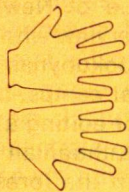
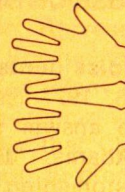


Lithuanian-
American
Community
of U.S.A., Inc.



BRIDGES



Lithuanian-
American
NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 9061 Boston, MA 02114

VOL. 1, No. 6



SEPTEMBER, 1977

September Eighth is celebrated by Lithuanians as "Tautos Šventė". This holiday has been translated as the "National Holiday"; "The Lithuanian Statehood Day," or "The Day of the Lithuanian Nation." Most translations are inaccurate, therefore let us explain its essence for understanding. "Tautos Šventė" is not to be confused with "Lietuvos Nepriklausomybės Šventė" (Lithuanian Independence Day), which falls on February 16th. In 1930 during the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the death of Vytautas the Great, the Republic of Lithuania designated September 8th as "Tautos Šventė" to be observed annually as an official state holiday. The purpose of this holiday is to remind Lithuanians the world over that Lithuania did not come into existence as a nation-state in 1918, but that the country had a long and impressive record of statehood that stretched back to Vytautas the Great, and even further back in history to the 12th century.

Why September 8th? September 8, 1430 was the date agreed upon for the coronation of Vytautas as king of Lithuania. To medieval Christian Europe the anointing of a monarch meant absolute sovereignty for his realm. Fearful of Polish encroachments and mindful of medieval political theory, Vytautas sought to elevate the Lithuanian Grand Duchy to the status of kingdom. Defender of Lithuanian statehood, Vytautas had struggled with his cousin Jogaila for ten years (1382 - 1392) to regain his legal rights and patrimony. He consolidated the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and succeeded in curtailing Jogaila's authority. In 1392, after the Treaty of Salin with the Teutonic Order he titled himself "Supremus Dux Lithuaniae" (Supreme Duke of Lithuania). In 1429 at the zenith of his political power Vytautas raised his claim to a kingly crown from the Holy Roman Emperor. King Jogaila of Poland reluctantly consented to his cousin's coronation. The coronation, however, had to be set aside when the Poles waylaid the imperial couriers bearing the crown. Vytautas was never appointed king, because he died on October 27, 1430.

In 1930 Lithuania appreciated Vytautas' regal aspirations and held him up as the model of Lithuanian statesmanship. The observance of "Tautos Šventė" was introduced to the U.S.A. in the early '50's. With the loss of Lithuania's independence, "Tautos Šventė" has assumed a deeper meaning. Lithuanians rededicate themselves to the restoration of Lithuania's national freedom on the occasion. After Lithuanian Independence Day, this holiday is the major memorable date observed by Lithuanians in the free world. Today, the observances are conducted, in the main, by the local chapters of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. The donations raised at these public meetings and ceremonies are used to fund the various educational, cultural and public affairs projects of Bendruomenė. For this reason, September has come to be referred to as "Bendruomenė Month".

BRIDGES calls upon all readers to reflect for a moment on the past grandeur of Lithuania and to observe September 8th appropriately.

Algirdas Budreckis

Who are the **Soviet dissidents**? James Ring Adams, writer in the June 28, 1977 issue of the **Wall Street Journal** attempted to answer this complex phenomenon. According to Adams, "dissidence in the Soviet Union includes an astonishing variety of groups and opinions, many of which are no closer to Western capitalism than to Kremlin communism. They are united only in their use of the samizdat ("self-publishing") technique of circulating manuscripts, which has grown in the last two decades into a broad stream of unauthorized newsletters, literature and essays."

Mr. Adams points out that "this writing is coming from the Moscow intelligentsia, from political prisoners in the labor camps, from Ukrainian and **Lithuanian nationalists**, from Crimean Tatars and Jewish activists, from evangelical Protestant sects . . ." Religious dissent seems to bother the Soviet leadership even more than the publicizes statements of Moscow intellectuals. The authorities are troubled by "a militant nationalist Catholic movement in Lithuania." According to the British scholar Peter Reddaway, the samizdat "Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania" has produced 26 issues of around 50 pages each in the last five years.

The third issue of the samizdat periodical **Dievas ir Tėvynė** (God and Fatherland) is circulating in Lithuania. This 68 page periodical contains rebuttals to the book **Netiesą sakote, kunige** (You Are Not Telling the Truth, Priest) by S. Markonis and against the TV-film, **Ar Tiki?** (Do You Believe?). The clandestine Catholic periodical also featured articles on the historicity of Christ and on atheism. ELTA

Four years ago, the appeal of 17,000 Lithuanian Catholics about the persecution of religion echoed widely throughout the entire world. The KGB (Soviet Security Police) never forgot this event and keeps searching for the organizers of this complaint. The KGB turned its attention to the Production Training Center of the Lithuanian Association of the Blind. In the fall of 1975 Party authorities gave secret orders for the dismissal of a number of Roman Catholic employees of the Center. Among the victims of these orders were **Juozas Menkevičius** and **Pranas Inokaitis**, who were dismissed. The dismissal of the former aroused indignation among the workers of the Center who collected 200 signatures under a petition, asking for his retention. Inspector **Algimantas Šaltis** became the main target of the campaign. A member of the Communist Party Committee of the Blind Center disclosed that "a document received from Moscow" pointed out Šaltis as one of the organizers of the collection of 17,000 signatures for the petition. But Šaltis refused to sign a statement saying that he was leaving his job "voluntarily." When Šaltis remained adamant about "voluntary departure," he became subjected to continuous persecution which continues to this day.

The July 10, 1977 issue of New York's **Daily News** carried an extensive interview with Lithuanian dissident **Kęstutis Jokubynas**. Jokubynas spent 17 years in Soviet prisons and penal camps. In 1947, when he was 17, he was sentenced for editing a high-school publication at a time when Lithuanian partisans were still fighting Soviet troops in the forests. He served seven years. In 1957, when he was 27, Jokubynas tried to escape as a stowaway from a port city. He served another ten years. This time he learned seven languages from fellow prisoners. In contacts with other jailed dissidents he came to know the leaders of what is now called the Democratic Movement. Now residing in Canada, Mr. Jokubynas spoke favorably on President Carter's stand on human rights. He feels that in dealing with the Soviets, you must be strong in talking back. Jokubynas says that crackdowns on dissidents in the Soviet Union are not a result of Carter's stand, but an attempt to stop the flow of information to Belgrade.

After a seeming hesitancy, President Jimmy Carter, on the morning of Wednesday, July 20, finally approved and released the Presidential Captive Nations Week Proclamation. A summary issued by the White House Press Office follows: President Carter has proclaimed this week as Captive Nations Week and called on American people to support those who seek national independence and human rights. Mr. Carter said that the U.S. has always sought to give meaning to the principle of national self-determination and he asked Americans to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities. President Carter acted on the basis of Public Law 86-90, approved July 17, 1959, by President Eisenhower." In view of the fact that Captive Nations Week officially started July 17th, the time lag and hesitancy could not be understood. **J. Bolsteins.**

On July 26-27th, Dr. **Domas Krivickas**, chairman of the **Lithuanian Human Rights Committee**, conferred in New York with officers of the Executive Board and Council of VLIK (Supreme Committee for Liberation of Lithuania) as well as with Rev. K. Pugevičius of the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, Inc. The conferences decided to publish a publication in English to be issued by mid-September dealing with the violation of religious rights in occupied Lithuania. The finalized text of the memorandum of the Lithuanian Human Rights Committee, edited by Dr. Krivickas, to be presented to the Belgrade Conference, was approved and will be made public. ELTA.

Simas Kudirka has recently written on human rights in the USSR. His 24 page brochure "In Defense of Human Rights. Testimony of Simas Kudirka at the Bicentennial Convocation on Global Justice convened by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops" is a useful contribution to human rights documentation

and suitable for the average layman. Kudirka goes through the Human Rights Declaration and briefly indicates how each right is broken in Lithuania. He keeps well to the point. Also included is a very well argued letter from a group of long term (up to 25 years) prisoners from Lithuania, Ukraine, and the Caucasus. They concentrate on the privileged position of the Russians vis-a-vis other nationalities, wherever they are settled. A statement from Gajauskas emphasizes that ex-political prisoners are completely deprived of rights — very often they are not allowed to return to settle in their native land with their aged parents or wives and children. The brochure is available from Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, 351 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11207.

THE HOMELAND

Lithuania has been known as the "Land of Song" and rightfully so. At best estimate, there are 63,000 different **Lithuanian Dainos** set down in some way. But many are passed down through tradition from mother to daughter or father to son. Therefore one could hazard an educated guess that there are over 200,000 Lithuanian folksongs. This is quite a cultural throve since the Lithuanian **dainos** are the mirror of Lithuanian life. The songs reflect the characteristics of the Lithuanian: his love of God, of nature, and of his fellow man. While working in the fields, dainos made his work easier. The soldier songs raised morale while giving the incentive to continue the fight for Lithuania. It should be noted, however, that there are no songs glorifying war; the war songs depict the sorrows of parting. The Lithuanian has a song for every occasion. The intelligentsia of other nations have commented on the worth of the Lithuanian **dainos** in cultural circles, most notably Edmund Burke and Robert Paine. We all should be proud of this very important source of Lithuanian culture and tradition. **EVM**

POLITICAL ACTION

On Sunday, July 17, 1977, representatives of 36 captive nations gathered in New York City at St. Patrick's Cathedral for Mass, which was followed by a procession up Fifth Avenue to Central Park, where a Captive Nations Week rally was held, featuring local proclamations, greetings, resolutions, and folklore entertainment. Among the sponsoring organizations were the Knights of Lithuania and the Brooklyn Chapter of Bendruomenė.

September 24, 1977 is the date of the Baltic Human Rights Rally. The date was chosen because the main proceedings of the European Conference on Security and Cooperation is slated to begin in early October in Belgrade. The Rally is scheduled to be held in the

Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Among the dignitaries invited to speak are President Jimmy Carter, Senator Henry Jackson, Representative Millicent Fenwick and Alexander Solzhenitsyn. A Baltic cultural program is also planned. Many interested Baltic communities have begun organizing local demonstration committees. It is known that Chicago, Rochester and Philadelphia have begun to prepare for the Rally. The Baltic Human Rights Rally Executive Committee, located in Detroit, has published a memorandum entitled "How to Prepare for the Rally." The address of the Executive Committee is: 1668 Bowers, Birmingham, MI 48008. Many organizations have endorsed the Rally. Here is a current Lithuanian list: the Baltic World Federation, Algimantas Gečys (Lithuanian American Community, Inc. of the USA), Dr. Kazys Bobelis (Lithuanian American Council), Gabija Juozapavičius (Lithuanian World Youth Association), Anthony Miner (Knights of Lithuania), Bronius Nainys (Lithuanian World Community), Jonas Simanavičius (Lithuanian Canadian Community), Jurgis Valaitis (Lithuanian Canadian Youth Association) and Dr. Juozas Valiūnas (Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania). A Lithuanian Finance Committee was formed in Chicago. The chairman is Dr. Jonas Valaitis. Any amount can be contributed and donations are tax deductible (send donations to: Baltic Human Rights Rally, Inc., 1617 Fairway La., Naperville, IL 60540). The Rally has received support from US. Rep. James J. Blanchard of Michigan. Victor Nakas is the chairman of the Rally Executive Committee.

During the last few years, the **Supreme Committee for Liberation of Lithuania (VLIK)** has been holding its annual conferences outside of New York City. Thus, Chicago, Detroit, Boston, Cleveland, Toronto, and Washington have played host to the political assemblies. This year, VLIK will call its **conference** on December 3-4 in **St. Petersburg, Florida**. Msgr. John Balkunas, who has retired there, will handle the necessary arrangements.

COMMUNITY WITH A CAPITAL "C"

The National Executive Board of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. (Bendruomenė) called upon **Jonas Urbonas** of Detroit to accept the chairmanship of the Bendruomenė "Membership At-Large Chapter" (**Centrinė Apylinkė**) and to form an executive board. The Membership At-Large Chapter consists of Lithuanians who either reside in tiny groups (less than 10 Lithuanians) or who are far removed from cultural centers and Lithuanian neighborhoods. Mr. Urbonas assumes the post with years of experience behind him. He was active in the Detroit Chapter of Bendruomenė, a former member of the Presidium of the National Council (Taryba) of Bendruomenė, and chairman of the parents committee of the "Šilainė" folkdance group.

The Santa Monica Chapter of the Lithuanian American Community (Bendruomenė) is probably the most active local group when it comes to informing the American press about the Lithuanian Question. Due to the efforts of the Chapter chairman, Mr. Juozas Kojelis, at least five letters to the editor appear monthly in the area press. Mr. Kojelis letter, entitled "Human Rights" appeared in the **Evening Outlook** (Santa Monica, Cal., July 5). A second one, entitled "Lithuanian Struggle" was published in the **Los Angeles Times** (July 6). Mr. Kojelis pointed out that "in his continuing show of support for the oppressed people in the Soviet Union, the President should also express his concern for the people of Lithuania and the other two Baltic States, Latvia and Estonia, who are fighting not only for civil rights but also for national survivals." The **Herald Examiner, Los Angeles Times**, and **Evening Outlook** of July, 1977, also carried two letters by P. G. Pamataitis, two by N. G. Nyerges (of Hungarian descent) and one by Vincent Kazlas.

The **South Boston Lithuanian Citizens Association** donated \$50 to the **Boston Chapter of Bendruomenė** so that the local organization could purchase and disseminate a larger amount of the publication "Violations of Human Rights in Soviet Occupied Lithuania". The Chapter distributed copies to the Bay State editors, reporters, libraries and members of Congress. This is a perfect example of how two Lithuanian civic organizations could cooperate in a complimentary manner.

The new **Indianapolis Chapter of Bendruomenė** consists almost entirely of second generation, even third and fourth generation Lithuanian Americans. In his letter to the National Executive Board, the Chapter chairman Rimas Guzulaitis disclosed that "a few weeks ago (in July — Ed.) we held a picnic which attracted 70 guests. We used the occasion to urge all to write letters to the State Department regarding the Belgrade Conference. We had a good response — almost 300 letters were sent."

Mrs. **Helen Chesek-Momtaz** wrote a letter of inquiry to the Lithuanian-American Community of the USA back in January, 1977. This letter and the subsequent developments show an interesting pattern of evolving ethnic awareness. Mrs. Momtaz wrote: "In 'Americanizing' our generation, my parents used mainly the English language while we were being raised. My independent study has now given me the inspiration to teach myself the language of Lithuania. Besides some assistance of pronunciation by my mother, the only reference I have and can currently locate is a simplified Grammar on English-Lithuanian Self-Instruction . . . The Encyclopedia of Associations led me to your organization (Bendruomenė — Ed.) . . . I would appreciate it if your organization would advise me if any textbooks on Lithuanian language instruction are avail-

able . . . I live in suburban Essex county, New Jersey, area but could not find any listings for your organization in this or nearby directories (I'm beginning to suspect I may be the only Lithuanian-American in this town!). Therefore I sincerely appreciate any help . . ." Mr. Antanas Masionis, educator and cultural leader in the Paterson, N.J., area, was asked by Bendruomenė to provide Mrs. Momtaz with informational insights. Apparently, "both teacher and student" made fast progress, because six months later, on June 6, 1977 Mrs. Momtaz wrote a four-page memorandum to the Metromedia News Program in New York, commenting on the proposed Soviet Constitution, human rights, Helsinki Accord and Lithuania. The memorandum was well-researched. On June 30th, Mrs. Momtaz wrote to Mr. Masionis: "I listen to the Lithuanian radio programs faithfully on Saturdays and Sundays, and am beginning to recognize Lithuanian words repeated frequently, such as, valstybė, pasaulio, daina, kunigas, etc. With these, and a few words that sound similar in English, I am sometimes able to understand the Lithuanian portion of the program. In a way it's good because it forces you to learn the language . . ." Although Mrs. Momtaz does not consider herself a political activist, she finds time "to continue personal research" on her Lithuanian heritage. Her six months progress is a fascinating experience.

EVENTS

A "Showcase of Nations" began in Baltimore, Md. at the Charles Center on the weekend of June 11-12 with Lithuanian folk dancers and crafts exhibits leading the festivities. The "Showcase" was sponsored by the Downtown Coordinating Office.

The 100-degree heat on Sunday, July 17th, did not stop the "Liepsna" Lithuanian folk dancers, even though the girls in the troupe wore the Lithuanian national costume of linen and wool. Directed by Birutė Vaičiūnas, the "Liepsna" troupe reflects strong ties with Lithuania. The name in English means "Flame" and it honors Romas Kalanta, who committed self-immolation 5 years ago in Kaunas as a protest against Soviet repression. "Liepsna" performed lively traditional dances for an audience of more than 1,000 who gathered at the Lakewood Estonian Club (Jackson Township, N.J.) for "Lithuanian Day", a festive picnic sponsored by New York's "Memories of Lithuania" Radio Program. "It doesn't often get this hot in Lithuania, and when it does they talk about it for years," said Dr. Jack J. Stukas, director of Memories of Lithuania. "I'm amazed at the number of people who came," added Valentinas Melinis, president of the New Jersey Lithuanian Council. "Most of them spent two or three hours traveling from North Jersey or New York, but they came to support an ideal." Also performing were the "Vilija" Lithuanian women's quartet of Mountainside, and the Lakewood Estonian

Folk Dance Group. Miss Christine Sisak of Hazlet, N.Y., was chosen "Miss Lithuania".

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the **Federation of Lithuanian Women's Clubs**. Most chapters are commemorating the event by organizing cultural events. The Federation unites Lithuanian Women's Clubs on a worldwide basis. There are 11 clubs in the United States, 6 clubs in West Germany, Clubs in Great Britain, Rome, Italy, Australia and special representatives in South America. The two most active Clubs with the largest membership are in Chicago and New York. On the whole activities and programs are geared to meet local conditions and requirements. Yet the Clubs also carry out the aims of the Federation: to remind the free world that Lithuania and other Baltic countries are illegally occupied by the USSR. Under the guidance of the Federation the Clubs have written hundreds of letters and appeals to the governments of various countries on the problem of the suppression of human rights in Soviet-occupied countries. During the 1977 season the Federation is especially emphasizing the cause of dissidents and their oppressed families. The organization is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs which boasts a membership of 25 millions. Mrs. Irena Banaitis is the current President of the Lithuanian Women's Clubs.

Saturday, June 11, marked the opening of the exhibit of thirty one **Lithuanian artists** at the Mitchell Museum in Mount Vernon, Illinois. The museum, which is the termination point for the traveling Lithuanian art exhibit sponsored by the **Balzekas Museum**, is a privately endowed institution funded by the estate of John and Eleanor Mitchell. A gala reception was held Saturday evening for 325 members and directors of the Mitchell Museum. Kenneth Miller, Director of the Institution, introduced Stanley Balzekas, Jr., who gave a brief explanation of the exhibit and the Lithuanian Museum. The Lithuanian Art Exhibit ran through July 24th. **Lithuanian Museum Review**.

The **64th National Convention** of the **Knights of Lithuania** was held on August 17 - 21 in Providence, R. I. with delegates from the 40 active council being represented. The host council was No. 103 of Providence. The motto for this year's convention was "Our Lithuania waits for your resolves to fight for human rights." The convention program was quite varied with lectures, business meetings, symposia, and discussion groups centering on religious, cultural and organizational topics. Each evening a cultural program was held. On Thursday, the Boston Lithuanian Ethnographic Ensemble staged the "Traditional Lithuanian Wedding" complete with dialogue, folksongs, and folk dances. On Friday the convention participants were treated to a cruise of Narragansett Bay where all enjoyed a true Lithuanian evening of community singing and dancing. The closing banquet was held on Satur-

day with honored guest, His Excellency Louis Gelle-neau, Bishop of Providence in attendance. Young soloist Marytė Bizinskauskaitė delighted the assemblage with her renditions of selected Lithuanian songs. The closing ceremonies were on Sunday which included the concelebrated Mass with Auxiliary Bishop of Providence, Kenneth A. Angell. The traditional group picture of all for the archives was taken. The convention closed with a farewell luncheon. The Knights of Lithuania, founded in 1913, will celebrate their 65th anniversary next year. **EVM**

Annunciation Parish in Brooklyn, N.Y. has set up a special committee to honor all old-time parishioners and senior citizens by sponsoring an Anniversary Banquet and Dance. The event will take place on Sunday, October 30th, in the Parish School Auditorium.

The **Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture** has received a grant for \$1,000 from the Music Program of the **National Endowment for the Arts**. The funds will support presentations of traditional Lithuanian folk music at community centers in the Chicago area. The concerts will include songs still sung by members of earlier immigration in the Pennsylvania coal mining regions. The collections of actual songs will form the oral histories of people from the area. For more information write the Museum at 4012 Archer Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60632. **INTERCOMMUNITY ARTS**.

The **American Lithuanian Roman Catholic Women's Alliance** held its 37th National Convention at the Holiday Inn in Worcester, Mass. on August 17-20. The Women's Alliance was founded in 1913 and Mrs. Alice Daukantas of Worcester was the first National President. The theme of the 1977 Convention was "The Integration of Women in Total Development." His Excellency, Bernard J. Flanagan, Bishop of Worcester opened the convention with a concelebrated Mass assisted by Rev. Antanas Miciunas, National Spiritual Advisor of the Alliance and pastor of St. Casimir's Church, Worcester. Also assisting was Rev. Alfonsas Volungis, pastor of Our Lady of Vilna Church, Worcester. Business meetings, cultural workshops, and round table discussions ranging from organizational topics to the roles of women in society were on the convention agenda. Preparations and all other organizational work was done by Worcester Chapter No. 5 of the Alliance. The Worcester Chapter president is Mrs. Julia Mack. **EVM**

The **Association of Lithuanian American Attorneys** was formed in Los Angeles on July 10th. Meeting at the residence of Charles Kairys, the lawyers decided that there was a definite need for an organization because the Lithuanians in California deserve legal access to the courts and legal information on various matters. Among such necessary legal information are

probate—estate matters and planning to proclude loss of estate monies to Soviet agencies when probate is made to include survivors in Soviet-occupied Lithuania. The Association will develop a fellowship among attorneys of common heritage that would be of mutual benefit. Although the Association has no formal by-laws and is in a formative stage, officers were elected. The officers are George J. Gliaudys, Jr. — chairman, and three vice chairmen: Charles Kairys, Tomas Mažeika and Nijolė Trečiokas, all in the Los Angeles area.

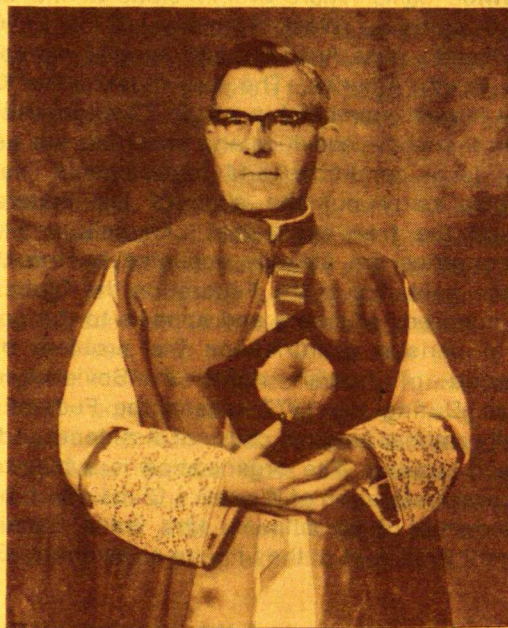
The **Kearny Public Library** of Kearny, N.J. accepted the donation of "**Encyclopedia Lituanica**", a six volume Lithuanian encyclopedia in English. The set contains information which adds greatly to the library's reference department material and will be of special interest to residents with roots in Lithuania. A paragraph in the encyclopedia on the town of Kearny notes that Lithuanian residents settled in this part of Jersey at the beginning of this century and includes information on the local church and organizations. **Stasys Skurvydas** donated the set to the library.

PERSONALITIES



Bishop Paul C. Marcinkus, 55, heads the Vatican Bank, which is called the Institute for Religious Works. He is known in Vatican circles as "Hink" and "Il Gorilla," because of his bulky 6 feet 3 inches stature. Bishop Marcinkus has served as the Pope's interpreter and bodyguard. It was in this latter capacity that this Lithuanian-American priest from Cicero, Ill. gained the trust and confidence of Pope Paul VI. Fr. Marcinkus had warned the Pontiff to wear protective garb during the Manila visit. This provident advice saved the Holy Father from a Filipino assassin's bullet. It also made Bishop Marcinkus one of the most influential Vatican staff members. Unfortunately, Marcinkus played a role three years ago in having some Vatican Bank officials agree to invest in the banking interests of

Michele Sindona, a Sicilian financier whose Franklin National Bank in New York later went broke. Since the Vatican Bank lost an estimated \$225 million in that deal, Marcinkus has maintained a relatively low profile in the Vatican. **A.M.B.**



On May 29, 1977 at 10:30 a.m. in St. Casimir's Church, Los Angeles, Msgr. John Kučingis offered a special Mass of Thanksgiving. Msgr. Kučingis, celebrating his 40 years jubilee as a priest, can truthfully say that his 40 years of priesthood was given in service to altar and Lithuanians. Born in Švėkšna, Lithuania, he attended the Salesian College in Turin, Italy before entering Sacred Heart Seminary in Telšiai, Lithuania. He was ordained on June 6, 1937 by His Excellency Justinas Staugaitis, Bishop of Telšiai. Rev. Kučingis exercised his ministry under trying conditions during the Soviet and German occupations. Although the Nazis tried to prevent the printing of religious literature, by denying paper allotments, Father Kučingis masterminded a clandestine edition of 30,000 copies of a sorely-needed hymnal in 1942, using a copyright of 1939. The hymnal was used throughout Žemaitija. In the fall of 1944 he left for Germany, ministered to refugees in Rotenburg. On July 27, 1946 Father Kučingis arrived in America. On October 3, 1946 he was appointed assistant pastor at St. Casimir's Church, Los Angeles, Cal. On April 11, 1947 he was appointed administrator of St. Casimir's church and pastor for Lithuanians living within the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. His task was not enviable, for he had inherited a small house with a chapel that could not accommodate more than 70 persons. In 1948 he acquired a Presbyterian church building which now served as a temporary parish center. On November 4, 1951, a new parish church, seating 460 persons, was dedicated. The former Presbyterian church was converted into a

parish hall. The parish hall was subsequently remodeled and enlarged in 1976. In 1957 St. Casimir's opened a primary school with the first grade, conducted by Sisters of St. Casimir from Chicago.

In 1949 Father Kučingis organized a Lithuanian Saturday School for the refugees' children. At present there are 140 students attending the Saturday School. In the fall of 1952 Father Kučingis began the publication of a biweekly paper in Lithuanian "Lithuanian News". The purpose of the paper was to unite Lithuanians scattered throughout Southern California. It is now read by more than 1,200 families. He organized "California Lithuanian Day" which still attracts over 1000 people each year. **Lithuanian Days.**



Vladas Adamkus was appointed Assistant Administrator of the Midwest Region of the US **Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA). The Midwest Region is comprised of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. This EPA Region contains 25% of the nation's industries and 20% of the population. Mr. Adamkus is the highest ranking Federal official of Lithuanian descent.

Anthony B. Mažeika conducted a **radio talk show** entitled "In Defense of Human Rights in Lithuania: the 1977 Report" over three college radio stations, WBJB-FM, WSOU-FM, and WRSU-FM, during the month of June. The topic was the 37th anniversary of the annexation of the Baltic States. **K. of L Lith. Affairs Bulletin.**

7

Dr. **James P. Armatas** is a prominent **consulting psychologist**, his specialty is multiple methods of personality assessment. A native of Joliet, Illinois, he served with the US Air Force (1951-52). In 1958 he received his doctorate in psychology from the University of Kansas. Shortly thereafter he entered the Veteran Administration Center, Wadsworth, Kansas, as staff psychologist. Dr. Armatas is co-author of "Management of People" (1965) and "Personality and Interest Patterns" (1963). In 1964 he published "Conforming Personality Model." He is a member of various professional associations.

Active in **industrial relations** is Dr. **Leo Allen Bernat**. A native of St. Paul, Minnesota, Dr. B Bernat (Bernotas) received a doctorate in 1967. He has worked as a youth coordinator, federal consultant, college instructor, statistician, and insurance actuary. In 1967 he published a union publication "Should I as a Public Employee Coordinate my PERA Program with Social Security: An Analysis of Relevant Facts."

Mrs. **Josephine Daužvardis**, Honorary Consul General of Lithuania in Chicago, has graciously provided BRIDGES with information on **Lithuanian language courses** in the Chicago area, after BRIDGES had received numerous inquiries. The 1977-78 Undergraduate Studies Program of the **University of Illinois at Chicago Circle** offers a complete curriculum for college credits. The courses are: Elementary Lithuanian I, II, III (four hours each); Intermediate Lithuanian I, II, III (four hours each with intensive review of grammar, syntactic structures, oral readings and translation); Major Authors of Lithuanian Prose (four hours with emphasis on contemporary authors); Major Lithuanian Poets (4 hrs.); Lithuanian Drama (4 hrs. on major dramatists of the 20th century); Independent Study (1 to 4 hours of special problems under the general direction of a staff member); History of the Lithuanian Language (4 hours); and Structure of Lithuanian (4 hrs. with synchronic analysis of the structure of standard Lithuanian, reference to its historical development). The hour references indicate the number of study-hours per week per semester that are being offered.

Professor **Vytautas Bieliauskas** is **chairman** of the **Psychology Department** of **Xavier University**, Cincinnati, Ohio. Born in Plackojai, Lithuania, he began his formal education in Kaunas. In 1943 he earned a Ph.D. in psychology at Tuebingen, Germany. After the war he became an assistant professor in Munich. Dr. Bieliauskas has been with Xavier University since 1958. He is active with the Catholic Charities of Cincinnati. He is also an alumnus of the Ateitis Lithuanian Catholic Federation. Considered an authority on personality theory he has published several scholarly works: "Theory and Method in H-T-P Research" and "Present Advances in Psychology of Masculinity and Femininity."

The translation of names of Lithuanian organizations into English can pose some problems as our readers may have noticed. Let us take the Šaulių Sąjunga as an example. If translated literally, the organization would be known in English as the "Riflemen's Association," but that would be completely misleading since the Šauliai are more than that. The official name which the Šauliai have adopted is the "Lithuanian National Guard", which best describes the organization, its goals and purposes. In independent Lithuania members of the Šauliai served side by side with the regular Lithuanian Army. Although rifling for the sport of it is a part of Šauliai activities, the organization has evolved into a cultural organization, keeping the traditions of the Šauliai of the Republic of Lithuania, and also spreading a sense of Lithuanianism among themselves and their children. Of equal importance is the fact that the Šauliai aid all efforts on L Lithuania's behalf. There are posts of Lithuanian National Guard throughout the United States and Canada. **EVM.**

BRIDGES reader Victor Šatas correctly pointed out that the mean wage for workers in Soviet-occupied Lithuania (see BRIDGES, Vol. I, No. 4, p. 3) refers to **monthly** not weekly wages. We thank Mr. Šatas for drawing our attention to this omission in our item. **Ed.**

ATTENTION READERS! A number of subscribers have asked for the first issues of BRIDGES. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide them. The first issues have been exhausted, depleted. Subscriptions run from the issue next following the placed application. Thus, subscribers paying in August will have their subscriptions commence in September. Thank you for your understanding. **THE EDITORS.**

IN APPRECIATION

The staff of BRIDGES takes this occasion to thank the following readers for financial contributions to defray the printing costs of the Lithuanian American Newsletter. These donations were made in addition to the regular subscriptions. We cordially extend a Lithuanian A Č I Ū to the following supporters:

- A. Dagys, Chicago, Ill. \$28.00
- Anthony Gruzdis, St. Petersburg Beach, Fla. 10.00
- Hartford Chapter of Bendruomenė, Hartf., Conn. 50.00
- Juozas Ivanauskas, Naperville, Ill. 10.00
- Alfonsas Lešinskas, Salem, N.H. 10.00
- Joseph Lukas, Orange, Ct. 10.00
- Lione Matthews, Brooklyn, N.Y. 10.00
- Omaha Chapter of Bendruomenė, Om., Neb. ... 25.00
- So. Boston Lith. Citizens Club, Boston, Ma. ... 25.00
- Dr. Victor Stankus, Cleveland, Ohio 20.00
- M. Sušinskas (Phila. Chapter of Bendruomenė) .. 25.00
- Rev. William Wolkovich, Hudson, MA. 10.00
- A. Yankus, Delair, N.J. 10.00

BRIDGES — LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Lithuanian American Community of the USA, Inc. Managing Editor: Algirdas Budreckis; Members of the Editorial Board: Mykolas Drunga, Algirdas Dumčius, Vytautas Jurgėla. Gintaras Karosas, Eduardas Meilus, Jr., Algirdas Mitkus, Viktoras Stankus, and Jonas Stundza, Jr. Entered as Third Class Matter at the Post Office in Boston, Mass. Subscription rates: \$3.00 for one year. Editorial and Subscriptions Address: P. O. Box 9061, Boston, MA. 02114.

After 5 Days, Return to
Bridges - Lithuanian American Newsletter
c/o DARBININKAS
341 Highland Blvd.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11207

Non-Profit Org.
**U. S. POSTAGE
PAID**
Brooklyn, N. Y.
Permit No. 5417

Major Denis Mazeika, M.D.
Major Denis Mazeika, MD
112-34-5386
Chief Ophthalmology
USA Hospital Wurzburg, Ger.
APO NY 09801