner K. of L'ers at its St. Casimir's Day observation. L. to r. Mary (Piragis) McCollon, Bronė and Dick Qualters, Sophia Fiorentino, Bronė and Bill Wišniauskas.

Bronė Wišniauskas was named artist of the month at the April meeting of the greater Gardner Art Club. Bravo Brone! Each month our treasury grows by the popular 50-50 established by Howie Beaudette.

Natalie Brighenti returned from a 3 month vacation in St. Petersburg, FL. She had difficulty in contacting the Lithuanian club there. It seems it is only open on weekends. Natalie loves to dance.

Best wishes are extended to Tina Shatas on her 94th birthday and 84th year with our council. Ilgiausiū metų! Linkime dar daug metų!

C-12, New York, NY

Dalia Bulvičius

Before the Mass, on Sunday, May 3rd, we crowned our Blessed Mother. Spiritual advisor Father Eugene Sawicki, (beloved pastor, as he likes to be called) did the honors, while the choir under the direction of Aldona Kepalaitė sang "Sveika, Marija, Motina Dievo!.

After Mass, our monthly meeting was opened by president Jovita Sleder and a prayer by

Father Eugene.

President Sleder reported on the death of a dear friend of the parish and Father Eugen's right hand man Anthony Zaggarino. A Mass will be offered for him. Amžina atilsį dear Tony!

Lithuanian Affairs chair Dalia Bulgaris reported about Easter in Lithuania. The First Lady of Lithuania Alma Adamkienė had a margučiai (Easter eggs) roll on the Presidential lawn. The children about 300 were orphans or from poor families. Goodies were donated by Mc Donald's and Coca Cola companies. President Valdas Adamkus joined in the fun and a good time was had by all.

In honor of our Mothers, cultural chair Jurgis Aleniūnas spoke about the Lithuanian Mother. Jurgis reported, that in Lithuania Mothers' day is celebrated on the first Sunday of May, today. He read a beautiful poem in Lithuanian poem to Mother. Dalia Bulvičius translated.

MAD cultural chair Anthony Yacovonis and Dalia Bulvičius reported on the MAD district meeting held in Brooklyn, NY hosted by C-41. It was attended by 8 councils and about

70 delegates and friends. A good job by president Bill Kumeta, his lovely wife Marytė and all of C-41. Congratulations!

Milly Pietz spoke about our adopted parish of St. George in Kėdainiai

Lithuania. A offering of 50 dollars was made. It will taken by Millie Pietz who will travel there this summer.

The son of member Gražina and Saulius Janušas, received his Masters in the Lithuanian language. Congratulations Stasi!

Our June meeting will be our last until September. A very happy and restful summer to all! Gero vėjo!

C-26, Worcester, MA

Stephen V. Walinsky, Sr.

As was mentioned in the March Issue of the VYTIS, referring to the participation of council C-26 in many of the K of L Motto purposes and promises, here we are again.

March 29, a most memorable afternoon that will be talked about for some time by all who attended the functions and the primary purpose of gathering together, the Holy Hour.

The afternoon had something for everyone, religion, friendship and information. After the Holy Hour, a reception was arranged to refresh all who attended. Fr. John



was pleased and proud of C-26, also motivated by their numbers. The inclusion of C-116 and other New England chapters, added to the reason and results of a successful Holy Hour. For the information part of the afternoon, we had the pleasure to view slides, and to listen to comments from nurses who had visited and lectured in the hospitals of Lithuania. At times, their observations of conditions were disturbing, but, yet, it was encouraging to know that something is being done to correct and help.

These same nurses are to make another visit this year. (See story in *Liths. In the News.*)

Pres. Viv Rodgers thanked the committee for their efforts to put together such a wonderful afternoon of entertainment. Joan Wojciak, Ron Spakauskas, Ann Walinsky, Anne Leseman and special appreciations to Fr. John Petrauskas.

C - 46, Forest City, PA *Blanche Motsko*

Although St. Anthony's



C-25, Cleveland Lith. Independence Day Celebration included (photo at left) Council Pres. Dick Marks and Jean (Sec.) At OLPH Church. (Top photo) Gov. and Mrs. George Voinovich , T. Kijauskas and (C-25 Spiritual Advisor) Fr. G. Kijauskas

and St. Michael's churches are closed, our K. of L. members had a St. Casimir Day breakfast in March at the MaryAnn restaurant. Twenty members were present at our short meeting. It was nice to see such a nice turnout. Due to sickness and death, many of our members can not participate in our meetings.

Charles Cyzinski is a home bound patient, and Frances Yaroski is a patient in our personal care home. Both were very active members and we miss both of them.

The same slate of officers agreed to serve for one more term. Anthony Yevorsky - president, Alice Punter - vice president, Joan O'Peka - treasurer, Frank Cyzaski - secretary. We thank each officer for their cooperation. We did enjoy a beautiful spring and now are looking forward to a beautiful summer. The trees and spring flowers are in bloom and the world is renewed again..

We have our monthly meetings in the Sacred Heart

Church basement. Many members make an effort to attend and it is nice to get together once in a while.

A happy and healthy summer to all till we meet again.

C - 90, Kearny, NJ *Becky (Nakrosis) Pataki*

General Activities

Council 90 celebrated the anniversary of Lithuanian Independence on Sunday, February 15th with our annual Mass and flag raising. We began the celebration with a 10:30 mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, and went up to Keamy's Town Hall afterward to lift the Lithuanian flag and sing Lithuania's anthem. The day was completed by returning to the Church Hall for coffee and cake, and to celebrate Monsignor Dominic Pocus' 80th birthday. We had a wonderful showing of participants and everyone went home happy.

Easter activities

Kearny's Riverbank Park was the location of Council 90's second annual Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. This tradition began last year, with the aid of Our Lady of Sorrows Church. The support from members, parishioners, and townspeople has been overwhelming. This year approximately 90 people were present, including town council members and the mayor. Hopefully, this tradition will be carried on for years to come, as a way to truly reflect on the sacrifices made on Good Friday.

Our Lady of Sorrows Church celebrated Easter morning with a Resurrection mass at 7 a.m. Council 90 was there to participate. The parish tradition is to include a procession before Resurrection Mass begins to celebrate Easter. Once again, Council 90 members were included in this mass carrying banners to identify the organization, as well as a protective canopy to protect the Body of Christ. This procession adds so much to the overall celebration of Easter.

Fund Raising

Our recent fund raising projects have been plentiful. Council 90 held its annual Potato Pancake Dance on March 8th. The dance was a success with everyone enjoying the good food and company.

Our main fund raising project, the "Darius Fund", is a group of different fund raisers aimed at saving enough money to help our 11-year old adopted

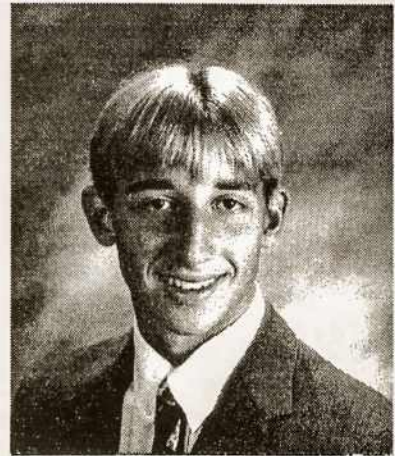
Lithuanian boy who is suffering from leukemia. We are hoping to be able to provide him with proper medical attention, and thus need to come up with a strong fund. To help mobilize our plans, Council 90 recently held a Tupperware Party among our members and others. We raised approximately \$130 in this effort. Our next big fund raiser in this vein is our 3rd Annual Chinese Auction. This year's date is Friday, September 18th, and everyone (K. of L. members and friends) are invited to join us. The Auction will take place at the LCCC and will start at 7 p.m. We are hoping to confirm Darius' diagnosis and to be able to get him medical aid by the end of the year.

C-96 Dayton, Ohio

Fran Petkus

In the December 1996 issue of the VYTIS, we noted at the end of the article a warning...."from Dayton conventions a few inter-council marriages emerged". Well, we did it again! Congratulations to Rita Zakarka, C-112 Chicago, and Brian Johnson, C-19 Pittsburgh, on their recent engagement and pending marriage! The MCD will be gaining an active member.

Congratulations also must go to Anthony (Tony) Berczelly, former Junior Knight now a regular member, on his graduation from Carroll High School. Tony has, because of his grades, received many grants which will enable him to pursue furthering his education in mechanical engineering! Also to Frank and



Congratulations to Anthony (Tony) Berczelly, former Junior Knight of Dayton, C-96, now a regular member, on his graduation from Carroll High School.

Jessica Ambrose upon their graduation in their respective Masters Programs at Miami University of Oxford, OH. For football fans, Frank is now assistant coach for the University of Southern Illinois of Carbondale, IL.

Fran Petkus returned from the SC meeting of April 25th in Waterbury, CT with many updated K of L news items of interest to all. From the 85th National Convention Committee's report, it looks like things are falling into place and a great convention is in store for delegates and guests. With C-96 member Irena Gecas-McCarthy, SC Scholarship Chair, living in NY, Fran C-96's Ritual Chair, presented Irena with her Third Degree Medal and certificate just before the meeting continued from their lunch break. Good to know Rita Ambrose, Aldona Ryan and Charles Vangas are recuperating from their recent

health problems.

S p e c i a l
 Congratulations must go to Joseph E. and Eleanor (Petkus) Mantz on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary! They are one of several couples in our council who, through their children and grandchildren, have given C-96 third generation members!



Presentation of C-156 Charter at the Amber Dist. St. Casimir Day in Philadelphia. Pictured are David Kinder - Council VP, Robert Wislock - C-156 President and Elsie Kosmisky, Nat. Ritual Chair.

C-112, Chicago Gerrie

The huge success of our Pre-Easter Champagne Brunch can be attributed to our many hard-working members who pitched in to make sure everything was ready for all those who came to enjoy the day. Pres. Mickey Petrosius took charge of the kitchen along with Mary Banky and Adele Lietuvninkis and served up a delicious lunch complete with, of course, kugelis and Lithuanian sausage, as well as several other entrees with all the trimmings.

Al Mockus made sure everyone had a glass of champagne as they entered the door, and Anele Pocius and Gerrie Chaplin helped serve the many wonderful homemade pastries baked and donated by our ladies.

The raffle, headed up by chairlady, Ellie Kasputis, made a lot of people happy as she had managed to round up forty-four top quality prizes. What a gal!

Did you notice the gorgeous flowers sprouting from the wall? They were the brainchild of Lorraine Svelnis

who graciously donated them to the lunchroom at Nativity so the children could enjoy them. And Gerrie Chaplin spent hours spearing 10 dozen (plastic) eggs to make the table decorations.

Thanks to Lorraine for taking charge of raffle returns and Julie Zakarka and Lucille Shotas for taking brunch reservations, as well as everyone who bought and sold tickets. We hope the glowing reports of our brunch will inspire more of our members to join us at our annual fund raisers.

Congratulations to one of our former presidents, Rita Zakarka and her fiancée, Brian Johnson, as they plan their October wedding. We will miss her as she plans to call Pittsburgh home after the wedding.

C-144, Anthracite, PA Ona

Council 144 lost three members in March and April. Sister Thereselle, Sisters of St. Casimir passed away at the Mother house in Chicago. When Sister was stationed in Minersville, she

was very active in the Council, always helped sell raffle tickets at Lithuanian Day. Elizabeth Tumas, Mother of Betty, who is Secretary-Treasurer of St. Casimir's Guild went home to God after many years in a Nursing Home. Helen Labadis, a charter member, whose heart and soul was in the K of L, who worked hard from the very beginning, was Financial Secretary for several years, had

charge of sales at Lithuanian Day and who chaired the refreshment committee for a long time. Helen was always available when needed, was an active member of Our Lady of Šiluva Church. She and the others will be missed by us all. To Mary Labadis, Betty Tumas and the Sisters of St. Casimir we offer our deepest sympathy. "Amžina Atsilsi" to our dear departed members.

Our St. Casimir's Day Breakfast was a huge success thanks to chairperson, Anna Radzavage and her Committee. The Mass was beautiful and Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Ron Jankaitis preached an inspiring homily, as always. Thanks to Judge Domalakes for his informative speech and to all who attended.

Our Easter project this year was to send packages to the Carmelite nuns in Pastuva, Lithuania. Members were asked to bring something in food, paper products, soaps, etc. and 17 boxes were sent to the Nuns. President Marian Wydra, a real go-getter

spear headed the project.

We still continue to send packages to the orphanages and to collect stamps for Sister Helen. At our April meeting we decided to send money for a Washer to one family who have taken in 24 orphans. We now prepare for Lithuanian Day which this year will be on Aug. 15-16 at the Schuylkill Mall in Frackville. Eleanor Vaicaitis will again be overall chairperson; Evelyn Prep, food; Benice Mikatavage, displays; Joe Martunas and David Carroll, preparers; Florence Kobluskie, raffle. Others will be announced later.

Our President, Marian Wydra, is very active in trying to recruit new members. Especially the young. She encourages everyone to do the same. We look forward to seeing some of you in Waterbury in August and then at our Lithuanian Days, Aug. 15 and 16.

C-147, St. Petersburg, FL *Dolores Jonaitis*

Best of Get Well Wishes to Father Steponas Ropolas O.F.M. who will be having surgery. We all miss him. Also for Bronius Bakas, who is now a resident of Pasadena Manor Nursing Home.

The American Lithuanian Club Chorus, held a Concert, featuring the Vyrū Dainos Veinto and the Ladies Choir combined. Two of our K of L members, Irena Diktanas and Bronė Urbonienė, are members of the choir. They all did an outstanding performance.

John and I, were most happy to have Father F. Karvelis,

from Council 7 Waterbury, Ct., visit us during his annual Reunion of St. Bernard's Seminary Class of 1949, in St. Pete Beach, Florida. We wish Father, that you could have stayed longer. We would have loved to show you around. He was accompanied by Rev. W. Vichas of Blessed Sacrament Church, and Rev. Father Castellani, retired from St Lucy's Church, in Waterbury, CT. Mary Sarka of Spring Hill, Florida, and a member of our Council, passed away April 24, 1998. May her soul rest in peace. We extend our sympathy to her husband Adolph, and her family.

C-156, Shamokin, PA *Robert Wislock*

Fifteen members of our council attended the Amber District's St. Casimir Day mass and meeting on Sunday, March 15 at St. George's Church in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia. At the meeting, Elsie Kosmisky, National Ritual Chairperson, presented our council charter to Robert Wislock, president and David Kinder, vice-president.

Our members appreciated the beautiful mass, delicious dinner, and warm hospitality extended by our sisters and brothers in Council Three. Our council will host the next Amber District meeting on Sunday, June 14 at 1 p.m. The meeting will be held at Pavilion S, Knoebel's Grove and Amusement Park, Elysburg, PA. A brief prayer service will be held prior to the meeting. A light picnic lunch will be served to meeting participants.

Congratulations is extended to Olympia Zelinski, a

council member, who was selected as a "Good Neighbor" in April by the Press-Enterprise Newspaper, Bloomsburg, PA. Olympia's was cited for her volunteerism as an escort for nursing home residents. Also, Rose Paczkoski, council treasurer, recently authored a letter to the editor describing Lithuanian Easter customs. The article appeared in the News-Item, a newspaper with primary circulation in the Mt. Carmel and Shamokin areas.



Smiles without Wrinkles

A farmer taking inventory discovered he had 53 female pigs and 53 male rabbits. How much was he worth? 53 sows and bucks.

One frog sitting on a lily pad to another: "Time sure is fun when you're having flies."

Why did the football team go into the phone booth? To get their quarterback.

You can tell a kindergarten teacher by her eyes—they have small pupils.

I call my little dog Hardware because when he hears his name he bolts for the door.

What do you call a nun who walks in her sleep? A Roman Catholic.

Submitted by Leondas J. Galinskas C-79 Southfield, MI.

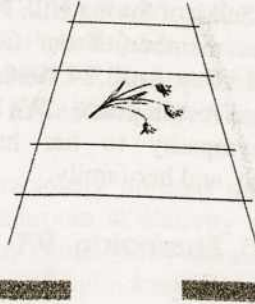


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ON THE CALENDAR...

August 6-9, 1998 - K of L.

Convention:

Host: Council 7 - Waterbury, CT
Sheraton Four Points -Waterbury,
CT

1998 District Conventions:

October 2-4 - Mid-America District - Fall Meeting Weekend. C-133 Hosts, Los Angeles, CA. For Information: Diann Martin (773) 376-4779.

Other Events

Jun. 27 - Darius and Girenas 65th Anniv.
 Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, NY
 Contact: Connie N

Aug. 15-16 - Lithuanian Days

Schuylkill Mall
 Frackville, PA 17931
 Contact: Eleanor Vaiciatis
 (717) 874-1695

July 26 -C-74 Lithuanian Mass, St. Ann's Basilica (lower church) 3:45 PM Scranton, PA.