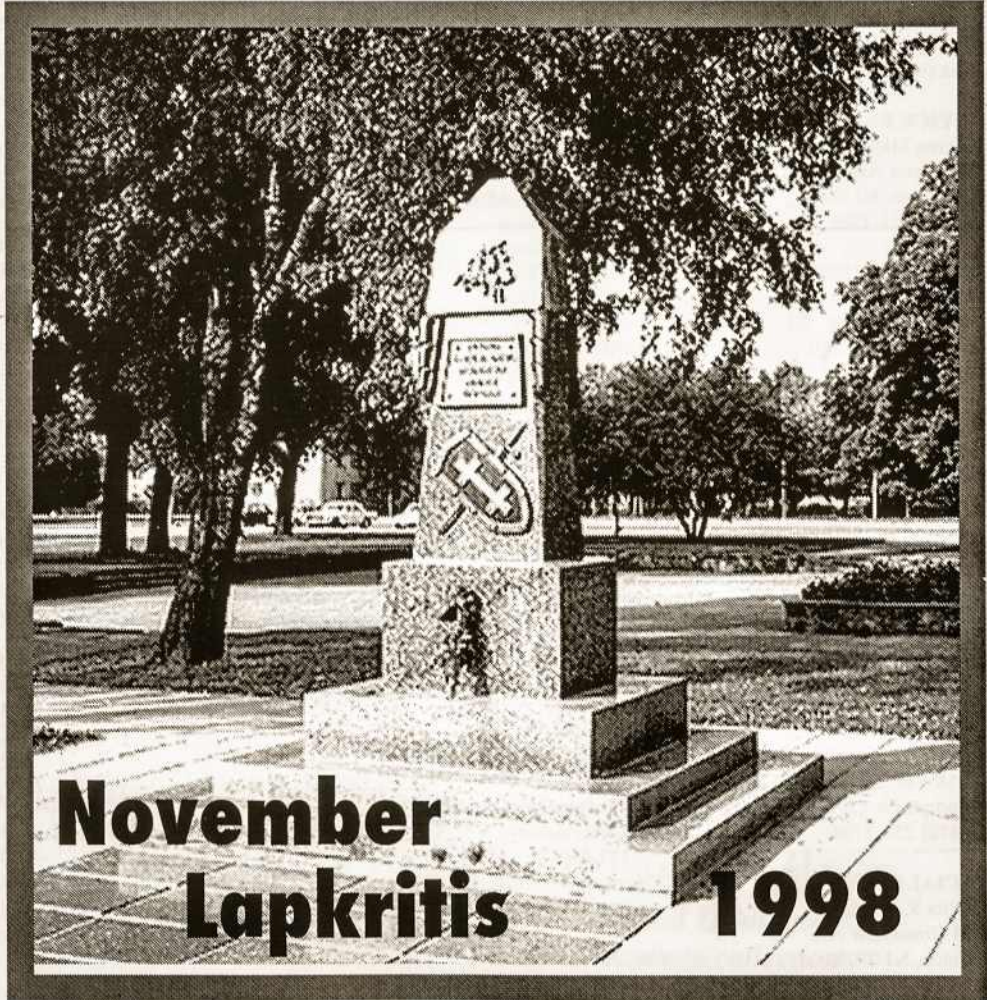


VYTIS



The Knight - volume 84 no. 9



**November
Lapkritis**

1998

VYTIS

-The Knight -
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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.



Table of Contents - Turinys

| | |
|--|-----------|
| To My Fellow Knights | 2 |
| Letters to the Editor | 2 |
| Voices From The Past | 4 |
| A Historic Flight Remembered -<i>Edward Baranauskas</i> | 6 |
| Return to St. Casimir's -<i>Mirga Bablin</i> | 8 |
| Lithuanians in the News | 10 |
| More Convention Highlights | 12 |
| Foundation Essay Winner -<i>Julia Malinauskas Lott</i> .. | 13 |
| In Memoriam | 14 |
| Vilnius Seminary | 15 |
| A Photo Review of ATL -<i>Robert Boris</i> | 16 |
| Summer in Lithuania - <i>Anne Dauper Raspey</i> | 18 |
| Lithuanian Gardener - <i>Frank Petrauskas</i> | 20 |
| Juniors - <i>Maria Deksnis</i> | 22 |
| Lithuanian Chefs | 23 |
| ATL Donations | 24 |
| District and Council News | 27 |
| On the Calendar | 36 |
| Smiles Without Wrinkles | 21 |



Cover Photo - "Monumental Lithuania-Kretinga" 1993 from a photo collection by Vincent Boris. This monument, erected in the town square originally in 1928 as a tribute to independence, was destroyed in 1948 by the Bolsheviks and restored by the government in 1990.

To My Fellow Knights:

One of the Lithuanian holidays passed on to the Christian calendar is Vėlinės now known as All Souls Day. A special sacred rite was performed with specially selected animals slaughtered and served either at home or at a gathering at the cemetery. The eldest member of the household would verbally name those "souls of the dead they wished to remember" and invite them to partake of the meal. After a time, household members would begin the meal.

The custom of honoring one's ancestors is still practiced in Lithuania and in other countries around the world. It was done so that the living would not forget them nor their accomplishments. This remembrance is extremely important as we look to a new century, as Oscar Wilde once said, "One's past is what one is." This issue is dedicated to our Knights who have passed on, leaving us with the memories of their personalities and accomplishments, and being grateful that their legacies help us to continue to understand who we are, and provide wonderful examples.

Our Knights and readers have been quite active during this past summer, and besides the district and council section, a number of stories highlight these recent events, such as the Darius and Girenas Commemoration at Floyd Bennet Field, the reopening of St. Casimir's church in Amsterdam and a young reader's and photographer's viewpoint of the Song and Dance Festival in Lithuania. Enjoy the issue and let us know what's happening in your Lithuanian community. Have a beautiful and bountiful Thanksgiving.



Letters to the editor

Ačiū, Ačiū, Ačiū...

To the Vyciai,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$1,000 on behalf of Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc. during the 85th National Convention.

Truly, there are no words to adequately thank you. Be assured the children will thank you and the good Lord will bless you.

Gratefully,
Sr. Helen Ivanauskas, CJC
LCR, Inc.
261 Thatcher St.
Brockton, MA 02402

(Note to Sophie Nieminski of Oak Lawn, IL:

This is the same Sr. Helen who collects cancelled stamps.)

Scholarship Thanks

Dearest members of the Knights of Lithuania,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest thanks and gratitude to all of you for

awarding me the Alice Karklius Memorial Scholarship. I would like to thank especially my parents Robert and Arlene Gulas, my grandparents Alice and Steve Wilcinskas, my aunt Barbara Schmidt, and the leader of our K. of L. chapter, Clem Miller.

Without the help and guidance of these very special people, I never would have gained the knowledge I now hold so dear of my Lithuanian heritage and culture. I am currently standing at the crossroads of my life. All of my future lies bright and shining ahead of me, and I promise you that no matter where this path leads me, the Knights of Lithuania will be joining me on my journey. I cannot thank you enough for this great honor; I can only meet it with my relentless efforts to do well in all my pursuits and to be the best person I can be. Thank you all so very much.

Love Always,
Bonnie Electra Gulas
Yale University

Dear Knights of Lithuania,

I am extremely grateful to the Knight of Lithuania for the scholarship they have awarded to me. As one who

is proud of her Lithuanian heritage, it is difficult to express the significance this honor has for me. I would also like to thank Sr. Angela of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified whose enthusiasm sparked an interest of Lithuanian customs for so many people of the Anthracite region. The award will help to enable me to continue my studies in Biology and History at Washington and Jefferson College. I look forward to maintaining my interest in Lithuania and her remarkable culture as a member of the Knights, Council 144.

Sincerely yours,
Victoria R. Domalakes



For God and Country...

1st Sgt Susanne (McDonald) Abbott retired July, 1 1998 after 24 years of service in the U.S. Army, Ft. Jackson, SC. She is a member of C-144, Anthracite, PA
(photo with Mom and Dad, Thomas and Anna Helen McDonald)

Wants More Lithuanian Phrases

Dear Editor:

I am receiving my subscription to VYTIS, and wish I had been a subscriber long ago.

I'd like to suggest an idea. A block or a few lines in Lithuanian with the English translation that could help those who want to learn Lithuanian as well as refresh the memories of some old timers.

Thanks.

Mrs. J. R. Chepega, Trenton, NJ

(Ed. Note: We'll try and accommodate you. Anyone have some interesting phrases to send in?)

To the Editor and K. of L. Members:

As I wasn't able to attend the National Convention to receive the scholarship award and offer my thanks in person, I would like to detail my appreciation here. I am very honored to be one of the privileged recipients of a Knights of Lithuania scholarship. Thank you for acknowledging me and my accomplishments with this very generous award. As all of you know, to be entirely self-sufficient while striving to attain an advanced degree is definitely a large challenge. Thus, I am extremely appreciative of this assistance as it will greatly aid in my efforts to realize my goal of a doctorate in Organizational Behavior. In the future when I am able, I look forward to supporting the Knights in their efforts to help their forthcoming generations of students.

Again, thanks for your support.

Sincerely,
Jeff Balesh

Here's a Project for the Next Generation...

Did you Know? The Internet Search engine *Alta Vista* contains a handy feature as one searches the vast World Wide Web for information on Lithuania (or other topics)...they tell you when the website was last updated, so one looking for current data can fine tune their search.

The internet contain loads of interesting information about Lithuania, from travel to the arts to even language lessons in Lithuanian. Our Knights of Lithuania has its own website, as do several councils.

Editors are looking for a VYTIS website editor, who will search the web for a "Lithuanian Site of the Month" and write a few paragraphs about it which on why it is of interest to webbrowsers. Your copy can be sent or emailed to the editor. If you or someone you know enjoys the Internet and their Lithuanian heritage, let us know.

Honoring those who have gone before us...

VOICES FROM THE PAST

Earlier this year, your editors received the following letter from HM Al Wesej of C-109 Great Neck, NY:

Dear Editor, Marytė Abbott

Having moved recently I had a lot of research to do into my papers and files.

I came across this correspondence I had with Joe Boley and the letters and poetry he had in his possession from Mykolas Norkūnas our K. of L. Founder. Among which is a copy of a telegram from Phyllis Grendal in April 1951 announcing the death of Mykolas Norkūnas.

Instead of sending it to the Archives, I thought you might select a poem or two or whatever for the "Vytis" and whatever is left you can return and I will sent (or take personally) to the Archives. Thank you for your concern.

*Sincerely,
Al Wesej*

The letter from Joe Boley to Al Wesej written on July 2 (the year unknown).

Mielas Al,

Nesidžiaugiau gavęs žinią, kad ruošiesi pakalbėti apie mūsų brangųjį Mykolą. Siunčiu tau visą pas mane esamą medžiagą, kuria gali panaudoti sulyg savo nuožiūros.

(Joe Boley in 1988 sent Al Wesej materials which he received from the K. of L. founder Mykolas Norkūnas. We would like to share some of it with you).

Norkūnas wrote to Joe:

Before the 1947 convention the Chicago district decided to pay the K. of L. founder the traveling expenses for his traveling to the convention. Seventy five dollars was collected. At the convention it was decided that all further convention expenses for the conventions was paid. In August, 1948 Norkūnas thanked the then Supreme Council president for the money to the Detroit convention. "Jau iš dalies ruošiuos neatsižvelgiant ir į sveikatą taipgi ir pakvietimą, kadangi suprantu jog seime jokios naudos negaliu suteikti, bet kad nors pasidžiaugti..."

Among the thirty or so poems, here are a few we would like to share with you. The Lithuanian grammar is not perfect but the thoughts are beautiful. He signs his poetry *Artojėlis - The Plowman*.

Our thanks to HM Al Wesej for this precious packet. It will be a valuable addition to the K. of L. Archives.

No. 30 MIALIES SVAJONES

"Thoughts of Love" He is speaking about his sweetheart and longing to see her. Written 50 years ago.

Pre taves laimingas, nejaučiu kančiu.

Mūsų ateitis, žadėjo daug vilčių.

Pre tavies jaučiose didvyris, galingas.

Del tavo širdiales noriu but karingas.

Malonu man vaikščioti žaliu takialiu,

Po ažarieli plaukioti baltu laiveliu.

Belaukiant taves pro beržynielio.

Su tavim dainuojant pre pušynielio.

Mieilies liepsniale diaga krutinei,

Kaip tu ateini su draugiem pirmutine.

Vaidas mano kaip byjunas pražista,
Miaile ugninga i širdi sugriešta.

Su tavim laikas dingsta svaonių dumi,
Pre tavis jaučios kaip dangiškam rumi,
Tavo krutine pilna laimės pagyrta,
Tik tau vienai mano širdis skyrta.

Artojėlis
Rugsejo 13. 1948, Kielionei - M. A. Norkunas

No. 31. NASLIO DEJONES

Laments of a widower. Mykolas expresses his loneliness. It is interesting that in the title the author uses the word našlio - widower and in the poet itself našlaitis - orphan. You decide which is correct.

Oi aš vargšas našlaitelis,
Žengiu taku skausmo,
Kaip atskyrto balandelio,

The Great Immigrant Wall of Honor

by Florence Morkus, C-7

Lithuanian generations: Christine, Florence and Carol point to Joseph and Anna Pliauguite Litevinas names engraved on the "Great Honor Wall" of immigrants at Ellis Island, NY. Photo by granddaughter, Jessica.

Recently my daughters, Christine, Carol and granddaughter, Jessica and I met in New York to visit Ellis Island. There, we found the American Immigrant Wall of Honor where my parents names were engraved, Joseph and Anna Pliauguite Litevinas. They had emigrated from Sakiai and Alytus, Lithuania in the early 1900's. In fact, World War I was declared while my mother was on the ship and since they were closer to America, they were allowed to complete their long journey.

To see the Honor Wall with my daughter and granddaughter together for the first time was a great joy of accomplishment. If we don't keep their names alive, who will?

Later, we celebrated with dinner at the famous "Tavern on the Green" restaurant followed by a horse and buggy ride around Central Park. We saw the Lithuanian flag with all the flags of the world around Rockefeller Center and nearby we visited St. Patrick's Cathedral to thank God for the memorable opportunity and lovely weather on the days we were in New York City.

Blaškos širdis jau bejausmo.

Gilias akis rasa vilgo,
Nera kam paguosti,
Gyvenimas jau pailgo,
Vienatvei varguos.

Kur as eisiu, kas duris atviars,
Ir miailu žodeli ištars,
Kas mano rankiali suspaus,
Ir pre jausmingos širdiales priglaus.

Kada dangiškas Tevialis pašauks,
Išduot atskata darbu,
Kas mano akiu vuokus uspaus,
Ir užklos danksti vargus.

Artojėlis
Rugsėjo 13, 1948 m., Kielionei - M. A. Norkūnas



Events

A Historic Flight is **REMEMBERED**

During the early morning hours of July 15, 1933,

Steponas (Stephen) Darius and Stasys (Stanley) Girenas, two Lithuanian-born pilots, gently lifted their airplane LITUANICA off the runway at Floyd Bennett Field in New York and headed east towards the land of their birth. Tragedy, unfortunately, ended the planned non-stop flight the next day when extremely bad weather caused LITUANICA to crash in a forest in what was once a part of Germany, approximately four hours of flying time from their destination, Kaunas.

To commemorate the 65th anniversary of that memorable flight, Lithuanian-Americans from the greater New York City area gathered at Floyd Bennett Field on June 27th to pay homage to these gallant men. The program was jointly sponsored by the Knights of Lithuania, Council 110 of Maspeth, and the Lithuanian-American Community of the District of New York.

The event was held outside, a short walk from the entrance of what is now called the Ryan Visitor Center. At one time the building served as a passenger terminal with an operational control tower. It is now in the process of being converted into a museum of aviation history. It was here that I learned the location of Hangar 7, where LITUANICA and the WINNIE MAE, the airplane of the well known aviator Wiley Post, were kept while preparations were made for the flight.

Among the distinguished guests who attended, and spoke about the feat of Darius and Girenas, were Bishop Paulius Baltakis, Judge Frederick Schmidt, and Father Ted Rooney, pastor of Transfiguration Parish in Maspeth.

During the intermission, I wandered off to find what was once Hangar 7. No longer is it possible to identify it as it once looked. The number is no longer

by Ed Barnauskas

there, and the big bold letters: CITY OF NEW YORK MUNICIPAL AIR-

PORT, FLOYD BENNETT FIELD, are gone, too. I was saddened to see how much it is neglected. There are many broken windows, and the hangar appears to be a relic of the past, a victim of the changing times. I wanted to go inside, but a security guard apparently followed me and would not permit me to do so. Perhaps I may be too sentimental, but I felt that this was sacred ground because it was here that Darius and Girenas walked about. After the intermission, the entertainment portion of the program followed.

Angela Kiausas sang several songs, both in Lithuanian and English. A resident of New Jersey, she is a member of the Garden State Opera Company. Her beautiful voice has been heard at many Lithuanian events in the New York City area.

St. Casimir's Folk Dance Group, under the direction of Joan Rimkunas, performed several Lithuanian dance numbers and were enthusiastically received by all. They came by chartered bus from Amsterdam in upstate New York.

The members of Council 110 must be praised for coordinating such a memorable program. It was a team effort, and could not have been possible without everyone's help. Bruno Rutkunas, C-110's able president, did a superb job as Master of Ceremonies. Mention must be made of the part played by Helen Matulionis, Connie Nehwandowich, and Ann Morrissey who must have sweltered in their Lithuanian national dresses. The organizing committee provided food and refreshments, and this brought back memories of the picnics I enjoyed in the years gone by.

Darius and Girenas, wherever they may be, must have looked down at us with a smile knowing they were still being remembered even after the passing of more than six decades.





A BRIEF HISTORY OF A LEGENDARY AIRPORT

Work on the construction of the field was started in 1928 and completed in 1931, and was hailed as one of the best and most modern airports in the country.

It was named to honor a one-time resident of Brooklyn, Navy Warrant Officer Floyd Bennett, who piloted the explorer Admiral Richard E. Byrd on the first successful flight over the North Pole on May 9, 1926. For this feat, both received the Congressional Medal of Honor. Bennett lost his life in 1928, at the age of 37, on a mission to rescue two German transatlantic flyers downed in Labrador.

During its period of greatness, Floyd Bennett Field was the take-off point for many famous fliers, such as Wiley Post, Howard Hughes and Amelia Earhart. Contrary to what some may have thought, Charles Lindbergh flew from Roosevelt Field, Long Island when he made the first non-stop New York to Paris flight in April of 1927.

The first to take advantage of the field's long runways were Russell Boardman and John Polando, who flew a heavily loaded Bellanca airplane (somewhat similar to LITUANICA) more than 5,000 miles non-stop to Istanbul, Turkey on July 28, 1931.

The U.S. Navy took over the field in May, 1941 and all private and commercial flying was discontinued. The field was very active during World War II.

In 1971, the field was turned over to the Interior Department and was combined with several other shoreline properties in the greater New York City area to become the Gateway National Recreation Area, a part of the nation's first urban park.

All that remains of what was once a bustling airport are the abandoned hangars that housed so many of the record-breaking aircraft. There is not enough money to maintain all of the original structures. The New York City Police Aviation Unit is all that is left flying at the field, and they are restricted to helicopters.

Most of the airport is now being used for recreational activities. People come to the park for concerts, ethnic festivals, or merely to picnic. The National Park Service would like to preserve the field's aviation heritage. Various types of aircraft that once flew from here are being accepted, and put on display to let future generations know more about what was at Floyd Bennett. Perhaps someday there will be an air museum at this legendary airport.



Pictured are (top) C-110 organizers, members and planners of the event; (left) opero soloist Angela Kiausas; (below) Dalia Bulvicius with Helen Venis, who actually flew with the pilots Darius and Girenas as a part of an effort to raise money for their flight, George Billice displays photos of pilots; and (bottom); historic hangar seven, where the pilots housed the Lituania prior to its flight.



A Glorious Return to St. Casimir's

by Mirga Bablin
Pres. C-100, Amsterdam

After the long two years of closure of St. Casimir's in Amsterdam, due to structural defects, we finally went home at last. Opening day Mass was held on Sept. 13, an event unsurpassed in celebration, elegance and just plain class. Attendance was close to a thousand, including parishioners, friends and visiting clergy. Organist William Ossenfort conducted the combined choirs of St. Casimir's, St. John the Baptist, Mount Carmel, St. Stanislaus, St. Mary's and St. Stephen's churches. It was indeed a magnificent, fitting tribute to all who planned it.

Holy Mass was scheduled for 11 a.m., and thus we arrived a hour early anticipating good parking and choice seating. Much to our dismay, parking lots and streets were filled to capacity. Lined at the church entrance were the impressive Knights of Columbus, resplendent in their full regalia, awaiting to escort Bishop Howard Hubbard upon his arrival. All attendees were given a beautifully embossed card and program; for the ladies the special addition of a lovely red rose.

The Highland Brass Quintet of West Point, NY, provided the musical background for the entrance procession of main celebrants, Bishop Hubbard of the Albany Diocese, Father Stanley Swierzowski, Pastor and Father Joseph Grabys, Pastor Emeritus and visiting



clergy.

The church resounded in triumphant song, reflecting the theme "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad." Music and song echoed throughout as never before in our beautiful church, especially with the great, exhilarating Mozart's "Alleluja", prior to the Homily.

The majestic main altar based in glory with its newly painted decor, including the restored statues of our patron St. Casimir and the two magnificent adjoining angels. This imposing edifice, built by the hands of our immigrant forefathers, once proudly hosted Antanas Smetona, the first president of Lithuania and

Blessed George Matulaitis in the mid 1920's and '30's. These two events alone were indeed a claim to fame.

Karl Andrzejczyk, who led the Restoration Committee, was both eloquent and articulate in his introductions. We owe much to this wonderful parishioner and his group who worked tirelessly to reach this goal. It was an arduous two years of determination, persistence and prayer. During one of our choir rehearsals, prior to the reopening gala, I saw Karl and Jerry Drenzek, folding cover cloths of the renewed statues on the main altar. They and many parishioners worked tirelessly to complete the details before our great reopening. Amsterdam's Mayor John Duchessi was outstanding in his speech as expressed the wonder of the occasion.

By far the most eloquent and heartfelt message to the parishioners and attendees was that delivered by



The statue of St. Casimir is restored to its place on the altar. As part of the renovations, workers had to remove statues, refurbish them and then lift them to their places high above the main altar. -photos by Marie Gavry

Bishop Hubbard. His homily was sincere, moving and from the heart, one of the best I've ever heard. I made it a point to let him know after the service. He was truly shepherd of his flock as he spoke to us that day. Both he and Father Stan, our new Pastor, were greeted with standing ovations by the attendees.

Another stirring highlight was the wonderful rendition of the Lithuanian hymn, "Maria, Maria" at post Communion. Thanks to the English translation by Rev. Lawrence Decker, dedicated to our choirmaster, Billie Ossenfort, one stanza was sung in English and

another in Lithuanian to the delight of all.

Our closing hymn, "How Great Thou Art" could not have been more appropriate, mainly in its message of gratitude to the Creator for this miracle. And thus it was as we gazed down from the choir loft at St. Casimir's church and knew we were home at last!

"O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands have made Then sing my soul, my savior God to Thee; How great Thou art - How great Thou art."

Prayer to St. Casimir, patron Saint of Lithuania and the Knights of Lithuania

" Saint for all ages and for today, your chosen life style was blessed by God.
Be our guide in living a fuller life for God and Country.
Inspire us, to imitate your love for God, Your compassion for the poor and suffering,
Your practice and love for prayer, Your self discipline and chastity,
Your devotion to Mary, the Mother of God.
Protector of Lithuania, defend all your people from the errors and evils of our times.
May we be as you were: courageous and persevering day by day in living a fuller life
of Faith and Love and Service that Christ Our Lord asks of us. Amen."

-Fr. Anthony Jurgelaitis, O.P.

Lithuanians in the NEWS

Like Ships Passing ... The Republic of Lithuania Naval Vessel - Vetra

The Bicentennial celebration for the oldest commissioned US naval vessel, the U.S.S. Constitution, took place on July 23-26 in Boston harbor. Organizers of the event invited warships from around the world, Lithuania among them, with their ship Vetra, a training vessel with a crew of 32 officers and sailors.

Their journey across the Atlantic and participation in the bicentennial celebration was a historic event for Lithuania, as it was the first ever Lithuanian ship to visit the United States. The naval commander in chief, Admiral Baltuska, expressed his hope that many Lithuanian-Americans would be on hand to join the Lithuanian sailors and officers. On July 24th, a reception for the crew of the Vetra together with Admiral Baltuska and Ambassador Sakalauskas was held at the Lithuanian Club in South Boston.

Entertainment was provided by the Boston Men's Sekstet and Sodauto Ethnographic Ensemble. The Vetra was also open for visitors at the Black Falcon terminal in South Boston.

-Submitted by Stephen V. Walinsky, Sr., C-26 Worcester

Maryland National Guard Plays Role in Lithuanian NATO Exercises

At a Klaipeda observation post, a platoon of infantry from the Maryland National Guard was besieged by a ragtag band of angry Lithuanians.

Sgt. Jason Combs stood in front of a barbed wire barrier and told the advancing protesters to disperse. "Just leave us alone - go home," he ordered.

"No, it's our country-you go home," came the indignant reply.



The sound of gunfire erupted from a tree line a quarter-mile away and the Lithuanians took advantage of the confusion to break into the American post. When the dust cleared, the intruders had been subdued and Combs was on the ground, sitting on the back of one of the group's ringleaders.

Just as important as the outcome of the skirmish, the Maryland platoon had held its fire, discipline that had earned praise from a Lithuanian army officer who emerged from

nowhere moments later to critique the unit's performance.

It was all a part of the Baltic Challenge 98, the largest NATO exercise ever held in the Baltic region, and one in which the Maryland National Guard is playing a large role. The two week exercise held in July simulated a scenario in which an international force is inserted to restore order and provide humanitarian assistance after a "devastating earthquake".

For the Marylanders, the peacekeeping training is more than theoretical, coming at a time when National Guard units are increasingly called on to serve in real-world missions because of cuts in active duty forces. One third of the 2,100 U.S. military personnel participating came from the Maryland unit. Maryland's heavy involvement in the NATO exercise stems in part from the state's active participation in the alliance's Partnership for Peace program, established in 1994.

A few miles offshore, the Baltimore-based U.S. Navy hospital ship, Comfort, was in the Baltic Sea carrying more than 700 doctors, nurses and support personnel, primarily from the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. The Comfort was one of the star attractions of the exercise and was toured by Baltic dignitaries, soldiers and media. The ship stands 10 stories high and is believed to be the largest military ship to move through the Baltic Sea since the German battleship, Tirpitz during World War II. With 1,000 beds and 12

operating rooms, it is one of the largest U.S. trauma facilities on land or sea.

The ship was back in Baltimore in mid August. The Comfort scored additional points in Lithuania by admitting a 13 year old boy, Vidmantas Tvardauskiene, who was suffering from a brain tumor. Using the ship's telemedicine capabilities, doctors in Bethesda were able to review imagery from tests and CAT scans done on the boy, who consequently had undergone successful surgery and is now back with his parents.

Some of the participants have a personal connection with Lithuania. Al Grintalis, of Colombia was raised by Lithuanian parents in Baltimore. Six years ago, on a visit to Lithuania, he met a Lithuanian woman whom he later married. Upon his return to Lithuania, he acted as the group's interpreter and "tour guide".

-Submitted by Joe Chaplick, C-142, From the Washington Post, 7/22/98 and 8/20/98 by Steve Vogel

Only Memories Left at the Old School

The nearly 100 year old St. Casimir School building in Shenandoah, PA was demolished this past summer, according to a Pottsville Republican Herald story dated August 1-2. The demolition which took over three weeks to complete was a reality that many of the local graduates did not want to confront. The building had been unused since 1990-91, when the parochial elementary school consolidation took place in Shenandoah. St. Casimir's was considered a candidate to house the combined faculty, but it was decided it was not possible to bring the old wooden structure up to modern standards. At one time, in 1935, St. Casimir's graduated 89 students, classes had two sections and the parish had four priests.

St. Casimir School's cement foundation read "1898" and in its first year graduated eight 8th grade students, all of whom went on to post graduate studies and later becoming priests, nuns, nurses, engineers, teachers and others. One of its more famous graduates was Fr. Walter Ciszek who became an Eastern Rite Jesuit priest and later spent 23 years detained and imprisoned in the former Soviet Union. He was released and brought back to the U.S. in 1963, returned to St. Casimir's to offer a special mass of thanksgiving. Now deceased, he is being considered for sainthood.

Another old schoolhouse, the Kasha School, built in 1915, is now the home of Thomas F. McDonald, one of its former students.

\$100 Million Secret Kept for 13 Years

Lithuanian archeologists waited 13 years before revealing discovered treasures worth more than \$100 million in the Vilnius Cathedral. The goods include hundreds of jewels, goblets and church artifacts dating back to the 16th century. Workers had discovered the cache in 1985, while they installing air conditioning in the cathedral. Archeologists were then brought in to explore further and found the rest.

"We were searching with ultrasound equipment and suddenly the sound changed," said Romualdas Budrys, Director of the Lithuanian Museum of Art. "So, we broke one brick wall and were blinded by the shining of gold."

At the time, they informed the Ministry of Culture about the find, but vowed not to tell the Soviet authorities, fearing confiscation. He did not say why they waited nearly seven years after independence, but archeologists believe the treasure was hidden in 1655 when Russian troops stormed Vilnius, which was then a part of the Lithuanian-Polish union.

Plans to exhibit the treasures will be made later this year.

*-Submitted by Stella Elliot, C-110
From an Associated Press article 8/98*

Lithuania Lifts Pardons

Twenty-two Lithuanians have been stripped of pardons for Soviet-era criminal convictions after Israel produced evidence they may have helped murder Jews during WWII, officials said July 28.

Some 50,000 people convicted of crimes against the Soviet state were officially rehabilitated in 1990 as Lithuania moved toward independence from the former Soviet Union.

But Israel later submitted to the Lithuanian authorities a list of some 100 people among those pardoned who it feared had taken part in the murder of Jews or otherwise collaborated with Nazi forces. *-From the Stars and Stripes 8/17/98*

Editor's Note to those who submit articles for this column: Please include the name & date of the publication for proper credit, otherwise we can't print it. Thanks. (continued on Page 26)

More convention Highlights



Memorable Moments of Waterbury...(top left) Arlene and Joe Sticklius share in a new membership award;(top r.) Msgr. Al Bartkus happily receives a healthy check from the St. Casimir Guild, presented by its President Anna K. Wargo; (bottom l.) Chicago delegates attend convention opening flagraising ceremonies; and (bottom r.) everyone loved Tommy, the 5 yr. old adopted Lithuanian boy who had undergone major surgery for massive burns shown with family and friends at the convention banquet.



K of L Foundation Essay Contest

Language -- an Important Part of Culture

Third Prize Winner

Julia Malinauskas Lott

C-152, E. Long Island, NY

There be at least a million Americans with Lithuanian Ancestry in this country. Like myself, we are all very proud of our heritage. Our Ancestors brought back with them many Lithuanian cultures and customs which we as their descendants and extended families like the Knights must keep alive.

What I believe we should do as families and Knights, is to keep the language and our ethnic traditions in practice.

Too many of us, after the passing away of our parents do not speak the language enough. Oh yes! We do throw out a word or a phrase at our Lithuanian gatherings and at the K of L meetings, but there are many of us who can't even do that.

In our council we do have a very dedicated member whom we elected to give us "Lithuanian Language Lessons" at the beginning of the meetings. Not only are they fun but we also do learn and are very appreciative of our "teacher". I often take notice how eager our members are to hear these Lithuanians that can talk about so many different topics and cultures. So if we can pick up where our parents let off, we would be more apt to understand the meaning of the words and all the articles that are written about our Lithuanian heritage. But first we must be able to speak the language which I believe is one of the oldest languages of the world. How soon we forget if we don't keep up what we have learned as children. Growing up we never

spoke anything but Lithuanian, now I'm sorry I didn't ask more questions of our heritage and cultures of the father-land. Back then I think we "the children" tried to teach our parents the English language.

How nice it would be if I could understand our visitors from Lithuania when they attend a meeting as guests. And how nice it would be to be able to answer their questions. I think I understood more as a child than I do today. That's because we didn't keep in touch until our council was formed. So that is why I think our council should continue to have sessions. Language is a culture that will forever keep us American Lithuanians much more informed and educated about many other aspects of Lithuania. It is only after so many years of Soviet suppression that we can freely communicate with our relatives and friends there. But we still need the knowledge of the language to do so.

So I say to our Knights and all other councils that have members who would like to understand what TRUE LITHUANIANS are talking about. Get the lessons going so that our children and grandchildren can learn from us. They are the ones who will be needed to keep the K of L councils going. Let's invite them to our meetings and ask them to volunteer at holiday gatherings. Let us learn the LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE AGAIN!



Welcome New Members:

Rev. Rimandas Gudelis, C-112, Chicago

Francesca Zasauskas, C-16, Chicago

Mary Foltz, C-86, DuBois, PA

Sofija Plenys, C-112, Chicago

Vanda Kaunas, C-112, Chicago

Eleanor Balsis, C-144, Anthracite, PA

In Memoriam



IGNI WALLEES

*"In Song And Smile
I Gave You My Heart
Toward Freedom I Fought
For Liberty And Justice
To Prevail And Preserve
For God And Country
I Served"*

K. of L. members (Council 110) are deeply saddened by the untimely death of our fellow knight, IGNI WALLEES. A knight in shining armor always carrying two flags, born in the U.S. grew up in Lithuania, returned to U.S., and served in the U.S. Army overseas as a platoon Sargent, decorated with battle ribbons and medals, proud of his heritage, and his deep love for the United States of America. Igni worked for Pfizer Co. 38 years, always attracting many people with his continuous magnetic smile and energetic ambitions, constantly caring and sharing in dual capacities as a choir member and cantor in St. Vincent De Paul Church, Elmont, L.I., and also being a choir member in the Lithuanian Church Of The Transfiguration, Maspeth, N.Y. Igni Walles was extremely active in the Lithuanian American community, receiving his 4th degree in the Kof L, joining the American Legion and participating in freedom demonstrations for Lithuania in Washington, D.C. and New York City. He also sang with the "Perkunas Mens Group", performing all over the U.S. and Canada. Igni and Evelyn Walles celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary, September 6th, 1997. Igni is survived by his loving wife, Evelyn, Daughter Ellen Nelson, two sons Kenneth and John, also four grandchildren. His song and smile will be missed by all.

- by Joe Thomas

EUGENE RUSATSKY

Eugene E. Rusatsky, of Knights of Lithuania Council 146, Harrisburg, PA 7 James St., Middletown, died Friday in August 7 at Harrisburg Hospital. He was 67 years old and had been a quality control supervisor with the Naval Inventory Control Point, Hampden Twp.; an Army veteran of the Korean War; and member of Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, Middletown, Highspire VFW Post 8638,

Middletown American Legion Post 594, Mechanicsburg Disabled American Veterans and Purple Heart Association.

Surviving are his wife, Eleanor Rusatsky; a son, Gene Jr. of Mechanicsburg, a daughter, Lorretta Rusatsky of Kentucky; a brother, five sisters, and a grandson. Memorial contributions may be made to his church, 280 N. Race St., Middletown 17057.

- by Joanna Gribert,
C-146 President

REV. ANTHONY MICIUNAS, MIC.

*Spiritual Advisor, C-36, Brighton Park, Chicago
Sept 22, 1998*

A great loss to Council 36, Fr. Miciunas, 82, had been a Marian Father for 58 years and a former Director for Draugas Lithuanian Catholic Daily Newspaper. He was born in Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood and was ordained a priest on May 26, 1940.

He is survived by two brothers, Adolf and Frank and a sister, Sophie, as well as many nieces and nephews and the Brothers and Priests in his order. He had requested that in lieu of flowers, a donation be made to Draugas.

-by Mary Kincius



Frank Yuskevich, C-110 Maspeth, NY Sept. 21, 1998

Tina Shatas, C-10, Athol-Gardner,
Sept 1, 1998 (age 94)

Ignatius Hobitz, C-78, Lawrence, MA 8/23/98
Stanley Dallalis, C-27, Norwood, MA 7/4/98
(K of L'er for 50 years)

Margaret Brazaitis, C-29, Newark, NJ 9/9/98
Albert Dagis, C-112, Chicago, 8/27/98

*Amžina atilsį duok
mirusiems Viešpatie ir amžinoji
šviesa tegu jiems šviečia,
Amen*

New ATL Project Focus

THE VILNIUS SEMINARY



The newly built St. Joseph's Seminary in Vilnius that presently houses 70 seminarians studying with 25 new candidates this Fall.

The Vilnius Seminary was established in 1582. Jurgis Radvilas, Bishop of Vilnius in compliance with the decisions of the Council of Trent, on January 11, 1582 signed the document establishing the Vilnius Diocesan Seminary and designated the Vogėliškes estate for its support.

The Seminary was closed 1654-1661 due to the Russian invasion and re-opened in 1722. In 1795, when Russia occupied Lithuania, the seminary was relocated to the Carmelite monastery near the church of St. George. Among the seminary's notable alumni are: Bishops J. Kukta, M. Reinys and J. Steponavičius. M. Valančius was sent to study at the Vilnius Seminary from Varniai. He graduated from the Vilnius Seminary in 1828 and was ordained in the Vilnius Cathedral.

During the First World War the Vilnius Seminary was closed. It was reopened again in 1920, when Poland occupied the Eastern part of Lithuania, including Vilnius. On March 3, 1942 Germany's security forces closed the seminary. On September 12, 1942 Archbishop Reinys managed to re-open it for a short time in February of 1945 the Soviet

government closed it again.

In 1993, after a period of almost 50 years, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Vilnius Audrys Juozas Bačkis reopened the Vilnius Seminary. Temporarily it has been housed in the former Trinitorių Monastery, which had been previously used by soviet army. Studies in Seminary takes 6 years: two years of philosophy followed by four years of theology. Currently there are four classes in the Vilnius Seminary, totaling 42 seminarians. One seminarian has been sent for studies in Rome, and another in Paris.

It is foreseen that the first graduating class from the newly reopened Vilnius Seminary will be ordained in 1999. Unfortunately, the current seminary facilities are too small for even the current number of seminarians, as they share limited living space. Unfortunately, the current seminary facilities are too small for even the current number of seminarians, as they share limited living space. The Archbishop of Vilnius has decided to build a new Seminary which in the future will become a metropolitan seminary. It will prepare priests not only for the Archdiocese of Vilnius, but also for the dioceses of Panevėžys and Kaišiadorys.



Our Humanitarian Aid At Work...

A Photo Review of K.of L.'s

They say pictures are worth a thousand words, and in this case the adage is certainly true. When one travels to Lithuania as Bob Boris, President of Aid to Lithuania did this past summer, one realizes that the country is not just filled with tourist sites, castles and shops to buy amber. Humanitarian aid is still very much needed.

Photos opposite (top) Paul Bindokas, of the Lithuanian Ministry of Health with Deacon Balys Stankus unload ATL's 62nd container, provided by Catholic Medical Mission Board on July 17. (middle) Day care center Caritas Vilnius which feeds 120 orphans and children from dysfunctional families daily. (bottom) A few of the children adopted and living in the rectory with 92 yr. old pastor, Fr. Juozas Gumauskas in Rumbonys near Alytaus. Fr. Leonas Jakimavičius (in the background) assists here along with his parish duties in Alytaus. (opposite page, top) Summer camp for inner-city children in Rumbonys. Seminarians and nuns care for underprivileged youngsters. (middle, left) In Paparčiai, Pastor Vidas Sejeta with four volunteers, who work with youth from dysfunctional families. (mid-right) Mother Theresa's Sisters in front of their convent in Naujoji Vilnia. Sister Marie John, Superior, standing next to Deacon Balys Stankus has already learned to speak Lithuanian. (bottom) Day care center (All Saints Church in Vilnius) 80 children are provided with a meal, showers, lessons and catechism each day. ATL also has supported the Betanija soup kitchen in Vilnius that feeds 200 seniors and unemployed, since 1993 donating \$16,000 to support this mission.

Photos by Robert S. Boris



Aid to Lithuania



A Personal AccountA Grand
Summer

by Anne Dauper Raspey

For ten days this summer I was privileged to visit Lithuania, the land of my grandparents. My traveling companions were my mother, my aunt and my cousin. Highlights of this trip were meeting 57 relatives all on my mother's side, being able to stay in a cousin's apartment using it as our home base for the length of our stay, taking day trips to Rumšiskes, Kaunas, Trakai, Vilkiškiškes and Keturvalakius, site-seeing and visiting lots of relatives. We took an extended trip as well to Klaipeda, Nida, Nerija and Palanga where we waded in the Baltic Sea. We also had the opportunity to visit Krežiu Kalnas (Hill of Crosses). We planned this vacation in late June-early July in order to experience the Pasaulio Lietuvių Dainų Šventės Programa of which we attended four events.

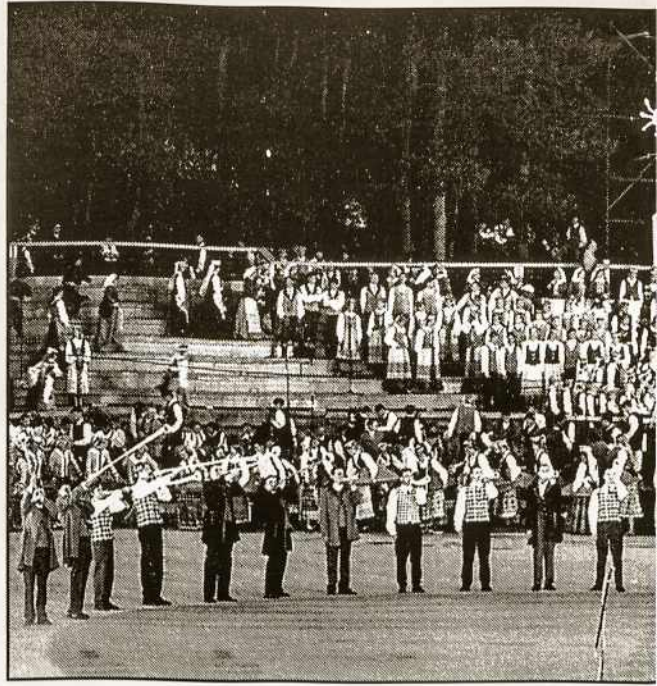


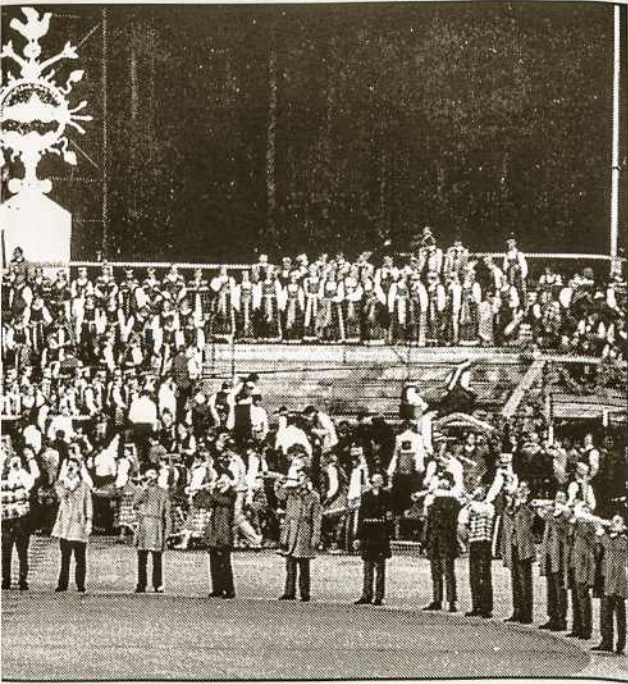
The first event, which took place on July 3rd in old town Vilnius and Sereikiškių Parke was the pre-performance festival. The grounds of this outdoor festival was divided into four separate sections, each representing a part of Lithuania. In each area the Aukštaičiai, Žemaičiai, Suvalkyai and Dzūkai had its own dancers and singers dressed in traditional costumes, craftsmen

selling their wares with food and beverage

stands indicative of the area. I thoroughly enjoyed walking around for hours soaking in all the sights and sounds. We all bought some crafts such as linens, wooden utensils, patchwork potholders, amber jewelry and decorated eggs. Sometimes the dancers encouraged audience members to dance with them. Each of the four areas had its own personality but the alus (beer) and ledai (ice cream) were favorites for what appeared to be just about everybody attending the festival. The next evening we attended the Ansamblių Vakarų Koncertas in Kalnų Parke in Vilnius. This was the first formal presentation of the Dainų Šventė. During this performance the singers, dancers and musicians all performed simultaneously. This performance was so incredibly AWE-

SOME!!! Each performer was dressed in a traditional costume which made the view a prism of color. The setting for the ensemble added to the evenings' ambience.





to be in Lithuania

symbolism of the dance. Many of the young adult female dancers wore crocheted head pieces that fit close to their heads instead of the crown-like head piece that I wore when I danced with the Pittsburgh group, Neris. Every dancer seemed to have perfect timing and placement. Two of my relatives from Lithuania participated in this performance.

Behind the performers tiny white lights flickered in tall dark pine trees. The audience sat on bleachers arranged in tiers on the hillsides rising from the stage. I felt so proud to experience such a grand event in Lithuania. To top off a perfect evening, they had fireworks. The audiences and performers responses to the fireworks were delightful. They cheered, oo'd and ahhh'd at everyone. I never would have believed that on July 4th I would have enjoyed beer, hotdogs and fireworks in Lithuania. The next day we attended the Šokių Dienos Koncertas in Žaigirio Stadione in Vilnius. This dancing concert was held in a soccer stadium and thousands of dancers filled the field. The dancers ranged in age from school aged children to the "mature" adult. They marched in Olympic-style in groups. Each group held a sign designating their country or state (from the US). Australia, Canada, Brazil, United States (Detroit, Wisconsin, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia) and of course Lithuania were among those areas represented. Their costumes were so colorful and the props used whether it was a hay wagon, a stick, wooden shoes straw hats or shawls added to the



The final performance of the festival was held the evening of July 6th in another Vilnius city park, Vingio Parke. The Dainų Koncertas was a performance of songs. The 15,000 singers and musicians were placed, on a huge concrete band shell overlooking the audience who sat on benches or stood on grass in this huge park. The singers sang and swayed for hours. This performance included fireworks and a laser light show. At each show, the performers seemed to

have so much fun, truly enjoying the experience of entertaining which made the experience of watching them even more enjoyable. As we walked out of the park, after one of the evening performances the crowd around us began to sing: "Žemė Lietuvos Ažuolai Žalioja, Ažuolai Žalioja, Žemė Lietuvos"

This simple song remains with me even today. It is loosely translated as... "In the land of Lithuania the oak tree is sprouting new leaves and the oak tree is sprouting new leaves in the land of Lithuania".

The entire experience of visiting Lithuania was spectacular and has left me with many warm memories.

- The author is a VYTIS reader and hand therapist from Ohio.

The Lithuanian Gardener

WINTER FLOWERING BULBS, FAVORITE INDOOR PLANTS AND MORE...



by **HM Frank Petrauskas**

WINTER FLOWERING BULBS

My last article was on flowering bulbs for Spring, Summer and Fall color. Now I would like to complete the cycle and write about flowering bulbs for winter color. It's not a difficult undertaking if you have the necessary materials and the space. All you will need is flower pots — clay pots are the best, decent loam soil, pebbles, peat moss, bone meal or dried manure, hay and bulbs.

If you are using used pots make sure they are washed clean and then dip them into a solution of chlorox and water. New pots soak in water for a short while. When your pots are ready for potting then get your other materials together. Cover the bottom of the clay pot with pebbles or pieces of broken pots to promote good drainage. Next cover them with a layer of sphagnum moss to prevent the soil from sifting down. Now fill the pot with soil to about one half full and place your bulbs in the pot on the soil, then cover the bulbs with more soil to about one inch from the top.



We must allow space for watering. A good rule of thumb for the number of bulbs per pot is as follows: 6 inch pot - 6 tulips or 3 daffodils, 7 inch pot - 9 tulips or 4 daffodils, 8 inch pot - 12 tulips or 5 daffodils, After filling label each pot as to date and variety. Lastly water each pot thoroughly making sure the entire contents are wet.

Now we dig a trench long enough to accommodate all of the pots we planted and wide enough for back filling. The trench should be in a well drained area. Place a couple inches of pebbles or crushed stone in the trench. Set your pots on top of the stone leaving a little

space between pots for back fill purposes. Now cover each pot with an inverted pot of the same size. This is done to prevent rodents from eating your bulbs. Back fill with soil right up to the middle of the inverted pot. Next place a foot or more of leaves or hay or straw and cover with wire mesh. Place a few bricks on the edges of the mesh to hold everything in place.

For those peoples who live in apartments and have no yard space but have a porch or a deck, you also can force bulbs. Follow the same procedure but place your pots in boxes and cover them well with leaves or hay or straw.

Planting in pots can be done from early Fall until December 15. The ideal time is from October 15 to November 1. Set the pots in the ground when the temperature is below 55 degrees. The time in ground for tulips is 10 to 14 weeks. For daffodils it is 8 to 12 weeks and for hyacinths it is 12 weeks.

Once the pots have sat in the ground the required time, you can start bringing a few indoors every week or every 2 weeks. Place them in a cool, well-lighted but sunless place with good humidity for a period of time at 55 degrees minimum and 60 degrees maximum temperature. The pots should be watered moderately during this transitional period, when the bulbs have grown several inches and the buds are showing, bring the pots to a sunny window for further growth.

To estimate blooming dates, tulips will bloom in about 5 weeks if brought in in February and about 4 weeks in March. Daffodils will bloom in about 3 weeks. Hyacinths are about the same as tulips but about a day or two less.

Please do not use the same bulbs for forcing more than once. When they have dried sufficiently plant them in your flower bed. The first year they won't

show much bloom but from the second year on the blooms will be good.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

One of the most popular house plants is African Violets. It is lovely to look at, easy to grow and thrives under a variety of conditions. Success in growing beautiful African violets depends on observing a few simple rules.

The first is propagation. This can be done by means of leaf cuttings, plant divisions, offsets or seeds. The most common method is by leaf cuttings. From a good healthy plant remove a medium sized leaf which has good green color. Take a razor blade and trim off the end of the stem on a slant to about 1 1/2 inches. Lay the cuttings aside for about 30 minutes for the cut ends to heal. To root the cuttings in water fill a glass or some other container full of water. Cover it with a piece of aluminum foil. Punch a hole in the foil and stick the leaf stem through the hole into the water. Place it by a well lighted window but not in the direct sun. It should root in 2-4 weeks.

When the roots are 1/4 to 1/2 inch long the cutting is ready to be planted. A good planting medium is 2/3 peat moss and 1/3 vermiculite moistened well. Press the roots slightly under the surface of the mix and place a small stick by the cutting for support. Do not allow the soil to dry out and do not water heavily. Keep it moist but not wet.

Once the plant has developed a good root system you can transplant it into a larger pot using a peat and soil mix this time. You can begin to fertilize with a soluble fertilizer when the plant begins to bud. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions closely. It is very easy to over fertilize.

African violets can be a beautiful plant to grow if you have the right location. They like light but they cannot take direct sun light. They like a moderate temperature and a moderate humidity.

ODDS AND ENDS

I enjoyed myself at the Waterbury Convention

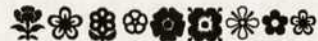
and I enjoyed talking to many people about this column. I was pleasantly surprised that so many people read the column and I want to thank all those peoples who told me they enjoy reading my\ gardening information. I was asked a number of questions and some I'll share with you.

Brother-in-law Paul Moore, C-86 DuBois, asked about the lovely violet-purple wild-flowers growing along the roadway in wet areas. The Latin name is *Lythrum* and the common name is Purple loose-strife. It begins to blossom in early July and is pretty much finished by early September. Another wild flower in bloom at convention time was Black-eyed Susan from the daisy family. Also we saw a lot of Crown Vetch along the highway particularly in Pennsylvania.

Some people wanted more written information on iris, lilies, chrysanthemums and roses. In time we'll cover all of these and much more. Joe Ivaska, C-25 Cleveland, being a typical Lithuanian wants an article on mushrooms, grybis. Myself I'm a kalmuties man, Joe.

I saved the best for last. Ausra "Dawn" Maknys C-3 Philadelphia came up with the idea that I should use the byline of *The Lithuanian Gardener* by Flowering Frank Petrauskas. I told her if I did so I would be laughed right out of the organization.

We don't make any money but we have a lot of fun. It was a good convention. Thanks again to all. Happy gardening.



Smiles without wrinkles

A man knocked at the heavenly gate,
His face was scarred and old.
He stood before the man of fate
For admission to the fold.

"What have you done?" St. Peter asked,
"To gain admission here?"

"I worked at the Knights of Lithuania," he said,
"For many and many a year."

The pearly gates swung open wide;
St. Peter touched the bell.

"Come in and choose your harp," he said
"You've had your share of hell."

Submitted by Paul Zukas, C-27 Norwood

Juniors

Having a Blast at the 85th National Convention

by *Maria Deksnis*
3rd Vice President Juniors

Six Juniors attended the 85th National Convention and enjoyed Waterbury hospitality. Included were Vilija Bizankauskas of C-1, Brockton; Lauren Peterson of C-50, New Haven, Deborah Miller of C-72, Binghamton; Alex and Andrea Deksnis C-112, Chicago and Sean Miller of C-141, Bridgeport.



van. The Juniors made it back just in time for Cultural Night. Debbie Miller and Andrea Deksnis were invited to participate in a dance with the Vetra Dancers.

The Presidential Suite was open for the Juniors' Meeting Saturday morning. They enjoyed a slide presentation of last year's Convention in Dayton, made window decorations of the symbols of

Lithuanian cities and made Lithuanian banners. All of the Juniors gave their reports at the Fifth Plenary Session and were awarded their Conventionship Certificates. Thank you to Maryte Bizankauskas for directing and teaching the Juniors "Suk, Suk, Rateli". After such a fine performance, the Jrs. were off to the pool!

I wish to thank Joe Stiklius, Eric Karpavich and Ann Vaichus for all their help and assistance with the Juniors during the 85th National Convention.

The Juniors enjoyed spending time together and can't wait for next year's convention in Philadelphia.

On Thursday morning, Juniors attended the Flag Raising at City Hall and the Opening Mass at St. Joseph's Church. In the afternoon, the Juniors made a trip to the Mall via Trolley and later enjoyed some time at the pool. The evening was spent at the Get Acquainted Party at the Lithuanian Club.

Friday was a fun-filled day at Lake Compounce—the oldest operating amusement park. The Juniors had a great time on all of the rides and water slides. We had a little trouble finding the van we came in. Thank goodness Joe Stiklius had his Knights of Lithuania sticker on his

Butterflies, Bulls and Bees

Common insects and animals were very important to our superstitious ancestors. The butterfly was an ancient manifestation of the goddess of death in Lithuania, called Morė. Old Europeans sensed the short-lived beauty of life, which was deeply manifested in the life of the butterfly. Some folk beliefs made it a demonic creature.

The bull, on the other hand, was considered a

mystical life-source and according to Lithuanian folklore, where ever a bull stopped, a lake would appear.

According to mythology, among other Lithuanian words that would invoke a lake are Bitinilės (drone, from the word meaning "bee"), Bamblys and Pilvinas (fat drones with a round drumlike stomach), Samanis and Kamanys (masculine forms of "wild bee"), and Avilys ("beehive"). -From *Maria Gimbutas Language of the Goddess, Harper Collins 1991*

LITHUANIAN CHEFS



**Eatery
specializes
in
Lithuanian
dishes**

Thanks to members of C-144 Anthracite, we're featuring these dishes from the Ethnic Eatery, a New Philadelphia, PA restaurant that specializes in Lithuanian dishes.

Opened since last October, the restaurant's owners, Elaine Shevokis McClure and Lynn Zelonis had been friends for over 25 years and grew up in Lithuanian families.

Potato Bologna, bulvine dešros, is a classic delicacy, a mixture a grated potatoes, sauteed bacon and onions inside a casing which is browned to perfection. It's a tough dish to make. "You're not just going to make one ring of this at one time," Elaine Shevokis McClure said. "If you're going to go through all the trouble to make it, then you're going to make at least 10 pounds of potatoes at a time," she said.

When she and Zelonis sit down to make it for their hungry customers, they make 40 pounds of potatoes worth of it and it takes the both of them 12 hours.

"It takes a lot of time to peel the potatoes, to prepare the casings, to cut up the onions and cut up the bacon," she said. McClure said their husbands enjoyed the dish so much, they encouraged the girls to market it.

"However, we didn't think we could make a go of it on potato bologna alone," McClure said. "So

we decided to diversify and make a lot of ethnic foods."

The problem was, two years ago, they didn't know how to make very many. So they turned to their parents and grandparents few recipes.

"We took the best from two families," McClure said.

For instance, McClure said her mother, Ann C. Shevokis of New Philadelphia, showed her how to make red beet soup.

Zetonis said her mother, Betty Wertman of Middleport, taught her how to make dishes like haluski, which is home-made dough sauteed with thinly sliced cabbage in butter, onions and seasoning.

One tip she learned from her mother was how to break up the dough for this dish.

"It's so hard to pick up and work with when it's fresh," Zelonis said. "What you can do is lay it out overnight. Dry it. The next day, you can break it up in the water."

"They finally have taken the cuisine of the area and they're making a go out of it," he said. Although McClure and Zelonis were loathe to divulge their family recipes, they did offer some alternatives for those who would like to try Lithuanian dishes at home:

CROCK PICKLES For one gallon of pickles:

1 gallon pickling cucumbers.
2 cloves garlic, optional.
4 tablespoons salt (non-iodized).
Dill sprigs.

Water to fill gallon jar. Wash cucumbers, cut off both ends.

Mash garlic and place on bottom of glass or earthenware jar. Fill the

jar with cucumbers, putting dill between the cucumbers. Bring water and salt to a boil and cool to room temperature. Pour over pickles in jar and place a dish on top with heavy weight to hold it down. The pickles will become sour by natural fermentation. (Do not add vinegar.) Pickles are ready to eat in three days. After five days, pickles should be placed in refrigerator.

COLD RED BEET SOUP

1 can shoestring beets or 5-6 fresh beets.

2 cucumbers, diced, unpeeled.

Salt and pepper to taste.

1 quart milk

1/2 medium onion, diced

Sprig green dill, chopped fine,

1/2 pint (8 ounces) sour cream.

Stir milk slowly into sour cream

and blend well. Add all other ingredients and serve with hot potatoes. If you want soup colder, add ice cubes.

POTATO BOLOGNA

12 large potatoes

1 tablespoon salt

2 onions

1/2 pound diced bacon or 6

tablespoons margarine

4 eggs

1/2 cup milk

Hog casing (1/2 pound)

Peel and grate potatoes and drain off liquid. Heat milk and pour over potatoes. Fry margarine or bacon with onions and salt. Stir in rest of ingredients and stuff casings. Tie ends with string. Put in greased pan and prick with needle. Bake 325 degrees until golden, or about 1 hour.- *Story from Pottsville, PA Evening Herald 2/22/97*

AID TO LITHUANIA

Donations for the period January 1, 1998 to June 30, 1998

Miss Julia Griska, Pittsburgh, PA \$ 5,000.00

\$250.00 to \$499.00

K of L Council # 96, IHO Mother Theresa's Sisters, Dayton, OH • Kestutis Miskinis, Oak Park, MI

\$100.00 to \$249.00

Rev. Alfonsas Babonas, Detroit, MI • Richard P Baks, Grosse Point, MI • Robert S. Boris, IMO Vincent Boris, Waterford, MI • Mr & Mrs Milton J Drain, Sacramento, CA • K of L Council # 17, S. Boston, MA • K of L Mid Central District • Dr Kastytis Karvelis, IMO Vldas Simutis, Northville, MI • Mr Alfonsas Lukas, Dearborn, MI • Capt Albert Mikutis Jr., Philadelphia, PA • Mr & Mrs A Raubiskis, Chicago IL • Evelyn & Joseph Ribon, Milford, CT • Sister Margaret Louis Rupsis, Nerinx, KY • Regina Sajauskas, IMO Vincent Boris, Ellicott City, MD • John F. Uznis, Dearborn, MI • Mr & Mrs John Zyren, Melvindale, MI

\$50.00 to \$99.00

Gediminas Balanda, Warren, MI • Mr & Mrs Alfred Baran, Stratford, CT • Mr Matas Baukys, IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Dearborn Hgts. MI • Ms Jennie Blanchet, Esmond, RI • Mr & Mrs J Gilvydis, Franklin, MI • Thomas B Griglun, Meriden, CT • Mr & Mrs Guest, Dayton, OH • Mr & Mrs G Jurgutis, Farmington Hills, MI • K of L Council # 112, Chicago, IL • Thomas & Virginia Kanasky, Bridgeport, CT • Len Kapochus, Milmay, NJ • Mr & Mrs S Liaukus, Huntington, CT • Stella Marcinauskis, Shelton, CT • Stella Marcinauskis, IMO Mitch Marcinauskis, Shelton, CT • Mr Andrew Miknis, Kettering, OH • Mrs. Mary Anne Neeley, IMO Vincent Boris, Wilmington, NC • Mrs. Mary Anne Neeley, IMO Ronald Wrona, Wilmington, NC • Mr & Mrs A Raubiskis, Chicago, IL • Eugenija Rukstele, Farmington Hills, MI • Helen Sadlosca, Cranford, NJ • St Peter & Paul's Lith. Holy Name Society, Hazleton, PA • Mr & Mrs J Stunis, IMO Vlade Kassel, Union, NJ • Mr & Mrs N Udrys, Beverly Hills, MI • Elizabeth Zelinskas, Huber Heights, OH

\$25.00 to \$49.00

Mary B Abbott, IMO Vincent Boris, Sunnyside Gardens, NY • Mr & Mrs V Ankus Bloomfield Hills, MI • Peter J. Banion, Rochester, MI • Robert S. Boris, IMO Vlade Kassel, Waterford, MI • Robert S. Boris, IMO Justinas Montvilas, Waterford, MI • Robert S. Boris, IMO Rita Pinkus, Waterford, MI • Bernardas Brizgys, Farmington Hills, MI • Algimantas Bublys, Bloomfield Hills, MI • Mr & Mrs F Bunikis, Panama City Beach, FL • Mr & Mrs. S Geldys, Whitmore Lake, MI • Milly Grigaras, Warren, MI • Mr & Mrs Joseph Janiunas, Stratford, CT • Bertha Janus, Sterling Heights, MI • K of L Council # 79, Southfield, MI, • K of L Council # 96, Dayton, OH • L & D Kapochus, IMO Ponas Montvila, Milmay, NJ • L & D Kapochus, IMO Helen Labadis, Milmay, NJ • Dr & Mrs K Karvelis, Northville, MI • Mr & Mrs W Klucens, Warren, MI • Agnes Lazdauskas, Bridgeport, Ct • Mr & Mrs Rimantas Liaugminas, Bevercreek, OH • Walter A Mameniskis, Glenside, PA • Valerija Masilionis, Dayton, OH • Annie Mitchell Matalavich, Elizabeth, NJ •

\$25.00 to \$49.00 Continued

James Medgensis, Trumbull, CT • Jean Mihalick, IMO Joseph Subache, Larksville, PA • Ella Miller, Trumbull, CT • Mr & Mrs Victor Miller, IMO V Zukauskas, Trumbull, CT • Mr & Mrs P Peters, Stratford, CT • Dr & Mrs J Pikunas, Northville, MI • Rev Francis Pranckus, Stratford, CT • Victor & Evelyn Prep, Frackville, PA • Mr & Mrs Zenonas Prusas, Chillicothe, OH • Saule & Vytenis Radze, Norwalk, CT • Anna Ross, Trumbull, CT • Regina Sajauskas, IMO Vincent Boris, Ellicott City, MD • Mr & Mrs Paul Schmidt, Milford, CT • Mr & Mrs Louis Senunas, Ann Arbor, MI • Mr & Mrs Robert Silk, Trumbull, CT • Helen Simanis, Trumbull, CT • Mr & Mrs E Skiotys, Livonia, MI • Bertha Stoskus, Providence, RI • Ted Straub, Kingston, PA • Mrs. Mary Taylor, Kissimmee, FL • Ms Ruth Tyson, Ansonia, CT • Mr & Mrs Stephen Wilcenskaskas, Milford, CT • Mr & Mrs J Zikaras, Trumbull, CT

less than \$25.00

Mr & Mrs M Abarius, Livonia, MI • Elena Alkus, Sterling Heights, MI • Tom Apke, Laguna Niguel, CA • Tamara Augulis, Dayton, OH • Mr & Mrs P Baitinger, Warren, MI • Mr & Mrs Jonas Balcius, Bridgeport, CT • Theresa A Barnett Albany, NY • Jonas Bartkus, Dearborn Hgts, MI • Matas Baukys, IMO Alfonsas Leparskas, Dearborn Hgts, MI • Helen Bell, Bridgeport, CT • Eloise A. Berczelly Dayton, OH • Robert S Boris, IMO Alfonsas Leparskas, Waterford, MI • Mr Algimantas Brazenas, Royal Oak, MI • Anna Brennan, IMO Fred Brennan Frackville, PA • Mr Joseph Briedis, West Bloomfield, MI • Mr & Mrs William Brilvitch, Fairfield, CT • Nellie Brilvitch, Fairfield, CT • Stanislava Bublys, Birmingham, MI • Mr & Mrs Ildefonsas Bucmys, Dayton, OH • Mr & Mrs F Bunikis, IMO Alfonsas Laparskas, Panama City Beach, FL • Mr & Mrs F Bunikis, IMO Juozas Matekunas, Panama City Beh, FL • Mr & Mrs A Butkunas, Farmington Hills, MI • Mr & Mrs Ray Buzak, IMO V Zukauskas, Seymour, CT • Jim & Mary Buzak, Bethel CT • Mr & Mrs Kestutis Cernis, West Bloomfield, MI • Betty Chacho, Bridgeport, CT • Dorothy DeGennaro, Oxford, CT • Vladas Domeika, Fairfield, CT • Walter Domeika, Fairfield, CT • Dr & Mrs Algirdas Dysas, Kettering, OH • Stasys & Maryte Erlingas, Dearborn Hgts, MI • Birute Flynn, Madeira, OH • Claire Frankowitz, Fairfield, CT • Anne Gacevich, Bridgeport, CT • Stasys Garliauskas, Manchester, MI • Kazys Gogelis, Redford, MI • Mr Kazys Gricius, Dearborn Hgts, MI • Thomas Griglun, Meridan, CT • Mary Gudelis, Dayton, OH • Rev Michael Holloran, Dayton, OH • Gintare Ivaska, Monroe, CT • Eleanor Jackutis, Stratford, CT • Elena Jurgutiene, Detroit, MI • Mrs Stefanija Juska, IMO Anele Sepeliene, Detroit, MI • Mrs. Stefanija Juska, IMO Rimas Svoba, Detroit, MI • Regina Juska-Svoba, IMO Anele Sepeliene, Madison Heights, MI • Regina Juska-Svoba, IMO Alfonsas Leparskas, Madison Heights, MI • Regina Juska-Svoba, IMO Rimas Svoba, Madison Heights, MI • K of L Council # 96, Dayton, OH • Len Kapochus, IMO Vaclovas Romanas, Milmay, NJ • Helen Kayetski, Fairfield, CT • Kazys Kazlauskas, Dearborn Hgts, MI • Gediminas Kiras, Bridgeport, CT • Jurgis Kisielius, New Haven, CT • Mr Kazys Kizlauskas, West Bloomfield, MI • Antanina Klimkaitis, Livonia, MI • K. Kulikauskas, Redford, MI • Jonas Kviety, Dayton, OH • L. Tautine Sajunga, Livonia, MI • Anna Laukaitis, Stratford, CT • Vacius Lelis, Sterling Hts, MI • Albina Linkiene, Redford, MI • Lithuanian Anglers Club, IMO Myron Gregor Huber, Dayton, OH • Carl Maceyunas, Stratford, CT • Mr & Mrs Joseph Mantz, Beaver creek, OH • Mr & Mrs Sylvester Marcavage, Milford, CT • Lee Marcinka, IMO John Marcinka, Monroe, CT • Mr C Masaitis, Thompson, CT • Leon C Matejka, Stratford, CT •

less than \$25 continued

Mr & Mrs V Memenas, Bloomfield Hills, MI • Diana Meskeviciute-Walzer, Milford, CT • Ona Mieciene, New Haven, CT • Elena Mikalauskas, IMO Rimgaudas Svoba, Dayton, OH • Elena Mikalauskas, IMO Sherry Fannan, Dayton, OH • Mr & Mrs A Miknis, Kettering, OH • Petras Mikstas, Dearborn Hgts, MI • Linas & Ruta Mikulionis, Northville, MI • Annadel & Sally Milaskavitz, Dayton, OH • Mr & Mrs Charles Mykolaitis, Brighton, MI • Ceslova Naumiene, Livonia, MI • Mr B Neverauskas, Sterling Hgts, MI • Juozas Orentas Novi, MI • Vincas Pacaitis, Commerce Twp, MI • Mr & Mrs Robert H Pant, Dayton OH • Anele Pasukonis, Dearborn Hts, MI • Mr & Mrs Antanas Pesys, Dearborn Hts, MI • Frances Petkus, Dayton, OH • Danute Petrauskas, Detroit, MI • Antanina Petrauskas, Davisburg, MI • Stasys & Regina Pikunai, Warren, MI • Mr & Mrs William Porter, Trumbull, CT • Sophie Putrimas, Bridgeport, CT • Anna Radzavage, IMO Domicelle Misiunas, Shenandoah, PA • Sofija Ramanuskas, Farmington, MI • Mr & Mrs A Rasavage, Du Bois, PA • Skirmantas Rastas, Bridgeport, CT • Sister Patricia Rickis, Bridgeport, CT • Mr Al Rimba, Sterling Heights, MI • Aldona Ryan Centerville, OH • Stanley Sautils, St. Clair Shores, MI • Mr & Mrs Frank Sciarappa, Straford, CT • Louis Selenis, Ann Arbor, MI • Mr & Mrs John Shurna, Orland Park, IL • Mrs Ona Sirgedas, Sterling Heights, MI • Elinor Sluzas, Dayton, OH • Richard Smith, Shelton, CT • Charles Soper, Raleigh, NC • Mary Spelman, Milford, CT • Mrs C Staknis, Kearney, NJ • Mrs S Staknis, Kearny NJ • Mr & Mrs Joseph Stark, Orchard Lake, MI • Arunas Stasaitis, IMO Vladas Simutis, Redford, MI • Svyturio Juru Sauliu Kuopa, Livonia, MI • Martin Tali, Shelton, CT • Mr & Mrs J Thompson, Lyndhurst, OH • Regina Wright Trimbol, Norwalk, CT • Mr & Mrs Vytautas Vaikutis, Stamford, CT • Mr & Mrs Vitold Vaitekunas, Bridgeport, CT • Mr & Mrs A Vaitiekaitis, Canton MI • Mr & Mrs Algirdas Vasiliauskas, Columbus, OH • Estelle Wildman, Beacon Fall, CT • Eleanor Wisniewski, Fairfield, CT • Irena Woodham, Cincinnati, OH • Mr & Mrs George Wright, Easton, CT • William J. Yudiskas, Eagle River, AK • Yolanda Zaparackas, Farmington Hills, MI • Mr & Mrs P Zaranka, Redford, MI • Mr & Mrs Anthony Zelinskas, Dayton, OH

Liths in News (cont. from pg. 11)

Lithuanian Priest Mentors Rwandans

Fr. Hans Schultz, a Lithuanian-German, is the only Lithuanian citizen living in Rwanda and probably the only Lithuanian in the world who speaks Kinyarwanda, the local language of Rwanda. A Catholic missionary, he was born in Klaipeda in 1939 of a Lithuanian mother and German father. His family fled to Germany when he was 5 and his father died a year later.

After having studied theology in Italy, he became a priest and worked in the US and Brazil, but later desired to become a missionary choosing Rwanda to be a country most in need.

Fr. Schultz said that Rwandans income is approximately \$100 per year, one of the lowest in the world, with most people sleeping on the floor because they cannot afford beds or chairs. However, the people are most generous in sharing their accommodations

and food. They have a proverb that states "In a good house, five guests can sleep on the fur of one hare," he added.

Schultz has also organized a farm where Rwandan children can make their living and attend school. Although the country's 1994 civil war devastated the farm, it was rebuilt and more than 300 orphan children (most of which are only 3-6 years old) live there, calling Fr. Schultz "father".

In visits back to his homeland, Fr. Schultz is not ignorant of his home country's problems. He found time to help priests at All Saints Church in Vilnius railway station who take care of Gypsy and Russian kids from broken homes. He would like to build a camp near Rumsiskes in the heart of Lithuania to help these and other orphans, and plans to start a donation campaign in Germany to fund the \$1 million project.

-From the Baltic Times (1/22/98)

Submitted by HM Al Wesey

District & Council News

Amber District

Agute

Just before summer made its annual appearance the Amber District made plans to have their June meeting in an outdoor setting. C-156 Shamokin planned a wonderful outdoor picnic feast but alas, Mother Nature showed up with buckets and torrents of rain and managed to spoil what would have been a terrific day. The delegates were gathered together in a protected pavilion but the rain made so much noise on the roof that President Dorothy Banos and her officers decided to call it a day because Amber District reports and discussions could not be heard above the noisy din. All important Amber District business was postponed until the next meeting which was scheduled for the weekend of September 11-12-13 in Kennebunkport, Maine.

In between the District meetings, of course, was the 85th National Convention in Waterbury, CT. We thank Waterbury C-7 for all the great preparations for the Convention.

They worked hard and we thoroughly enjoyed their good nature and wonderful hospitality.

As usual, members of the Amber District participated fully



Mid America District Conventioneers at Sat. Night Banquet include: Faustas and Terry Strolia, Ann Marie Kassel, Richard Niedvares and VYTIS Bus. Mngr - Mary Kincius. (Back row) Sr. Tarcissia Stuglis, Sr. Angela Balchunas, Julie Zakara, Ellie Kasputis, Estelle Rogers, Dolores Wainauskis, Ed and Anell Pocius and Rita Zakarka (far back). Councils 16, 36 and 112 were represented.

in the workings of the Convention. Frank Petrauskas, C-140 Syracuse served as Presidium Co-Chairman; Dorothy Banos, C-143 Pittston, chaired the Mandate Committee. Amber District members assisting her included Nellie Bayoras Romanas, C-143 Pittston; and Irene Svekla and Agnes Mickunas, both of C-3 Philadelphia. Leonard Kapochus, C-3 Philadelphia, served as Chair of the Greetings Committee. His delivery of the greetings received throughout the Convention was sprinkled with charm and lighthearted humor.

Fourth degree medals and certificates were presented to the

following eligible candidates who were in attendance at the Convention: Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, C-3 Philadelphia; John Mankus, Irene Grikenas, and Arthur Stankevitz - all of C-72 Binghamton; Anastasia Stanley, C-143 Pittston and Thomas McDonald, C-144 Anthracite. Congratulations and best wishes to all these deserving recipients.

A g n e s Mickunas, C-3 Philadelphia, was elevated to Honorary Membership and sincerely thanks all the members of the

Amber District for their support and good wishes in attaining this honor. It was a wonderful evening - one that will be long remembered! Ačiū labai!

The Convention delegates approved the resolution presented by the Honorary Membership Committee to elevate Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis to Honorary Membership in the Knights of Lithuania. Valio and best wishes to Msgr Joe!

On the weekend of September 11, 12 and 13 Amber District members (61 in all) traveled by bus and private cars to St. Anthony's Monastery in

Kennebunkport, Maine. Mother Nature smiled most favorably this time and provided warm and sunshine-filled weather.

President Dorothy Banos presided over the District meeting on Saturday morning. The District Convention delegates reported on the National Convention; the delegates were urged to fully participate in the District's annual fund raiser raffle, and elections of the new Officers and Committees followed. The election results were as follows:

Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Peter Alisaukas; President - Dorothy Banos; Vice-President - Frank Petrauskas; Recording Secretary - Martha Warnagiris; Treasurer - Nellie Bayoras Romanas; Trustees - Joseph Chaplick and Eleanor Vaicaitis; Cultural - Leonard Kapochus; Lithuanian Affairs - John Mankus; Ritual - Helen Chesko, Ann Challan, Arthur Stankevitz; Public Relations - Agnes Mickunas; Vytis Correspondent - Anna Helen McDonald; Historian - Thomas McDonald.

The festivities on Saturday evening most certainly added to the enjoyment of the weekend. Tom McDonald brought along his accordion and before long had everybody in a singin', dancin' mood. As an added attraction many of the members "roasted" Agnes Mickunas - all in good-natured fun. What a wonderful way to spend an evening.

After Sunday morning Mass a large group went Whale Watching (they reported sightings of a few of these big critters); a second group spent the day shopping at the Kittery outlet

mall; and the remainder went on various assorted adventures of their own.

Our thanks to Elsie Kosmisky who put together this fabulous weekend, along with her partner Eleanor Vaicaitis, Thanks also to Dorothy Banos and Nellie B. Romanas who made sure we had snacks and refreshments.

Everyone got home safe and sound on Monday evening. Our next meeting will be the St. Casimir's Day Celebration on Sunday, March 14, 1999 in Binghamton, NY. Hope to see everyone there!

In the meantime, since the Holidays will be here before we know it, the Amber District Officers and Committees wish everyone a safe, happy, healthy and Holy Holiday.

Mid-Atlantic District

Mary R. Kober

On Sunday, September 13th the Mid-Atlantic District held their biannual meeting with C-152 Eastern Long Island as hosts. Mass was celebrated at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Ostrabama Church with Rev. Walter Rudnicki as celebrant. Following Mass, the Luncheon and Meeting were held at the Southold Recreation Center in Peconic. L.I. As we entered the hall, each place setting had a large tomato. Centerpieces on the tables were pumpkins cut out for placement of flowers. A beautiful sight to see. On each placesetting, a red ripe beafeater tomato, fresh from a local garden.

A delightful buffet luncheon was served and the meeting followed immediately. Meeting opened with prayer led by

Tom Tarmey and in the absence of council's president, Fred Lucka greeted all attending the meeting. In the absence of our secretary, Irene Senken of C-12 was appointed for the day. Minutes of previous meeting were read by Tom Tarmey and Ed Barkowski which were accepted.

President Ed Barkowski reported on a few highlights of the convention and also stated his term as president had expired and he could no longer accept the position for another three years...1st Vice Pres. Mary Abbott spoke about new membership and informed the status of councils in our district from the national financial secretary's report...Ritual Chair Joseph Zukas mentioned there were 29 members from our district receiving the fourth degree at the convention...Treasurer Josephine Zukas gave a financial report and advised that we had start thinking about future fund-raising activities..Rita Sussko, current National Financial Secretary, was asked to speak on the current dues situation which have been increased.. Mary Kober, Public Relations Chair and VYTIS correspondent thanked Dalia Bulvicius for writing the activities of the last 'meeting in VYTIS. Mary also advised that her 3-year term on this position is expiring and hoped someone else would offer to accept the position.....Cultural Chair Anthony Yakavonis spoke about attending the Darius-Girenas affair held at Floyd Bennett's Field and only hoped that more members had attended.....Trustee Fran Jakatt reported that the Treasurer's books were found in complete order. Mandate

Committee Chair Rita Sussko reported: district officers 4; supreme council 1; honorary member 1; delegates 40; guests 19; or a total of 65 attending with seven councils represented.

Bruno Rutkunas and Ed Jakatt gave a detailed report of the activities of the national convention held in Waterbury stating that Bruno Rutkunas won second place in the Foundation's essay contest.....Mary Abbott spoke about the Lithuanian youngster Tommy who attended the convention with his adopted Italian family.

A motion made and seconded to sponsor a raffle which is our only fund-raising activity. Ann Morrissey of C-110 willingly offered to chair this project.

Following motions were made and seconded to donate \$100 to "Tommy"; \$50 Christmas donation to our Spiritual Advisor Rev. Msgr. Bulovas; ½ page ad to Christmas issue of VYTIS; yearly donation to Romas Kezys Radio hour - \$40; and thank you's expressed to Rev. Rudnicki for celebrating the mass and finally to C-152 for their gracious hospitality.

Elections were held as follows: Rev. Msgr. F. Bulovas, Spiritual Advisor C-110; President John Sakal C-152 : 1st Vice Pres. Mary Abbott C-110; 2nd Vice President - Open; Secretary Toni Sakal C-152; Treasurer Josephine Zukas C-109; Trustees Frances Jakatt C-110, Anne O'Neil-G--29- and Alice Laukaitis C-110;



George Petkaitis' Hartford Men's Trio on cultural night at the Waterbury Convention was a real treat. (Photo by B. Miller, C-72)

Lithuanian Affairs Ed Baranauskas C-100; Public Relations Mary Kober C-109, Cultural Anthony Yakavonis C-12: Ritual Joseph Zukas C-109.

The next district meeting will be held on April 18, 1999 hosted by C-29 Newark, NJ. Much discussion followed regarding two councils that have not hosted a meeting for many years. Let's hope they will surprise us in the very near future.

New England District Aldona Marcavage

The productive 85th National K of L convention is now just a memory. C-7 of Waterbury did a great job hosting it. Much credit is due to Joseph and Arlene Stikius and their committees. How nice that NED was well represented. NED 3rd Vice President, and chair of Lithuanian Affairs as well as C-141 long-time president.

Clemencine Miller was installed into Honorary Membership. Third year in a row NED has been gifted with an

Honorary Member--Al Akule, C-17, Bertha Stoskus, C-103 and now Clemencine Miller, C-141!

NED congratulates Rev. Msgr. Dr. Joseph Anderlonis. He not only bestowed the 4th degree medals but was the first to receive his own from Archbishop Daniel Cronin. He was also approved for Honorary Membership for next year. We applaud you, Monsignor.

HM Bertha Stoskus offered to fill - the slot on the Honorary Membership Committee due to the loss of HM Rita Pinkus. During the convention, Rita was remembered at Mass. Her warm, friendly personality is greatly missed.

The cultural program C-7 offered was beautiful. The cellist and her accompanist, were accomplished musicians and presented an outstanding program. George Petkaitis' Hartford Men's Trio was a real treat. The voices blended in beautiful harmony. It was so enjoyable. The VETRA dancers performed better than ever. The entire evening was great.

Please remember in your prayers Ignatius Hobitz--C-78 Lawrence, who died August 23, after a long illness. Prayers are also requested for Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis OP, who is gravely ill. A few years ago he was retreatmaster in Kennebunkport, and was very much appreciated.

This years Cultural Festival was held Oct. 18th at Maironis park in Shrewsbury. More later.

As the relaxed days of summer are fast coming to an end, thoughts of new ways to increase and revitalize our councils should be forming.

C-10, Athol-Gardner, MA Vincukas

This article about member Martha Aleson appeared in the 50 Years ago column in the "Gardner News".

Martha Aleson New York concert singer who introduced the song "United Nations", two years ago spent the week in Gardner visiting her mother. Miss Alison, who has appeared in radio, in light opera and musical comedy roles, and on Broadway in such stage hits as "Naughty Marietta" and "On the Town", will leave shortly on a concert tour to South America. She introduced the United Nations song to an audience of more than 20,000 in New York. It has since been translated into nine languages. Bravo, Martha!

Nellie Melaika and Maryann Langlois vacationed on the isle of Capri and in Rome. Bill and Broné Wišniauskas toured the United Kingdom and Ireland and later visited Lithuania in the

Kaunas and Kėdainiai areas. Dr. Henry Gailiūnas again spent 5 months in Lithuania. Doc, what's the attraction?

Congratulations to Father Albert J. Contons on his 50th and his elevation to domestic prelate.

Howie Beaudette has done an excellent job as grounds keeper at the Lithuanian club on the lake in Gardner.

A group of our members attended the Holy Trinity parish picnic in Hartford and many attended the sisters annual picnic in Putnam. CT.

Congratulations to Bronius and Bronė Savulis of Greenfield on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. We all wish the couple many more happy years and improved health.

St. Francis is raising funds to install an elevator at church for the handicapped. Several dinners, to raise funds for this project have already taken place.

Sacred Heart parish in Gardner, where the majority of Gardner's Catholic Lithuanian worship is celebrating its 125 anniversary of its founding. Three Lithuanian curates served the Lithuanians there through the years.

Sincere condolences are extended to the relatives of Rita Pinkus, Dwight Cummings and May Dugan, all of Worcester on the occasion of their deaths. Rest in peace. Amžina atilsį duok mirusiems Viešpatie!

Eleanor Baltakis has had several health problems, but is back to her old self once again.

Enjoying the neighborhood band concerts were David Lucas, Sophie Fiorentino and Al Karash.

Congratulations to Nellie Melaika on her retirement. Nell, enjoy!

Sophie Beauregard recently underwent an operation. We wish all the best for a speedy recovery.

C-25, Cleveland, OH Dolly-O

The summer was 'party time' for us.

On June 12th, Charles and Nelda Machutas celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on June 12, sharing their happiness with relatives, friends and us. Linksmū ilgausią metų. Not to be outdone, Jim Thompson retired June 13 and held a hootin', rootin', scootin' gathering to help console his achin' breakin' heart. Thanks, Joan and family.

For the past 20 years, John Andrulis had been inviting C-25'ers to a picnic at his cottage in DuBois, PA. This year, eleven of our members joined DuBois council on July 18-19 to appreciate the home cooking of F. Ivoskas, L. Kulbatsky, P. Moore and J. Yaneks, and out gracious host, John.

Did you know the statue of Abraham Lincoln in front of the Cleveland Board of Education, was sculpted by a Lithuanian immigrant, Max Kalish in 1923? Kalish had graduated with honors from the Cleveland Institute of Art at age 19.

Another noteworthy member of ours, Vytautas Staskus, was elected president of the Lith.-American Retirees Club of Cleveland. Approximately 150 members lunch once a month at the Gintares Restaurant and are

informed of changes in Social Security, Medicare, etc.

C-25 had eight members attend the National convention in Waterbury. The roster of our elected council members remains the same, except for K. Kaczmarek, who will be our new Financial Sec. Congratulations, folks. You deserve kudos, again!

Sept. 6th our council hosted a coffee hour in the church cafeteria at Our Lady of Perpetual Help after the 10 am mass. Laimingū Ačiū, visiems!

Add to your prayer list, the following: A. Wallace, H. Garnis, A. Karklius, J. Prancus, M. Trainy, A. Tanner, A. Svet, and T. Oberaitis.

Happiness is never having to stop and ask if you are.

C-26, Worcester, MA *Stephen V. Walinsky*

With the summer season, rest time and respite gone, and with a schedule of new programs for the subsequent monthly meetings, C-26 with sleeves rolled up, are anxious to get the new season started. President Vivian Rodgers, delegate to the National Convention, presented verbally, a detailed report of the business discussions, resolutions and financial standings of the organization. Her report was accepted with a resounding round of applause.

of questions and looking for answers and reasons for the changes. Some of the members voiced their discontentment and disapproval of the revised rules.

T'was also a night of remembrances and jubilation for special people in our midst. 55



Supreme Council President, John Mankus as one of the lecturers at St. Ann's Basilica, Scranton, PA

years in the priesthood for Fr. John, 50 years of wedded bliss for Jen and Paul Puris, 50 years, ditto for Vito and Ruth Gadilauskas. They were all honored with cakes and kisses, congratulations and good wishes. Adding also, that yours truly and my precious special spouse, Anne, have been blessed with 59 years together as one on August 26 past.

The customary order of business followed, with correspondence, and pertinent decisions, forthcoming projects and our involvement, our finances and its ins and outs. All of this and more. Since it is time for election of officers. Bill Leseman and Terry Adomavicius volunteered to be our nominating committee. Also, among the most frequently mentioned names in these write-ups, you find Anne Leseman and Aldona Waska, they too volunteered to oversee our annual cake and pastry sale. Degrees and points are not in their thoughts. If your name has never appeared,

don't wait too long, time is fleeting.

C-26 is to get the ball rolling, the balloons inflated, the banners flying for the N.E. District Cultural Festival at Maironis Park. This we do without ado. We then turn the proceedings over to the designated councils.

Lenny Matulis spent a few days of the summer in the hospital, and is now at home recovering. Mary March added another year to her age and was at the meeting escorted by her daughter, Marion Racicot.

By-the-way I forgot to mention at the beginning of the article, that this assembly began with one of our famous, fabulous, filling pot luck buffets. Kudos to the cooks. Niekad nebusim kudos.

C-74, Scranton, PA *Marie Laske*

Della Žvirblis is on the mend from knee surgery. Our prayers and well wishes go to all our K. of L. members who are ill.

Margaret Clegy our treasurer returned after vacationing in Florida. Helen and Walter Cravath vacationed in Connecticut. Casimir Yanish and wife Ruth are back from Arizona after visiting their son, Dr. Michael and family. Joan Noreika returned from a tour of Europe.

There was a huge turnout for the funeral of John Ramoska, who died unexpectedly. He was a Eucharistic minister and a volunteer for the poor and elderly. He was a humble, quiet, gentle, and holy man who left behind many good deeds. He will be missed. Amžina atilsj! Rest in Peace.

Our Lithuanian Mass celebrated at St. Ann's Basilica in Scranton was well attended. We thank our loyal priests who took time from their busy schedule to attend. Father Peter Ališauskas, pastor emeritus of St. Casimir's church, Pittston was the celebrant, joined by Father Kasinskas of the Immaculate Conception Church, MA and Msgr. Peter Madus, pastor of St. Joseph's (Lithuanian) Church in Scranton.

The Mass was sponsored by Scranton council 74 and Pittston council 143. This was our largest turnout ever. Much thanks to our fellow knights from Forest City and Binghamton for their support. We also appreciate the bus from Frackville and the surrounding areas. It was nice to see John Ramoska's 4 sisters bringing up the gifts during the Offertory part of the Mass.

We Lithuanians are very happy to be included in the ethnic groups that celebrate in their native language. The Lithuanian songs are especially beautiful. A big AČIU to everyone, who made this event such a success! We received many positive comments on the Lithuanian Mass, may this beautiful practice continue.

C-79. Southfield. III

Bertha Janus

Our Council has been saddened by the loss of three long-time members during the passed few months.

Joseph Usoris passed away June 29th, after several heart bypasses and many hospital confinements. He is survived by his wife, Helen. They joined our Council in 1959, when it was re-

organized.

Sophie Zager passed on August 1, after several years of nursing home residency. She was a well-known member since 1959, when she and husband Frank (predeceased), joined the organization on April 1, 1959, the first meeting of our re-organization. Frank was an avid worker for the Council — many times an officer — from treasurer to president. Sophie was always involved in his projects. Surviving are three sons.

William (Bill) Dapkus, husband of Council President Margaret Dapkus, went to his eternal home on August 24. He and Marge joined us in May, 1987 and became active members almost immediately — serving on committees and heading our annual projects. Bill had been ailing for almost two years, with the Lord ending his suffering August 24. He will be missed, at our annual Fall Festival — when he was always present, not conspicuously, but in the background, willing to help wherever needed. Besides Margaret, there are also two sons and a daughter surviving.

We also have a number of members confined in nursing homes, in assisted living facilities or seriously ill at home. As of Sept. 10, they are: Carl Janson, Lucille Smilgis, Violet Panavas, Frank Povilaitis and Ann Uzdavinis. Please remember them, also, in your prayers.

Due to the illness of Bill Dapkus, our annual Family Day Picnic was canceled. Our next undertaking is the annual Fall Festival, scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 15 at Divine Providence

Parish Hall. Please make an effort to help — if you can't, please attend.



C-96. Dayton. OŃ **Fran Petkus**

Mother Nature smiled on us for our council's annual cemetery visit to the deceased members. We began by attending 10:30 AM Mass in a body at Holy Cross Church on Sept. 13th. Henry Pant led the members into church with the council's hand crafted cross made by George Mikalauskas. Offertory Bearers were Michael Pant, Robert and Erin Petkus. At the end of Mass, Michael Pant, our Palm Beach, FL member, was formally presented with his Second Degree. Before leaving for the cemetery, prayers were said in church for our thirteen members buried out-of-town. Flowers were placed at each grave with prayers led by our council Spiritual Advisor Fr. Mike Holloran. Members later participated in the family picnic commemorating Holy Cross Parish's Family Day on the church grounds.

Our Sept. 26th Election Night meeting was preceded with a light supper of goodies made by the members. At the meeting Elinor Sluzas and Fran Petkus gave a report on the 85th National Convention that was held in Waterbury, CT. From their report, it was a good convention with busy sessions and activities. Host C-7 must be congratulated on a job well done. Our council will be in the hands of the following for 1998-99: Spiritual Advisor-Fr. Mike Holloran; President-Robert

Pant; 3rd Vice-President-Christine Fletcher and Julie Goecke; Treasurer-James Geiger; Rec.Sec'y-Lauretta Pant; Fin. Sec'y-Frances Mikalauskas; Sgt-at-Arms-Eric Geiger/Henry Pant; Trustees Joseph E. Mantz/George Mikalauskas. Committees-Religious-George Mikalauskas/Betty Nash; Lithuanian Affairs/C-96 Historian-Elena Mikalauskas; Cultural -Eric Geiger; Ritual-Fran Petkus/Eloise Berczelly; VYTIS-Fran Petkus; Council Bulletin Ed.-Linda Pant; Social-Elaine Pacovsky; Condolence-Elaine Pacovsky; By-Laws Eleanor and Joseph E. Mantz; Telephone Squad-Joyce Berczelly,-Librarian-Henry Pant/Betty Nash; Photographer-Connie Geiger.

To our Board for 1997-98, we thank you for all the many works you did to keep our council an active one. To the new Board well wishes in all your endeavors for the 1998-99 term.

Get well wishes must go out to HM Aldona Ryan. Along with all her other problems, Aldona is now recuperating from a broken leg. Get well wishes to our Minster, OH member. Veronica Omlor, as she recovers from major surgery. Helen Vaitkus has returned home after spending three exciting and busy weeks in Germany. Helen was visiting with her son Steve/Cybil and getting acquainted with her two grandchildren! To One and All - A Blessed Holiday Season from all of us in C-96!!

C-103, Providence, RI

Birute

As I recuperate I have time to think about what our

members have been doing this summer? Some have been busy traveling and others recuperating.

As he has been doing for the last several years Dr. Jagminas and family have been relieving the doctor on Block Island for a week; Bobutė Rūta Krecioch is the full time nanny.

Talk about togetherness Peter and Helen Denesewich had a serious bout of pneumonia first Peter then Helen. Happy to hear they are up and around.

Sorry to hear Julia Meciunas suffered a stroke. Veronica Kiela hasn't been feeling well but is determined to go ahead with plans to travel home to Argentina in October she will be gone until January 1999. Enjoy your visit.

Welcome back to Rhode Island Ann Labutti, maybe we will see more of you.

Elizabeth Tribusis visited relatives in Lithuania. Also Jim and Irene Quinn attended a family wedding in Lithuania.

Tony Gudczauskas flew down to Texas for his grandsons graduation. John and Irene Walaska drove to upstate New York to visit son Mark and family over Labor Day weekend.

New England District Bill Piacentini flew the coop, so to speak. Monday after the N.E.D. Convention in New Haven he flew to Thailand for a couple of weeks R'n R. His bag is always packed and ready to travel.

Council 103 was well represented at the 85th National Convention in Waterbury. Bill Piacentini was chairman of Convention Presidium. Sophie Sakalys was on the Greetings Comm. and Agnes Waitonis on the

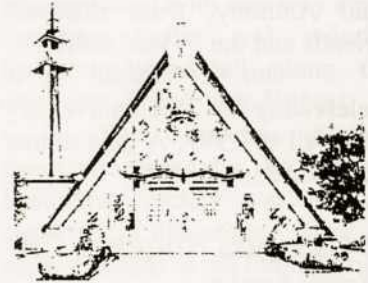
Budget Committee.

After a beautiful summer the weather is now cooling off and it makes one wonder where the time goes. As a child it's a long stretch from May to September. Now some of us watch our grandchildren go off to school.

To our members who don't come to meetings, let us hear from you.

C-110, Maspeth, NY

Helen Yakaitis



*Happy 90th Anniversary to
Transfiguration Parish in
Maspeth*

Our first meeting of the season was held on Sept. 27th. We have a busy agenda until the end of this year.

Before we discussed the coming events, the meeting was started with a prayer led by Msgr. Frank Bulovas. Ann Morrissey reported on the work she is doing - sending clothing to Lithuania and about the new shipment which is to leave before Christmas. Maryte Abbott, Editor-in-Chief of VYTIS spoke about her visit to the United Nations to hear Lithuania's president Valdas Adamkus address the General Assembly.

Our annual Kučios will be held on December 13th. This is a

very beautiful religious as well as a social event. All are invited.

This past year several of our members went to their Creator: Helen Cummins, Stella Stupeikis, and Igni Wallis. Our deepest sympathies to their families.

Fourth degree members Helen and Anthony Yakaitis celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 12th. Their family gave them a beautiful party at the home of son Paul, who is a life time member. Congratulations Helen and Anthony, from relatives, friends and the "Vytiš" staff.

Our council is celebrating its 75th anniversary in April of 1999. A gala dinner and dance is planned.

C-133, Los Angeles, CA *Maryte Sepikas*

October was a busy month. We hosted our District meeting on Saturday, October 3th, at St. Casimir's church lower hall. Dr. Birute Galdikas, anthropologist and the world's foremost expert on orangutans paid us a visit.

Also on October 3th, we had a Lithuanian Days dance. A live band from Chicago, IL entertained. On October 4th, a Knights of Lithuania Mass was offered at St. Casimir's church. The Knights of Lithuania Choir sang. Later that same day, we had a Knights of Lithuania party at the home of Ruta and Rimas Muloki. On October 24, Knights of Lithuania meeting and Halloween party at the home of Danute and John Scola.

On December 5th, we will



Congratulations to C-100 Amsterdam's president, Mirga Bablin and husband, Ed on their 50th Wedding Anniversary...and to those other knights who also celebrated theirs this year!

have a meeting and our annual Christmas party.

Thank you from yours truly for the beautiful red roses and photo album. I love and appreciate you all - my Lithuanians of the heart.

Congratulations! Three cheers to Jeffrey Balesh, our first ever winner of a Knights of Lithuania scholarship of \$1,000. Much continued success in your educational endeavors.

Council 133 won the award for the most new members at the National K. of L. Convention held in Waterbury, CT this past August.

Social announcements: Welcome Nina Gabriela Kasputis and Virgilijus Kasputis. Speedy recovery to Josephine Barzda. Best wishes and congratulations to Anita and Robert Kert on their

recent wedding. The same to Deimile and Haroldas Mockus who were married on July 25, 1998.

Our deepest sympathy: Sylvia Shepherd, Aldona Ruokis, Ona Barauskas, and Raimundas Oslapas. May they rest in peace!

C-136, Hudson- Mohawk, NY *Dorothy Richmire*

The Picnic at Putnam was well attended by our members and everyone had a great time, as usual.

We had ten candidates in our council who were eligible to receive the Fourth Degree at the ceremony preceding the final mass of this year's convention. Only six were able to attend and they include: Ed Barkowski, Helen Hayner, Dot Richmire, Betty Parker, Joan Parker and Lynn McCaffrey, Congratulations to all. The remaining eligible members who are: Gen Deery, Claire Tulio, Stella White and Frank Zebuda, will receive their degrees at a later date.

The ceremony and mass at St. Joseph's Church in Waterbury, Conn. were beautiful with many clergy attending. Among them were: Archbishop Conklin from Hartford Diocese, Bishop Paul Baltakis from Brooklyn, Monsignor Anderlonis, our National Spiritual Advisor from Philadelphia, Monsignor Algimantas Bartkus from St. Casimir Lithuanian College in Rome, and Fr. Karvelis, Pastor of St. Joseph's in Waterbury.

Monsignor Anderlonis presented the medals to us and we all felt very honored and proud.

Ed Barkowski's wife, Virginia is recovering from major surgery and would appreciate our prayers. Get well soon, Virginia, we miss you.

We had a lovely day for our annual Picnic and although attendance was down slightly, food was plentiful, a good variety and as always, very tasty. Chick Rupsis donated some "White Elephant" items and conducted an auction. You know what they say "one man's trash is another man's treasure" and some of the "treasures" were actually bid on and sold. Our September 3 meeting was well attended and elections were held. Our new officers and Committee Chairs are as follows: President Chick Rupsis, Vice-President Ed Barkowski, Recording Secretary Stella White, Financial Secretary June Stankus, Treasurer Betty Parker, Trusts Richard Fuerst, Lithuanian Affairs Bernice Aviza, Cultural Stella White, Sgt. of Arms John Sheehan, Vytis Correspondent Dot Richmire, Sunshine Joan Parker, Historian Gen Deery. Congrats to all.

Lynn McCaffrey stepped down from the offices of president and expressed her thanks for the cooperation offered by members during her presidency. We also expressed our gratitude to her for her leadership creative ideas, good humor and faithfulness. We all wish her well in her future endeavors. Lynn is going back to school with the hope that a change in career is in her future, she also announced the arrival of her new grandson. She now proudly boasts

of 2 grandsons and one granddaughter. Congratulations.

Lynn and her mom, Helen Hayner visited relatives in Lithuania during the summer and Helen celebrated her 80th while there. Happy belated birthday, Helen.

St. Casimir's Church in Amsterdam, the church attended by members of C-100, was reopened on September 13 and many of us were there for the celebration. A happy day indeed for all members of this beautiful house of God.

C-141, Bridgeport, CT *Aldona Marcavage*

The 85th National K of L convention was very exciting to our council this year. Our president, Clemencine Miller, was installed into Honorary Membership. Our pride and joy was showing as we joined the 350 Knights and guests in enthusiastic applause, as Loretta Stukas placed the medal around Clem's neck. We wish her a long and productive life in the work for God and Country.

After the banquet H/M Clemencine shaped her happiness with cordial hospitality in the "Party Room". Her grandsons Zac and Sean were busy Jr. hosts. It was a fun night!

Sunday morning August 9th, St. Joseph Church was filled with beloved Lithuanian Hymns sung by the choir, as the knights and guests filled the church to capacity. Our council sent eleven delegates. There were 41 persons eligible for the 4th degree. Our own Joseph Janiunas was one of them. Congratulations! Concelebrating the mass was an

impressive array of Clergy. Besides Pastor of St. Joseph, Rev. Francis Karvelis, there was one Archbishop, two bishops, three monsignors.

We congratulate C-141 Jr. Matthew Anderson, who was awarded first prize in the essay contest -- and Bonnie Gulas who received a scholarship award. Bonnie is a bright student who is recipient of many awards to date. We are proud of her.

Three cheers for Fr. Jose's unrelenting pursuit of more parking space for St. George parishioners. It is finally accomplished with one-way signs directing traffic and colorful flowers planted all along the driveway. Thank you, Father!

The Christmas in July event sponsored by the Milford Historical Society was a great success, Lithuanians had a separate room in the old historical house. Two Christmas trees filled with straw ornaments were displayed. Dolls dressed in native costume were there as were a small replica of Hill of Crosses, with free literature explaining the Hill. Many artifacts filled the room with samples of our Lithuanian culture. This interesting exhibit received many compliments. Labai aciu to all C-141 volunteers who made this possible. For a long time now, Aldona Peters has been knitting hats, scarves and mittens for LCR. Aldona Marcavage has recently joined her. An amazing show of love for needy children is the work of Sunny Boneek a lovely Irish lady in Milford, who has decided to knit 100 hats for LCR. We love her dedication to our cause. So will the children! Many

On the Calendar...

Summit Orchestra Concert - Nov. 21, 1998

Hosts C-147 to benefit for K. of L. causes, Am. Lith. Hall, St. Petersburg, FL.
Call (727) 360-1064 for tickets.

Fall Festival - Nov. 15

Hosts: C-79, Southfield, MI
Divine Providence Parish Hall

Traditional Kucios - Dec. 13

C-110, Maspeth, NY
Transfiguration Church Hall
after 11:15 Lith. Mass

District Meetings

Amber - St. Casimir Day - March 14, 1999

Hosts: C-72, Binghamton, NY

Mid Atlantic - Spring Convention

April 18, 1999

Hosts: C-29, Newark, NJ

1999 National Convention

July 29-Aug. 1, 1999
Hosts: C-3, Philadelphia

**Send in your district/council
and special Lithuanian events
for this section. We will also
include them in our K. of L.
website.**

at the Milford Senior center are saving postage stamps to help.

We are happy to announce that Ann Geceвич is recovering nicely from Orthopedic surgery, and that Eleanor Jakutis is well on the road to recovery. Prayers are requested for improved health for Agnes Lazdauskas, who is seriously ill. She is now in a rehab nursing home.

Former St. George choir member and soloist, now residing in California, paid a visit during the September meeting. Anne Radzwillas Globis and her husband, Casimir, had a pleasant reunion with many old-time friends.

C-144, Anthracite, PA Ona

Attending the National Convention in Waterbury, Ct. were H.M. Anne Wargo, Helen Chesko, Tom and Helen McDonald, Eleanor Vaicaitis, and Elsie Kosmisky. Congratulations to Tom who received his Fourth Degree. We were also pleased that one of our brightest young

members. Attorney Karen Domalakes was elected as Amber District member of the Scholarship Committee.

After the Convention all the members were busy preparing for the 84th. Annual Lithuanian Days. Chairpeople this year were Overall, Eleanor Vaicaitis, Food, Evelyn Prep and Anna Brennan, Display, Bernice Mikatavage and Annie Morgalis, Raffle, Betty Tumas. All members donated food and time to make this affair such a great success. Our special thanks go to Victor Stepulovitch of Council 3, Philadelphia who comes every year to help at the food and makes his delicious "Rukstiene." Entertainment was provided by the Zilvinas Dancers of Philadelphia with Lynne Cox at the Accordion and the Musical McDonald Orchestra. President Marian Wydra was busy trying to get new members and Mary Labadis and Anna Radzavage chaired the sales. It was a success both socially and financially.

Because of Lithuanian Day we donated \$1,000.00 to St.

Casimir's Guild and purchased 2 beds for the Pontifical College Guest House. We also will be able to continue with our packages to the Orphans and Poor people of Lithuania. Seventeen packages were sent over in August. The Committee of this project worked very hard and much good has been done this past year because of this.

We have also adopted the Carmelite Nuns at Pastuva - Because of our Lithuanian Days we have been able to do much good for Lithuania in the past years. We do not keep any of this for our Council's use. We also maintain the Lithuanian Museum and Cultural Center in Frackville. Eleanor Vaicaitis is Curator of the Museum and we invite anyone visiting our are to visit our Museum. If you are in the area call Eleanor and she will be happy to take you through. Since many of the early Lithuanians came to the Coal Regions we are very proud of our museum and our beautiful Lithuanian Churches.





*Give thanks and Rejoice in our bounty -
support our Knights of Lithuania causes:*

Priestly Vocations through the St. Casimir Guild,
a semi-autonomous activity dedicated to the support of the Lithuanian Pontifical College of St. Casimir in Rome. The Guild sponsors three programs: collection of donations for a general endowment fund administered by the Rector, obtaining Mass stipends for the support of Lithuanian priests studying in Rome, and coordinating a program of "adopting" seminarians from Lithuania by providing regular contributions to their non-academic needs. Checks should be made payable to: The St. Casimir Guild and mailed to:
HM Anna Klizas Wargo, 125 South Morris Street, St. Clair, PA 17970

Humanitarian Aid through Aid to Lithuania, Inc., a semi-autonomous organization under the aegis of the Knights of Lithuania, that provides medical supplies, equipment and medicines to Lithuania during this crucial transition period from a Soviet-occupied and suppressed nation, to a free and self sufficient democracy. 40-foot containers of donated materials are shipped each calendar quarter. Since we began this effort in 1991, 64 containers worth approximately 53 million dollars have been shipped as of September 1998. Checks should be made payable to: Aid to Lithuania, Inc. and mailed to:
HM Robert Boris, 4557 Fairway Court, Waterford, MI 48328

College Education through K of L Scholarship Awards presented each year to deserving members who are pursuing studies at the college level. The Scholarship Fund is totally dependent upon donations and bequests from members. Checks should be made payable to: Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Fund and mailed to:
Irene Gecas-McCarthy, 446 Joan Court, West Hempstead, NY 11552

Cultural Advancement through the K of L Foundation, an endowment fund which supports and funds projects to further the cultural, religious or humanitarian objectives of the Knights of Lithuania. Donations are tax deductible. Checks should be payable to:
Knights of Lithuania Foundation and mailed to:
HM Loretta Stukas, 234 Sunlit Drive, Watchung, NJ 07060

Upkeep of the National Shrine - The development of an endowment fund to support the upkeep of the Chapel of Our Lady of Šiluva at the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception located in Washington, D.C. was adopted at the 75th Knights of Lithuania Anniversary Convention. Donations are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to:
Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and mailed to:
Joseph Chaplick, 2000 F. Street, N.W. Apt. 419, Washington, DC 20006

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