

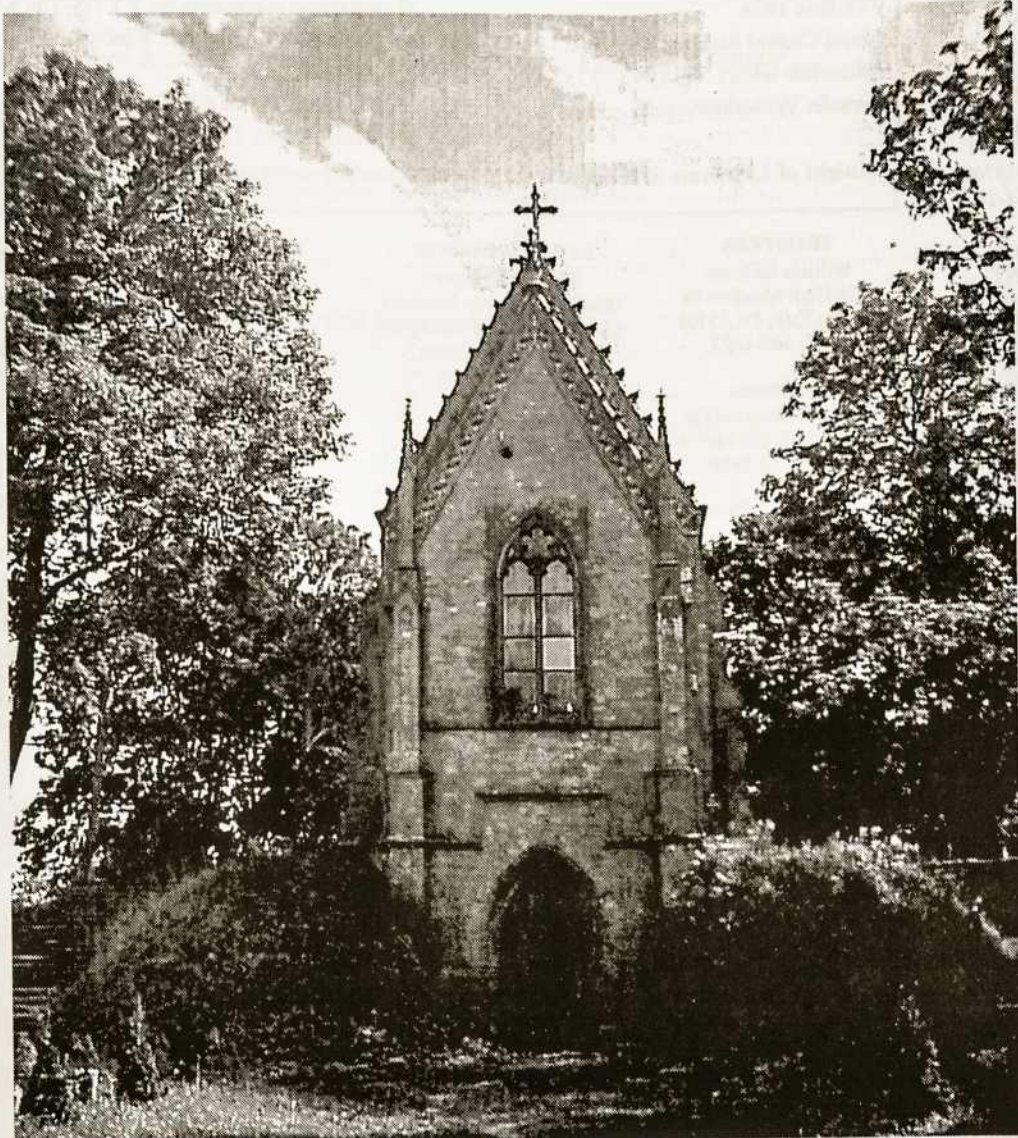


Y T I S



Volume 86 No. 7

THE KNIGHT



Liepa/Rugpjūtis - July/August 2000

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, a devotion to our
Roman Catholic Faith and a
knowledge, appreciation and love of the
Lithuanian language, customs and culture
since the K of L began in 1913.*

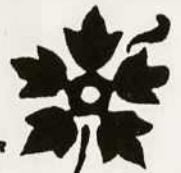


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ON THE COVER

Count Tiškevičius Chapel at Kretinga cemetery– JJA 8/99

DEDICATION

July 6th - Crowning of Mindaugas - Lithuanian Day of Statehood

The 13th century saw the unification of the Highlands (Aukštaitija), Eastern Samogitia (Žemaitija) and certain lands of the southern region of Lithuania (app.1240)

Mindaugas abruptly appeared as the one who unified and christianized the Lithuanian nation and became its first king. Not all his hopes were realized, but he is credited with forming a strong nucleus of a Lithuanian state, which survived long after his assassination in 1263.



To My Fellow Knights

There's an old saying that was put into lyrics of a song, "you don't know what you've got 'till it's gone." Freedom is like that, ask any Lithuanian or any person who has lived under an oppressive regime. Although the hard won freedom in our own country seems such a distant memory, we should not take it for granted, as we celebrate our own country's independence day on July 4. A great number of World War II Veterans who were knights, are no longer amongst our midst, no longer there to tell the tales of one of the last oppressive regimes that infringed upon freedom.

My father, Ed Bablin of C-100 Amsterdam, was one of them. He entered God's kingdom this past Memorial Day and is now laid to rest near the Saratoga NY battlefield, the turning point battle of the Revolutionary War. From humble beginnings, his Lithuanian parents sought a better life here. They kept their traditions and passed them down to my generation, in stories, songs, dance, food and language. And although my generation has never had to fight in a war, or never had to worry about siblings or lovers in battle, I often wonder if we really appreciate the way that was paved for us. Being grateful is what it's all about. Along with my mother, C-100 pres, Mirga Bablin (see C-100 news) I'd also like to thank Knights and friends for the huge outpouring of support in prayers, donations and encouraging words that help to cushion the sadness of an era gone by.

Letters & email to the editor

Scholarship Winner

To the Editor:

The American Legion Post 223, Sykesville, MD recently awarded Audrius Vaskys an academic scholarship at their Memorial Day Commemoration on May 29, 2000. Audrius is the son of Mr. And Mrs. Arunas Vaskys and will be attending Georgia Tech in the fall, majoring in engineering.

Edward Budelis, C-3

Amber Melodies CD Available

To the editor

Due to popular demand, Joe Thomas has produced and re-released his original "Amber Melodies" cassette into compact disk format.

The CD enhances the original sound track of the recording, giving more clarity to the instrumentation and voice, upscaling popular Lithuanian songs and dances. (Price is \$11.95 plus \$2 shipping and handling.) Anyone interested in obtaining a copy, contact:

Joe Thomas Music
P.O. Box 74
Jamesport, NY 11947
Or email: AcIU@aol.com



*John Cardinal O'Connor was from Scranton
Scranton Tribune Draughon 5/5/00 (See C-74 news)*

Expand Nato Stickers

To the Editor:

Many Baltic organizations are gearing up their efforts on NATO enlargement so NOW is the time to get these stickers into the hands of every red-blooded, patriotic, idealistic Baltic-American and every one of their friends!!!

BATUN's bumper sticker: "EXPAND NATO, ESTONIA -LATVIA - LITHUANIA" is now available from <http://www.balticshop.com> -via email BATUN

K of L President John R. Mankus

Report to the Membership

Report to K of L membership on my attendance at the Corcoran Gallery of Art for a concert of classical and Lithuanian music dedicated to the memory of the famous Lithuanian violinist, Maestro Raimundas Katilius (1947-2000). Also my correspondence with Republic of Lithuania Ambassador Stasys Sakalauskas, Seimas members, Lithuanian Embassy Staff, K of L members, U.S. State Department officials and leaders of Lithuanian-American and Baltic Organizations.

Outstanding performances were given by Golda Vainberg-Tatz (piano), Professor Patricia Miller (Mezzo-Soprano) and Rasa Vosyliutė (violin). Vainberg-Tatz received her musical education in her native Vilnius, Lithuania, Israel and USA. She performed extensively in Lithuania as soloist for the National Symphony, with the Vilnius String Quartet and with violinist Raimundas Katilius. Miss Miller, a Fulbright Scholar has appeared in leading operatic roles throughout the US. Rasa Vosyliutė, born in Lithuania in 1972, studied at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and took post graduate diploma at the Guildhall School of Music. This was a fitting tribute to the memory of Raimundas Katilius who died unexpectedly while performing at a concert in Germany.

Communications with Ambassador Stasys Sakalauskas and members of his staff included activities of Lithuanian Foreign Ministry, Seimas officials, U.S. Senate and Congress members and U.S. State Department officials. One item of great importance to Lithuania is deliberations by Senate and House Appropriations Foreign Operations Subcommittee on



the amount of aid to be appropriated to Lithuania from the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) program. Originally "earmarked" on need and country's size, as to the proportion of aid to be approved, would have provided Lithuania with a substantially greater amount of financial support. This item is still being deliberated by subcommittee members (Senators: McConnell, Leahy, Specter, Gregg, Shelby, Bennett, Campbell, Bond, Inouye, Lautenberg, Harkin, Mikulsky, Murray; Representatives: Callahan, Pelosi, Porter, Wolf, Packard, Knollenberg, Forbes, Kingston, Lewis, Lowey, Jackson, Kilpatrick, Sabo). I urge our members and friends to contact their Senators and Representatives in support of Lithuania.

In my discussions with Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas, Chairman of the Seimas Vytautas Landsbergis and Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius, integration of Lithuania into NATO is the major foreign policy objective, closely followed by integration of Lithuania into the European Union (EU).

Since my last report to our membership, Lithuania is continuing to prepare for entry into NATO. Key areas of participation were: On February 17-18 the Lithuanian delegation attended informational meetings at NATO HQ and SHAPE. On February 29-March 1, Christopher Donnelly, NATO SG Special Advisor for Eastern European Affairs, visited Lithuania. On March 29, Prime Minister of Lithuania, Andrius Kubilius, met with the North Atlantic Council in the framework of the Membership Action Plan. On April 3, General Wesley Clark, Supreme Allied Commander of Europe, deliv-

ered a presentation on "Security and NATO enlargement" at the Lithuanian Military Academy. On May 18-19, Lithuania organized and hosted nine European countries for "Vilnius Conference 2000", NATO's Role in Changing Security Environment in Europe. Letters of congratulations and support were received from leaders of the House and Senate, Vice President Al Gore and Texas Governor George W. Bush.

Since 1991, Membership in the European Union has been one of Lithuania's principal objectives in all the programs of its successive governments. It has been promoted by each President (Landsbergis, Brazauskas and Adamkus) and by all its main political parties. Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas stated that Lithuania's membership in the European Union will have a positive impact on the stability in the region and will be beneficial to its neighbors, "Lithuania is ready to contribute to the future of European Union," he said.

On April 15, retired Air National Guard officer, Robert Duda, organized twenty medical specialist and thousands of dollars of medical supplies for a two week accelerated training of Lithuanian doctors and medical specialists at the Kaunas Medical Clinic. An article in

the newspaper "Kauno Diena", by Arunas Dambrauskas provided a very positive report of this undertaking. Mr. Duda praised Lithuanian doctors and specialist for their professionalism and dedication. We thank Mr. Duda for his outstanding achievement and I want to thank our first vice president, Bemice Aviža for her assistance in this project.

Although Lithuania is moving forward in meeting its economic and political goals, Lithuania also needs our assistance. Our Lithuanian American Organizations must continue to work and cooperate with each other and we must continue our strong support for Lithuania. We do have a very good working relationship with Ambassador Sakalauskas and his Embassy staff. He continues to express a strong desire for a close working relationship with Lithuanian-American Organizations. He is open to our inquiries and suggestions.

I would like to quote from his recent letter to me "Linkiu Jums visokeriopos sėkmės ir dar kartą primenu, jog Ambasada visada alvira Jūsų klausimaitis ir patarimams".

John R. Mankus

ON THE CALENDAR...

August 12 and August 13, 2000 - 86th. **Annual Lithuanian Days**, Schuylkill Mall, Frackville, Pa.

September 17, 2000 - **MAD District Meeting**, C-136 Hudson -Mohawk, Hosts

October 7, 2000 - **Mid-America District Fall Meeting**. We will meet at the Sister's of St. Casimir Motherhouse for a 9:30a.m. Mass for the Beatification of Mother Maria. Following Mass we will attend a "Coffee and" sponsored by the Sisters. Our District meeting will follow at the convent at 11:30a.m. Lunch will be served after the meeting. Our host will be the District Board. Our Chair for this meeting will be Sister Johanna Marie Shainauskas.

October 15, 2000 - **C-29 Newark , NJ Annual Dinner and Dance**. Reservations must be made, but all are welcomed. Call Rita Sussko.

October 21, 2000 - K of L Council #147 of St.

Petersburg, FLorida Present **The Summit Orchestra and Singers** Saturday, 2:00 P.M. at the Palladium Theater 253 Fifth Avenue North St. Petersburg, FL. 33701

October 28-29, 2000 - Mid-America District sponsored **pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Snows**. Contact Terry Strolia for more information.

November 19, 2000 - Mid-America District **Memorial Mass for Deceased Members**. We will attend the 9:00a.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish, Chicago, IL. The celebrant will be District Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas. Our host will be Council 36. Please contact Mary Kincius for more information.

December 2, 2000 - **Mid-America District Winter Meeting**. Our host will be Council 16, Chicago, IL. Contact Deborah Martin-Rudmin for more information.

February 4, 2001 - Mid-America District's **41st Annual "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet** to be held in the Main Dinning Room at the Martinque Restaurant. Contact Rob Martin for more information.

In Memoriam ††† Rest in Peace

Sladkevičius, battled Soviets for church rights, dies in Kaunas

Cardinal Vincentas Sladkevičius, who battled for church rights when heavily Roman Catholic Lithuania was under Soviet control, died May 28. He was 79. He died in Kaunas, Lithuania, where he served as archbishop until his retirement four years ago. No cause of death was given.

Pope John Paul II said he was "a pillar of the Catholic Church and the whole country." He was

deeply saddened" by the death of a prelate who "never allowed himself to be intimidated."

John Paul named Sladkevičius a cardinal in 1988, the first from Lithuania since it was annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940. Soviet authorities had long hindered him from performing his religious duties and he was held under virtual house arrest from 1963 to 1982, according to the Vatican. He was the second cardinal named by the Vatican since the beginning of the Lithuanian state. The 1st was Jugis Radvila in the 17th century.



Edward Bablin
May 29, 2000
C-100, Amsterdam

Joseph Wydra
June 6, 2000
C-144 Anthracite

Joseph Nolter
June 1, 2000
C-144 Anthracite

Mary Gustus
January 5, 2000
C-144 Anthracite

Anna Kralick
April 9, 2000
C-144 Anthracite

Helen Chesko
May 7, 2000
C-144 Anthracite

Richard Lallasher
March 22, 2000
C-29 Newark

Raymond Zabita
C-52 Elizabeth

Ann Banas
C-52 Elizabeth

Josephine Kalecheva
May 9, 2000
C-144 Anthracite

Jack Abramite
February 28, 2000
C-112 Chicago

Albert Jundul
April 11, 2000
C-112 Chicago

Walter Klemka
March 21, 2000
C-112 Chicago

Gordon Gudas
March 5, 2000
C-24 Chicago

Jonas Krisciunas
February 17, 2000
C-24 Chicago

Jane Gaubas, LM
April 2000
C-29 Newark

Julija G. Rodowk
May 16, 2000
C-147 St. Petersburg

Joseph Balaconis
March 30, 2000
C-17 So. Boston

Frances Grabauskas
April 2000
C-26 Worcester

Vera Scarbeau
March 2000
C-26 Worcester

Agnes Lazdauskas
February 7, 2000
C-141 Worcester

Raymond Pukis
March 5, 2000
C-3 Philadelphia

Martin Gestautas
June 2, 2000
C-36 Chicago
(past pres., Chicago
Dist)

William Brillis
February 25, 1999
C-7 Waterbury

Stanley Taragowski, Sr.
June 23, 1999
C-50 New Haven

Mary Bachinski
August 8, 1999
C-50 New Haven

Emilia Saulys
August 13, 1999
C-50 New Haven

Ann Romano
February 24, 2000
C-50 New Haven

Patricia Tamulis
March 3, 2000
C-50 New Haven

Elizabeth Kunce
June 6, 2000
C-72, Binghamton

*Rest in Peace
Amžina Atilsi*

Blessed George Matulaitis

The Spiral of Spiritual Life

by Fr. Shaun O' Connor, MIC

Blessed George had been given a second chance at life. In 1904, after miraculously recovering from tuberculosis, this priest came to the firm conclusion that he would spend his life in burning zeal for the service of God and man. After all, he should have died, so he considered the rest of his life as an extra gift. Thus he was drawn into an ever deepening spiral of mercy - deeper into God Himself, the Giver of Life.

Frail body, strong spirit

He had always had a sickly constitution and since his youth, complained of problems with his legs.

This ailment, which he described as feeling as if ants were crawling on him and biting him, impaired him from the normal life of boys in his village near Mariampole, Lithuania. He could neither work on the farm nor walk to the school.

His spirit, however, was not so frail. Sent to a seminary in Warsaw, he met a Franciscan priest who influenced his spiritual and social views. This priest encouraged the laity to strive for personal holiness and to build up the Church.

These ideas, supported by Pope Leo XIII's encyclical, *Rerum Novarum*, became the main goal of Bl. George who was ordained at 27.

His health problems continued, however, until he was diagnosed with tuberculosis of the bone. He went to a hospital in Warsaw, expecting to die. It was there that he made a phenomenal recovery and decided to pour out his life in service to God and for the dignity of all men and women.

A Renewed Life

He counted every moment of his new life as a gift and wanted especially to show his gratitude to the intercession of the Blessed Mother. A unique opportunity arose. At the time, the Marians of the Immaculate Conception were all but extinguished by the oppressive government in Lithuania. The last surviving Marian was Fr. Vincent Sekowski. Blessed George decided to restore the Congregation as a fitting tribute to the

Blessed Virgin Mary who had interceded for him and God who had restored him to life.

Escape to freedom

Blessed George recruited two other priests who shared the ideals of the Marians' Founder, Stanislaus Papczynski: namely devotion to Mary as the Immaculate Conception, prayer for the souls in purgatory, and religious education of the faithful. They then moved to Switzerland to be free from government oppression.

Besides the ideals of the Founder, Bl. George chose to emphasize basic human rights. He took the good he saw in social democracy and added to it the truths of Christianity. He organized groups of lay people to share and spread this work. The meetings were arranged like that of the Bolsheviks except the texts studied were not political but religious: the Bible, encyclicals, and other Church documents.

One of his many admirers was the Papal Nuncio, who later became Pope Pius X, and, to the dismay of Bl. George, made him Bishop of Vilnius, Lithuania.

It was difficult to leave his pastoral work, but even more so since the political situation at the time was oppressive. The communists, Germans, Polish, and others constantly fought amongst themselves except that all seemed united in their dislike of Blessed George. He instilled in his followers the motto: "Conquer evil with good." He found that the best way to respond to evil was not so much to fight against it, but to overcome it with good. He said to bury evil, as it were, with a blizzard of good; he also said the good should be like a firm wall which the waves of evil will crash against and break, but will not surmount.

Zeal for serving God

In the midst of this situation, while Superior General of the revived Congregation and a bishop, Bl. George founded two new communities: Sisters of the Poor of the Immaculate Conception, who cared for orphans; and the Handmaids of Jesus in the Eucharist,



**Mass at the tomb of Bl. George Matulaitis
in Lithuania, July 1996 Aid to Lithuania Tour**

who ministered to the Catholics of Belarus.

Under his leadership, Marians were trained with so much zeal that they went wherever the need was the greatest, and several eventually were martyred for the faith.

The chief way he encouraged his people to give all for God was by insisting that they not only avoid sin, but even more importantly that they build up virtue. He discovered that human nature is quickly exhausted in this endeavor, so the person must allow God to raise virtues to the supernatural level.

He explained that the progress of spiritual growth is not so much a straight line, but is rather a spiral-shaped motion much like a tornado. Instead of going to God in a process of three direct steps - namely the "purgative," "illuminative," and "unitive" stages which theologians have long taught - his insight was that most people actually grow in a circular motion. Normally, people repeat mistakes and seem to grow only

gradually in their devotion to God. The work of God, however, is to take people who seem to be going in an endless pattern and draw them closer to Himself, to draw them deeper into Himself. Thus, the circles that we make in our spiritual progress become smaller and smaller much like the shape of a funnel cloud.

Insight on spiritual growth

Blessed George explained that the only sure way for people to keep making progress in getting closer to God is to devote themselves to service to others. He quoted the passage in Scripture that one cannot love God who is unseen and not love other people who are seen (see 1 Jn 4:20).

He explained that the reason why most people avoid service and fail to make progress is a deeply personal one. Whenever we serve others, we learn more about ourselves, our own impatience, selfishness, and pride.

It is tempting, then, to pull back and not to have to face our own failings. We get embarrassed by our faults, but there is nothing wrong with seeing our weakness. It is not news to God that we are sinners, but only to us! We are too attached to ourselves and to the image we want to have.

As with the spiral motion of a tornado, it will often happen that we feel we are starting over as if we were beginners in the spiritual life. This may seem discouraging, but according to Bl. George it is normal and healthy.



by Fr. Shaun O' Connor, MIC, based on a talk delivered to employees at the Marian Helpers Center on No. 8, 1999. Courtesy of the Marian Helper's Thirteenth of the Month Club bulletin, Vol 12, NO. 1 1/2000



Lithuanian Parishes Celebrating Anniversaries in 2000

110 Years: St. Casimir, Pittston, PA
St. Casimir, Phila, PA

105 Years: Sts. Peter and Paul,
Elizabeth, NJ

St. Francis of Assisi, Minersville, PA
St. Andrew, New Britain, CT

100 Years: Holy Trinity, Hartford, CT
Sts. Peter and Paul, Homestead, PA

St. Casimir, Wilkes Barre, PA

95 Years: Our Lady of Vilnius,
Manhattan, NY

St. Casimir, Westfield, MA
90 Years: St. Casimir, Nashua, NH
75 Years: Our Lady of Vilnius,
Worcester, MA

50 Years: Our Lady of Vilnius,
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

-Bishop Baltakis' News letter, V15, No.1

Enjoying the Wind and Sun in Lithuania

by John Baltrus

In May of this year, I had the opportunity to make my fourth trip to Lithuania. Because I had visited my relatives and seen the popular tourist attractions on my previous visits, I said that I wanted my next visit to be "something different." This adventure certainly lived up to those wishes.

During the fall of 1999, a Lithuanian folk ensemble named Saule from Šiauliai University toured the United States through a cooperative program with the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNOmaha). This group of talented musicians, singers and dancers visited Pittsburgh during their tour and it was my good fortune to be able to help organize this first visit by a Lithuanian performing group to Pittsburgh in over 25 years. Because the group was so well received, their manager, Zenonas Ripinskis, invited me to visit him in Šiauliai in May. At the same time, the UNOmaha Symphonic Wind Ensemble, which is comprised of approximately 45 students, would be touring and performing in Lithuania and the Baltic region. Zenonas suggested that I could join him as he helped to guide the group's tour. So come early May, I packed my bags and began my adventure.

This trip was my first opportunity to fly Lithuanian Airlines. The leg of my trip from Paris to Vilnius was pleasant and the airline's service and food were great. I was surprised how efficiently the flight was boarded even though they made no attempt to board starting with seats from the rear of the plane.

Before joining the ensemble in Šiauliai, I had two days on my own in Vilnius. There I was able to meet and stay with some new friends I had just made in March. They were young members of the faculty in the Chemistry and Biochemistry Institutes at Vilnius University. I had met them at a chemistry conference in New Orleans that I helped to organize.

When leaving the Vilnius airport by car my expectations began to rise. The roads were newly paved and the general upkeep of the area was much better than what I remembered on my last visit in 1994. Obviously

the city was trying to make a good first impression upon its visitors. My enthusiasm then dwindled as we neared my host's apartment. It was located on the edge of town, a few kilometers from the old Intourist Hotel Lietuva. I never liked these mini-cities of drab and dismal Soviet-style apartment buildings. Not much had changed on the outside since my last visit to alter that opinion. The buildings still scar the Lithuanian landscape. However, I was pleasantly surprised to find that my host had renovated the entire interior of his family's apartment. There were rich wood finishes, ceramic tile and modern appliances. The separation of classes in Lithuania was evident right outside my window. Modern and expensive houses were being built right alongside the drab apartment buildings.

As a chemist myself, I was glad to have my first opportunity to visit the Vilnius University Chemistry Department. In what were otherwise bleak facilities with poor and outdated equipment, I was impressed by the enthusiasm of my friend and his young colleagues as they tried to carry out innovative research under difficult conditions. Their department's most modern piece of major equipment was already 3 years old and their department's budget for supplies was a meager \$6,000 per year. Faculty salaries are low, leading some to hold multiple jobs. There were some efforts being made to renovate the facilities and laboratories.

Before leaving Vilnius, I was honored to receive a personal tour of the Philology Department of Vilnius University. We visited many of the historic buildings on campus. Our guide was quite knowledgeable in the history of the buildings and the art that decorated them. The number and diversity of frescos and other works of art on the ceilings and walls of different rooms amazed me. Each work of art had a different and unusual story behind it. Some of it was newly restored, while other pieces had been brought out of hiding after the Soviet occupation. I was fortunate to have received this information when I did. It made me look intelligent when I returned a few days later with the UNOmaha students and was able to retell a few of the stories that I just learned.



*Dancing
around the
bonfire at
Kurtuvenai
Park near
Šiauliai.*

A few other comments on Vilnius are in order. The beauty of the Old Town impressed me. Many of the buildings have been restored. There are modern hotels, bars, restaurants and shops in an "old-Europe" atmosphere. Food and drink was still very reasonable. The main shopping area of Vilnius has also been transformed into a district of trendy shops and businesses. Many still occupy old buildings that look somewhat drab on the outside, but have been nicely renovated inside. McDonalds and modern gas station/convenience stores seem to be popping up everywhere.

Very quickly I was transferred from the very reserved academic atmosphere of Vilnius to the festive academic atmosphere of Šiauliai. I arrived by train just a few hours ahead of the contingent from UNOmaha and was able to witness the rousing welcome put on for them by the members of Saule late that evening. I was most appreciative that Zenonas welcomed me into his home to stay with his very nice wife and daughter. The accommodations were the same as in Vilnius, a very dismal looking apartment building with a beautifully restored apartment inside. The students were not so fortunate and resided in the dorms.

I had only visited Šiauliai the first time for a few hours on my last trip. It had improved somewhat, but one

could tell that it was different from the major cities. The people there told me about the rampant unemployment and closing of factories. The airport there, one of the most modern in Soviet times, sits nearly unused. The people lament that the younger generation is pulling up stakes and heading to the major cities or outside Lithuania where they can find jobs. It is not unlike the situation in the mill towns of Pennsylvania.

On our first morning in Šiauliai we had a brief orientation and tour of the university. One by one I met the familiar and smiling faces of our visitors to Pittsburgh last year. Slowly I began to understand exactly who the leaders of the different parts of Saule were and what they did. That was difficult to learn during their quick visit to Pittsburgh. It was a hectic time at the University because folk groups were arriving to perform for a weekend celebration called "Studentiškas Pavasaris 2000." There were groups from Latvia, Ukraine and Vilnius joining the various performing groups based at the University. I was grateful that I was treated not as one of the students or a tourist, but actually as somewhat of a dignitary. I was able to meet important people in the University and be treated to special meals and receptions. Saule's group leaders truly made me feel at home. One morning I was invited to join the leaders of the UNOmaha and Ukraine delegations

in a visit to the Mayor of Šiauliai's office. There I received a gift from the deputy mayor and was asked to sign a special book for visitors to the city.

Numerous concerts and performances marked the festival weekend at the university. There were performances for grade school students, a concert in the Šiauliai Cathedral, and an outdoor performance on the town mall to close the festival, along with performances at other venues in between. Zenonas was the director of the entire event and his running here and there at a frantic pace reminded me of my own behavior when trying to organize events for our Lithuanian community in Pittsburgh. He pulled everything off without a hitch despite some last-minute cancellations by some groups due to lack of traveling funds. Of course, my favorite performers through the whole festival was Saule. I also gained an appreciation for the hard work of the students from UNOmaha. They had many fine performances and their conductor, James Saker, is to be congratulated. It turns out that Mr. Saker grew up just up the road from Pittsburgh. It was his first trip to Lithuania and he was duly impressed.

Two events in Šiauliai left a lasting impression on me. The first was a friendship evening for all the performing groups at Kurtuvenai Park on the outskirts of Šiauliai. It was very rural with many trees and an old granary that was in the process of being restored. There we had a celebration similar to Jonines with a bonfire and entertainment. It was a mixture of cultures as each musical group performed for a portion of the evening. There was no problem as we danced around the bonfire to the international mixture of music while enjoying a picnic of sausages and beer.

The other notable event took place a few evenings later at the student union building. First I was amazed that students were actually sold beer in a campus building with seemingly no age limit. When we entered, I was treated to the piercing sounds of modern technomusic. The students were having a fine time dancing. Shortly thereafter the music stopped. In came 5 members of Saule toting their old fashioned instruments and they quickly set up. In my mind I thought this would surely bomb because of what I observed when I first came in. To my amazement the students fell right in with the Lithuanian folk dance music

played by Saule. We just had a great time doing a number of line and circle dances. After about an hour the packed house of students stopped their folk dancing as the band ended their music. They immediately went back to dancing to technomusic. I thought only in Lithuania could this happen.

I also had the opportunity to do some touring with the UNOmaha band. We visited the Hill of Crosses, where I am happy to report the K of L cross is still standing and holding up well. I added my own cross to a crevice on the K of L cross, joining other crosses that have been attached to it. It seems the phenomenal growth of the Hill of Crosses has slowed compared to the time immediately following independence. Also in the area, I was able to join the UNOmaha group leaders for lunch at a famous restaurant located inside a windmill in the town of Tytuvėnai. I had eaten there on my last visit, but now it was even more renovated and beautiful inside.

We visited the traditional tourist spots of Trakai and Vilnius. We also visited the beach at Palanga and the city of Klaipėda. Because of my previous visits to these locations I was able to find my way around easily and help provide information to the students. Of course they had their own guide and official translator whom they brought from the Lithuanian Community in Omaha. Ruta Jaudegis and her new husband, Bruce, were on their honeymoon while Ruta translated and helped guide the group. They were a very friendly couple and treated me as one of their own even though I was not officially part of their group.

Close to Palanga we stopped at the "Museum of the Absurd." It was an outdoor museum assembled in a farm field. It seems the owner of the land brought various pieces of metal and huge boulders to the property. Others added crosses and markers with various inscriptions. There is an old Soviet tank abandoned at the entrance to the park. It is really hard to describe, but definitely worth a visit.

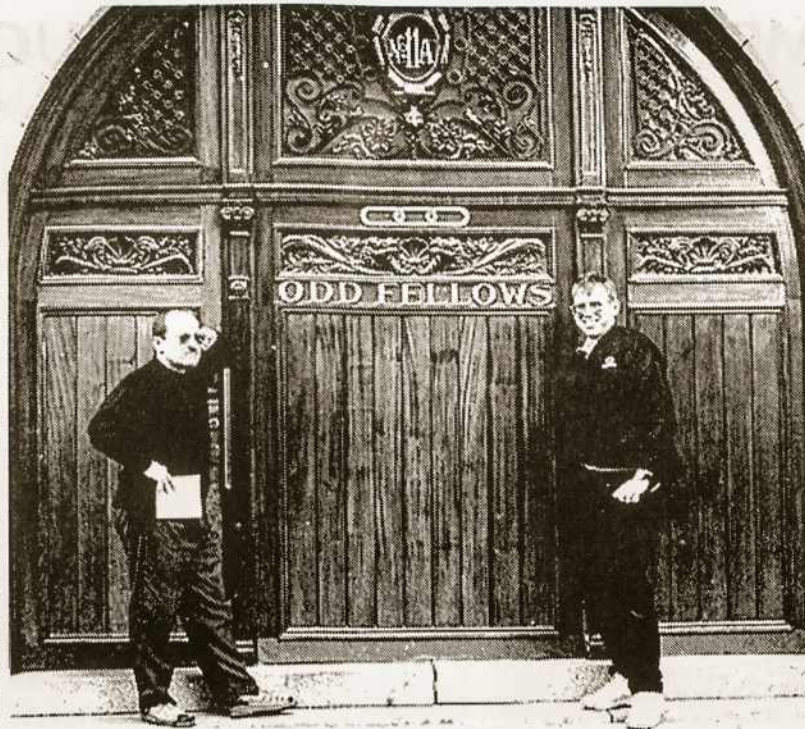
Palanga is taking on the atmosphere of a true resort town. Although we visited before the tourist season, we observed the many new outdoor bars and cafes. The beach was in excellent shape although the number of swimmers could be counted on one hand because the wind blowing off the water was a little cool. The weather was

otherwise very pleasant inland as Lithuania was suffering through unusually warm temperatures and drought. Klaipeda also seemed more modern and cleaner compared to my earlier visit. There were more shops, but unfortunately fewer open-air vendors of amber and other Lithuanian handcrafted items. Perhaps it just wasn't the tourist season yet. While in the Old Town of Klaipeda we had dinner in the best jazz club in all of Lithuania. Not only

was the food tasty, but the music and atmosphere could have fooled anyone into believing they were in a club in the heart of the French Quarter of New Orleans.

After eight days in Šiauliai, I accompanied the UNOmaha group as they went on a quick journey through Latvia, Estonia and Stockholm, Sweden. We stayed overnight in Riga, Latvia. The old town there was beautiful, but the rest of the city impressed me as looking like Moscow when I visited there almost 20 years ago. It seemed very cold and gray even though the sun was shining and the weather was warm. The next morning we went on to Talinn to catch the ferry to Stockholm. Talinn appeared more modern and well-kept than Riga and their Old Town was equally fascinating and unique. The overnight ferry ride was my first excursion on a ship. It was fun and having Zenonas along for the trip made it even more so. We also befriended our Lithuanian bus drivers and shared a few drinks on deck as we watched Talinn disappear from view under a full moon.

Stockholm was of course everything one would expect of a modern European city and much more. They,



John Baltrus (right) and his host from Lithuania, Zenonas Ripinskis, on the streets of Stockholm.

too had an old town and many museums that would take a week or more to visit properly. I had only two days and one night before having to return to Talinn and make my way back down to Lithuania. My last night with Zenonas was busy, yet relaxing. We again shared an evening with our Lithuanian bus drivers talking and drinking outside our camp-like accommodations. This time we were joined by a couple of UNOmaha

students who asked us many questions and reminisced about their visit in Lithuania. I was somewhat surprised to hear of their and other students' favorable comments about Lithuania despite that they were non-Lithuanians and they stayed and traveled under less than ideal conditions. I think what made their trip so enjoyable was the people. I can relate to that because of the kindness shown to me by my host Zenonas and all the members of Saule and the University. I was somewhat depressed the next morning as the group departed to begin their return home and I started to make the long journey back to Lithuania on my own. In fact, for the first time we experienced a heavy rainfall that morning. Zenonas remarked that it was the heavens' crying that it was our last moments together as a group. It was quite a change not having 40 plus students to tag along with. The group's leaders kidded me and said that I probably didn't expect everything I had to go through in travelling with such a group. I said quite the contrary. It was about what I expected and actually better. I wanted something different and this was a great and unique way to visit Lithuania again.



I REMEMBER FATHER CASIMIR PUGEVIČIUS

by Edward Baranauskas

I was saddened to learn of the passing of Father Casimir Pugevičius a few months ago. I still have a lot of pleasant memories of him, and would like to share some of them with you, for he left a lasting impression on me. In my opinion, there were not many people who were his equal.

He was born in Baltimore of parents who came to our shores from Lithuania, and from them, he acquired a strong love in his heart for Lithuania and became a staunch Lithuanian patriot. He attended St. Alphonsus Lithuanian parochial school in Baltimore, and gave the Sisters of St. Casimir credit for laying the groundwork for his knowledge of the Catholic faith, and appreciation of his Lithuanian ethnicity. He became fluently bi-lingual. An honor student in his studies, he received a scholarship to the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He was ordained in 1953.

Father Casimir became a life member of the Knights of Lithuania in 1973. Even though his roots were in Baltimore, he originally was a member of C-29 in Newark. In 1975 he accepted the invitation to become the Executive Director of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid in Brooklyn, and transferred his membership to C-110 in Maspeth. He founded the Lithuanian Information Center during those difficult years when Lithuania endured Soviet repression and struggled for independence. For 18 years he devoted much of time, energy, and talents in translating copies of typewritten sheets of paper being smuggled out of the Iron Curtain which detailed the persecution of the clergy and the faithful. At first, all this information was published in booklet form, and was eventually compiled into 70 volumes titled "The Chronicles of the Catholic



Church in Lithuania", appearing in several languages.

After Lithuania regained her independence, Father returned to Baltimore where he served at several parishes. He formally retired several years later. Because of the shortage of priests in Lithuania, he decided to go to Lithuania to serve the pastoral needs of its people. He went to the Archdiocese of Vilnius where he was assigned to the Church of Blessed George Matulaitis (Palaiminto Jurgio Matulaičio bažnyčia).

I first met Father Pugevičius during the National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania at the Hotel Taft in New York City in 1975. He chaired the Lithuanian Affairs Committee at that time, a position he held for several more years. I was elected Co-Chair with Helen Kulber on the Public Relations Committee, and we met and worked with Father at the Supreme Council meetings. He impressed us with the fact that we must continue to keep the plight of Lithuania before the public eye, otherwise she would be forgotten. His concern for Lithuania and the well-being of the K. of L. was most sincere.

His work on the Chronicle did not go by unnoticed, apparently, by the Communist big-shots in Lithuania, and this must have rankled them to no end.

My wife went to Lithuania in 1984 with a tourist group, staying at the Hotel Lietuva. The authorities must have scrutinized the list of arrivals carefully, for she received a phone call one evening from a gentleman who identified himself as being from Internal Security, and asked if he could come up to see her. She raised no objections, for could she afford to say otherwise? The gentleman came, and asked her if she knew an individual named (please turn ☞ to page 18)

Palanga and the seacoast ...

The Legacy of TIŠKEVIČIUS



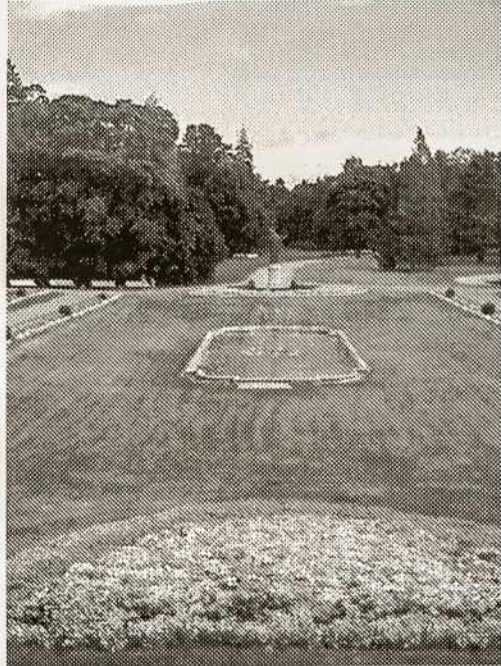
Developing Palanga, Lithuania into the resort it is today was begun by the family of Count Tiškevičius (Tyszkiewicz), when they acquired the Palanga estate in 1824 and transformed it into their home residence. The development of spacious botanical gardens and a park, designed by the French architect Eduard Andre, and the Belgium Gardener, Buysen de Coulon, took about a half of a century. More than 150 kinds of trees and shrubs were initially planted, now the area boasts twice as many species. And a walk through it is a must for a summer visi-

The Winter Garden estate at Kretinga existed since the 15th century. 19th century renovations included the construction of a massive greenhouse by Juozapas Tiškevičius, and later rescaled in 1912 by Alexander Tiškevičius. Modern restoration work was completed in 1987, and upon independence in 1991, it was donated to Kretinga as a museum. The gardens boast over 500 species of plants from all over the globe, and a waterfall and carp pond. Visitors are welcome to enjoy a meal in the botanical restaurant.



Gintaro Muziejus, the Amber Museum is located within the park and was the former palace of Count Felix Tiškevičius in 1897. Designed by German architect, Franz Schwechten, the museum was opened in 1963 as a branch of the Lithuanian Museum of Fine Arts. Currently, the amber collection includes 28,000 items, exhibited in 15 rooms.

Jesus gives a blessing in the sculpture by Stasys Zirgulis in the garden's large terrace, across from the museum. Although the original sculpture was destroyed by the Russians after WWII, the new statue was designed from old photos and blessed in 1993 by Telšiai Bishop, Antanas Vaičius



vacationers jumped to 100,000, and presently, some estimates cite a half-million visitors from all over the world.

One of the main attraction's is the area's Baltic Sea amber. At the end of the 19th century,

tor traveling to Lithuania's coast.

A two-story Renaissance palace and a chapel was built in the park in 1897. A large statue of Christ with open arms, created by the famous Danish sculptor, Thorvaldsen, was erected in front of the palace. Although one cannot view the original statue, a replica designed by using photographs was Eventually, the park became one of the most beautiful in Lithuania.

Palanga is the largest and most famous seaside resort on the Baltic shore, north of Klaipeda. Prior to World War I, Palanga attracted 4,000-5,000 guests per season; during Lithuania's independence their number rose to a maximum of 15,000; after World War II, the total of

500 workers processed approximately 20,000 kg of amber annually, the figures are considerably higher today. From street vendors to elaborate shoppes, the quantity and quality is a feast for amber lovers.

Palanga has become a well-known seaside resort because of several significant advantages. The broad and spacious bar of clean sand with a long chain of undulating dunes is ideal for sunbathing. The temperature is higher



Egle, Queen of the Serpents depicting the popular folktale, stands near the main entrance and was created by Robertas Antinis and Alfredas Palauskas

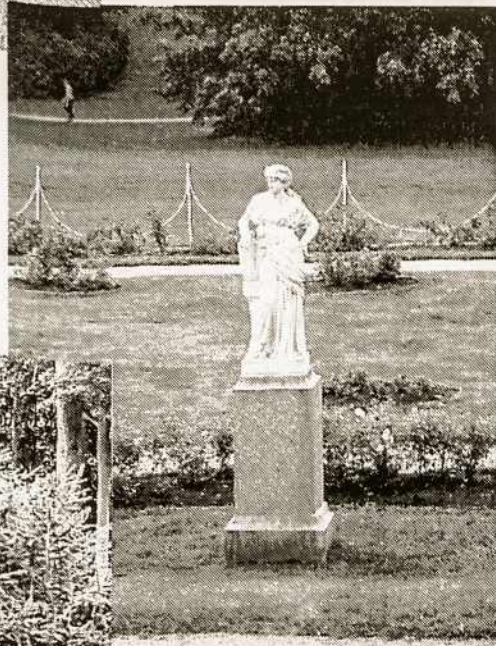
Rebeka, or woman carrying water is the creation of French sculptor Hubert Louis-Noel, and was originally at a Šilute park.

The popular Birutė was created by K. Petrikaitė-Tiuliene and erected in 1965 and stands at the foot of Birutė's Hill, the symbolic resting place of Princess Birutė.

than the annual average in Lithuania. the clouds are fewer, and the sun's radiation is greater. The amounts of ozone and iodine, in the air are relatively high. Mineral water for drinking and for curative baths is obtained from an artesian well. The town is surrounded by pine-forests and stands between two hills associated with many legends.

According to one of them, Birute, the wife of Prince Kestutis, was a priestess who guarded the sacred fire burning on an altar at Palanga. It is said that after the death of Kestutis (1382) she returned to her native place and was buried on the hill that was named after her. The legend became very popular among Lithuanians and lends a distinct romantic aura to Palanga.

A site from the Neolithic period (3500-1800 BC) was uncov-



ered in 1958 during the regulation of the Raze creek that flows through the town. The finds included bones of animals, horns, stone and bone artifacts. Amber artifacts and ornaments from the same period were discovered in Palanga at an earlier



time. A vessel with 30 Roman coins and one Greek silver coin, unearthed in 1929, belongs to the first century AD. Information about Danish and Swedish raids along the eastern Baltic shore is contained in 9th-11th century sources. Palanga is mentioned for the first time in an agreement (1253) between the Bishop of Courland and the Teutonic Order of Livonia to partition certain territories adjacent to the Baltic coastline. Although



Gardener keeps the Palanga Botanical Gardens area lovely for a visitor's stroll

Sculpture of Jūrate and Kastytis by Nijolė Gaigalaitė (1959) located at one of the ponds

all these regions were sparsely inhabited in the 13th century, the Baltic shore near Palanga became an important wedge, separating Prussia from Livonia and preventing the merger of the two branches of the Teutonic Order entrenched in the two lands. The German knights tried both war and negotiations to seize the Palanga seashore, for them a vital link in communication by land, but failed. Palanga remained under Lithuanian rule

henceforward, except for several years at the beginning of the 15th century, when Vytautas the Great temporarily consigned western Lithuania (Samogitia) to the Teutonic Order for diplomatic reasons. A royal estate was established in Palanga, and in 1511 its administration was entrusted to the Kesgaila family of magnates, the elders of Samogitia. The estate and township of the same name were later administered by other Lithuanian noblemen. Following Lithuania's annexation by Russia (1795), the

estate was given to General Zubov, from whom it was taken over in 1801 by General Nesolovsky. In 1824, the estate was acquired by Count Michael Tyszkiewicz, whose relatives remained in Palanga until the first Soviet occupation in 1940.

In the 16th century Palanga became an important Lithuanian harbor, used by Dutch, Swedish and English vessels. King Sigismund Vasa in 1589 granted an English trade company a permit to enlarge the harbor. In 1679, King John Sobieski allowed the establishment of an English trade representation, with the condition that a second port be built at the mouth

of the Sventoji river. Although neither port had a closed bay or a good river mouth, they played a significant role in Lithuania's economic life. During the 16th-17th centuries trade was conducted with Königsberg, Danzig, Liepaja, Riga, and other Baltic ports.

The list of imports was headed by manufactures, haberdashery, salt, iron, arms, and the so-called colonial goods;

exports consisted mainly of timber, flaxseed, honey, hides, cattle. The Lithuanian ports competed with Liepaja and Riga, through which large quantities of flax and grain were exported from Lithuania. At the request of Riga's merchants, the Swedes destroyed both Lithuanian ports in 1701, at the time of the Great Northern War. Some one-and-a-half centuries later, the Tyszkiewicz family made an attempt to revive the Palanga harbor. They built an oak



bridge into the sea for the mooring of ships and acquired a small boat of their own that sailed the Palanga-Liepaja route. The port was gradually covered with sand, and since 1892 the bridge has been serving as a promenade area for vacationers.

In 1819 Palanga was taken out of the county of Telgiai and assigned to the province of Courland. Situated at the very Russian-German border, the town made its living from the border trade, especially during the winter months when transport by sea became impeded, and from the amber industry. When the Russian administration forbade the printing of Lithuanian books and newspapers in Latin characters (1864), Palanga became an important point for the smuggling of Lithuanian publications from Lithuania Minor. Rev. Marcijonas Jurgaitis (in 1883-89) and physician Ljudas Vaineikis (in 1896-1900) played the leading roles in this action of cultural contraband. They organized an extensive network of smuggling and dissemination of the clandestine press. Vaineikis and about 25 other persons were punished by deportation to Siberia in 1901. A public Lithuanian gathering in 1899 featured the comedy *Amerika pirtyje* (America in the Bath); while in other parts of Lithuania such theatrical events were forbidden, there was a little more cultural freedom in Courland. Many well-known Lithuanian public figures attended the Palanga secondary school, established in 1886.

All this activity was inter-

rupted by World War I and the German occupation. After the war, the development of the resort was taken over by the Lithuanian government, which granted Palanga the rights of municipality. Dr. Jonas Sliupas, who was appointed the first mayor, made a considerable contribution to the growth of the resort. Palanga became a summer vacation site for the President of the Republic, many high officials, writers, artists, and people engaged in public affairs. During the season the schedule of events was filled with congresses, youth conventions, sports festivals, and concerts.

During the early days of independent Lithuania, the Latvians had occupied Palanga as a township belonging to the province of Courland. In 1921, after a boundary between the two Baltic states was negotiated, Palanga was attached to Lithuania.

After World War II the resort was expanded by incorporating four nearby villages; the northern limits of the town now reach the Sventoji river. The old streets and public squares have been enlarged and newly planted, new streets were laid out, many new houses and several larger villas were built, the artesian well was deepened to 599 m

An airport for a connection with Vilnius was built. The park is now a beautiful botanical garden, while the palace was given over to the Artists' Association and now houses the amber museum.



Excerpted from the Encyclopedia Lituanica, Lithuania By Car, and other sources.

Billboards of today's era line many of the byways in the beach resort town

The pier to the Baltic Sea in Palanga that was washed away in a fall 1999 storm is on its way to being rebuilt



FATHER CASIMIR PUGEVIČIUS

(from ☞ to page 12)

Pugevičius. After a second of thought, she replied that she did not. That was the only question she was asked, and he never bothered her again. To this day, she often wonders what his motive was in asking such a question. The Communists must have hated Father Pugevičius so much, that they wanted to get any information about him they possibly could.

A few years ago, I read in one of the Lithuanian language newspapers that Father Pugevičius was leaving the United States to live in Lithuania, where he would serve the religious needs of the people there due to the shortage of priests. No mention was made of where, or in which parish, he would reside.

Father Antanas Gražulis, pastor of St. Casimir's Church and rector of the Jesuit High School in Vilnius, corresponded with Ann Morrissey, a member of the Knights of Lithuania C-110. She was kind enough to give me an address, and I wrote to him asking him if he knew the whereabouts of Father Pugevičius, and if he did, would he please send me his address and telephone number. I also mentioned that we both were members of the Knights of Lithuania, and was looking forward in renewing old friendships. I planned to visit Lithuania in the summer of 1998, I told him.

Father Gražulis answered my letter, and said that Father Pugevičius was looking forward to our meeting. I was overjoyed.

As luck would have it, I arrived in Vilnius the first week in August, and tried to contact Father Cas the morn-

ing following my arrival. I tied in vain, and all my calls went unanswered. I contacted Father Gražulis, and learned that Father Cas left for a vacation and medical check-up in the United States in the last week in July. To say I was disappointed would be a gross understatement. Now, I hoped we could meet the next time I went to Lithuania. I planned on writing to him in advance, to learn his vacation plans so that we could get together.

That was not to be, unfortunately. Before I could make my vacation plans for the year 2000, I was stunned when I read that he returned to Baltimore in the fall of 1999 due to his failing health. He was too ill to go to Lithuania to receive one of the nation's highest awards, the Order of the Grand Duke Gediminas. It was awarded to him to honor his efforts to defend human rights and restore Lithuania's independence.

During a December 17 ceremony at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, D.C., Ambassador Stasys Sakalauskas draped the medal around the neck of Father Pugevičius, acting on behalf of President Valdas Adamkus.

Father Casimir Pugevičius died peacefully February 29 at St. Vincent de Paul rectory in Baltimore where he had been living since being diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor in October. He will be missed by all of us. His passing was a loss to Lithuanians everywhere, not only to those in the United States, but to those in Lithuania as well. ❖❖❖

Sources of information: VYTIS, issues of October 1975; June-July 1978; October 1978; The Catholic Review, Baltimore, Maryland., Dec. 23, 1999; March 9, 2000.

Smiles -- The English Language

(No wonder the English language is so very difficult to learn.)

We must polish the Polish furniture.

He could lead if he would get the lead out.

The farm was used to produce produce.

The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.

The soldier decided to desert in the desert.

This was a good time to present the present. (And this last could mean "gift" or "era of time ") A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.

When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.

The insurance was invalid for the invalid.

The bandage was wound around the wound.

There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.

They were too close to the door to close it.

The buck does funny things when the does are present.

They sent a sewer down to stitch the tear in the sewer line.

To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.

The wind was too strong to wind the sail.

After a number of injections my jaw got number.

Upon seeing the tear in my clothes I shed a tear.

I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.

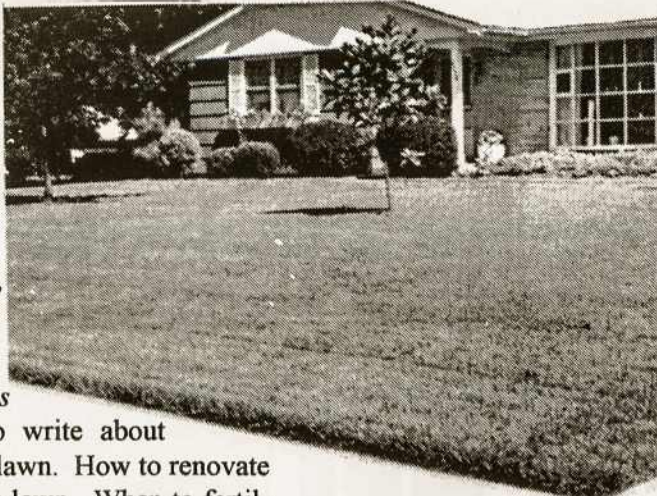
If Pro is the opposite of Con, then progress is the

opposite of Con....

Lithuanian Gardener

Sensible Steps to Great Lawns

by HM Frank Petrauskas



Today I would like to write about lawns. How to construct a new lawn. How to renovate an old lawn. How to maintain a lawn. When to fertilize. When to apply weed and insect control.

Most people enjoy a nice green lawn. An exception is that person who says, "Pave it and paint it green". Fortunately that person is in the great minority. People's taste vary greatly. Some will want a beautiful lush lawn using a fine blend of grasses. Others will want a functional utility lawn with a tough blend of grasses. And there are many in between who want a nice lawn but don't want a lot of fuss and muss in maintaining the lawn. Whatever your taste and desire we'll give you the necessary information to do what you want to do.

1. Soil Preparation

The soil should be loosened and raked and all debris removed. The ideal soil for a lawn is a light loam that drains freely and does not easily become compacted or waterlogged. If the soil is light and sandy you can add well-rotted organic matter to it. Peat moss is a good organic matter. If your soil is a heavy clay then you can add horticultural sand to it. Whichever your situation be sure to rototill so everything is mixed in well.

2. Grass Seed

The choice of grass seed is governed mainly by climate. In North America, lawn grasses are grouped into three major climate categories: warm-climate grasses, cool-climate grasses and dry land grasses. All of the North East into the Carolinas and all of the Mid West down to Texas would fall under the cool-climate grasses. The warm-climate grasses would be in the rest of the Southern states and southern California. The dry-land grasses are self explanatory.

Most of us fall under the cool-climate grasses

category. The most suitable grasses to use are bluegrass, fescue, bent grass, perennial rye grass and red top. It is best to use a mixture of grass seed. The

bluegrasses, fescue and bent

grass are the main body of grasses while the perennial rye and red top are starter grasses. They germinate more quickly giving you some green until the blue grass and fescue germinate.

Use bent grass in your seed mix only if you are going to fuss with your lawn. Bent is a fine grass but it requires regular watering and fertilizing and it is susceptible to most every fungus disease. It can be wiped out in a short time. That was found true back in the 1960's when Merlon bluegrass was brought on the market and given high praise. Many lawns were planted with a straight Merlon bluegrass. Soon these lawns became infested with leaf spot which is a fungus disease and many were wiped out.

I like to use a mixture of grasses and then you are covered for any situation. For a fine lawn I would use 40% bluegrass, 45% fine fescue, 10% perennial rye and 5% red top. For a general lawn or play area I would use 30% bluegrass, 20% fine fescue, 20% coarse fescue and 30% perennial ryegrass.

The warm-climate grasses are Bermuda grass, Zoysia, St. Augustine grass and centipede grass. The most widely used is Bermuda grass. It spreads very rapidly. Zoysia spreads rapidly also and it grows thick. It chokes out many lawn weeds.

3. Planting and Fertilizing

Once the area is ready for seeding place the seed in a spreader and set the control for a rate of 5 pounds per 1,000 square feet of area. Go back and forth on your passes making sure you overlap a little so there

☞ please turn to page 21



Lithuanian Chefs

The Branch Cake

Šakotis or raguolis

This type of cake is called "Branch Cake" because the layers look like the rings of a tree. In Lithuania it is also known as "Horn Cake" ("raguolis"), and is the traditional wedding cake (without the frosting). The authentic method is to pour the batter slowly over a large rolling pin set over an open fire, to produce its tall spiked form with a hollow center. For weddings a bouquet of flowers tops the cake, and the base may be decorated with greenery and ribbons.

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp. lemon peel, finely grated
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 6 egg yolks
- 2/3 cup flour
- 1/3 cup cornstarch
- 6 egg whites
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 cups sour cream
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Grease a 9-inch spring form pan; set aside. Cream butter until light; gradually add 1/2 cup sugar, lemon peel and 1/2 teaspoon vanilla. Add yolks, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Mix flour, 1/3 cup cornstarch and 1/4 teaspoon salt; stir into butter mixture.

Beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Gradually add 1/4 cup sugar; beat till stiff peaks form. Stir a small amount of egg white into



A genuine Šakotis (center) at a Kaunas wedding at Perkuno Namai

flour mixture. Fold flour mixture into whites.

Spread a scant 1/2 cup batter evenly in bottom of prepared pan. Place under broiler 5 inches from broiler elements; broil 1 to 1 1/2 minutes or until lightly browned. Spread another 1/2 cup batter over browned layer, broil again. Repeat this step, making 5 layers. Stir together sour cream, the remaining 1/3 cup sugar and 1 teaspoon vanilla.

Spread half of this mixture over top cake layer. Broil 1 minute or until set. Using remaining cake

batter, add 5 more layers, broiling as before. Spread last layer with remaining sour cream mixture. Broil 1 minute or until set. Cool 15 minutes. Remove sides from the spring-form pan; cool completely.

Decorate top with strawberries and chocolate butter cream frosting.

STRAWBERRY- CHOCOLATE BUTTER CREAM FROSTING

- 1 1/2 cups fresh strawberries, halved
- 1/2 cup strawberry jam
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch

Arrange whole strawberries around edge of torte and in centre. Frost sides with chocolate frosting. Pipe a circle of frosting around the top edge of cake and around centre strawberries. Chill.

Mix jam, lemon juice and cornstarch in a small saucepan. Cook and stir till mixture is thickened. Cool to room temperature. Spoon glaze over berries.



-from Treasures of Lithuanian Cooking, by Virginia Sakalas-Mikėnas and Ramūnė Sakalas-Jonaitis, Toronto 1997 vmikenas@palmnet.net

LAWNS *from page 19*

will be no bare strips. I like to spread the seed first and then I spread the fertilizer. For a new lawn I use a 10-6-4 fertilizer mix spreading about 20 pounds per 1,000 square feet. Spread the fertilizer right over the seed. Next take a leaf rake and rake lightly, raking in the seed and fertilizer with the soil. Then take a light roller and roll over the area pressing the seed against the soil for quicker and better germination. You can cover the seeded area with straw or you can water it lightly each day until the seeds germinate.

4. Sodding

Some people don't care to wait for the slower process of seeding so they sod their lawn. This is called "instant lawn". To sod a lawn you go through the same process of soil preparation as you do for seeding. Before you lay the sod you spread the fertilizer and rake it in. Make sure your sod is a good quality sod and a good grass mix. Start laying the sod as near as possible to your sod supply so as you will be walking on the sod instead of the bare soil. Tuck in your ends and edges so they don't overlap. Stagger each row so the ends don't meet on the same line. Once the sod is layed take a medium weight roller and roll over the entire sodded area to firm it to the soil. Next take your hose and water in the sod very well. Make sure the water reaches into the soil. This should be done until the lawn becomes established.

5. Maintenance

All lawns require routine maintenance to keep them in good condition. The amount of time this will take varies, depending on how well the grass is growing and what type of lawn you want. Mowing should, be done at least weekly during the growing season. Then it won't be necessary to pick up the grass clippings. Set your mower at 2 to 2-1/2 inches. Grass clippings are good for your lawn as long as they aren't in clumps. Always rake the clumps.

Fertilizing twice a year is sufficient for most lawns. I like to fertilize in May and October. If the broad leafed weeds are plentiful in your lawn use a Weed and Feed mixture and be sure to follow directions. If you only have a few weeds then just fertilize. You can spray the individual weeds with a ready to use spray can which you will find in your local garden store. The best time to eliminate grubs is October. Purchase a Grub and Feed mixture and spread it according to directions. Be sure to water it in well.

Chinch bug is a problem in warmer areas. They can do damage anytime during the growing season and they should be taken care of as soon as you notice their damage. Your local garden store will have chemicals which you can safely use.

In an earlier column I wrote that "Fall is for Planting". That is especially true with planting new lawns. The period between August 15 and September 30 is the best time of the year for planting new lawns. So go to it my friends and "happy planting". ❖❖❖

"In Lithuania, it's one big cookie"

This was how the Washington Post food editors described the traditional Lithuanian wedding cake.

"No traditional Lithuanian wedding reception would be complete without a šakotis, a tall, dense, Christmas tree shaped, cookie-like pastry. The 2 to 3 foot creation, in shades of yolk yellow to burnt-toast brown, has "limbs" protruding in every direction. A hole at the top is often filled with fresh flowers and herbs.

"Here is how it's made at the Racine Bakery on the South Side of Chicago: An egg-rich batter is dripped onto a metal rod as it revolves horizontally in a special oven. Layers build and bake forming rings, like a tree, visible when the cake is cut. Making such a cake

requires four to five hours of undivided attention.

"It might sound like no big deal, but you have to have skill to know when to pour another layer. If you pour too early, the dough just falls off," says owner Dana Kapacinskas, who makes and bakes 20 such cakes a week during spring and summer. Half are shipped to weddings out of state.

At serving time, the fresh flowers are removed and the cake is sliced from the top, and then cut again, into 2-by-3-inch pieces. Wrapped in plastic and stored in a cool, dry place, šakotis can be kept for as long as four months after baking."

-from the Washington Post, 6/31/2000 by Walter Nicholls

Lithuanians in the news

South Florida Preserves Lithuanian Culture

Ask Ruth Bronisas Meyer what it means to be Lithuanian in America, and she will likely tell you of weekends spent making crafts and learning how to folk dance. Meyer is one of many South Floridians of Lithuanian descent whose parents moved decades ago to the industrial cities of the northern United States. Growing up in Chicago, she attended Lithuanian Saturday School.

"I can't really say that it was academic," said Meyer, 52, a teacher of homebound students for the Broward County school system. "But it was definitely more fun in terms of socializing."

Meyer, who attended an all-girls high school, would often stay to learn folk dances after the Saturday classes recessed. Besides courses in art, dancing, and music, the Saturday program provided instruction in Lithuanian history and literature.

"It was the only way you got to hold hands with a boy," she said with a laugh. "And of course, you know, we were very excited and happy about that."

Saturday schooling usually ended when children turned 15. It may have seemed like only fun and games at the time. But many Lithuanian parents, having fled Communist oppression under Soviet rule, considered the program to be the only way to preserve their cultural heritage.

Saturday schools are a relic of the past for the more than 1,000 Lithuanians and the approximately 16,000 Lithuanian-Americans who live in South Florida mostly in the Fort Lauderdale, Pompano Beach and Miami areas, and many are elderly.

"They're not a lot of young people [of Lithuanian descent] here," said Vincas Salciunas, 82, president of the Palm Beach Chapter of the Lithuanian-American Community organization.

Throughout Florida, Lithuanians commemorate Feb. 16 Independence Day in a restaurant. The ceremonies, begin with the singing of the national anthems of both Lithuania and the United States. After a special prayer, the groups discuss the plight of Lithuanians in the homeland and the country's progress. Then a special meal is served.

"The movers, the leaders of the Lithuanian

Community [group], usually organize a get-together for Independence Day," said Milda Isenberg, 77, of Fort Lauderdale, who fled Kaunas, the nation's second largest city, in 1944. "Then we find out about it through a newsletter or conversation."

A number of Lithuanians said few younger Lithuanian-Americans feel a need to stay in touch with their roots.

Finding a Lithuanian organization that suits one's time or interests can be like trying to find a needle in a haystack, some Lithuanian-Americans said. But they do exist.

Kestutis Bogaciunas, 56, of Dania Beach, was just a toddler when his parents emigrated from Lithuania in 1947 and settled in New York. Growing up, he said, his parents would speak Lithuanian to him and he would answer back in English. "I can still read and speak a little," Bogaciunas said.

But he wanted to do more. While doing research on the Internet a few months back, Bogaciunas found a South Florida listing for the Knights of Lithuania, a group that's dedicated to preserve and promote the country's culture.

Today, he is president of the West Palm Beach chapter, which has about 50 members.

"I always wanted to see the faces of the people who speak my language," said Bogaciunas, who teaches engineering at RTM Star Center in Dania Beach. "It's like touching a part of your culture that was hidden or lost from you."

Donna Liutermoza usually celebrates Independence Day with friends. But the Pompano Beach real estate broker gets together with her family for Kucios. Liutermoza, who speaks and writes Lithuanian, never misses an opportunity to teach her grandchildren about the wealth of their heritage.

We have some of the oldest buildings in eastern Europe, and we are known for our beautiful amber jewelry. And we are free," said Liutermoza, 65, who fled Lithuania with her parents in 1944 at the age of 10. "I think our children should be proud of our roots."

from the Florida Sun Sentinel By Natasha Butler, 2/17/00

The Orangutan Lady... Dr. Birute Galdikas

Of the three young women recruited in the 1960's by the paleontologist Louis Leakey to study great apes, Dr. Birute Galdikas, now 53, is the least known. Dr. Leakey's first disciple, Dr. Jane Goodall who discovered that chimpanzees made tools has become an international scientific celebrity, and Dr. Dian Fossey, who lived among the gorillas of Rwanda and was killed there in 1985, was played by Sigourney Weaver in the movie "Gorillas in the Mist."

But the story of Dr. Galdikas, who quietly devoted herself to the study and preservation of the Indonesian orangutan, remains largely unknown.

"That's because I have a name nobody can pronounce and because I've been in Borneo all these years, tracking an elusive and solitary animal," Dr. Galdikas, whose name is Lithuanian (pronounced bi-ROO-tay GALD-i-kus), said on a recent morning. She had come to New York for several days to take the middle of her three children, Jane Galdikas, 15, to museums and the theater.

Still a resident of Borneo, Dr. Galdikas flies regularly to North America to teach at Simon Fraser University in Canada and to oversee her charity, the Orangutan Foundation International of Los Angeles.

Q. Give us a report on the state of the world's orangutans?

A. They are poised on the edge of extinction. It's that simple. We're still seeing orangutans in the forest; they are coming into captivity in enormous numbers. You just know that there can't be that many left in the wild.

Q. How did orangutans come to be threatened?

A. The main factor was that until 1988, Indonesia had a forestry minister who was a real forester. In 1988, he was replaced by a forestry minister who was an agriculturist, a promoter of plantations. That signaled a shift in government policy from selective logging to clear-cut-



ting of the forest. For orangutans, clear-cutting is a policy of extinction. If you selectively log, some animals will survive.

At first, only local loggers came in. When nobody stopped them, the bigger commercial loggers followed. Suddenly, there was a disappearing habitat.

Q. Is this true too in Kalimantan, Borneo, where you have your research station?

A. Yes, though in the National Park where I work, we're doing what we can. We're trying to set up patrols of local men to go out with park rangers so that when they

come across illegal loggers, they don't feel totally intimidated. We're working with the Indonesian government to set up new wildlife reserves at expired logging concessions. And of course, we're doing what we always have: saving wild-born orangutans who've been captured by humans. We have a hospital for 130 orangutans and an orphanage for the young.

Q. Tell us what you've learned about orangutans in the nearly 30 years you've been studying them?

A. Well, we've gotten a picture of a very long-lived primate who probably lives 60 to 70 years in the wild. They use a wide variety of foods in the wild, about 400 different kinds, because food is generally scarce for them. The males come and go. They're very, very competitive. Probably very few males are successful at actually impregnating females. And the females seem to get pregnant about once every eight years. Also, they're very smart.

Q. Getting back to orangutans, when you see what is happening to the animals you've spent your life studying, what do you feel?

A. I feel like I'm viewing an animal holocaust and holocaust is not a word I use lightly. The machine of extinction is grinding away. The destruction of the tropical rain forest in Borneo is accelerating daily. The consequences of this destruction for the orangutans will be final. And if orangutans go extinct in the wild, paradise is gone. And we'll never have it again.

from the New York Times, 3/21/2000 by Claudia Dreifus

Not such a long way to the Waves

Florence Litwinas Morkus was born at home in Hartford on Oct. 5, 1922. She was the second of seven children, two boys and five girls. Her mother was a homemaker, and her father tended the boilers at Arrow Hart Hegeman, a local company. She attended Holy Trinity School at Capitol Avenue and Broad Street through ninth grade, then attended Hartford Public High School.

I remember many things - the icebox, and the iceman coming and bringing a block of ice for it. I remember coming home from school, and the iron was heating on the stove. There were no electrical appliances as there are today. I remember my mother used a scrub board for laundry, and my father always fixed our shoes, putting the soles back on.

We lived our lives within a radius of 50 miles, and that was our life. We didn't travel like we do now. People didn't look for handouts either; a family of seven children, and still we went to Catholic school. My father bought himself a car and a home for us, with just him working and with seven children, somehow they earned a living.

My parents were from Lithuania. They met here in Hartford. When my mother was coming over, she was on a ship to America when the first world war was declared. But they let the ship come in because it had almost reached these shores. They both went to Ellis Island. They settled where there was a Lithuanian parish; Holy Trinity was a Lithuanian parish. And they got married in Holy Trinity Church, as my husband and I did.

After Hartford Public, I went to Southern New England Telephone Co. and worked from 1941 to 1943. From there I went to the Navy and enlisted.

One day The Hartford Times had a whole-page advertisement that said "Long May They Wave" with photos of Hunter College in New York City, which had been taken over then as an official Navy training station for branches of the Women's Navy Reserve. I was impressed. I read the whole page and decided, "This is it." I signed up early; I was one of the first in the third regiment when I went in.

After boot training in New York, I was assigned to Washington, D.C. I'd never been to Washington; the farthest I'd ever been was the New York World's Fair. I was excited about going to the Capital. They decided I was to

do telephone work. This, after I had gotten tired of the shifts at the telephone company: 9 to 1 and then 6 to 2 the same day. It was awful. So they assigned me to communications in the security division of the Navy.

But it was altogether different, being in uniform and being in the service. I was in Navy communications for 33 months; I went in March of 1943 and was discharged December of 1945. The phone company had given me a leave of absence, and when I came back, my job was waiting for me. I also got engaged, to Vincent A. Morkus; his parents emigrated from Lithuania; they belonged to the same church we did. I had played basketball in high school, and he and his friends used to watch the girls play basketball, but I didn't know that. I still love basketball. We got married in September of 1946.

Vincent Morkus had been a prisoner of war in World War II. He was a lieutenant in the Army Air Force, the 379th Bombardment Group. He was a navigator. On one of his missions from England to Germany, the plane was shot down, the tailgunner was killed, and the pilot ordered the crew to jump. They were taken prisoner in Barth, Germany, for 14 months. They were liberated by the Russians. He has a shrapnel wound; when the plane was under fire from the Germans, he felt something hit his legs, and he bent down to look. If he hadn't bent down, he would have been shot in the head.

I've also made five trips to Lithuania, where I have lots of relatives. A cousin's daughter was getting married, and she asked me if I could send her a wedding dress and veil from here - she had seen the pictures I had sent of my daughters getting married and thought they were beautiful. She said, "You come to the wedding."

At that time, Lithuania was under Communist rule, and you were not allowed to visit anyone's homes. So my relatives had to come to the hotel to visit, and our visa was only good for five days. We went to the railroad station near the hotel to buy stamps, and I panned my camera all around for pictures. When I was finished, a woman came in, and security came and took my camera and looked at the stamps I had bought. They asked why we wanted to take pictures of the railroad; they asked where we were staying, what kind of work my husband does. They said, "No pictures of the airport, of railroads, bridges." They gave everything back. I still have the film. But we never saw the wedding, and I don't know why. The relatives said they couldn't take us, and I don't know if it was because of the film business or what.

-from the Hartford CT Current, "Older Voices" 3/2000

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NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

Aldona Marcavage

The beautiful St. Peter church was truly alive with the sounds of beautiful music at the NED spring convention on April 30th in South Boston. "Linksma Diena" was sung by the parish choir and accompanied by guest organist Mr. Vasiliunas. It has never sounded better.

Just before the meeting began, a very dignified, elderly lady strolled up to the front of the hall. C-17 president Alexander Akule introduced Mrs. Vasiliunas who, at 98, is an artist, poet, writer, mother of the organist, and widow of the renowned violinist. Her son is an outstanding physicist residing in Germany. His music is his hobby and pleasure. He has performed in concerts all over the world. How fortunate we were to have him play at mass this day. Mrs. Vasiliunas spoke clearly in halting English, praising Vyčiai for their kind hearts and great assistance to Lithuania's needy. She was received with warm applause.

Msgr. Contons welcomed the Knights to Boston. Father Zukas, pastor stated what a pleasure it was to see the 13 councils meet and work together. He wished us a productive meeting. Father A. Janiunas greeted everyone and said "Look, I'm proudly wearing my Honorary Membership badge today".

NED president Joseph Stiklius, announcing a surprise, called upon Larry Svelnis and presented him with a beautiful World Clock in appreciation of his 25-year service to the K of L archives in Putnam. Congratulations



on this well deserved award.

The good host, Al Akule, welcomed everyone and thanked the choir, the organist, and the clergy.

NED spiritual advisor, Father Peter Shakalis, let us know that Sr. Maria Faustina Kaupas was canonized today (4/30/00), and that the first Sunday after Easter has been declared Mercy Sunday. Father asked us to remember our friends, and deceased K of L members, in prayer. This year's National Convention in Los Angeles will be special to Father Shakalis. He will be presented his Honorary Membership medal. It is well deserved after so many years of service. Best wishes to you.

Sr. Eugenia spoke for Sr. Helen who was unable to attend. She told us about two little boys in one family in Lithuania who were born with congenital eye problems, and needed surgery so that they may see. The cost is prohibitive, and they need



Celebs at NED Spring Convention included (R) Longinas Švelnis, who received a world clock for his work as ALKA museum in Putnam, and (top) Elena Vasyliūniene, Marytė Bizinkauskas and Vytenes Vasyliūnas

help from friends. Each eye will cost \$17,100. \$34,000 has already been collected. On Clemencine Miller's suggestion, a basket was passed around at once, and over \$400.00 was collected. Every little bit helps.

Congratulations were extended to Kay Urban for her efforts in organizing council 6 in Hartford. May C-6 continue to flourish.

The Sveklas/Tamulevich fund continues its good work. A \$500 scholarship was awarded to Fr. Zukas, who will again go to Lithuania to study the language. He is eager to learn, and is very grateful for the help. We wish him the best.

On another happy note, Dr. Henry Gailiunas of C-10 was serenaded with "Happy Birthday", much to his surprise.

Delegates chosen for the California convention were: Marion Hobitz of C78, Lawrence; Bill Piacentini of C103, Providence; and alternate Lillian Joseph of C6,

Not in District & Council News

Hartford.

A resolution was voted on and passed to place a full-page ad in the convention book honoring Ed and Irene Tamulevich. Greetings were sent congratulating C-135 Ansonia on their 50th anniversary.

The NED fall convention will be on September 17th, hosted by C-116 So. Worcester. The NED cultural festival to be held on October 15th will find C-17 So. Boston and C-116 So. Worcester laboring in the kitchen at Maironis Park.

**C-3, Philadelphia, PA
Victor Stepalovitch and
Stephany Gutauskas**

A one-hour Lithuanian language session was held before C-3's May meeting. Our small group is dedicated to learning vocabulary and to practicing conversation in Lithuanian.

During the May meeting, the Council presented Aušra Maknys with an intricately carved wooden cross, suitable for wall hanging, as a memento for attaining her Fourth Degree. Congratulations, Aušra, on this great accomplishment.

Leonard Kapochus, Lithuanian Affairs Chairperson, urged members, who are able to do so, to make contributions to Aid to Lithuania before the National Convention in July. Len informed the Council that during the first weekend in May, 27 boxes containing two-thirds of a ton of donated items, such as portable commodes, wheelchairs, walkers, medicine, and clothing were packed by volunteers at St. Andrew's parish for shipment to Lithuania.

Also during the May meeting, Council members learned about amber, a gem valued not only by Lithuanian Catholics but also by other nationalities and religions for bringing good luck and/or good health to the bearer.

On Monday, May 15, at St. George's Church, Philadelphia, Stephany Gutauskas took up the offertory gifts at a 7:00 A.M. mass requested by the Supreme Council for deceased members of the Knights of Lithuania.

**C-6, Hartford, CT
Leona Sawka**

What festivities! Despite a very stormy and rainy night, we had a large attendance for our last K of L meeting until September. The meeting on June 6 was preceded by a wonderful pot luck supper. Two tables were laden with many choices of great foods. Thanks go to Dianne Yusinas for putting this together.

After dinner, our regular meeting was held and four new members were introduced to the membership and inducted as follows: Louise Piwoski, Agnes Gagnon, Julie Naunchek and Sister Mary Louise. Agnes and Louise (who are sisters) are cousins of Alyce Gegesky, one of our members. Council 6 now boasts of having 44 members.

Before our dancing event, we couldn't forget to sing Ilgiausią Metų to Dalia Dzikas who is celebrating her birthday. After the singing, our evening was culminated by Dalia teaching members the Aguonėlė and Vėdaras dances accompanied by Maestro George Pitkaitis at his new piano. What a fun way to end our last meeting of the year.

Holy Trinity Church had a special mass on June 11 for the Lithuanian-American commemoration (deportation).

The procession, comprised of K of L members, will enter the church together. After mass, K of L members and parishioners proceeded outdoors where K of L members laid a wreath at the Wayside Cross. Refreshments were served in the church hall and a video relating to deportation of close to a million Lithuanians to Siberia will be shown by Danute Grajauskas.

Our year end social event, a Connecticut River cruise on the Mark Twain was held on Wednesday, June 28. A buffet luncheon was served by the cruise staff and enjoyed by all who attended this relaxing event. Thanks go to Irene Petkaitis and Leona Sawka for arrangements.

Our parish picnic is to take place on July 16 at the Elks Pavilion, Roberts Street, East Hartford. The usual great Lithuanian food will be available as well as craft tables, a raffle and dancing.

The National Convention of Los Angeles will be attended by delegates June Grenier and Lillian Joseph.

**C-10, Athol-Gardner, MA
Vinčukas**

Beatrice Jodaitis Richard was honored at a 90th birthday and name day recently at the Binall House in Gardner by her relatives and Bridge Club. Born Petronele, Bea attended local schools and was graduated from Gardner High. She

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Some of the Workforce in Council 63, Lehigh Valley, PA

went on to take courses at Clark University. She was a private secretary to the General Manager of the Mead Container Corporation and, up to her retirement, was the Secretary Superior of the stenographic pool. She has held the position of Recording Secretary for the American Red Cross, Gardner Chapter. Bea is an avid bridge player, and does crewel work. We wish her continued good health and the choicest of blessings and many more years in our local K of L council. Congratulations!

We would like to remember Tina Shatas on the second anniversary of her death. Tina, our grand lady, was born in Athol, the daughter of the late Anthony and Mariana (Bendiskas) Andralunas. She grew up attending the local schools. When our council was founded in May 1914, Mykalas Norkunas signed 98 charter members, including 10 year old Tina. She did not have to pay dues until the age of 16. She kept up her K of L membership and was an

uninterrupted member for 84 years. She was an active member throughout her lengthy life at St. Francis, loved her Lithuanian heritage, and visited Lithuania with her daughter, Dr. Marie. She was an active member of the St. Francis Guild and a great cook and avid gardener. Her flowers graced St. Francis often.

Tina was a devoted wife to Paul, a caring mother to daughters Marie and Margaret, and a good and kind neighbor. She was always kind and unassuming and will be lovingly remembered by all who knew her. Su dievu Tina, ir iki pasimatymo! Pasakyk Devui labas nuo mus visu.

Much hard work was put into our Easter celebrations, and it showed so beautifully. St. Francis Church of Athol was brilliantly decorated. The center altar area even had a working waterfall surrounded by numerous spring flowers. It was such a striking job that was done.

Aciu labai to the South Boston Council for hosting the NED Spring Convention. Their hospitality

and food were great.

Congratulations to the newly re-activated Hartford council. We are wishing many years full of activity and happiness.

Get well wishes are extended to Eleanor Baltakis, David Lucas, and Mary Gauronsky. We are hoping that with the warm summer upon us, you all will feel better soon.

Our members are always on the move. Alec and Leotine Kuzmeskas have sold their pharmacy in Athol and have built a retirement home in Orleans, on the Cape! Enjoy! Helen Lepkouski spent the last two months in Florida enjoying the warm sea air. James Kraskauskas recently married and is awaiting his bride from Vilnius, Lithuania.

C-27, Norwood, MA *Lenore Jarvis*

It was such a great pleasure to have so many of our faithful members attend the very successful New England District spring meeting hosted by Council 17, South Boston, MA at St. Peter Lithuanian Church.

Our council representatives included Louise and Paul, Dorothy, Sandy, Ramona and Kay, Betty and John, Lenore and Albie, Terry and Stan, Adele and Ed. We were advised of the many good things our District participates in and were able to have a most cordial, social visit with our fellow knights.

Our Councils members are remaining busy with various activities. Sandy Mellish is traveling again, this time to Alaska. Hope she has a great time and good weather. Betty and John Skricki are in for a

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most eventful year. They will travel to Sydney, Australia, to see daughter Carol participate as a finalist in Olympic games as a member of a quad double oars sculling. In October, their youngest daughter will be married. It is a busy, happy time for the Skrickis.

Birute and George Barton are enjoying the spring and summer season in their home in Utenos, Kaunas, Lithuania. Iki pasimatymo.

C-63, Lehigh Valley, PA

Evelyn Harryn

Council 63 has been very busy since "2000" began. Our officers and committees have been united and working diligently to keep the wheels turning.

On February 16th, a flag-raising ceremony took place on the circle in downtown Easton, PA. Mayor Goldsmith was on hand. Afterwards, all participants returned to St. Michael's Church Hall for a brunch.

On March 5, we celebrated our patron with a St. Casimir's Day celebration. A mass was held at 10:30 AM. The choir, under the direction of Ben Apanavičius, sang our beautiful Lithuanian hymns. Valeria Smickle and Ruth Collinge, dressed in their lovely Lithuanian costumes, presented the gifts. Joseph Kohanski and Paul Harryn were flag-bearers. The Knights, wearing their juostas, entered the church with the flag-bearers. Some of the ladies wore their headpieces. After mass, there was a social hour, followed by a catered luncheon. We sang a few Lithuanian folk songs. Many prizes were raffled off. Lillian and Joseph Russell donated most of these prizes. "Labai Aciu" to the

Russell's for their generosity! The tables were decorated with lovely, fresh primrose plants. They were also given out as prizes. During the event, we celebrated the birthday of our long-time active member, Blanche Rinkunas. Everybody sang "Ilgiausiu Metu". Her birthday falls on March 4 - St. Casimir's Day!

On March 12, seven of our members traveled to St. Clair, PA for the Amber District Meeting. They were Blanche and Joe Kohanski; Lillian Klinosky; Marie and Bob Kleiner; and Evelyn and Paul Harryn. We compliment and thank Council 144 for hosting such a lovely affair.

"Ačiu" to Frank Petrauskas, as our new Amber District President. He always comes shining through for us. "Frank, keep those gardening lessons and tips coming to us. My rhododendrons are shaping up very nicely!"

Some of our members were extremely busy in April. We were preparing for our biggest fund-raiser, the Flea Market. For three days, our crew unpacked boxes and bags, polished and cleaned donated articles. Valeria Smickle even laundered donated items. She also prepared lunches for the workers. This time we lucked out - she made her "secret recipe" for perfect bleanies! After all expenses were paid, our profits topped \$1,350.00. We thank everyone that helped in any way. It all counts.

At our May 21 meeting, our Council's men hosted the luncheon. This was a treat for the ladies. Victor Ulba prepared a delicious ham; Paul Harryn treated us all to some delicious "kugeli"; Joe Kohanski brought a delicious and beautifully decorated strawberry shortcake. We

also celebrated the birthday of Joe's wife, Blanche Kohanski. A great time was had by all.

Council 63 has completed their budget for the '99/2000 year. From May 1999 through May 2000, our donations totaled \$2,992. We are proud of our accomplishments. May God grant us the health and unity to continue working for our Lithuania.

Our last meeting for this season was held on June 11, a picnic-style affair. Lillian and Joseph Russell were in charge of games and prizes. We will resume our meetings in September. Have a lovely summer!

C-74, Scranton, PA

Marie Laske

Congratulations go out to Marie Beneckine and Martha Wagner on receiving their first degrees. It is always such a wonderful accomplishment for active members.

Everyone is invited to our Lithuanian Mass at St. Ann's Basilica on St. Ann's Day, July 26th. We hope many Lithuanians from far and near attend and wear their colors to this Scranton mass!

Bishop James C. Timlin, along with a group of pilgrims from Scranton, had an audience with Pope John Paul II that was seen on Catholic television.

St. Joseph's Church held a trip to Lancaster to see "Behold the Lamb". This was so wonderful to experience. Msgr. P. Madus had the pleasure to take all of the acolytes and other children workers to see this show. The costumes were beautiful, live animals on the stage.

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It was really an excellent activity.

A Polka Mass was held at St. Stanislaus Polish Church. Father Rupert said the Polish people were wonderful to bring their faith of God to America, and their descendants carried down to their children. After mass, which packed the church, the people gathered in front of the church and greeted their friends.

Our beloved John Cardinal O'Connor, (St. Pats in NYC) who touched so many people, had recently died. He valued human life, as was witnessed with his fight against abortion. Years ago, when the K of L went to Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, he stopped us and said "Welcome Scrantonians". After mass, he took off his miter and placed it on Bishop Paulius Baltakis (who was not yet a bishop at the time), and he said "Get used to this as you will be wearing yours very soon."

When the Cardinal's funeral ended, and time moves forward, Cardinal O'Connor's own words will be remembered: "The pain will pass, but the beauty will remain". Archbishop O'Connor was a very special person, on who set an example for us all! He was a servant of the truth. "Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God."

C-96, Dayton, OH

Fran Petkus

May proved to be a very busy month for C-96 and the Lithuanian Community here in Dayton. We began with the MCD Spring Convention/Bowling Tournament hosted by C-19,



Family A'Fair - C-96 members Norman Robert, Fran, Erin and Michael Petkus at Dayton's Annual World A'Fair 4/21/00

Pittsburgh, the weekend of May 5-7th. Friday night delegates and guests had the pleasure of attending a concert by the Duquesne University Tamburitzans. The Tamburitzans are made up of students from Duquesne University who perform Eastern European, songs, dances, etc., in authentic costume. The Lithuanian songs sung were 'Linai' and Dvi Dainas iš Lietuvos.

On Saturday, the MCD meeting was held with all Officers and Council Presidents contributing reports and major issues were covered. Our District's Annual 50/50 Raffle proved, once again, to be very successful. This is important, as this, plus the meeting 50/50 raffle, and district council dues are the only money making projects we have. These help the MCD to cover officer expenses and requested donations that come in.

The Bowling Tournament was fairly well attended. We did eliminate individual trophies with just the Traveling Trophy and money prizes going to the winners. We can congratulate C-19 as the winning team. Dayton members winning prizes were Junior Knight, Erin Petkus, who came in with game high and series high with handicap; the

lowest game and series went to Junior Knight, Robert Petkus for the men and Norma Petkus for the women.

Mass on Sunday at the Chapel of the Sisters of St. Francis was well attended and it was wonderful to see the Sisters, as they always make us feel most welcomed. It was so good to see Sr. Alverna Walls who, like her sister, Sr. Francesca Walls (deceased), was always active in

the district until health problems slowed them down. The closing banquet was held at the Sister's cafeteria. Members representing our council were the Mikalauskas'-George, Frances and Elena; the Pants -Henry, Lauretta, Robert and Linda; the Petkus'-Fran, Michael, Norma, Robert, Erin. Two future Junior Knights, Gabriella Pant (8 mos.) and Brian Johnson, Jr. (6 mos.) participated in all the events. We can't thank the members of C 19 enough for a wonderful weekend. Special thanks goes to Sam Perritino, Jr. (C-102) for taking care of all the scoring and Brian and Rita Johnson!! Rita, formally of C-112, Chicago, has been a big plus for our district!!

May 14th was our Junior Knights Annual Crowning of Our Blessed Mother. The Mass was offered up for all living and deceased mothers of C 96 and C96 Juniors. Our Juniors did the readings and were the Offertory Bearers. Following Mass, they hosted our members and parishioners to a Special Brunch with the theme this year being the "Wild West"! Thanks must go to the Junior Advisors, Christine Fletcher and Julia Goecke!

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C-96 Frances & George Mikalauskas with Mrs. And Stasys Sakalauskas, Lithuanian Ambassador to the US

Once again at Dayton's Annual World A'Fair the Dayton community came in as winners receiving a Red Ribbon for Excellence in the Cultural Display.

Each year at this special event, one item at the dessert booth always intrigues people - watching as the "RAGUOLIS" is sliced. The display showed how the Ragoulis (celebration cake) was once made in Lithuania. This drew a lot of attention, which added an increase in sales. The Vejeliai Dancers were once again great in all their performances. New members in the group are our Junior Knights: Joseph Berger, Robert/Erin Petkus and Angela Plozay! Thanks must go to Chairs Jim and Connie Geiger for all the time and work they did preparing and representing the Lithuanian community. And thanks to all who pitched in working the booths, etc.

It was good to see our Nashville member, Mark Bell, along with Thom and June Bell up from Nashville, TN for the weekend. Also, to our other Tennessee members, Marcus and Jennifer Maulding, we send congratulations

on the birth of their son, James Marcus.

Get well wishes go to Ida Kavy and Elena Mikalauskas. Deepest sympathies to Helen Vaitkus on the recent loss of her sister, Antoinette Hunt.

Junior Knight, Alex Fletcher, playing trombone with his school band, was part of the entertainment at Dayton's Dragons ballgame. What a thrill! Congratulations to Kristy Geiger on her graduation from Wright State University with a BS in Elementary Education. Kristy is director of the Vejeliai Dancers.

C-100, Amsterdam, NY A Final Farewell to Our Knight of the Sea

This is a special thank you to our fellow Knights for their great display of condolences and affection following the death of C-100 member, Edward Bablin on Memorial Day. Beloved husband, father, grandfather, fellow Knight, and US Navy veteran of World War II, he was laid to rest on June 2 following a beautiful funeral mass at our St. Casimir's Church in Amsterdam. Son Mark, and daughter Marytė read the scriptures, grandchildren Laura and Daniel conveyed the gifts, and granddaughter Sophie sang "Amazing Grace" from the choir loft. Edward was eulogized in a poem *Going Home* by son, Edward and in prose by daughter-in-law Julie. As was his father's wish, son Christopher played "Taps" during the internment service at Saratoga National Cemetery.

As a family we are overwhelmed and deeply moved by the heartfelt concern of so many

members from our council, C- 136, the supreme council and other councils nationwide, by their gifts of sympathy cards, Mass offerings, flowers, and St. Casimir's Church memorial fund contributions made in Edward's name. These acts of caring people, such as you, have helped us immensely in this time of great pain and sorrow.

*Širdingai Ačiu Visiem
Mirga Bablin, president C-100*

C-110, Maspeth, NY Bruno

On Sunday, May 28, a few strong legged members joined the Maspeth Veterans parade along Grand Avenue, carrying the Lithuanian flags and marching to remember all fallen veterans who gave so much.

As is done in previous years, frankfurters with home made sauerkraut was enjoyed by many. Unfortunately, I was home recuperating from a total left knee replacement done on May 15.

One of the great celebrations took place on Ascension Thursday, June 1, 2000. After much planning and help from many individuals, Father Ted Rooney of the Transfiguration church in Maspeth co-ordinated the change of the Street name of Perry Avenue, which runs along the front of the church, to:

"Msgr. Frank Bulovas Avenue". Bishop Thomas V. Daily blessed the new signs which were mounted on both ends of the street. His presence made the tribute to Msgr. Frank Bulovas very intense and spiritually sound. The plaza in front of the church was filled with many citizens and those who remembered

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the late Msgr's devotion to the Catholic faith over the past 50 years.

The dedication started after the 12:30 PM mass, attended by a huge crowd. The family members of Msgr. Bulovas were present and honored with a duplicate copy of the new street sign during the very fine brunch and cocktails after the formal dedication. Father Ted enlisted many parishioners, council members, Walter L. McCaffrey and numerous other contributors to make this one affair you should have not missed.

C-135, Ansonia, CT

J. P. Sabulis

Well, the plans went off like they were supposed to, and the Council's 50th Anniversary great day was here. Mass was at 10:00 AM, with a great crowd in attendance. The members were going to communion and having the First Communion group going first. It was a nice showing. When it was the end of Mass, we all sang the Vyčiu hymn. Later everyone went to the Colonial Tavern in Oxford for a fantastic meal. We had many guests from New Haven, Bridgeport and our own Council. Our Spiritual Advisor, Father Patrick Berkery did an outstanding job in saying grace. Our First President (fifty years ago) John A. Sabulis, had every one rise and drink a toast to celebrate the occasion. The Council's President, Frances Barsevich, gave a brief history of the activities that took place in the last fifty years. A short time later the meal was served. A great big cake was cut by the present officers and passed out to all. Homemade cookies of all kinds were served. If they wanted to take them



C-110 Maspeth's Vincent and Stella Stripeikas celebrate 50th wedding anniversary at April 30th meeting

home, a 'doggie bag' was provided. Music was provided and a good time was had by all. A good job was done by all of those who pitched in and no one was in a hurry to go home.

We received the sad news that Father Casimir Pugevičius, former Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid Executive Director, died on February 29, 2000 in Baltimore. He was a frequent visitor to Ansonia and spoke very highly of how well he was treated here.

Walt Devanas, the radio weatherman, also passed on. We had him as a Communion breakfast speaker, with a great crowd who listened to his wit and Lithuanian jokes. He was a weatherman at WICC-AM radio for more than 20 years. Devanas had another career as actor and director at the Polka Dot Playhouse. He worked at CBS radio and returned to Bridgeport where he

did the weathercast in Spanish for about a year. Walt, we'll miss all the dry humor and jokes. You did an excellent job.

When the word gets out, there's no stopping it. I'm referring to our talented musician, J.P. Sabulis: The latest was Amity Regional High School's presentation of the musical "The Boyfriend" where they called upon John to participate. This is another play that he participated in or had a working part in. Keep up the good work, John!

John and Lil Norwid celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently. Quietly they celebrated what everyone wishes they would reach someday. Lots of good luck and good health to both of you.

C-140, Syracuse, NY

Pusbrolis

C-140 would like to welcome 3 new members, Marie Clark, Elaine Morse and Sue Salis. At our May meeting President Petrauskas swore them in and we all welcomed them into our council. The ladies are sisters and their parents, the late Walter and Agnes Salis were members of our council. It's nice to see children of members joining and participating. In 1969 when we entered Lithuania in the Festival of Nations, Marie and Elaine worked at our booth and were a big help to us. That was the first of twenty years of much activity and many fond memories.

Our Independence celebration started with Mass at St. Stephen's Church followed by a program and brunch in the hall. We had a good turn out of members and

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guests. Cassie Stanley and Ruth Hare fed us well as they do each Independence Day.

Our St. Casimir celebration also started with Mass at St. Stephen's. The celebrant gave a short talk on St. Casimir and his holiness in his brief young life. All who study his history are impressed with his accomplishments toward his heavenly reward.

After Mass we went to the Knights of Columbus Castle for Brunch where we could eat in a relaxed atmosphere and have a nice visit with each other.

Frank and Irene Petrauskas were our delegates to the Amber meeting in St. Claire, PA in March. Frank took over the Amber District Presidency following the passing of Dorothy Banos.

I would like to write a few lines about a local girl who made good. She is Carol Stanley, daughter of Cassie Stanley and the late John Stanley. Also the niece of Ruth Hare. Carol resigned her post as Director of the Office of Student Information and Records at Drexel University in Philadelphia. She has accepted a position as Registrar for the University of Virginia. One of her first projects will be to rebuild the Virginia computer system from scratch using Oracle technology and the Banner system.

Carol spent 15 years at Drexel and also was a member of C-3 Philadelphia. Carol is an inventor also. She holds 5 patents in the athletic field. The gloves you see baseball batters wear, plus the gloves other sports people wear may have been made by her company.

We Syracuse Lithuanians wish our Carol well and hope she

has much success in the future. Carol's brother Joe and sister-in-law Peg are members of C-140.

C-141, Bridgeport, CT *Aldona Marcavage*

Msgr. Francis Pranckus celebrated the Lithuanian Mass that preceded the May meeting. The entire Sulinsky family (and Leon Matejka) catered a delicious luncheon. Thank you Mary, Claire, Irene, John, Estelle and Leon.

Welcome back little snowbirds, Rose and Walt Barius. It is good to see our recuperating members at our last meeting: Stefa Vaikutis, and her husband, Vytautas, along with Eleanor Wisniewski, and Marie Brilvich.

Still recuperating at home but feeling better are: Paul Schmidt, Victor Miller, Lee Marcinka, and Richard Haux. Msgr. Pranckus had recovered from a bout with bronchitis, to be with us this day.

Helen and Michael Dilworth, a young family from Weston, with a 5 year old daughter Monica and a 1-1/2 year old son John (adopted) were our welcomed guests. Neither is Lithuanian, but they are adopting two children (around age 5) from Lithuania soon. They registered for Lithuanian language classes that are conducted at HM Clemencine Miller's house in the fall. Helen proudly recited the Hail Mary perfectly to Clemencine. They have been to Lithuania and have met the children. God bless this beautiful family.

Larry Misevičius brought his two guests from Kaunas. All flew to Lithuania after the meeting. Larry will soon be bringing back his wife and son.

A loud and cheery Happy Birthday was sung to Alice Wilcinskas and Helen Baranauskas. Ray Buzak announced that next week he and his wife, Carol, would be celebrating their birthdays.

A double feature ---our annual council picnic and Peter Balčius birthday, shall be celebrated on August 20th!!!

We were saddened by the news of the passing of our former council news editor--Helen Chesko. May she enjoy eternity.

C-144, Anthacite, PA *Ona*

The Anthracite Council is saddened with the death of one of our oldest and most faithful members. On May 7, Helen Chesko died after a hard illness.

Helen was a Charter member, Ritual Officer since the Council was organized, was on the District and National Ritual Committees. She was always first when it came to donate something or do some work. She made the sauerkraut every year for our Lithuanian Day and sold chances; helped in whatever way she could. She never missed a meeting unless she was on one of her trips. She was generous to all our causes. She will be missed by us all, but especially with this writer.

When I was National President, she went to all the meetings with me so I would not have to go alone. She didn't miss any National Conventions and we roomed together. We went on a lot of good trips, especially if there was something Lithuanian going on. I will miss my good friend. I'm sure when she entered Heaven, Father

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Matt, Father Shelonis, Msgr. Neverauskas and all our deceased members were waiting for her and they all had a happy reunion.

We also lost two other members in April and May-Anna Kralick who was a long time member and Josephine Kelechava who attended meetings until she was in a nursing home.

We are now starting to prepare for the 86th Annual Lithuanian Days which will be held Aug. 12 and 13 at the Schuylkill Mall in Frackville. This year Co-Chairpersons will be Eleanor Balsis and Victoria Caldwell. You can get more information by checking the C144 Website on the Internet.

Our proceeds from Lithuanian Day will again go to Lithuanian Causes. Our Humanitarian Aid Committee has sent many packages to Lithuania to the schools, orphans and poor. They work very hard obtaining needed items, pack them and send them over. Bernice Mikatavage is chairperson of the Committee. This again will be our principal Lithuanian cause for the coming year. So much is needed and not everyone can be reached but they try to get the poorest villages. It seems much is given to the cities but the poor villages are often forgotten. Our hats off to all the members of this Committee for the good work they do.

Lithuanian Days is the oldest continuous ethnic celebration in Pennsylvania.

June came in sadly. We lost 2 more good members. Joe Nolter who with his wife Betty worked for many years at Lithuanian Days.

passed away on the 3rd, Betty had a heart attack when he died and is in critical condition.

Our C-144 Pres. Marian's wonderful husband, Joe died on the 4th, he was a very decorated WWII hero who was seriously injured at The Battle of the Bulge. Joe was seriously ill for a long time but fought the battle of life as bravely as he did the war. Our prayers to them all. Amžina Atilsi.

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

Welcome to our new member, Regina Ušvaltas. Congratulations, we are very happy that you are with us.

Father Čyvas administered the oath for our new member, Regina Ušvaltas and Brother Antanas Grabnickas OFM, who was never sworn in. Lithuania wanted him back for awhile, but now he's back with us again. We most certainly welcome him. We just love you, Brother Antanas and are waiting to hear you sing for us.

Applications were accepted from Amiceta and Vladas Gedmintas. Dolores Jonaitis, acting Financial Secretary, reported that all members have paid their dues for the year 2000. All members are now being put on the computer as per Mark Bell.

Dr. Aldona Valis, our Ritual Chairperson, had 4 members ready for 1st degrees: Aldona Oliene, David Mancini, Adele Aciene and Dale Dana. However, Aldona Oliene was the only one able to attend. The *Apaštalų Tikėjimo Išpažinimas* was said, and the words of The Vyčiu Himnas were read. President Jonaitis congratulated them on having taken

the right path, which leads toward higher degrees.

Our fund-raising Concert, featuring the Summit Orchestra and Singers, is now all set to be at the Palladium Theater in Downtown St Petersburg, on Saturday, October 21st, at 2:00 PM.

It was voted to have our council place a 1/4-page ad in the upcoming Convention Program Book. Members were also reminded to complete their Membership Surveys in VYTIS. A group collection among the meeting members raised \$120 for Aid to Lithuania which was mailed to Regina Juska-Svoba.

After the meeting it was coffee time. Our donors; Ona Semolavičius, Brone Urbonas, D. Jonaitis, Genovaite Bakas, Eugenia Štraitis, Irena Diktanas, Elena Jurkynas, Vie and Lucy Sanders, K. Arlauskas, and Dr. Aldona Valis baked some wonderful desserts. We appreciate your great generosity. We also had monetary offerings to Council 147. A most hearty thank you to all everyone who made this meeting a success.

Mother's Day was beautifully celebrated at the Lithuanian Club. The dinner was delightful and well attended. The men were the servers, and they looked real handsome in their chef's hats and aprons. They also cleared the tables. It was a job well done.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Julija Rodowk, who passed away May 16, 2000. She was 92 years old, and was a member for 21 years. Her son, Henry A. Petraitis of Round Lake Park, IL and a niece in Lithuania survive her. May she rest in peace.

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GOING HOME

Standing on the moon am I
 watching children say goodbye.
 What a lovely view of heaven
 But I'd rather be with you.

An old man stands on the beach
 of northern France
 Cane in one hand with white hair
 waving in the afternoon sun.
 Starring out at all that sand, all that sea, and
 all that shinny starry sky.

Standing on the moon am I
 watching children say goodbye.
 What a lovely view of heaven
 But I'd rather be with you.

Fifty years ago he stands there
 looking out and remembering
 like the boys of Gettysburg.
 They're all here, all the veterans stand silent
 for the dream in the air.

Standing on the moon am I
 watching children say goodbye.
 What a lovely view of heaven
 But I'd rather be with you.

With eyes a million miles away
 I cry for my hero,
 Hero of a thousand faces.
 Rock of Chickamauga, he now crosses the
 Rubicund into, forever yesterday.

Standing on the moon am I
 watching children say goodbye.
 What a lovely view of heaven
 But I'd rather be with you.

On the beaches in other lands,
 we all must pay the ferryman
 and try to remember lessons of the past,
 of our history.
 We roll up all tomorrow,
 and dream of all the yesterdays
 So very far away and so very much
 left to say.

Standing on the moon am I
 watching children say goodbye,
 Remembering all good yesterdays.

*-E. M. Bablin, 6/2/00
 (in memory of Edward Bablin
 of C-100 and the WWII veterans)*

