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BRIDGES IS A NEWSLETTER, PUBLISHED BY THE LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF THE U.S. INC., TO RE-ESTABLISH TIES BETWEEN THE LITHUANIAN HERITAGE AND THE DETACHED, MOBILE LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN. IT FOCUSES UPON TIMELY ITEMS DEALING WITH LITHUANIAN CULTURE, CONDITIONS IN THE HOMETLAND, AND THE ASPIRATIONS OF ALL WHO SUBSCRIBE TO THE IDEA THAT LITHUANIA DESIRES TO BE AN INDEPENDENT AND FREE NATION AGAIN.

LITHUANIANS: OLD, YOUNG, ALIVE!

This issue marks the first anniversary of BRIDGES. Throughout the past year we have had a golden opportunity to make some relevant observations on the Lithuanian-American experience that we would like to share with you on this occasion.

We were surprised to come across so many kinsmen who had just about no idea of the rich and vigorous Lithuanian community life virtually around the corner from them. Their picture of Lithuanian activities pretty much boiled down to a memory of old-timers getting together for a picnic to eat kugelis and shoot the breeze about the good old times. They were unaware that Lithuanianism is not the fading echo of a receding past but a real and present way of life fulfilling so many human needs.

How amazed were they to learn, for example, that in America we have schools and summer programs offering instruction in Lithuanian language, history, and culture! How surprised were they to find out that there are several nation-wide organizations sponsoring conventions, summer camps, festivals, not to mention dances, concerts, theatricals, art shows, lectures, and a whole variety of other types of events in practically every Lithuanian community!

Young people and students especially were struck by what we told them about the World Lithuanian Youth Association, the Lithuanian Student Association, the Ateitinkai, the Academic Scouts, the Neolituaniai, the Knights of Lithuania, and a large array of specialized organizations such as sports clubs, dance groups, choirs, political action committees, and many others to suit a variety of individual interests. Lithuanian action is young and vigorous — and, as so many were surprised to learn from BRIDGES, just about everywhere!

Here at BRIDGES we are attempting our best in doing away with the lack of communication, information, and understanding that is keeping so many Lithuanian-Americans in the dark about what our community has to offer. But we need your help in accomplishing this task. You, our readers, are the only ones who can bring us to the attention of your many friends, relatives, and associates who need — and want — to know about their heritage and about the myriad activities that give it meaning.

So — please help us with new subscriptions. In return, we shall all be making a great contribution to our Lithuanian self-awareness that, as we will endeavor to show in future issues of BRIDGES, can be so enriching to our lives.

Gintaras Karosas

On February 9, 1978 Dr. Stasys A. Bačkis, Charge d'Affaires of Lithuania, received the following **communiqué of greetings from Cyrus Vance, U.S. Secretary of State:**

"On the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the proclamation of Lithuanian independence it is my pleasure to extend to you and to the Lithuanian people greetings and best wishes on behalf of the Government and people of the United States. Our many citizens of Lithuanian origin have shown us at first hand the proud traditions and strong national consciousness of the Lithuanian people. The courage and perseverance of the Lithuanian people, their indomitable love of liberty and their deep respect for human rights merit the admiration and support of free people everywhere. Sincerely, Cyrus Vance."

Another Independence Day event was celebrated at Wayne State University in Detroit with the opening of a **Lithuanian Room** at Manoogian Hall. The ceremony included dancers in folk costumes and musical entertainment.

Senator John Glen was the main speaker at the **60th commemoration** of the Restoration of **Lithuanian Independence** sponsored by the local chapter of the Lithuanian American Council at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Hall in **Cleveland, Ohio** on February 19, 1978. He also met with local Lithuanian Democratic leaders: Edward F. Katalinas, chief justice of the City of Cleveland; Judge Frank O'Bell; former state senator John J. Derigher; chairman of the Cuyahoga County Lithuanian Democratic Club Jonas Nasvytis, as well as leaders of other Lithuanian organizations. **Victor Stankus.**

The **Brockton Daily Enterprise** of December 22, 1977 carried an unusual story about the Massachusetts Public Works Commissioner Frank W. Wallen (Volungevičius). It appears that Mr. Wallen invited President Jimmy Carter to come to Brockton on February 11th to take part in the Lithuanian Independence Day observance. In his letter to the White House the DPW chief told Carter he had met him while the president was campaigning in Brockton prior to the Democratic nomination. The Wallen letter continued: "The City of Brockton has a very ethnic population, one of which is Lithuanian. There are approximately 5,000 living here. I am one myself." He continued further: "My purpose for writing you, Mr. President, is because of your outstanding views on human rights." Commissioner Wallen told local reporters that if President Carter accepted his invitation, there would be 25,000 participants and interested spectators on hand. If he doesn't come, Wallen anticipated a turnout of 1,000.

Well, it is nice to dream. Actually, the February 11th commemoration had to be postponed because of the Blizzard of '78 that struck eastern Massachusetts.

Knights of Lithuania Council 141 organized the commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day on February 12 in Bridgeport, Conn. The observance commenced with a High Mass at St. George R.C. Church. The official program began at 1:30 P.M. **Antanas Masionis**, educator and superintendent of the Lithuanian Saturday Schools for the Atlantic Region, was keynote speaker. The Bridgeport Chapter of Bendruomenė cooperated in organizing the observance. **Alphonse Trainis.**

The **Detroit Lithuanian Organizations Center**, representing 27 local Lithuanian groups, held an official commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day at the Lithuanian Cultural Center in Southfield, Michigan. Tribute was also paid to Lithuanian war veterans. According to Dr. Algis Barauskas, vice president of the Detroit Lithuanian Organizations Center, renewed interest in human rights and the unity of various captive nations groups in the U.S. enhance the prospects of eventual independence.

COMMUNITY WITH A CAPITAL "C"

For the seventh year in a row, Bendruomenė has undertaken the publication and distribution of "Violation of Human Rights in Soviet Occupied Lithuania". The REPORT FOR 1977 was printed in March. The documented study carries material taken from the clandestine publications "Chronicle of the Catholic Church" and "Varpas", reports of the Lithuanian Helsinki Group, the trial of Lapienis, Russification and others. Dr. Thomas Remeikis edited this seventh volume. He received special assistance from Dr. Domas Krivickas of the Lithuanian Human Rights Committee. Rev. Pugevicius and the members of the Public Affairs Council of Bendruomenė also provided invaluable assistance. Copies may be obtained by writing to Mrs. Aušra Zerr, 708 Custis Rd., Glenside, Pa. 19038.

On January 28, Balys Raugas and Feliksas Andriūnas, vice presidents of Bendruomenė, signed a contract with Prof. Bronis Kaslas, agreeing to finance the latter's book with Bendruomenė funds. Prof. Kaslas had recently written a study in French, entitled "La Lithuanie a la Recherche de la Liberte" (Lithuania in Search of Freedom). This work would be published and disseminated by a publisher in France. It will fill a void in recent literature on Lithuania in French.

The Philadelphia and South New Jersey Chapters of the Lithuanian American Community observed two an-

niversaries: the 725th anniversary of the formation of the Lithuanian Kingdom in 1253 and the 60th anniversary of the restoration of independent Lithuania. The dual commemoration was held on February 12 at the Lithuanian Music Hall, Philadelphia, U.S. Rep. Raymond Lederer (D. — Philadelphia) gave the keynote address. Algirdas Budreckis, editor of BRIDGES, was the Lithuanian speaker.

The Brighton Park Chapter of Bendruomenė in conjunction with the local Lithuanian Saturday School held the Lithuanian Independence Day celebration on February 19 at the Immaculate Conception parish school, Chicago.

The Executive Committee of Bendruomenė has solicited the help of Prof. Rimgaudas Šilbajoris, who agreed to edit a collective work in English about **cultural genocide in Lithuania**. Prof. Šilbajoris, a prominent Lithuanian literary critic, has enlisted five Lithuanian scholars to collaborate on this study. It will be completed by the end of this year.

The Philadelphia - South Jersey Chapter of the Lithuanian American Youth Association sponsored a **24-Hour Vigil and Fast** to protest the Soviet occupation of Lithuania. Starting at noon, February 11, Lithuanian youths from the Greater Philadelphia area, Washington, New York, and Hartford gathered at Independence Hall Park, alongside the Liberty Bell Pavilion, Philadelphia. A select number of the participants fasted for the entire 24-hour period, taking only hot coffee or tea. All Vigil participants were identified by black arm-bands. Fast observers were identified by white arm-bands.

Taking turns with at least 20 participants every hours, the young people surrounded a casket draped with a Lithuanian flag and placards to dramatize the loss of independence. A further effect was added by several Vigil-keepers who donned black robes of mourning. Readings from translations of the "Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania" and other underground publications were broadcast over a loud-speaker to passers-by. The demonstration protested the abuse of human rights in Lithuania and the failure of the Belgrade Conference to secure Soviet compliance with the Helsinki Accords. Leaflets were distributed. The organizers of the Vigil were Vytas Volertas, Rimantas Stirbys, Jūratė Krokys and Craig Hardy. Birutė Zdanys and Linas Kojelis of the National Executive of the LA Youth Association also participated.

During 1977 the **Brighton Park Chapter** of Bendruomenė in Chicago donated \$1,400 to the Lithuanian Saturday School, Lithuanian newspapers and radio, as well as to other Lithuanian institutions. The Chapter publishes a monthly bulletin, **Žinios**. Mr. Vytenis Šilas is chapter president.

"On January 23 CBS scored a breakthrough," wrote national columnist John P. Roche in the March 4 issue of the magazine **TV Guide**, "for which the network . . . deserves a belated medal. It devoted two hours to one of the most shameful incidents in recent American history: **'The Defection of Simas Kudirka'**".

Briefly, the story, well-known to most Lithuanians, concerns a Lithuanian radio operator who on November 23, 1970 leaped from a Soviet fishing vessel to a Coast Guard cutter off the Massachusetts coast. Incredibly, Soviet officials were allowed to board the American ship and seize Kudirka. After being brought back to Lithuania, Kudirka was tried for treason by Soviet authorities and sent to Siberia. However, after it was discovered that Kudirka was an American citizen (his mother was born in the United States), Kudirka, along with his family, was allowed to come to the United States in the fall of 1974. "Overall", as notes Roche, "the drama starring Alan Arkin was well performed." Not art, perhaps, but a satisfactory thriller certainly superior to much of what is on television and one which brought the Lithuanian plight some much needed and belated publicity. Notes Roche, "Indeed, the fact that the question about Lithuania was asked was itself pathbreaking. I know about Lithuania — it once issued triangular airmail stamps, but has been out of the stamp business since the Nazi-Soviet pact conveyed it to Moscow". Roche exaggerates: later he writes he has mentioned Lithuanian independence to the U.S. U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young, but most Americans surely do not know much about Lithuania.

Along with the made-for-television movie, came a national educational effort sponsored by CBS, the National Teachers Association, and the John Hancock Insurance Company. The script, written by Bruce Feldman, was published before the telecast in local newspapers in many cities and teachers were encouraged to make use of the script and other special material that came with it in their classrooms.

From a specifically Lithuanian point of view, the film concentrated perhaps too much on the personal drama of Kudirka, neglecting to say more about Lithuania itself. And yet, the film does make a point which all too few Americans realize: it has Kudirka several times vehemently deny that he is "Russian" and in one place he says, "Lithuania (Litva) country, Russia take Lithuania. Lithuania prisoner!" In another place it made clear that a Russian-speaking person cannot understand Lithuanian. Very good and necessary, for many persons do not realize the less than half of the population of the Soviet Union is Russian, that it is an empire consisting of many conquered countries.

In sum, the film was a success theatrically, and though it could have done somewhat better politically, it, as Roche says, "provided a generation with historical amnesia a highly personalized but accurate insight into the nature of totalitarianism". **SG**

The Philadelphia-South New Jersey Chapter of the Lithuanian American Youth Association started a mimeographed bulletin with youth information Lithuanian and English. Two issues have appeared this year. The bulletin is called "**Jaunimo Žodis**". Craig Hardy is the editor, the editorial staff includes Juratė Krokytė and Rimantas A. Stirbys.



The February 13, 1978 edition of **Newsweek** carried a full page ad as a public service of the Advertising Council. Called "How we sweetened the melting pot", this advertisement for US Savings Bonds carried a turn-of-the-century photograph of a Lithuanian immigrant's butcher shop. (The window sign "Letuviska Polska Bucherne" is Vulgate Lithuanian for "Lithuanian - Polish Butchershop"). The BRIDGES editors have identified this picture as a view of the Old Bridgeport, Chicago Lithuanian Community.

A national **Prayerthon** will be held Sunday, April 23, through all the chapters of the American Lithuanian Roman Catholic Women's Alliance. The Immaculate Conception Convent in Putnam, Conn., and the World Alliance of Lithuanian Catholic Women's Organizations will join in this day of prayer. The **Prayerthon** will be conducted by telephone. The purpose of this **Prayerthon** is to work toward the elevation of Archbishop Jurgis Matulaitis to sainthood. Archbishop Matulaitis - Matulevičius was a true servant of God; among his many humanitarian acts was the renovation of the Marian Congregation, and the formation of two religious congregations for women, namely, the Immaculate Conception and the Servants of Jesus in the Eucharist. On January 26, 1977, the day before the 50th anniversary of the archbishops' death, the Superior General and his councillors and other Marian dignitaries participated in the general weekly audience of Pope Paul VI. The Pope speaking in Italian addressed himself to the Marians and said in part: "Always keep in mind this great spiritual personality. We hope that we shall be able to honor him not only in paradise, but here on earth as well. Of course, if you help with your prayers and assistance." The Women's Alliance asks all group to join in prayer.
Julia Mack

The **67th Convention of the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance** will be held on June 25 - 28, 1978 in the Pocono resort region of Pennsylvania.

Students of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian heritage at the **University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana**, held their first meeting to discuss goals and plans for the coming year and to elect officers to the **Baltic Student Union**. Elected were: Brian Rejšek, president; Arūnas Rumša, vice-president; Mara Dukats and Daina Sidrys — secretary and treasurer. The Union's major goal is to preserve the Baltic culture and tradition on campus. For more information, contact Brian Rejšek, 604 E. Armory 214, Champaign, Ill. 61800.

Sacred Heart University in Bridgeport, Conn. is having a Lithuanian Heritage Month this March. It is part of a series of ethnic months to commemorate the University's Fifteenth Anniversary. A variety of events is being planned by a committee made up of representatives of four local Lithuanian organizations: The Bendruomenė, K of L Council 141, St. George's parish, and Lithuanian Youn Men's Society. As a result of these efforts, Sacred Heart University has commissioned Rev. A. Jurgelaitis, OP, of Providence College to prepare a study which will be presented orally and published by the University at a later date, on Lithuanian heritage from the vantage point of the contributions made in Connecticut within the scope of faith and patriotism.

Other events planned for the Lithuanian Heritage Month during March are: an exhibit of works of Lithuanian-American artists, a display of Lithuanian books in the Library, various smaller displays such as — Costumes, folkcrafts, displays on history, Lithuanian cultural institutions in Connecticut, persecution of faith in Lithuania. All of the above will be on view throughout the month at various locations on the Sacred Heart campus. There will be a series of mini-lessons of Lithuanian, workshops in sash weaving, and Easter egg decorating.

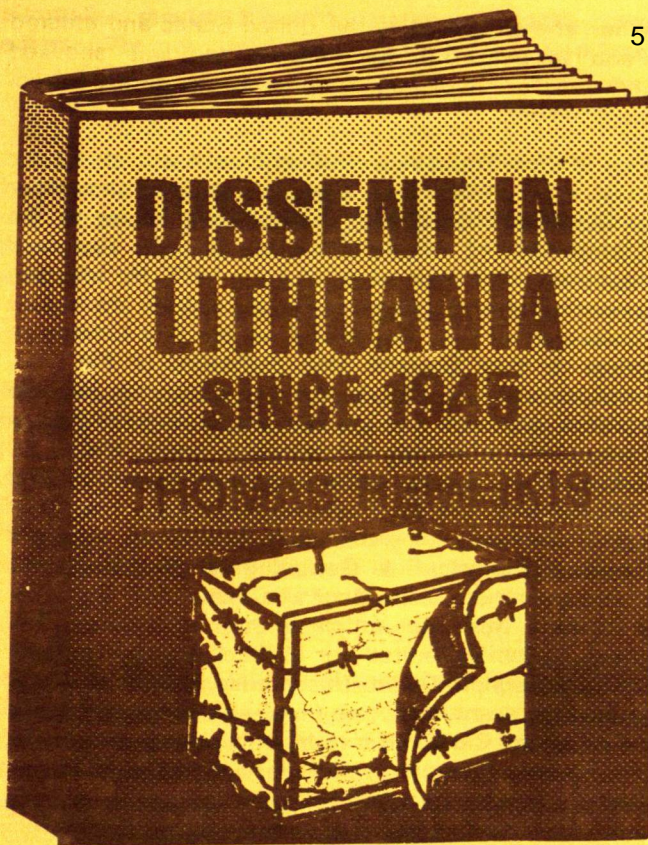
Sun. March 5, 3:00 P.M. — Sister Virginia Marie Vytell, CJC will be featured in the "meet the author" event, sponsored by the Friends of the University Library. She will speak on her book "All You Nations Praise the Lord", which deals with persecution of religion in Lithuania.

Sat., March 11, 7:00 P.M. — Convocation, Fr. Jurgelaitis' presentation, followed by a concert program by the fabulius ČIURLIONIS Lithuanian National Art Ensemble from Cleveland. The evening will be concluded with a reception to all.

Sunday, March 19, 3:00 P.M. — Rev. K. Pugevičius will speak on the "Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania". This will be followed by a "meet the artist", which will feature Mr. Victor Liaukus and his woodcarvings that are inspired by Lithuanian folklore and folk art.

The University's own radio station WSHU will play Lithuanian music, on several occasions.

G. Ivaškiene



The Executive Committee of Bendruomenė had commissioned Dr. Thomas Remeikis to edit a documentary study about postwar resistance in Lithuania. The result is "**Dissent in Lithuania Since 1945**", a work containing 61 authentic documents about Lithuanian resistance to the Soviet occupation, starting with the postwar partisan movement and being brought up to the latest clandestine samizdat publications. The introduction gives a survey of the historical and theoretical considerations of this resistance. The contents cover: Part I. The Resistance of the Lithuanian Nation in Historical Perspective; Part II. Documents of National Resistance, and Part III. Documents of Religious Resistance. The book is a scholarly contribution to the problems of foreign occupation and attempts at national liberation. The publisher's price will be \$15,000. Early subscription price — \$12.00. "Dissent in Lithuania Since 1945" may be obtained by writing to: Lithuanian American Community of USA, Inc., 9660 Pine Road, Philadelphia, Pa. 19115.

Among the books in English about Lithuanians are a few odd-balls. One such is "**Samogitia**", written by a Frenchman, **Charles Thurot Pichel**, a Chancellor of the Order of Malta for 50 years. Samogitia is the Latin name in ancient chronicles for Žemaitija (Lowland Lithuanian). "Samogitia" was published by the American Maltese Cross Press in Wilkes Barre and sells for \$7.95 (address: P.O. Box 1102, Wilkes Barre, Pa. 18703). It is neither straight history nor an historical romance, but a curious blend of various unconfirmed legends and facts. "Samogitia" brings the Žemaičiai out into world history around 1200 A.D. Mr. Pichel shows great sympathy and love for the Samogitians and their age-long struggles to maintain a separate national identity. **Vytold Sirvydas**

Dr. Jonas Basanavičius featured on a number of postage stamps of Lithuania was honored by the **Lithuanian Philatelic Society** at the exhibit held on November 5 and 6, 1977, at the Lithuanian Jesuit Youth Center, Chicago.

Young Lithuanian-American Democrats of Cook County is a new organization in the Chicago area, which has a sizable Lithuanian community. The Young Lithuanian Democrats plan to work and organize for Cook County Democrats among the ethnics. The officers are: Edward Šumanas, president; Fran Norušis, vice-president; and Julie Bakauskas, secretary.

The Lithuanian Scouting Fund, established on July 30, 1975, reported assets of \$28,214.57 at the end of 1977. The Fund designated \$1002 for scout leader training programs and manuals. The Fund has 590 contributors in the U.S., Canada, England, and Australia. The purpose of the Lithuanian Scouting Fund is to use bank interest and dividends to support the continued high calibre of Lithuanian boy and girl scouting in the free world. The chairman of the Fund is Česlovas Kiliulis. Other members of the board of directors are Dr. Jurgis Gimbutas, Florantina Kurgonas, Kostas Nenortas, Saulė Šatas, and Julius Špakevičius. Contributions may be sent to Lithuanian Scouting Fund, 17 Tyler Rd., Lexington, Mass. 02173.

PERSONALITIES

A native of the old Lithuanian-American neighborhood in the Bridgeport section of Chicago, **Val Valančius**, moved to Phoenix, Arizona in 1949. Active in real estate for over 20 years, he got "in touch with a little bit of everything". He expanded into public relations, advertising and entertainment consulting. For fifteen years now Mr. Valančius has been in the air over Station KXIV and on Phoenix TV shows.

Adele Charaska De Angelo, formerly of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, is conducting movement research in conjunction with the dance program at Loyola-Marymount, Los Angeles. Her son **Harry Charaska De Angelo** has completed his doctorate and will teach finance at the University of Washington.

In November, 1977 Rev. **Joseph J. Shelonis**, a professor at Marian High School in Hometown, was appointed

pastor of **St. John's Lithuanian Catholic Church** in Coaldale. Until the appointment by Bishop Joseph McShea of the Allentown Diocese, Father Shelonis was serving as administrator at the Coaldale parish.

The **U.S. Air Force AFA Citation of Honor for 1977** was bestowed upon **Dr. Petras V. Avizonis**, technical director, Advanced Radiation Technological Office, AF Weapons Laboratory, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, for "brilliant leadership in all areas of high-energy laser R. & D for the US Air Force, thus contributing to the rapid advance of this crucial technology and to meeting significant demonstration milestones in the program".

As part of a program of cultural activities, over 50 paintings of the Lithuanian artist Česlovas Janušas were exhibited under the sponsorship of the Lithuanian Community of Brockton, Mass. Mr. Janušas has had a distinguished career spanning almost 50 years in the arts. A graduate of the Kaunas School of Art and former director of Kaunas Institute of Applied Art, he has exhibited widely and frequently in one-man shows both in this country and abroad. Listed in "Who's Who in American Art", Janušas was recently honored by the American Artists Professional League when his work was chosen to represent the League's artists at the Smithsonian Institute Exhibition in Washington, D.C. His works are among the permanent collections of the Museum of Culture in Washington, Čiurlionis Art Gallery, Chicago, and the Center Museum of Long Island, N.Y. His articles have appeared in "Prizewinning", "Oil Paintings", and "Why They Win the Prize". Č. Janušas works primarily through the media of water colors and oils and is a realist with special fondness for seascapes, where he devoted particular attention to the subtleties of light.

Sister **M. Gabrielle Maze** (Mazeliauskas) of the Lithuanian Franciscan Sisters of Pittsburgh, Pa. is the second woman, second Catholic, and first nun to be elected president of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science. Elected for two years, she will chair the Academy which is an affiliate of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Sister M. Gabrielle is a BRIDGES reader and proud of her Lithuanian heritage.

A number of women dental school graduates have a difficult time finding a male dentist willing to take them in as partners in practice and resort to research or clinical work. Then there is patient resistance to the woman dentist. Dr. **Albina Didžiulis**, who practiced dentistry in Trenton, N.J. for 25 years, remembers jealousy of women students who obtained good grades when she attended dental school in the late 1940's at the University of Pennsylvania. Like a number of successful women dentists currently in practice, Dr. Didžiulis grew up seeing women dentists as a norm. In her native Lithuania, 50% of all dentists were women.

6 When she emigrated to the United States and entered Penn to gain U.S. certification, she was shocked that only 5 out of 500 students at the dental school were female.

Rev. **William Wolkovich - Valkavičius**, Associate Pastor of St. Mary Church, Ayer, Mass. is slated to give a paper at Seton Hall University, Orange, New Jersey at the Spring Meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association the first week of April, 1978. He will give a description and analysis of **Rytas** (1896-98), the weekly newspaper of Rev. Joseph Žebriš, the first Lithuanian priest in New England, who pioneered in the Connecticut area. Fr. Valkavičius is a part-time graduate student at Boston College specializing in immigration history. He is writing his master's thesis about Fr. Žebriš. The most recent writings of Valkavičius are: "Lithuanians of New England, a 25-page typescript article accepted for publication in 1978 by the **New England Historical & Genealogical Register**; and "Lithuanians of Connecticut and Their Irish Bishops", a 40-page typescript article in the book called **The Other Catholics** edited by Michael Novak, Rudolph Vecoli & Kenneth Dyrud. This volume is part of a major publishing event from Arno Press — a 49-volume series on American Catholicism to be published in May, 1978.

The **Drury Lane Teatre** of Chicago, noted for staging Broadway productions, numbers Lithuanian Americans on its staff. **John Grigas** has been the stage manager for all of Harold Prince's recent Broadway shows including the New York company of "Side by Side by Sondheim", "Pacific Overtures", "Candide", "A Little Night Music and Follies". Mr. Grigas was the stage manager of the Franco Zeffirelli production of "Saturday, Sunday, Monday". He staged the musical numbers of both the Jean Simmons and Patrice Munsel companies of "A Little Night Music". Before his career as a stage manager, Mr. Grigas was a dancer in two Harold Prince directed shows, "Superman", and "Baker Street", and he appeared in productions of "Dear World", "Man of La Mancha", "Milk and Honey", "Plain and Fancy", "The Merry Widow" and the national company of "My Fair Lady" that toured the Soviet Union. **Frank Baltrušaitis** is the box office treasurer for Drury Lane Teatre. **V. Š.**

Simas Kudirka says he's a grateful guest in the U.S. and hopes to return one day to a "free Lithuania". He often hoists Old Glory at his apartment. In Lithuania the Kudirkas once lived in a barracks with 12 families and no plumbing. "You couldn't protest because it was very dangerous. You waited, you suffered." Today Kudirka, his wife, Genė, and their son, Evaldas, have a five-room apartment on a tree-lined street in the Bronx. Unable to learn English quickly, their 17-year-old daughter, Lolita, has been sent to the Lithuanian-language "February 16th Gymnasium" in Germany. As superintendent of the 63-unit building that he co-owns with another Lithuanian, Kudirka paints

and makes repairs. His wife cleans apartments and babysits. Their finances were considerably improved by the \$16,000 paid for the movie rights to his story. The made-for-TV film was aired in January (see above). Kudirka's bank account may be swelled even more if a book about his life, "For Those Still at Sea," to be published this month by Dial, does well. "Now we have American problems — like the blackout", Kudirka says with a smile. "American problems are nothing".

SPORTS

NFL and the "Lithuanian Camelot" — As I watched the last seconds of the Super-Bowl, my mind drifted to a decade past, to the golden days of professional football. Those were the times when the football scene was so totally dominated by a young man from Pittsburgh. He arrived like a meteor, unheralded and unknown, but hardly a creature exists today that does not know the name **Johnny Unitas**. What a player he was! Records were being broken. New ones established every year. The sports writers ran out of adjectives and adverbs to describe his abilities, his leadership and his performance. Perhaps a representative commentary would be this one from the Norfolk, Virginia "**Pilot**" by Russell Borjes: "No mere mortal can continually pick up a football team at one end of the field and personally carry it to the other end. The Baltimore Colts management realizes this, that's why they have Johnny Unitas. Another routine super-human effort by Unitas . . ."

But there was another dimension to Johnny Unitas that perhaps few people realized or cared about. John Steadman, Sports Editor of the "**Baltimore News-Post**" wrote a column entitled "Love Affair: Teresa and John" that Commissioner Pete Rozelle called "the most heart-warming and tenderly written column I have ever seen." It was about an eleven year old girl, Teresa Ariosa, who was deaf and suffered from cerebral palsy and aphasia. John Steadman reprinted a letter in his column received from the girl's mother. We quote: "Their love affair, Teresa's and John's started the summer after John had directed

the Colts in the 'greatest football game ever played'. John was on top of the world then and he could have demanded any price for a personal appearance, but in true Unitas fashion, he donated one hour of his time to sell tickets to a fund-raiser, the Parents of Aphasic Youngsters, in the blazing sun . . . In a room full of people, John will always find his way to Teresa and hug her. If he sees her in church, he makes a point to sit near her. If he sees us without Teresa, he always says to send his love. Last year he wrote her a letter. All this for a little girl who may never buy a ticket, who can't even sing his praises, except with her eyes and who has nothing to offer but love".

And yet there was still another side of Johnny Unitas. This one dealt with a young man extremely proud of his Lithuanian heritage at a time when ethnic reawakening in the country was still to come. I recall his comment to me, after his first season with the Colts, of how he corrected a Detroit sportswriter who had called him a Greek. Needless to say, it did not take long for the press to get the message as sports pages began to glitter with terminology such as "the lithe Lithuanian", "the Lithuanian Sling-Shot", "the crew-cut Lithuanian", "the Lithuanian Superman", etc. At a Lithuanian function in the Lord Baltimore Hotel in 1957, John and his wife came over to a group of Lithuanian folk dancers to compliment them and to express his amazement of how beautiful Lithuanian dances were. He suggested that the group should travel all over the country and exhibit Lithuanian folk dances to the American public. Needless to say, the group was captivated by John's humility and graciousness.

In Baltimore, John maintained his "Lithuanian connection" by not being a stranger to the Lithuanian Hall, to St. Alphonsus' Lithuanian parish and especially to the current co-pastor, Father Anthony Dranginis. John's voice was heard every Sunday introducing the weekly Lithuanian Radio Program which he greatly enjoyed. We had heard that when Simas Kudirka's attempted defection took place, John Unitas was extremely upset and wished to know if there was something he could do. And when the day came when Johnny Unitas retired from active ranks, our "Camelot" days were over. **R. C.**

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1- Charles Samaklis was initiated into the State of Maine Baseball Hall of Fame in December, 1977. As a pitcher with the famed **Brooklyn Dodgers**, Charley's career was interrupted by a four-year stint of service in World War II in Europe. Returning to baseball after the war, Charles Samaklis played with pennant-winning teams in Montreal, Minneapolis, and Dallas-Fort Worth.

Charley's son, **Bruce**, won the State of Maine Amateur Golf Championship in August, 1977. Bruce is currently attending Princeton University where, besides being an honor student in engineering, he was elected captain of the golf team for 1978. **S.J.S.**

LITHUANIAN KITCHEN

After 40 years with the **Beich Candy Company**, food chemist **Justin Alikonis** retired at year's end. To his credits are the whizolator, which Beich used to make aerated confections, marshmallows and nougats. Mr. Alikonis has at least 300 cookbooks and 4,000 food-related books in his collection. He says he could eat on less than \$1 a day and have an adequate diet. Americans eat far too much, especially red meats and high-cholesterol foods, says Alikonis. He thinks we would all be better off if we ate more fish and chicken and drank more wine. "I don't know of any food product that will do more for you than wine ... in moderation," said the Bloomington, Ill. Lithuanian food specialist. As he expounded on the American

8 diet of overindulgence, Alikonis cooker a potful of Lithuanian as a base, supplemented by h sauerkraut and seasoned with Rice and barley in a good soup can be nourishment enough for the average American not slogging away at hard labor, he said. He looks for a future world on an all-cereal diet. "We won't be able to afford meat".

Gera Gaspadinė rašo: for a special treat that looks like you "fussed" but really didn't, try these: **Lašinėčiai — Bacon Buns**. Ingredients: 1 pkg. refrigerator crescent rolls; 1/2 lb. bacon, cut into small pieces; 1 large onion. Fry bacon and onion together over medium heat, until the onion is tender and the bacon cooked (the bacon should not be crisp!). Let cool. Open rolls and flatten out. Fill each one with about 2 tbs. of bacon. Start at wide side and roll into crescent shape. Pinch sides close. Brush rolls with egg that has been beaten. Bake according to directions on package. Serve hot. However, they're still delicious cold. (Note: You may substitute ham for bacon).

A delicious lunch is simple if you have some **Lithuanian** (farmer-style) cheese, sour cream and butter. Slice cheese about 1/4 inch thick, and place in baking dish. Top with some sour cream and dabs of butter. Bake uncovered at 300 degrees for 1/2 hour. Serve with salad. Mmmm—Good!! **MOB**

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