

BRIDGES

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• *Ausros Vartai in Vilnius*

To Our Readers:

After more than two years of writing, editing, cajoling, inspiring and leading BRIDGES during a period of great change in Lithuania and in the role of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., Joe Arlauskas is retiring for a much needed rest as Editor-in-Chief of BRIDGES.

We all came to recognize and appreciate Joe's single-minded devotion to make BRIDGES into a publication with a broad outreach to serve as a vital information link for Lithuanian-Americans between their personal life and the birthplace of their Lithuanian heritage.

Joe's work was an inspiring labor of love. He donated all of his time and energy and never asked for, or accepted any compensation for his work. He worried about quality and style, and sought to challenge the readers of BRIDGES. He wanted BRIDGES to become a publication that we Lithuanian-Americans would be proud to call "our own."

During the last few months, the demands of his own business finally began to overwhelm even his seemingly boundless mental energy and resources.

Though change often stirs sadness, it also provokes challenge. The challenge is now to enlist the talent and creative energy of the broad cross-section of Lithuanian-Americans that have supported BRIDGES to continue the publication's development in content and subscribers. It is inevitable that there will be some transitional shortcomings. The Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., as publisher, asks for your patience. As many of you noticed, the last issue that you received was mistakenly numbered No. 7. It, of course, was only issue No. 4. The issue that you are reading is issue No. 5 and will be the last issue for this year.

Accordingly, we are extending everyone's subscription by six (6) months to compensate for the incompleteness of this year's publication. Your label should already identify an extended subscription renewal date.

To better tap our available resources, BRIDGES will be reorganized with a Board of Editors who will assume responsibility for individual interest sections. Audrone Gulbinas, who is currently the administrator of BRIDGES as well as manager of the LAC National Executive Office in Philadelphia, will assume the task of Managing Editor of BRIDGES. Rimantas Stirbys will return (after a ten year absence) to assume responsibility as Executive Editor. On behalf of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., I would like to close this letter by expressing our most sincere thanks to Joe Arlauskas for his initiative, determination, and sacrifice. Joe, best of luck to you and please write. There will always be a page in BRIDGES for you.

Vytas Maciunas
President
Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.

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BRIDGES: Lithuanian-American News Journal serves as a link between Lithuanian Americans and their Lithuanian heritage (as well as a source of information for those interested in Lithuania and/or the activities/goals/background of Lithuanian Americans), by presenting items on Lithuanian culture, history, conditions in Lithuania, Lithuanian related events and personalities in America; and serves the aspirations of those who want to assist Lithuania's integration into the community of democratically governed, free market economic system, nations of the world. **BRIDGES** - The Official Publication of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc.

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JAV Lietuvių Jaunimo Sąjunga American Lithuanian Youth Association

November 27, 1993

Dear Lithuanian Youth,

We will no longer be publishing or sending an American Lithuanian Youth Association newsletter, as we do not have sufficient funds to keep doing so. Starting now, BRIDGES will include a section on American Lithuanian Youth Association activities!

This issue of BRIDGES is being sent to you as a free sample. Subscribe to BRIDGES for only \$18 per year (\$3 of which will be donated to ALYA, if the new subscriber includes the cut-off below), and receive news about the activities of the American Lithuanian Youth in addition to the regular BRIDGES features.

Sincerely,

Gaile Radvenis
ALYA President

- YES! I would like to subscribe to BRIDGES for only \$18.00 per year, \$3.00 of which will be donated to the American Lithuanian Youth Association.

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The 8th World Lithuanian Youth Congress

WHEN and WHERE: 12-18 July 1994 in Lithuania (Vilnius, Kaunas, Trakai, Klaipeda, plus more)
 18-22 July 1994 on the Baltic Sea (Klaipeda, Riga, Tallinn, and Helsinki)
 22-31 July 1994 in Great Britain (various historical sites around London, England and the UK, depending on the category you choose)

CONGRESS CATEGORIES:

Costs shown are valid through January 4, 1993

DELEGATE / ATSTOVAS (Elected position)	\$1850.00
Lithuania (7-days); Baltic Cruise (5-days); Flight (HEL-LON); PLJK Study Days in London	
PARTICIPANT / DALYVIS (Category DA).....	\$1990.00
Lithuania (7-days); Baltic Cruise (5-days); Flight (HEL-LON); "London-on-your-own" (9-days)	
PARTICIPANT / DALYVIS (Category D2).....	\$2260.00
Lithuania (7-days); Baltic Cruise (5-days); Flight (HEL-LON); "England Tour 2" (9-days)	
PARTICIPANT / DALYVIS (Category D3).....	\$2370.00
Lithuania (7-days); Baltic Cruise (5-days); Flight (HEL-LON); "UK Tour 3" (9-days)	
TOURIST / TURISTAS (Category TU)	\$790.00
Baltic Cruise (5-days)	
TOURIST / TURISTAS (Category T1).....	\$1760.00
Baltic Cruise (5-days); Flight (HEL-LON); "London-on-your-own" (9-days)	
TOURIST / TURISTAS (Category T2).....	\$1930.00
Baltic Cruise (5-days); Flight (HEL-LON); "England Tour 2" (9-days)	
TOURIST / TURISTAS (Category T3).....	\$2040.00
Baltic Cruise (5-days); Flight (HEL-LON); "UK Tour 3" (9-days)	
TOURIST / TURISTAS (Category T4).....	\$1250.00
Lithuania (7-days); Baltic Cruise (5-days)	

England Tour 2: 9-days and 9-nights of London, Coventry, York, Richmond, Hadrian's Wall, Edinburgh, the Lake District, Manchester, Chester, Wedgwood Pottery Center, Stratford, plus the Congress closing ceremonies (7/30/94) at "Sodyba" outside of London.

UK Tour 3: 9-days and 9-nights of London, Oxford, Stratford, Leeds, Coventry, York, Hadrian's Wall, Edinburgh, the Lake District, Grasmere, Manchester, Wedgwood Pottery Center, Bristol, Bath, Salisbury, Stonehenge, plus the Congress closing ceremonies (7/30/94) at "Sodyba" outside of London.

CONGRESS COSTS: A \$100.00 deposit is required to reserve a spot in any category of the Congress. A three tier method has been established for registration: "Pre-registration" (the prices shown above) offers a 5% discount and is due in full by **January 4, 1994** (postmarked). "Regular Registration" is due in full by **February 4, 1994**, and "Late Registration" is due in full by **March 4, 1994** (Costs of Regular and Late Registration are available by writing to the address shown below). Registration forms will not be accepted after March 4, 1994. Register early to guarantee the lowest possible rates!

FLIGHTS to EUROPE: Arrangements have been made with "TRANSEAIR, Inc," to offer the lowest possible trans-Atlantic flights. Just mention the World Lithuanian Youth Assn., and you will receive reduced airfares from your airport to Vilnius, and then returning from London (or any major European city). Payment will be accepted by check or credit card. For further information, please contact TRANSEAIR directly at 1-800-666-4901.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: The WORLD LITHUANIAN YOUTH CONGRESS
 ATTN: WLYC Information
 P.O. BOX 2812
 Springfield, VA 22152-0812
 fax requests: 703-569-5370



Jurate Budrys

A Glimpse of a New Lithuania

In June of 1993, Ms. Jurate Budrys visited Lithuania to see for herself the conditions of orphanages in a country reborn.

This past June, I visited Lithuania in the company of Birute Jasaitis, president of the Lithuanian Human Services Council of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. The purpose of this 3-week trip was two-fold: to obtain hands-on knowledge of Lithuania's orphan-care system and to expand the scope of Lithuanian Children's Hope activities. We also wanted to see and experience the real pulse of life in this reawakening and much troubled country.

Our trip was divided into thirds, with the first and last portion spent in Vilnius. We were on the road for the second part visiting Kaunas, Kedainiai, Ariogala, Pamarava, Jurbarkas, Vilkaviskis, Siauliai, Pakruojis, Linkuva, Birzai, Panevezys, as well as tiny villages well off the beaten path, hidden in forests. We also had the opportunity to visit Trakai, Druskininkai and the awesome Kryziu Kalnas (Hill of the Crosses).

We had the unique opportunity of meeting all types of people from various walks of life and social strata — hard working peasant farmers, bank presidents, common laborers, businessmen, government officials, invalid children and their parents, orphans and caregivers, journalists, teachers, doctors, and religious, among others. We accomplished what we had set out to do, and in the process, learned and experienced so much more than we had anticipated. As a result of all these experiences, we felt a definite shift, a change in the way we think and feel about Lithuania, the people and its future.

Some General Impressions

Much of what we know about Lithuania and its people comes from the media, from letters written by relatives, and from impressions formed by tourists or individuals visiting their relatives, both here and there. We have a tendency, particularly after the past political upheaval, to expound on the bad, leaving very little room for the good. And there is so much good!

Throughout our travels, we saw people working the fields using whatever means necessary — from the most reliable horse to handmade tractors and factory-produced tools — to bring in the summer crops. We saw hay stacks and farm animals; tall green forests and storybook villages; architectural antiquities and modern buildings; simple farm cottages and two-story single family dwellings comparable to homes in Chicago's suburbs.

Ms. Jurate Budrys is the Operations Manager of "Lithuanian Children's Hope (Lietuvos Vaiku Viltis)."



• *Dr. Kestutis Saniukas, Lithuania's chief children's orthopedic surgeon and Dr. Algimantas Vingras, president of Lithuanian Children's Hope — Lithuanian Sector.*

We discovered a beautiful country, one very much alive and struggling to rebuild, and with a surprisingly awesome spirit of hope that still exists after 50 years of dehumanizing oppression. Change, as we all well know, is a painful and lengthy process, requiring joint effort and, most importantly, vision and hope for a better future, if not for oneself then for one's children or grandchildren. Such change cannot be dictated, it can only be guided and supported. Change doesn't occur in all areas all at once. It happens bit by tiny bit, step by faltering step. Change is occurring in Lithuania and in its people. The "me and only me for today" viewpoint is shifting to "us and ours for a better tomorrow". It's the ordinary, everyday people in whom the vision and the hope of a bright strong future exists. It is these people who are taking the greatest risks and the giant steps.

Evidence of Change: The Lithuanian Children's Hope — Lithuanian Sector

Until this past June, Lithuanian Children's Hope activities in Lithuania were coordinated by one individual. For the past two years, Dr. Algimantas Vingras, a pediatric professor, monitored the patient candidate selection process, filled out applications for treatment at U.S. Shriners Hospitals, and helped prepare accepted families for their trip to the United States. He did this diligently,

honestly and prodigiously, without any type of compensation; dedicating all his out-of-work hours to helping Lithuania's children suffering from various orthopedic maladies. Without his help, 29 children would not have been able to receive the type of care they required that could only be obtained in the United States. Twenty of these children have already returned to Lithuania. They are healthier now, able to lead normal, happy lives.

The parents of these children, and of those who are currently in Chicago, gathered in Vilnius at Dr. Vingras small three-room apartment on June 5th. Although the parents do keep in touch with each other in one manner or another, this type of general gathering was a unique occurrence. Not because of the fact that it happened, but in its purpose. Having restored the health of their own children, they are bound by a new goal — to help other Lithuanian invalid children in an organized, structured fashion.

The result of this gathering was the establishment of the Lithuanian Children's Hope — Lithuanian Sector. Its goal and purposes are as follows: (1) to select candidate children whose diagnoses match Shriners Hospital guidelines for treatment in the U.S. and who are unable to receive required treatment incountry; to assist the candidates in preparing documentation and completing application forms and submitting them to Lithuanian Children's Hope (USA); (2) to assist the families that have been selected by Shriners Hospitals in preparing for their trip; (3) to help families readjust, upon their return, and, as required, help them in obtaining periodic post-treatment monitoring (x-rays, braces, etc.) incountry; (4) to ensure that all children in Lithuania, of Lithuanian descent, are aware of the types of services provided by Lithuanian Children's Hope; (5) to monitor and care for the Lithuanian Children's Hope Orthopedic Surgical Unit (which will be opening in Vilnius on October 2nd); assuring that the standards and inventories are maintained. At this meeting, sector officers were elected, working committees formed, accountabilities and responsibilities delegated, and concrete steps outlined

It is important to note that this sector is fully accountable to the Lithuanian Children's Hope committee (headquartered in Chicago) and will adhere to and function according to applicable by-laws set forth by Lithuanian Children's Hope (USA).

The idea for the creation of the sector arose directly from the parents themselves. They saw a general need and joined together for one purpose.

Lithuanian's Orphan-Care System

The larger portion of our time in Lithuania was spent in learning about the type of care which is currently being provided to Lithuania's orphans. There are approximately 10,000 children in Lithuania's orphan-care system. Only 10% of these children fit the strict definition of the word "orphan". The balance all have either one or both parents living, but the family is dysfunctional, unable to provide required sustenance and care. A large number of newborns suffer from cerebral palsy, mongoloidism, various types of

psychological and/or physical deformities. (Exact statistics are unavailable.)

These children spend all of their lives in the orphan institution system. These institutions are government-run and supported, either federally or locally. We visited a variety of these institutions, large and small, in many of the towns and cities we traveled through. We found them to be similar in that the order and physical care provided did not differ from one to the next.

The children are well-cared for. They are clothed, fed and, based on capability and ability, receive the minimal education requirements either on-site or at a nearby local school. They have all that is required to physically maintain a body. Some are probably better off in the institution than many of the children living with poorer families outside of the institution. But, there is something missing — that most important intangible that makes a human being a person. They lack the experience of love and caring that can only be provided within a functioning family environment.



• *The faces of Lithuanian Children's Hope*

Once the healthy child reaches the age of 18, he or she is considered an adult and is released from the institution but has no job skills, is not trained to care for himself or herself, and has nowhere to go. Some succeed and survive in the "outside" world. Some turn to crime while others return to the institution system and are placed in government-run old folks homes and are written-off. Physically or mentally handicapped children remain in the institutional environment, vegetating, until they die.

For the most part, the institution staff personnel are dedicated and caring individuals. They do the best that they can with what they have, but they can only do so much in a country of scarcities, and, after all, this is only a job. The occasional shipments of clothing, food, toys or medicine received by these institutions, either directly or indirectly from the U.S., Germany and Sweden, among other countries, are appreciated, but do not help solve the intrinsic problems within the system.

Recently, a number of private social-service organizations have begun working to change or replace the current government-run orphan/invalid care system. Some of these private organizations have joined together with local businesses and are building and establishing special schools for handicapped children where they receive specialized job training, based on the child's ability and capability. Others are establishing smaller, community-type villages where eight to ten orphan children receive much more personalized care and training from a live-in "housemother."

We visited an institution for the psychologically handicapped whose maverick director has paid particular attention to making the physical environment much more appealing, pleasant and nurturing, and has developed special training programs with the aid of a highly, trained staff. We were especially impressed by the work being done by Lithuanian Children's Fund (based in Richmond). They provide the foster families with monthly financial assistance, diligently monitoring the care that the foster child receives. Through this Fund, the basketball star Sarunas Marciulionis helps support 120 children; while the Grazina Landsbergiene Children's Fund helps care for 62 orphans in foster homes. The Fund currently has the resources to provide for nearly 500 children.

Having visited a large number of various types of institutions — both private and government-run — and having talked with the children and their caregivers, we are much better aware of how we can provide the type of aid and assistance that would be of the greatest benefit. Shipments of clothing and toys are only band-aid approaches to the existing problems. We can be of most benefit by directly supporting those private organizations that help in fostering a well-rounded individual, preparing handicapped, as well as healthy, children for self-sufficient adulthood, creating a better, more amenable and stimulating daily life for the psychologically impaired, and focusing on removing orphans from government institutions.

Lithuania's Hospitals

Since one of our purposes was to lay the groundwork for the opening of the Lithuanian Children's Hope Orthopedic Surgical Unit at the Vilnius University Children's Hospital this fall, we had planned on visiting only this particular hospital. As it turned out, circumstances led us to visit more than just this one.

While in Kaunas, we visited the country's only Orthopedic factory. The factory recently built an adjoining 40-bed hospital which provides adult orthopedic care and has one operating room. It is important to note that a lot of exterior construction was still going on.

We were pleased to learn that the factory's capabilities are up to par with western standards when it comes to the production of leg braces and prostheses. They use German equipment with British materials. However, they do not have the know-how for chest brace production. This was important because if we bring over surgeons to perform scolioses operations on children, chest braces are an important part of the healing process. This production capability is also needed to provide replacement braces for those children who outgrow those fitted by Shriners Hospitals.

Touring the hospital portion was a shock — one of many to come. For a new facility, it was indescribably filthy. The operating room was the second shock. We weren't allowed into it since it had been disinfected and sterilized in preparation for surgery which was to take place within the next half hour. We viewed the operating room through the window of the scrub room. The operating room was definitely cleaner than the rest of the hospital, but one of the windows had been opened to air out the surgery. Just outside, the exterior construction was taking place. The scrub room was smoke-filled, and garbage cans overflowing with banana and orange peels. There was no soap by the sink where the doctors and nurses wash up, just a dirty towel.

We also visited two more hospitals in Kaunas on the same day. One of the smaller hospitals, in which one of our children's mothers was recovering from surgery, had dark, dank, smelly corridors leading into a small room. There were five beds with just enough room to walk past each. Four women, all post-operative, were in this room. The windows, with no screens, were wide open. One of the women was sitting at a small corner table feeding her four-year old grandchild while the child's mother had gone shopping. One of the beds was empty. An elderly lady had died during the night. The bed had not been stripped, the floor not cleaned, the soiled linens not removed, and the odor was unexplainable. The other patients in this room had spent the night taking care of the woman until she died because the nurses, of which we saw none, were too busy.

That evening we visited my husband's aunt who was at the Red Cross Hospital, supposedly one of the best in Kaunas. This hospital was worse than the others, much dirtier and more odiferous. Since we left after visiting hours were over, we couldn't go out the main entrance

because it was locked. We had to leave through the emergency room, walking through piles of dirty, blood-soaked rags tossed helter-skelter among broken down gurneys. Once again, we saw no personnel whatsoever.

I'm very, very glad that we visited the Vilnius University Children's Hospital after the Kaunas hospitals, which, we were told, are typical. We now had a basis for comparison. The Vilnius University Children's Hospital, a teaching hospital on the outskirts of Vilnius, was a more pleasant experience. It was much cleaner and neater throughout. The patients appeared well-cared for and the medical and maintenance personnel were visible, working at their respective tasks. All in all it appeared to be a much better-managed facility, although we were rather taken aback when we were allowed to walk directly into an operating room while a surgery was taking place without having to undergo any type of sterilization procedures except for changing our shoes and putting on tattered hospital gowns, masks and headgear.

The doctors and other medical personnel that we met with were concerned, dedicated and caring individuals. Many of the younger ones have been trained in the West and have a sound knowledge base. Unfortunately, they do not have the required equipment to perform the types of surgeries, treatments, and procedures that are needed. They "make-do", improvise with what they have and hope for the best.

Lithuania's overall health care system requires quite a deal of attention. This is definitely an area in which we can provide assistance and support. To some extent, we are helping. But, we could, most probably have greater impact if our overall efforts were better coordinated, focusing in on one or two areas of improvement at a given time, rather than thinly spreading out our meager available resources.

Where We Stayed, How We Lived

In Vilnius, we resided at a grade school teacher's apartment. She, along with her two daughters, was in the country during our visit, tending her crop of cabbage which she plans on selling this fall and winter to supplement her teacher's salary and widow's pension.

The apartment was like the many other standard village apartments. Constructed of pre-formed cement boxes into what is locally termed a "sleeping quarter" area, surrounded for blocks and blocks by similar-looking buildings. Our apartment was beautifully and

tastefully decorated with parquet floors and frescoed ceilings. The hallways and corridors leading to the apartment were quite a different story — dark, smelly and dirty. This held true for all of the apartment buildings we visited, no matter in which city or town. Personal property was well taken care-of and maintained; public property was ill-kept — it belongs to no one. We also did not have hot running water until our final three days in Vilnius.

In Kaunas we stayed at the Neris hotel, off of Laisves Aleja (Freedom Alley). This was our first time in a Lithuanian hotel and, all things considered, it was a very pleasant experience. Since the hotel is in the business sector of the city and many foreign businessmen stay here, it was very neat, clean and appeared well-maintained. We also had all the hot water we could want or need. What may be of interest is the method of payment. As we checked in, we were asked what type of currency we were using for payment. This was an important question since the cost varies based on the currency used, not on the exchange rate. If we would have paid our bill in U.S. dollars, the cost, for foreigners, would have been \$183 for two nights. But, thanks to the maneuverings of my husband's cousin, we were able to pay with "talonai" (the incountry currency, at that time worth approximately 450 talonai to the dollar), and the "local" cost was only \$38! We were also unable to share a room, since only rooms with one twin bed have telephones. Double rooms (with two twin beds) have no phones. And we did need a phone! All in all, it was a very pleasant stay with all the comforts of a Holiday Inn.

In Jurbarkas, we also stayed at a hotel, the only one in town. We were the sole guests in this huge building. The



• *A home in the center of Kaunas.*

cost was \$11 per night, while if we had been locals, the cost would have been \$9 per night. We had a two-room suite right on the shores of the Nemunas with a fantastic view from our balcony. Compared to Neris, this hotel needed enormous remodeling. It was dirty and poorly maintained. We were there for three nights. Our bed linens weren't changed and towels were not replaced during our stay. No one else in town had hot water. We were told that if there is but one foreigner staying in the hotel, they must turn on the hot water and provide heat. We had lukewarm water.

In Siauliai we stayed with one of our Lithuanian Children's Hope families. They have built a house and are slowly finishing its construction. The house was large, roomy and could be compared to split levels in any of Chicago's better suburbs. Although there was running water, the one day we spent at this home the water pressure was down and we were unable to take a bath. The family supports itself by raising roses and the water was needed to maintain their livelihood.

In Pakruojis we stayed with relatives. They have a house with three rooms where two families – mother,



- **TOP PHOTO:** *The Jurbarkas Hotel*
- **BOTTOM PHOTO:** *Farm building in Druskininkai*

father, daughter, son-in-law and baby live. No indoor plumbing: outhouse facilities only. The one night we were there, a total of 11 people slept in these three rooms.

Needless to say, we were pleased to return "home" to our apartment in Vilnius, even if there was no hot water. Cold showers can indeed be very refreshing.

The families of Lithuanian Children's Hope took exceptionally good care of us. Our refrigerator was always stocked with snacks, the fathers, uncles and cousins took turns chauffeuring us to and from our many appointments across the country, and took time to show us many of the sights that we were able to squeeze into our tight schedule. It is through their concerted efforts that we were able to accomplish as much as we did.

Because some of the people we needed to meet with were only available in the evenings, we had the opportunity to eat in a few of Vilnius' restaurants. We always took one or more of the parents with us to these dinner meetings. The average Lithuanian does not have the financial resources available to dine in restaurants, even on rare occasions. This was a treat for them as well as one way that we could express our gratitude for the care they were giving us in other areas.

Although the food in all the restaurants we ate in was good, the presentation of the various entrees was most impressive. Particular attention is given to the way even the simplest dish is laid out on the plate. From soup to dessert, it was a display in culinary artistry.

Many restaurants are located in out-of-the-way places and are difficult to find unless one is acquainted with the city. The outside facades are not much to boast about, but the interior decors could vie with any of our best restaurants. "Vilnius in Your Pocket: The Official City Guide" is a good source of where to eat, as well as what to see and do in this city.

The cost, in U.S. dollars, is also quite reasonable. As an example, we had dinner at Zaliasis (Green) which is located outside of town in a factory district. Eight of us drank four bottles of champagne and two bottles of wine, ordered cold and hot entrees and finished with coffee, cognac and fresh fruit. The service and the meal was excellent! The cost was \$120.00 (\$15.00 per person) or 6,450 talonai. Dr. Vingras earns only \$20.00 per month!

We also had the opportunity to sample Lithuania's pizza from "Ritos Virtuve" (Rita's Kitchen) in Vilnius. The owner is Chicago-born Rita Dapkute, the former advisor to Vytautas Landsbergis. Pizza comes in three different sizes with as many topping choices as are available at any U.S. pizzeria, delivered hot and on time to your home or office, by friendly and courteous drivers. A large pizza, with sausage, cheese and mushrooms costs \$9.00. Most importantly, it was absolutely delicious!

Shopping in Lithuania

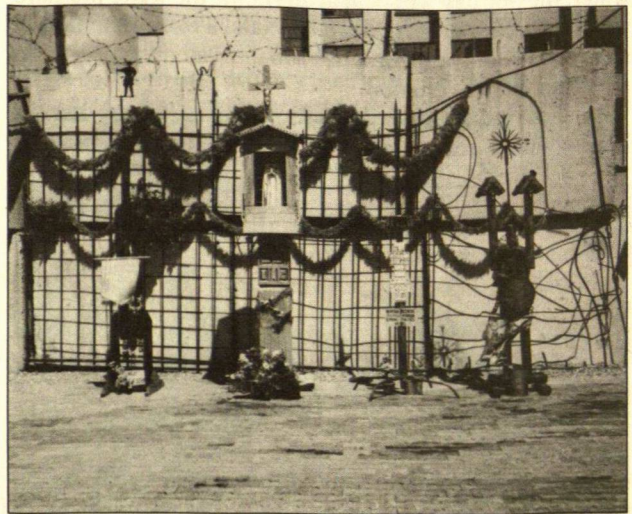
As in the U.S. so, too in Lithuania: if you have money, all types of goods are obtainable. The days of queuing-up for food products are over. The only queues we saw were

at bakery outlets where people stand in line waiting to purchase fresh, hot baked bread direct from the oven. Area food stores are well stocked, as are the dry good department stores. Liquor, all types of imported and locally produced alcoholic beverages, are easily and readily available in a variety of locations, from specialty store fronts to kiosk. You can even purchase a bottle of your favorite beverage through a "bedroom window" shop in private homes. There are a variety of kiosks scattered throughout the cities and towns, at major intersections, carrying everything from combs to newspapers to clothing, and, of course, flowers.

Lithuanians spend a good portion of each day shopping for daily food necessities, since preservatives and packaging (particularly fresh meat) are not of high quality. Some type of tote bag is carried by almost everyone because you never know when you'll run across a bargain, and the shops do not provide bags for purchases. The best bargains and selections at the lowest prices are available in the town's or city's marketplaces (turgus).

While in Jurbarkas, we were invited to celebrate a relative's nameday. The gifts we had brought did not seem appropriate for this occasion. As is the custom, we decided to also bring a bouquet of flowers and visited our first marketplace where, it seemed, the whole town had gathered. Rows and rows of buckets of all types of flowers take up the greatest amount of space. Once the saleswomen saw that we were paying with dollars, we were surrounded. It was difficult to choose and not hurt anyone's feelings. So, we bought from each and for approximately \$5.00 walked away with a bouquet of at least three dozen.

Flowers are a highly prized and valued item; a mandatory gift for any occasion. Wherever we went, whether an office or an apartment or home, there was always a vase of fresh-cut flowers. We observed one woman buying only two oranges because she was short of money for a third. But, she turned around and purchased three roses with her



• **BOTH PHOTOS:** Reminders of the oppression near the Parliament building in Vilnius

Lithuanian Children's Hope

In January of 1991, the Lithuanian Human Services Council of the USA, Inc., a division of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc., established Lithuanian Children's Hope. The purpose of this not-for-profit organization is to provide Lithuanian children (up to the age of 18) with the opportunity to come to the United States to receive specialized medical treatment which is currently unavail-

able to them in their home country.

Currently, the primary focus is in the area of orthopedics. Medical treatment is being provided free of charge by Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children. In 1993, Lithuanian Children's Hope, realizing that it will not be feasible to provide such medical care for an undetermined length of time, decided to take steps to provide for orthopedic surgeries in Lithuania.

To that end, in January of 1993, John P. Lubicky, M.D., Chief of Staff, Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children Chicago Unit, was sent to Lithuania to review the situation and to determine what needs to be done

in order to be able to perform surgeries in-country.

Based on Dr. Lubicky's findings, Lithuanian Children's Hope has initiated the Lithuanian Children's Hope Vilnius Orthopedic Surgical Unit Project.

The goals of this project are as follows: (1) To establish the Lithuanian Children's Hope Orthopedic Surgical Unit at the Vilnius University Children's Hospital by providing basic instrumentation and equipment required to perform specific orthopedic surgeries; (2) To put together and send a U.S. Medical

SEE: Hospital (p.9)

last talonas.

We saw a smaller version of this type of marketplace in Siauliai, set up outside a large grocery store. Little old ladies were selling coffee, sunflower seed, flowers, fresh fruit and vegetables on makeshift tables. As one leaves, having sold her day's wares, another takes her place.

The largest and most famous marketplace in all of Lithuania and, we were told, in Europe is Gariunu Turgus. Since we had heard so much about it, we had set time aside for a visit. Located on the outskirts of Vilnius, in a vast valley surrounded by low hills, it is one of the most amazing places we have ever seen. A true bargain hunter's paradise! We spent two hours there and saw only what appeared to be one-tenth of the hundreds and hundreds of covered and open kiosks. Thousands of people, speaking all sorts of languages had come on busses from Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Germany, Turkey and the various Russian republics. Anything and everything is for sale — from needle and thread to refrigerators and even houses. Mountains of cloth bolts, computers, boom boxes, cars, and sneakers — all available for any type of currency.

The prices were much more reasonable than in the regular stores. A carton of Camel cigarettes could be bought for \$4. Adidas running shoes were selling at \$20. We purchased amber wall hangings for \$7, after having bought smaller ones in a Siauliu souvenir shop for \$15. Beautiful handmade amber earrings and necklaces were literally selling for pennies.

To us, these prices were laughably low. But to the average Lithuanian, although much more reasonable than at local stores, they were still high.

We also stopped at Kalvariju Turgus, the largest food market in Vilnius. In one large covered building, any and all types of fresh fruit; in another, fresh baked goods. Open-air kiosks were filled with fruit, vegetables, coffee and tea assortments, eggs, etc. You could even purchase a live chicken or a pure-bred puppy. All it takes is money and that is scarce.

In Conclusion

There is so much more to tell, so many more experiences to share... But no one can truly experience the real pulse of Lithuanian through the words of another. It must be "lived". The cemeteries, wayside crosses, museums, art galleries and scenery will evoke in each of us differing emotions, create personal memories and myriads of individual impressions.

We have often been asked: "What would you recommend to others visiting Lithuania?" We can provide you with a list of restaurants, places and sites to see, shops with the best bargains, roads to travel. All of these, though, are rather easily discovered on one's own. What is important, I feel, is that one visit Lithuania with an open mind and an open heart; and listen, really listen, to the people. Only then can the true essence and spirit of this wondrous country come alive.

(Photo credits: Jurate Budrys)

FROM: Hospital (p.8)

Team to Lithuania that would train Lithuanian physicians in the performance of such surgeries using the provided equipment; (3) To continue to bring to the U.S. patients requiring complex surgeries which cannot be performed incountry until such a time when all orthopedic surgeries could be done incountry; (4) To continue to add to the Surgical Unit's equipment and instrumentation inventory and Lithuanian surgeon capabilities until such a time when all orthopedic surgeries could be done incountry without outside assistance.

The Lithuanian Children's Hope Orthopedic Surgical Unit Committee, chaired by Dana Kaunas, has to-date obtained 90% of the required surgical equipment, instrumentation and supplies. Promises for the balance have been received from various U.S. medical equipment manufacturers/suppliers, laboratories, foundations, hospital, and clinics. A U.S. Medical Team has been formed consisting of five orthopedic surgeons, nurses, anesthesiologists, and orthodontist; a total of 13 specialists. This U.S. Medical Team will be headed by Dr. John P. Lubicky. His counterpart in Lithuania will be Dr. Kestutis Saniukas, chief children's orthopedic surgeon in Lithuania. Lithuanian Children's Hope has received agreement and support from the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania and the administration of the Vilnius University Children's Hospital for the housing and incountry care of the U.S. Medical Team. The Ministry of Health, the Lithuania Children's Hope — Lithuanian Sector, along with assistance from the U.S. Embassy in Vilnius will participate in the continued monitoring of all equipment and inventories. Surgical patients are being selected according to the diagnostic outlines provided by the U.S. Medical Team. U.S. Medical Team travel expenses are being underwritten by an anonymous donor.

The U.S. Medical Team will depart from Chicago on September 30th. On October 2, 1993 the Lithuanian Children's Hope Orthopedic Surgical Unit will be officially opened.

A special marble plaque is being prepared. This plaque will be hung at the Hospital's main entrance. The background will portray the Lithuanian Children's Hope logo with the following text, lettered in bronze, in the foreground:

Lietuvos Vaiku Vilties
Ortopedine Operacine
dovanota JAV Lieutviu Bendruomenes
1993 m. spalio men. 2 d.

(Translation:)

Lithuanian Children's Hope
Orthopedic Surgical Unit
donated by the Lithuanian American Community
October 2, 1993

SEE: Help (p.15)

Ramune Kubilius

Call for Specialists in Far Off Lands

For nearly 20 years, the IESC has provided technical, trade, and public administration expertise around the world

Several US government funded organizations are currently working in Lithuania. Some, like the Peace Corps, are familiar; others are less known or completely unrecognized. The International Executive Service Corps (IESC) falls in the latter category. It has been operational in Lithuania since 1992.

IESC was established in 1964. It employs US specialists who are assisting in the economic development of more than 50 countries. The corps is financed by the US government through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), augmented by grants from corporations. Currently 13,000 highly qualified specialist, predominantly retired executives, are working in IESC. IESC limits its projects to the following three categories: Technical Assistance, Trade Investment Services, and Public Administration Programs. It takes requests from private individuals, business persons, companies, and governments. In Lithuania, IESC has completed 8 projects, is working on another 20, and is considering about 50 new requests. The annual budget can handle 30 projects. The director of the IESC in Lithuania is an American-Lithuanian financial expert - Antanas Grina. Grina is currently assisted by 10 individuals in Lithuania.

The Lithuanian projects are quite varied: expansion of existing factories and conversion of production for export to the West; establishing an information network; a hospital administration project; and expansion of tourism, for example. A defense-related meteorological instrument production plant has been converted to a medical instrument manufacturing plant. Jewelry experts are helping to organize products, especially amber, for sale on the world market. Bank specialists are arriving from the USA to help reorganize Lithuanian banks to operate by Western standards. Projected tasks require many different types of specialists - engineers, financiers, contractors/builders, business persons, lawyers, manufacturing specialist, etc. One of the most critical current needs is for specialists to prepare Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for a Public Safety system and then to evaluate the submitted proposals and assist in the selection process. Specialists who speak Lithuanian are preferred, but what is required is experience

and expertise.

Antanas Grina and his fellow workers are accomplishing a very important task at this most critical time for Lithuania's economic development. Fortunately, this work is supported by the US government and we should take advantage of the opportunity. Cezaris Ugianskis, an engineer/professor from California, has spent the months of October through December working on Lithuania-2000 Information project and on a patent law legal base project. He is enthusiastic about the work being done by IESC and especially the work being done by its energetic leader in Lithuania, Antanas Grina. The work is truly effective and many desire IESC's help, as indicated by the large number of requests. IESC is a completely non-profit organization. Its only purpose is to help a country develop economically such that it achieves the level of the West's free market.

How can we help in this very worthwhile effort? IESC members are volunteers whose names have been entered in a computerized data bank and who are called by IESC as needed to work in various countries. IESC selects the best qualified person for a project, taking into consideration the time frame of the project and the availability of the individual for that period. Nobody is required to go where they do not want to go, and individuals can specify that they will only work in Lithuania. Application forms for joining IESC can be obtained from IESC, PO Box 10005, Stanford, Connecticut 06904-2005, Tel (800) 243-4372, Fax (203) 243-2531. When filling out the form, please specify when you are available and for how long. In general, it is desirable that individuals stay for at least three months, but exceptions can be made, according to the IESC vice president Richard Shriver. Please attach a resume, if available.

Travel expenses and life insurance are paid by the US government, while the local client provides room, board, and incidentals. Frequently, this does not guarantee hot water or sufficient heat. Volunteers usually arrive with their spouses, who also participate in various activities in the assigned country. Participants do not receive any monetary compensation. The rewards come from achieving a useful and necessary task, from living overseas, and from the contacts established in a foreign country.

Antanas Grina, IESC Director in Lithuania, has extensive experience in the field of finance and speaks excellent Lithuanian. He teaches a very popular course on international finance at Vilnius University to students and business people and is an advisor to the Lithuanian government on economic and financial matters.

This is an updated version of the article written by Edmund Kulikauskas which appeared in Draugas on January 9, 1993 "Lietuva laukia specialistu." New information obtained from Antanas Grina was incorporated. Translation by Milda Skucas. Ms. Ramune Kubilius is the Contributing Editor of BRIDGES

International Medassist, Inc.

Medical Library Opens in Vilnius

As a symbol of Lithuanian-American friendship, over 13,000 volumes of medical books and periodicals fill newly constructed rooms.

As mentioned in previous articles in BRIDGES, International Medassist, Inc. is a private non-profit American corporation whose principal purpose is to help improve the quality of healthcare in Lithuania. IMI was formed in early 1992 as an all-volunteer organization by Timothy Jaroch, a partner in the Boston office of McDermott, Will & Emery, a large American law firm which has had an office in Vilnius since February, 1992.

After several successful assistance projects were completed by IMI, work began in July of 1992 on the organization's most ambitious project to-date. The goal was to create the first modern English-language medical library in Lithuania, to be stocked with up-to-date publications from the United States. After more than 15 months and 2,500 hours of American volunteer time and a difficult fundraising process (which is ongoing), IMI opened the first phase of the Lithuanian-American Friendship Medical Library on September 17.

The library was constructed from unfinished "shell space" in a partially completed building in Vilnius. Hundreds of hours went into designing the library space, creating architectural drawings, preparing and negotiating a construction contract, and arranging for certain materials (including the library shelving) which were not available in Lithuania. The furniture requirements were prepared by IMI, but all of it was made in Lithuania by special order. Approximately 80 percent of the space on the bookshelves was filled with an estimated 6,500 American medical books and periodicals gathered by IMI over the past year. With another 28 boxes of books in Boston awaiting shipment and more publications coming each month, it is clear that additional bookshelves will soon be needed. That in itself is a major sign of success, and the library was designed for expanding shelf areas to hold an additional 6,000-7,000 volumes.

Phase one of the library project isn't really complete yet because IMI didn't have sufficient funds to purchase the necessary computer with CD-ROM hardware and software and the two photocopiers and two fax machines which the library was designed and wired to have. Funds were also short for the TV monitors, VCR's and headsets needed for the area where U.S. medical training tapes will be viewed privately and used for medical lectures for up to 45 people at a time.

The opening of the library should have a significant impact on improving healthcare in Lithuania. For one thing, the quality of teaching and scholarship in the country's

two medical schools will be enhanced now that professors and medical students (a majority of whom already can read English) can have access to first-class medical publications covering the period from 1975-1993. In addition, Lithuanian physicians will be able to save lives and make meaningful improvements in the care they can give just by having access to the information in the library. Those physicians will also be much better prepared to use donated medicines and supplies from the West, to learn from visiting physicians, and to assess priorities for acquiring new equipment and technology when funds become available. The library facility should even help the Lithuanian economy over time by fostering Lithuania's reputation, within the former Soviet Union, as a good place to go for up-to-date medical care.

The library's opening ceremony on September 17 was attended by approximately 50 dignitaries and special invited guests. Attending along with Jaroch was Gintaras Cepas, of Quincy, Massachusetts [LAC, Inc.'s Vice-President for Organizational Affairs]. "Gintaras was my liaison with the Lithuanian-American community from the start," said Jaroch. "His assistance was invaluable, and his friendship and support helped keep the project energized."

Among the speakers at the ceremony were the Honorable Darryl Johnson, U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania; Antanas Vinkus, Lithuania's Deputy Minister of Health; and Gintautas Cesnys, Director of the Vilnius University School



• **LEFT to RIGHT:** Gintautas Cesnys, Director of Vilnius University School of Medicine; Antanas Vaitkus, Lithuania's Deputy Minister of Health; Dr. Leonardas Streikus, Director of Vilnius University Emergency Hospital, Hon. Daryl Johnson, US Ambassador, Timothy Jaroch, and a representative of the city of Vilnius

Dr. Daniel C. Waugh

Universities Study Baltics

Students will soon be able to experience Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia up close – for credit



• *View of main library room.*

of Medicine. Lithuanian television covered the ceremony and carried a report that evening on the national news broadcast. Ambassador Johnson praised the medical library as an outstanding example of what can be accomplished with determination and commitment by an all-volunteer organization. He also commented on the opportunity that now exists for the Lithuania-American Friendship Medical Library to participate in the development of a single cataloging and reference system for all medical publications in Lithuania.

As Jaroch explained, "The medical library is by no means a one-shot proposition. IMI has made the commitment to stay closely involved in training, library educational programs, the expansion and updating of the library collections, and other aspects of making the library better and more useful. However, we need to raise funds to accomplish all of those objectives and to provide the necessary operating subsidies for the library." All donations of more than \$100 will be memorialized on one of the donor plaques already prominently displayed on a wall of the main library room. The size and prominence of the nameplate on the separate plaques increases with the category of donation (\$100-\$499; \$500-\$999; and \$1,000 or more). Donations of \$1,000 or more will be recognized on a special plaque for "Benefactors of the Library."

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to the following address:

International Medassist, Inc.
40 Hillcrest Road
Belmont, MA 02178

For further information about International Medassist, please call:

(617) 345-5000.

A new initiative is underway at the University of Washington, Seattle. A prospectus has been written for a Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI), modeled in part on an existing program, the Southeast Asia Studies Summer Institute, which has operated for the past 11 years and consists of a consortium of 14 universities. Students would gain college credit. The institute might be offered, as is SEASSI, for two consecutive years at one university and would then move to another campus.

Dr. Daniel C. Waugh, Chairman of the Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Program, the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, is the initiator of the prospectus. He has already conducted discussions with various individuals at the University of Washington and in the region, with the Department of Scandinavian Languages and Literature, administrators in the College of Arts and Sciences, and, he feels most importantly, with many of the leaders of the Estonian, Lithuanian and Latvian communities. He still is gathering information and opinions.

What is the focus? The program would be supported by a consortium of American colleges and would take place annually. The primary focus of the institute would be to teach languages, but the institute would also include seminars, a cultural program, and courses on the history, politics, culture and other aspects of the Baltic Region.

What is the purpose? To strengthen and develop Baltic Studies in North America.

Why a consortium? National economic constraints that in too many places have resulted in the contraction of programs in higher education mean that the most promising avenue to develop Baltic Studies may be through a consortium.

Why a summer institute? Where could it be held? It should stimulate academic year programs and courses. Schools might participate in BALSSI that might not actually host it. Local conditions and availability of supporting resources (among them library collections) might well determine that the host schools be few.

What would be the perspective? An important part of the institute would be to focus on Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, but where possible and appropriate, the inclusion of material specific to Finland, the Scandinavian countries, and Poland would be appropriate.

What programs already exist? So far, from information gathered about Baltic Studies programs at North American universities, existing programs have been identified at:

- Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo (Department of Languages and Linguistics); summer courses in Latvian.
- University of Illinois, Chicago (Endowed Chair of Lithuanian Studies, Department of Slavic and Baltic Languages and Literatures); B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in Lithuanian Studies; Lithuanian languages instruction at all levels; no summer language courses.
- University of Toronto (Endowed Chair of Estonian Studies, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures); undergraduate courses in Estonian language (3 levels) and literature; no summer language courses.

Gaile Radvenyte

Youth Conference a Success

Members of the American-Lithuanian Youth Association gather in Santa Monica

- Indiana University, Bloomington (Eurasian Studies Department); Estonian language courses at all levels, Estonian culture, Baltic history; intensive Estonian language summer program.
- University of Wisconsin, Madison; Interdepartmental Baltic Studies Program.

What courses might the initial program contain?

- **BALTIC CULTURE:** folklore, literature and other artistic expressions which are a fundamental part of modern Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian national identity.
- **CURRENT ISSUES IN BALTIC STUDIES:** survey of post-W.W.II history, and the bare basics of Baltic geography, politics, economy and ecology.

What kind of additional activities are planned? A "cultural program" could be integrated. SEASSI conducted a faculty symposium. SEASSI had an extensive film festival and musical events in its program. A scholarly conference for students to present research would be another possibility.

Who would teach in the program? Initially, instructional faculty might be drawn from faculty who currently teach Baltic languages in North America or qualified instructors who are teaching in community programs.

Where would funding be drawn? From tuition, contributions from consortium members, pooled Foreign Language and Area Study (FLAS) fellowship funding from the Department of Education to participating schools, grants, CIES/Fulbright (USIA) funding for visiting faculty, services provided by the host institution.

When could the Institute begin? There is time to seek grant funding to launch BALSSI for the summer of 1994. If BALSSI is to make sense and succeed, schools with existing summer programs need to be willing to fold those programs into BALSSI. This means that for certain years the languages in question would be taught elsewhere during the summer, where

The 1993 American-Lithuanian Youth Association convention took place from April 30th to May 2nd in Santa Monica, California, bringing together people from many corners of the US. The theme of the weekend was "How Lithuanians living in America can help Lithuania".

Friday evening, ALYA members and invited guests met at Tampico Tilly's in Santa Monica. The evening was spent reuniting with friends, discussing the upcoming events, and gobbling down chips and salsa. Saturday morning, the members were greeted by Violeta Gedgaudiene, Dr. Audra Deveikis, and Daiva Venckus. World Lithuanian Youth Congress president Paul Mickus spoke about the upcoming Congress, which takes place in Vilnius in 1994.

Later, ALYA president Gaile Radvenis emphasized the significance of this year's gathering and the importance of national delegates at the 1994 Congress. ALYA representatives from the various participating cities then spoke of their latest accomplishments, as well as their chapters' goals for the future. The following representatives were in attendance: Audrius Remeikis (Chicago); Paul Mickus (Washington D.C.); Auris Jarasunas (Los Angeles); Rimas Gaizutis (Houston); Rita Starinskaite (San Francisco); Ruta Kvedaraite (Phoenix); Jurate Bartyte (New Jersey); Rasa Raisyte (Seattle); and Audra Koklyte (Santa Clara).

After lunch, Dr. Algis Avizienis, UCLA professor and former rector for Vytauto Didziojo University of Lithuania, spoke of the university system in Lithuania - its students, faculty, and structure. He reminded us of the tremendous effect the former Soviet government has had on the way people think. Dr. Avizienis underscored the fact that teachers and professors are desperately needed in Lithuania.

The seminar officially ended late Saturday afternoon. The evening was a gala of food, drink, song, and dance. After an exhilarating performance by the multi-talented Los Angeles Young Men's Quartet, comprised of Paul Grazulis, Alan Prismantas, Auris Jarasunas, and Tauras Radvenis, and their director and musical accompanist Viktoras Ralys, the rest of the evening was spent dancing to the music of Jonas Domkus, Vincas Giedraitis, and Petras Mosinksis.

Sunday was officially a "free" day. Some drove to St. Casmir's Church for a Lithuanian mass and a performance by long-time favorite "Antras Kaimas". Others rented bicycles and took in the beautiful Santa Monica shoreline. It was a productive and memorable weekend, and ALYA looks forward to more of the same!

ever BALSSI happens to be. If the program is to begin in the summer of 1995, a serious planning session could be conducted at the June 1994 Conference on Baltic Studies sponsored by the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies in Chicago.

This information was drawn from

a nine-page prospectus written by Dr. Daniel C. Waugh. The Institute is still in planning stages and some BRIDGES readers may have input which they might wish to communicate to Dr. Waugh. He can be reached at Department of History, DP-20, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.

Ramune Kubilius

From the Lithuanian Press...

Selected items excerpted from the Lithuanian Press in America of interest to our readers. Compiled and translated by Ramune Kubilius.

Unique Markets Unfold

Every Lithuanian town and city has a marketplace. It is a place where one can buy things cheaper than in a store. Some people sell, others buy. While in Lithuania, I had the opportunity to visit several marketplaces. In small towns they are smaller, with fewer sellers and fewer products. Yet, sometimes one can find in a marketplace what one cannot find in a store. On St. Anthony's feast day, we had the opportunity to visit Jurbarkas. We were invited to someone's house to celebrate an Anthony's names day. Somehow, the gifts we brought from America did not seem right for a names day. We decided to bring a bouquet of flowers. Where could we get them? The marketplace, of course.

It was a Saturday, so our relative brought us there. It seemed as if the whole town had gathered to buy supplies for the weekend, or maybe for the whole week. We would get ready to buy the prettiest flowers, and the next booth had prettier ones. When the vendors saw we planned on paying with dollars, they invited us over to their stalls. We selected a huge bouquet and paid \$5 U.S. We were happy, the salespeople were happy.

Flowers are very popular in Lithuania. In America we don't value flowers as much, or maybe it's because they're so expensive. In Lithuania, you can buy live flowers everywhere: in the market, in stores, in kiosks. Everyone buys them, even though they were not cheap, paid with Lithuanian "talonai" (before the "litas" was reintroduced, apparently-rk). However, in every apartment, in every home you see vases full of live flowers.

It seems that Lithuanians buy less food, but they always seem to have money for flowers...

DRAUGAS, from an article by Birute Jasaitis, 7/27/93

Siberian Bishop Visits Chicago

A recent visitor to Chicago was the Bishop of Siberia, Bishop Joseph Werth. His diocese is considered to be the largest in the world, measuring 5,000 miles wide and 2,000 miles long. Only 20 priests serve the Catholics in this area. Bishop Werth is from Volga, is of German descent, and speaks German, Russian and Lithuanian.

DRAUGAS, 8/17/93

Duties Anger Diaspora

Lithuania's paper "Lietuvos Rytas" (Lithuanian Morning) commented about the Lithuanian Government's decision concerning the Diaspora by which gifts being brought into the country which are valued over \$50 will be charged an import duty. The paper writes that one can only be amazed at the Diaspora's tact and patience.

After the rights of the Diaspora to be citizens were once again renounced; after the release of Lithuania's Ambassador to the U.S., Stasys Lozoraitis; after the ousting of the founder of Lithuania's investment bank, Lithuanian American Vytautas Dudenas, who worked for free, the Diaspora still patiently awaits a reversal of such shortsighted decisions.

On July 9th, the Prime Minister of Lithuania signed the gift restriction

decision. That was quite different from his promises during his visit to the U.S., that his party and his government would seek to do everything possible to strengthen the ties between the Diaspora and Lithuania. It is possible that the fees for gifts being brought into Lithuania will be the last drop of blood for the ties between Lithuania and the Diaspora, if the Lithuanian government does not change its decision the very near future.

DRAUGAS, 8/17/93

"Dainava" Hosts Camp

This year's Lithuanian Heritage camp took place at Camp Dainava, MI August 8-15, 1993. This year's theme was "Lithuania's Great Men (and Women)". The various groups were assigned a famous Lithuanian person, and they had to present facts from their assigned person's life before or after the raising of the flag.

Evening programs were varied, from a Lithuanian remembrance night, to a talent night, to Dainava Hollywood night, to a pretend airline flight night. Day programs included Lithuanian language, song, and dance lessons, handicraft lessons, Olympic-like games, and more.

DRAUGAS, from an article by Rima Jesmantas, 9/16/93

Festival Registration Up

Organizers of the World Lithuanian Song Festival (scheduled to take place in Lithuania in 1994) did not expect that there would be such interest by the Diaspora in participating.

So far, 30 choreographic ensembles have sent their applications to participate from the U.S., Canada, Australia, Poland, and Germany. Still others have expressed interest and may apply later.

The festival, which will take place July 7-10, 1994, will celebrate the 70th anniversary of this event. On July 7th, there will be a folklore festival in the old town of Vilnius and in Kalnu Park [Hill Park]. July 8th will be the first day of the Song Festival, it will take place in Kaunas in the "song valley." The July 9th dance day will take place in Zalgiris Stadium in Vilnius. The second song festival day on July 10th will take place in Vingio Park in Vilnius.

DRAUGAS, 8/18/93

Medical Education Boost Seen in Lithuania's Future

The ArcVentures program will be administered in Lithuania and other countries. The program will allow physicians in those countries to prepare for the USMLE, the United States Medical Licensing Examination, so as to be eligible for postgraduate medical education (residencies) in the United States.

In July, 1993, the Rush University Medical Center in Chicago invited Lithuania's Minister of Health, Dr. J. Bredikis to the U.S., along with Dr. A. Valavicius, the assistant for foreign programs. The Minister signed an agreement with Rush Medical Center educational program president Marie Senioris. Efforts for this venture have taken 3 years.

In the fall of 1993, Rush Medical Center will send a delegation to Lithuania to examine the possibilities not only of the ArcVentures program, but also of opening a nursing school, clinics, etc. The Rush Medical Center is investing in Lithuania's medical future, looking for results no earlier than 5 years, indicated Dr. C. Morley, medical education senior administrator and Rush Medical Center vice-

president.

Lithuania's young doctors could help the medical establishment of Lithuania tremendously by going through residency programs in the United States. They would return to Lithuania with much experience and knowledge.

DRAUGAS, from an article by Joseph N. Kulyas, 8/21/93

Health Ministry Officials Fuel American Anger

"One more American wants to interrupt our work". Those were the words a few months ago of a Lithuanian Ministry secretary of the Lithuanian Children's Hope representative who had arrived in Vilnius to conduct discussions about opening an advanced technology operating room, worth \$250,000. This operating room would be open in Vilnius in October and in it American surgeons would be able to operate on 80 children. Unfortunately, Lithuania's Health Minister was too busy to meet with the representative.

After three weeks in Lithuania, the representative returned to the U.S. without once meeting with Dr. Bredikis.

The attitudes of the secretaries often reflect the attitudes of the office. In Communist days, the principle job of secretaries was to polish their nails and not let anyone in to see the boss. A while back, I received a letter from the Lithuanian ministry. In the envelope was not only the letter, but also the scratch copy. That shows the quality of work of those secretaries. Will Americans "disturb" the work of Lithuania's Ministry of Health for long? I think not...

In August, a scandal arose in Lithuania. Lithuania's newspapers published a story that bank accounts had been opened for the medical expenses of Tomas Serna, who had survived the shooting at the Lithuanian border guard station in Medininkai. The correspondents asked the Ministry of Health why funds were not ad-

equated for Serna's medical treatment in Germany. The Ministry official indicated that is not their worry.

In the meantime, it is interesting to note that the director of the Ministry's overseas office, A. Valavicius, accompanied a family member to Canada for medical treatment, while support could not be found for Tomas Serna. Then the correspondents were flabbergasted to learn that the Lithuanian Bank had no account for Tomas Serna. It was found that the account had been transferred to another bank, as was the amount in the account. It is unclear if someone wanted to mislead Lithuanians to make money.

A nation which does not take care of its freedom defenders, is not an honorable nation.

DRAUGAS, from an editorial by Linas Sidrys, 9/3/93

Rectors Meet in Vilnius

September 14th marked the beginning of a conference of Baltic university rectors at the University of Vilnius. The organization of rectors at present unites 52 universities and was founded four years ago. Its purpose is to encourage cooperation among institutions of higher education in the Baltic countries. It also seeks to coordinate common regional research studies. The conference was held in 1993 at the University of Vilnius. The University of Vilnius is presently the only Lithuanian member of the organization, and its rector, prof. Rolandas Pavilionis is now the organization's president.

During the two-day meeting, the rectors attended sessions on possibilities and perspectives for common goals for institutes of higher education in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, as well as the hardships. Certain government funding sources have ceased, there aren't sufficient funds for obtaining modern educational technology, and talented faculty leave the universities to enter private industry where salaries are better.

DRAUGAS-ELTA, 9/16/93

Ruta Virkutis

Catholic Aid Reaches Vilnius

"Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid" representatives are making a difference in the lives of everyday Lithuanians

A Need to Invest in People...

In striving to deliver our assistance as effectively as possible, the Board of Directors of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid has decided to focus on programs which are truly an investment in the people of Lithuania, in keeping with the ever-evolving needs of the Lithuanian Catholic Church.

From April 16 through May 11, I visited Lithuania for the purpose of gathering first-hand information about the primary needs of the nation on its road to reconstruction. I visited each diocesan Caritas chapter, met with the Bishops, visited Catholic Schools, the Catholic press, hospitals, and a host of other organizations.

While the atmosphere in the country at the moment is on the whole rather dismal -- the economy is in ruin, people are generally despondent and pessimistic -- I was pleasantly surprised by the determination and creativity I witnessed among the people working in Catholic institutions. Caritas chapters exist in the majority of parishes throughout Lithuania. They are establishing and operating permanent structures: soup kitchens, homes for the elderly, shelters, pharmacies, family centers, youth centers, and so forth.

Catholic schools and pre-schools are also in operation in all of the dioceses. The administrators and teachers themselves at these schools pitch in to work on renovations, decorate the buildings, and make their own games, toys, and visual aids. The students I had the opportunity to meet

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with all emphasized that "the entire atmosphere is different" at the Catholic schools.

The two greatest needs expressed by all of the Catholic organizations were funds and information from similar institutions elsewhere to use as models.

There was unanimous emphasis on the need for greater attention to education and evangelization, on the need to invest in the people -- in their intellectual, spiritual and moral development -- in order to guarantee a brighter future for all of Lithuania.

Representative in Lithuania Designated

Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid is pleased to announce that Rebecca Martin has been appointed for a one-year period as LCRA's representative in Lithuania. Rebecca has been in Lithuania since October, 1992, working as a volunteer for the "Ateitis" Catholic Federation of Lithuania, Caritas, and Vytautas Magnus University.

Ms. Martin, who grew up in Indianapolis, holds a B.A. in Philosophy from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and has experience as a volunteer in Peru as well as at "Christ House", a hospital for homeless men in Washington. She decided to travel to Lithuania as a volunteer after reading an appeal issued by Dr. Arvyday Zygas of "Ateitis", which she received through her contacts with the U.S. National Conference of Catholic Bishops Office to Aid the Church in Eastern and Central Europe.

Ms. Martin has described her stay in Lithuania and her work to-date as, "frustrating, fascinating, hopeful, depressing, eye-opening, maddening, delightful -- but most of all, extremely valuable."

"Lithuanian Children's Hope" Continues to Help Kids

FROM: Help (p.9)

It is important to note that the funds for this project will not be taken from the Lithuania Children's Hope treasury, but from other sources contributing strictly for the implementation of this project. The Lithuanian Children's Hope com-

mittee does not feel that it is ethically right to take funds which have been contributed by the Lithuanian-American Community specifically for the purpose of bringing children from Lithuania to the U.S. for treatment. Lithuanian Children's Hope will continue to bring children for treatment to U.S. Shriners Hospi-

tals whose orthopedic problems require specialized and complex care which, even with the opening of the surgical unit, will not be able to be treated in Lithuania.

The U.S. Medical Team will spend 10 days in Lithuania and, during this time, will perform approximately 50 surgeries.

National Executive Committee, LAC

D.C. Office Serves Community Needs

While other Lithuanian organizations have closed their offices in our Nation's capital, the LAC PAO stays in the thick of things

In May, 1989, the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. became the first US-based organization to actively support the leadership of Sajudis in their struggle to reclaim Lithuania's independence. As the drive to win Western support for this effort gained momentum, the National Executive Committee of LAC, Inc. recognized that Lithuanian-Americans needed a presence in Washington, D.C. The LAC Government Affairs Office, later renamed the Public Affairs Office, was created for the purpose of providing substantive and dependable assistance to the democratic movement in Lithuania.

Through its many contacts in the US, the LAC Public Affairs Office helped SAJUDIS activists obtain access to America's policy makers. Through its network of contacts in Lithuania, the LAC Public Affairs Office was able to obtain and disseminate accurate and timely accounts of Lithuania's struggle to regain independence. Through its dedicated and professional efforts, the LAC Public Affairs Office, was able to enlist the talents and energy of thousands of grass roots activists based in a network of 77 LAC chapters throughout the United States.

Though the work of LAC's Public Affairs office has changed, its importance as a vital information link between the LAC, US institutions, Lithuanian-Americans and Lithuania has only increased. The LAC Public Affairs Office provided detailed information and position papers on Russian troops movements and attitudes in Lithuania after independence was recognized. When the US aid package to Russia was announced, it was also made conditional with the removal of Russian troops from Lithuanian soil.

The LAC Public Affairs Office on a number of occasions this spring testified on the importance of establishing the US government-funded Baltic Enterprise Fund. This June, the Clinton administration decided to go forward and announced the creation of the Baltic Enterprise Fund. LAC has helped identify candidates with appropriate credentials and understanding of Lithuania to serve on the board of directors.

The LAC Public Affairs Office was contacted this spring by the US State Department to assist in planning the visit of the US Ambassador to Lithuania, Mr. Darryl Johnson, to Lithuanian-American communities in Cleveland and Chicago.

While monitoring the various public policy debates among Washington decision makers, the LAC Public Affairs office has learned that Russian officials are again espousing the concept of a Russian "sphere of influence" in the Baltics. Appropriate position papers were prepared on these latest developments.

The LAC through its Public Affairs office has worked effectively together with the Lithuanian embassy to organize conferences on business, investment and humanitarian assistance to Lithuania. However, the Lithuanian Embassy and the LAC through its Public Affairs Office in Washington have a different constituency. The Lithuanian Embassy must represent the interests and views of the Lithuanian government, while the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. through its Public Affairs office in Washington speaks on behalf of the interests and views of Lithuanian-Americans.

Even while all other Lithuanian-American institutions have closed their

offices in Washington, and while many of the key ad hoc groups that sprang up during the latter years of the struggle have ceased operation, the LAC Public Affairs Office continues to serve as a voice and a conduit of foreign policy and economic aid information. However, this office will also close soon, without support from you. We are asking you to give generously during this single fund raising drive earmarked for the important work of the LAC Public Affairs Office.

**Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.
National Executive Committee**

As a token of our appreciation and recognition of your support, we will enter a one year's subscription to BRIDGES, the Lithuanian American News Journal published by the LAC, in your name (or anyone else you may designate) for every \$50 donation received during this fund raising drive.

President Clinton Contacts LAC

In a September 23, 1993 letter to Stanley A. Gecys, Chairman of the LAC's Public Affairs Council, President Bill Clinton acknowledged the Lithuanian-American Community's interest in the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania by thanking Gecys for a letter written on that topic. That letter was only a small piece of the effort put out by the Public Affairs Council and especially its Washington director, Asta Banionis, in helping keep US policy focused on some of the issues regarding Russo-Lithuanian relations.

SEE: Clinton (p.18)

FROM: Clinton (p.17)

In his response, Pres. Clinton went on to confirm that he is committed to the "rapid and complete withdrawal of Russian troops from all three Baltic states."

"The Russian troop withdrawal from Lithuania is both an historic and hopeful event," he added. "I hope that it will set the stage for a rapid and complete withdrawal from Estonia and Latvia in the near future. While the

"As I work to bring lasting peace to the Baltic States, I welcome your input."

— US President Bill Clinton

United States celebrates this event with all Lithuanians, we recognize that a significant challenge remains. I will continue working hard to urge all the parties to reach an agreement on a date for withdrawal from each country. I have reiterated this point with President Yeltsin, Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, and Defense Minister Grachev. As I work to bring lasting peace and stability to the Baltic states, I welcome your input."

SURVEY

Survey Seeks Results

Your participation will help streamline the Lithuanian-American Community's activities

The Lithuanian-American Survey is designed to help Lithuania. The survey covers all types of professions, trades, skills and experiences. Answering the survey does not obligate you to anything. Your involvement in any future activities will be your choice to make. One objective of this survey is to give you a wider selection of choices.

Listed below are some of the ways the survey can be useful for Lithuania:

- Locating specialists needed by Lithuania, either to work there or to serve as contacts here in the United States.
- Identifying Lithuanian-American business people and specialists for US aid programs, grants, joint ventures or investment opportunities in Lithuania.
- Provided more contacts for student and faculty exchange programs here in the US.
- Finding more members for Lithuanian-American aid-giving and professional organizations.
- Creating new organizations of Lithuanian-American specialists and professionals where none now exist.
- Providing better statistics and a more detailed portrait of the Lithuanian-American community in the US.

Remember that everyone's assistance is needed. Basically, if you're old enough to vote, we encourage you to fill out the survey. Artists, academicians, craftsmen, business executives, college students: each one can contribute and be useful, if they desire, and if they respond.

Mail survey results to: **Lithuanian-American Survey, Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19134-5914**

Available Bilingual Books (Partial List)

Namu ir Artimiausios Aplinkos Žodynėlis by: Rimas Černius (Abbreviated dictionary for everyday household words, primarily for children)\$2.50

Lietuvių Kalbos Žodynas Antanas Klimas and Stasys Barzdukas, editors (Good children's dictionary for school and home)\$6.00

Words-Words Evelyn Kotupaila-Masiokas and Bruno Masiokas, editors (Lithuanian-English dictionary with explanations plus sections in pronunciation, declensions, conjugations, accent groups, synonyms, and expressions)\$25.00

Kalbėkime Lietuviškai by: Nijolė Mackevičienė (Workbook for very young

children with illustrations suitable for coloring; includes numbers, and objects)\$4.00

Eglė Žalčių Karalienė (Eglė, the Serpent Queen) by: Ramunė Račkauskienė (Old Lithuanian folk tale beautifully illustrated with line-by-line translations)\$3.00

Mano Žodynas by: Richard Scarry (Based on Scarry's **The Best Word Book Ever**, an illustrated dictionary in full color grouped by categories)\$15.00

Lietuviais Norime ir Būt by: Danguolė Marija Tamulionytė (Hardbound bilingual textbook including grammar, history, geography for children from 6th grade and up)\$25.00

Lietuvių Kalbos Pratimai by: Danguolė Marija Tamulionytė (Workbook for **Lietuviais Norime ir Būt**)\$5.50

Lietuviais Norime ir Būt (Cassette Tapes) Bronius Krokys, producer (90 min. each, set of two)\$15.00

Easy Way to Lithuanian Liga K. Streipa, editor; translated and adapted by Juozas Masilionis (Softcover grammar textbook accompanied by 6 cassette tapes to be used in conjunction with textbook. Best learning program for adults)\$50.00
Fee for shipping & handling\$4.00

The Educational Council also stocks and distributes small quantities of published materials from Lithuania: road-maps, Lithuanian-English language dictionaries, Lithuanian language learning guides, etc. Please contact the Educational Council for information on availability of these items, or for publisher addresses in Lithuania.

Lith. Educational Council of the USA, Inc.
13648 Kickapoo Trail, Lockport, IL 60441

LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN SURVEY, INPUT FORM

1 Last Name First Name ML

2 Age: <25 26-40 41-55 56-70 >70 If you know your U.S. Congressional district, enter it to the right. Dist.

3 Home Address (Inc. Street, Apartment Number, Etc.) RFD, PO Box

4 City State Zip Code +Four

5 Current Employer or Place of Business Find the occupation on the back of this form that best matches your situation and check the box next to it.

6 Current Job Title or Position Yrs

7 Mailing address, if other than above. Room, PO Box

8 City State Zip Code +Four

9 Home Phone Number Work Phone Number Ext. Preferred Fax Number

10 If you have access to a fax machine, let us know where it is. In the block marked "Lo", write in "H" if it's at home, "W" if it's at work, or "O" if it's somewhere else. If there are special conditions to using your fax, such as hours of operation, the need to make voice contact first, or use only in an emergency, enter an "X" in the block marked "Co" and write the conditions in the margin. If there is a TELEX you can use, add that information on the right. Lo Co

11 and write the conditions in the margin. If there is a TELEX you can use, add that information on the right. Telex

Professional Organizations and Associations (use additional sheet if needed): Current Title or Position:

12

Educational level and year degree was or will be received (If high school or less, check the block to the right): HS

13 Undergraduate Institution Year Degree

14 Post-graduate Institution Year Degree

Post-graduate Institution (Use additional sheet, if needed) Year Degree

The following section is an ethnic census for the people responding to this survey. Circle or blacken the boxes under the countries that best apply to you. For example, a Lithuanian born in the US and married to a Latvian would select "P" under the heading "Lithuanian" (at least one parent was born in Lithuania) and "S" under "Latvian" (for the Latvian spouse). Someone whose grandparents were born in Ukraine and who is now married to a Lithuanian would write "Ukrainian" in the space provided for "other," would select "G" under that heading, and would select "S" (for the spouse) under the "Lithuanian" heading.

Ethnic Census: N=Native-born, P=At least one Parent was born there, G=At least one Grandparent was born there,

S=Ethnic relationship is only through Spouse, O=Other type of relationship

15 Lithuanian Latvian Estonian Russian N P G S O N P G S O N P G S O N P G S O N P G S O

16 Language (Circle 1=None, 5=Very Fluent) 1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4 5

17 Number of trips made in last 5 years (Circle) 0 1 2 3 + 0 1 2 3 + 0 1 2 3 + 0 1 2 3 + 0 1 2 3 +

Ethnic Organizations and Associations (use additional sheet if needed): Current Title or Position:

18

Cut along dotted line

(Please Print Your Name, Last Name First)

Check the block next to the occupation, profession or trade that most closely matches your own;
fill in the space below that entry to describe your specialty or type of employment.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 01 <input type="checkbox"/> SURVEYING | 23 <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION OR MESSAGE DISTRIBUTION |
| 02 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | 24 <input type="checkbox"/> SALES, MARKETING, OR ADVERTISING |
| 03 <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | 25 <input type="checkbox"/> SERVICE OCCUPATIONS |
| 04 <input type="checkbox"/> MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES | 26 <input type="checkbox"/> CLERICAL OCCUPATIONS |
| 05 <input type="checkbox"/> COMPUTER-RELATED | 27 <input type="checkbox"/> POLICE, LAW ENFORCEMENT, SECURITY |
| 06 <input type="checkbox"/> ECOLOGY, GEOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES | 28 <input type="checkbox"/> ARMED FORCES |
| 07 <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE SCIENCES (BIOLOGY, BOTANY, ZOOLOGY) | 29 <input type="checkbox"/> FISHERY, AQUACULTURE AND RELATED |
| 08 <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE SCIENCES (AGRICULTURAL) | 30 <input type="checkbox"/> FORESTRY |
| 09 <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS, HISTORY OR POLITICAL SCIENCE | 31 <input type="checkbox"/> FARMING OR ANIMAL HUSBANDRY |
| 10 <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY OR PHILOSOPHY | 32 <input type="checkbox"/> WRITING OR EDITING |
| 11 <input type="checkbox"/> MEDICINE, VETERINARY MEDICINE OR HEALTH | 33 <input type="checkbox"/> JOURNALISM (PRINT, RADIO, TV) |
| 12 <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION OR ACADEMICS | 34 <input type="checkbox"/> PROCESSING OCCUPATIONS |
| 13 <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM, LIBRARY, ARCHIVAL SCIENCES | 35 <input type="checkbox"/> ENERGY SOURCE PROCESSING |
| 14 <input type="checkbox"/> LAW AND JURISPRUDENCE | 36 <input type="checkbox"/> SYNTHETIC OR NATURAL MATERIALS PROCESSING |
| 15 <input type="checkbox"/> CLERGY | 37 <input type="checkbox"/> MACHINE TRADES |
| 16 <input type="checkbox"/> MANAGERS (BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, SERVICE) | 38 <input type="checkbox"/> ORE REFINING AND FOUNDRY |
| 17 <input type="checkbox"/> OFFICIALS (ELECTED OR APPOINTED) | 39 <input type="checkbox"/> BENCHWORK OCCUPATIONS |
| 18 <input type="checkbox"/> PHOTOGRAPHY, COMMERCIAL OR FINE ART | 40 <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION, OTHER STRUCTURAL |
| 19 <input type="checkbox"/> FINANCIAL, INVESTMENT OR BANKING | 41 <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| 20 <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC, DANCE, ENTERTAINMENT OR RECREATION | 42 <input type="checkbox"/> PACKAGING AND MATERIALS HANDLING |
| 21 <input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL FITNESS, SPORTS | 43 <input type="checkbox"/> EXTRACTION OF MINERALS |
| 22 <input type="checkbox"/> ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIZATION | 44 <input type="checkbox"/> PRODUCTION OR DISTRIBUTION OF UTILITIES |

Bits and Pieces...

With the summer season of camps and conferences, Lithuanians around the world prepare for another year of activities

European-Lithuanian Studies Week

By: *Ramune Kubilius*

The 40th European Lithuanian Studies Week (Europos Lietuviskuju Studiju Savaite) took place in Augsburg, Germany between August 1-8. The gathering drew over 100 persons from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Lithuania, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States. The Studies Weeks are a traditional event in Europe where persons of Lithuanian descent are scattered throughout the continent. They feature lectures, symposia, outings, concerts. Whether the 40th Studies Week was truly historical remains to be seen. Interestingly enough, it was decided that the Studies Week should neither go into oblivion (a dying swan song, according to one moderator) nor should it be moved to Lithuania. It was decided that the 1994 Study Week would most likely be organized in Austria.

Among the attendees and speakers were former members of the Lithuanian government such as prof. Vytautas Landsbergis and Darius Kuolys, a freelance correspondent of Radio Free Europe who is based in Kaunas, Vidmantas Valiusaitis, a professor of history, Alfredas Bumblauskas, a Kaunas Seminary instructor who has spent the post-war years primarily in Switzerland, Rev. Dr. Jonas Juraitis, and others. A concert on the last evening indicated just how far Lithuanians have come. The baritone, Gintaras Liaugminas, formerly of Vilnius, is now in the Flensburg Opera Company in Germany. The tenor, Gintaras Vysniauskas, formerly of Vilnius, is now with the Munich Opera Com-

pany. The accompanist, Yomiko Yamamoto, formerly of Japan, now lives in Munich, and has accompanied Lithuanian singers in their performances in the German-Lithuanian community and elsewhere. Prof. Landsbergis thrilled the audience with his renditions of various Ciurlionis pieces.

The Studies Week is not without its problems. Quite a bit of regret was expressed that the middle and younger generations of European Lithuanians no longer participate in or help organize the event. Yet some there have attended most if not all of the last 40 Studies Weeks. Apparently, over the years, the Studies Weeks have filled spiritual, cultural and other needs for the loyal attendees.

Helping Visiting Lithuanians

By: *Bruno Rutkunas, President Knights of Lithuania*

While visiting the Kaunas eye clinic in Lithuania last June, Knights of Lithuania, C-110 members, Dr. Steven Laukaitis, associated with project ORBIS, and Bruno Rutkunas, were introduced to several ophthalmologists. One of them received a grant and invitation for studies in Chicago, arriving in November of 1992.

Dr. Ruta Zuklyte, who is from Vilnius center, then was hosted by a medical group in Toronto, Canada. Presently, she is being sponsored by the Columbia Presbyterian Medical University in NYC. After spending a couple of weeks with Antanas Maculaitis of Queens, whose family has graciously housed over 40 Lithuanians over the past five years, she now is staying in New Jersey. Dr.

Ruta Zuklyte was our guest speaker at the annual St. Casimer's luncheon on March 28. She specialized in the treatment of "dry eyes" and hoped to bring home more improved medical techniques for the patients.

Dr. Ruta, a charming and very enterprising young girl, had her visa extended by Dr. Steven Laukaitis, since she wants to gain more medical knowledge before returning to Lithuania. By the time she returns home, she will have felt the love and generosity of Lithuanian-Americans living here in the United States.

Donations of housing, food and clothing were abundant. Our council took care of financial needs by providing Dr. Ruta Zuklyte with ample funds for subsistence and miscellaneous items while in New York. We will try to keep up with her progress when she returns to Lithuania.

1993 Sports Tournament

By: *Viktorija Prismantaite and Tauras Radvenis (Banga AC - L.A.)*

The 1993 Lithuanian Sports Festival took place in New York from May 28-31. Although the program officially began on Friday, many athletes, sports fans, and guests arrived early to make the most of the long Memorial Day weekend. Tourists and native dwellers shopped and took in the beautiful Manhattan sights from sunup to sundown.

Friday evening's dance marked the beginning of the formal festivities. Sports teams joined with others, rekindling old friendships and forming memorable new ones. Saturday was Banquet Day. Everyone crowded together on the bus and travelled to the Polish dance hall to share news of the

day's sporting events and to lavish themselves with an evening of food, drink, dancing, and lots of fun! On Sunday, everyone gathered together for the long-awaited Manhattan cruise. There were so many jovial Lithuanians dancing, singing, and rocking the boat, it was a miracle that nobody was lost at sea! Monday morning, the sports festivities came to a close, results were announced, and sports teams were praised (and others consoled). But even the most die-hard athletes, basking in their victories, were saddened when they realized that it would soon be time to go home.

Congratulations to all the winners of this year's tournament!

Lithuanian Dance Courses

by Dalyte Sabaliauskaite

The 1993 Lithuanian Dance courses took place from August 22 through 27, at Camp Dainava in Manchester, Michigan. More than 80 dancers and teachers from the United States and Canada gathered together to learn new dances for the upcoming Lithuanian Song and Dance Festival in 1994, which will be held in Vilnius. Among the cities which participated in this year's courses were: Cleveland, Chicago, Lemont, New York, Boston, Omaha, Seattle, Detroit, Hartford, Toronto, Hamilton, and Ottawa. Dalia Dzikiene was director of the dance camp, and Laima Kisieliene from Lithuania represented the 1994 Lithuanian Festival.

The dancers worked strenuously from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. for six days, learning new dances for next year's festival. The food at camp was wonderful, so everyone stuffed themselves, then quickly ran back to dance twice as hard so they wouldn't gain 20 pounds in one week!

The evening themes were very interesting, and every evening the agenda was different. The participants had a typical traditional bonfire, full of good feeling and song. They had the opportunity to see and hear about the native dance costumes of various parts of Lithuania—it was a great surprise for

many to see such a difference in costumes from the same country. They watched a video of Vilnius, and saw the location of the 1994 Festival. The final evening, each group presented a short video of their last dance performance. L.A. Spindulys proudly presented their breakthrough Hollywood video! In August, 1993, they debuted on the comedy show "Johnnybago". Although this was an extraordinary experience, the lives of Spindulys members have since gotten more complicated - they can't even walk the streets of Los Angeles without getting bombarded for autographs! We look forward to seeing them again on prime time!

Lithuanian Language Teachers Conference

By: Ramune Kubilius

The 27th Lithuanian Language Teachers' Conference (Mokytoju Studiju Savaite) took place August 17-22 at Camp Dainava, MI. Sponsored annually by the Educational Council of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., the camp has moved with the times. Almost 120 Lithuanian language school teachers, school principals, educational supporters and their family members attended the camp. Among them were a number of young teachers attending the camp for the first time. They are recent immigrants to the U.S. who are teaching in various Lithuanian language schools around the country. Their attendance was guaranteed by financial support of the schools' parent committees. About 20 persons took Lithuanian language courses, taught at beginner and advanced levels by Bronius Krokys of Philadelphia, PA and Vytautas Jonaitis of Grand Rapids, MI. The course is also a tradition. One woman from Ohio has been attending the course for the past 9 years.

The conference attendees attended Lithuanian language lectures and roundtable discussions about motivating and teaching Lithuanian-American children who attend their schools. The young children—almost two

dozen—practiced for a play they performed, learned Lithuanian songs and dances, and swam in Camp Dainava's Spyglys Lake (spyglys: thorn, conifer). During afternoon sessions the two adult groups gathered together to learn new Lithuanian language songs and to pair up for dances, while in the evenings, all three groups (including the children) performed, watched movies and skits, participated in campfires and evenings devoted to Lithuanian patriotism. The camp honored the poet Putinas, whose 100th anniversary of birth was commemorated, and the flight of pilots Darius and Girenas was commemorated. Plans are already underway for the 1994 program, including the possibility of mounting a traditional Lithuanian wedding, the preparation for which could encompass activities for the whole week, and could include all attendees, from preschoolers to retirees.

Fifth Annual Petro Cepo Youth Foundation Dance

by Ruta Kalvaityte

The fifth annual Petro Cepo Youth Foundation dance took place on February 6, 1993 at the Lithuanian Club in Boston, Massachusetts. More than 250 people from various parts of the East Coast gathered together for the memorable event.

After a savory dinner, NBA superstar Sarunas Marciulionis welcomed all the guests and participants, and spoke of his charity foundation for youth in Lithuania. Sarunas and his trainer Donny Nelson shared valuable information about the foundation and also presented the Lithuanian Olympics basketball t-shirts, which everyone rushed to buy.

Folk dance group "Gyvataras", from Hamilton, Canada, together with their orchestra "Zagarai", took command of an excellent performance. Afterwards, the Petro Cepo Foundation honored its third annual scholarship recipient - Petras Babeckas from Hamilton, Canada. Petras is a young medical student who is to spend the

summer in Lithuania, helping the communities. After the scholarship announcements, a traditional evening of song and dance erupted, led by the talents of Tauro Biskio Baltic Quartet.

The goal and purpose of Petro Cepo Youth Foundation is to keep the Lithuanian spirit alive by keeping Lithuanians living in America informed about all aspects of life in Lithuania. Every year, the PCYF awards \$1,000 to help send one representative to Lithuania for the summer. When the award-winner returns, he/she enlightens others by relating his/her experiences and inviting others to take action and support Lithuania.

Candidates between the ages of 18 and 35 who are interested in the 1994 PCYF scholarship must submit their application no later than November 15, 1993. Those who would like to apply a PCYF scholarship to attend the 1994 World Lithuanian Youth Congress are also encouraged to apply.

For more details and/or a scholarship application, please write to the following address:

Petro Cepo Jaunimo Fondas
P.O. Box 497
South Boston, MA 02127

Eighth World Lithuanian Youth Congress Preparations Underway

From: WLYC Press Release

Registration has begun for the 8th World Lithuanian Youth Congress, to be held in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and the United Kingdom. The 19-day program will begin in Vilnius immediately following the Lithuanian Song & Dance Festival. Delegates and participants will have the opportunity to meet young people with a common heritage from Lithuania as well as the former Soviet Union. The 7-day program in Lithuania will focus on the problems of youth in emerging democracies, as well as an overview of the current problems / successes in the Baltic States. Specialists and guest speakers will share their knowledge with Congress delegates and partici-

pants, so that they may return to their countries with a first-hand knowledge of the situation.

Congress delegates and participants will then board the "MS Kristina Regina," a Finnish ship, for a 5-day journey to Riga, Tallinn, and Helsinki. At each port of call, delegates and participants will have the opportunity to meet fellow Lithuanians who reside in Latvia and Estonia. Once again, specialists and guest speakers will share their experiences with the travelers.

The third leg of the Congress will focus on Lithuanian youth activities outside of Lithuania. Congress delegates will attend the "Congress Study Days" in London, while participants will have the opportunity to travel on organized tours around the UK. With elected Congress delegates expected from over 18 countries, "Study Days" will provide significant background material for the continuing success of the Lithuanian community in the diaspora. During the 10-day program, delegates will look at the following questions: What are our ties to Lithuania currently, and how will they change in the future? What is the outlook for the World Lithuanian Youth Association and its National Chapters? How can we help to strengthen the Lithuanian communities in the diaspora? Elections will also be held for a new World Lithuanian Youth Association Executive Committee.

Registration forms can be obtained by faxing the World Lithuanian Youth Association at 703-569-5370, or by writing to: 8th WLYC, P.O. Box 2812, Springfield, VA 22152-0812. Early registration costs (due by January 4, 1993) vary from US\$790 to US\$2370, depending on the package chosen.

Special reduced airfares have been arranged through TRANSEAIR Travel, Inc., the official travel agency of the 8th World Lithuanian Youth Congress. Participants wishing to make their own travel arrangements are reminded that the Congress begins in Vilnius and ends in London. TRANSEAIR can be reached at (tel.) 800-666-4901 (ask for PLJK rates).

Baltic States Video & Guide

BALTIC STATES is a 54-minute videotape from the Video Visits-European Collection of International Video Network. The colors are vivid, each country is covered separately, with narration and background music of the country. As the video's cover indicates, this is "entertaining and informative, each program in the Video Travel Library is perfect for travellers and would-be travellers of all ages." It covers the geography, history and tidbits about the cultures of the countries.

This video received good response at one showing, at the Lithuanian-American Community Educational Council's summer teachers' camp. About 20 persons viewed the film, oohing and aahing (in agreement or disagreement, it's not quite clear), especially during the Lithuanian portion of the program, which came first. For example, the food and the zither (Lithuanian "kankles") are covered in the Latvian and Estonian portions of the program, as if they were not Lithuanian traditions as well. The pronunciations of the names of historical figures and cities in the Lithuanian portion, and possibly the others, leaves something to be desired. Historical and folklore experts would have to critically view the video for authenticity and accuracy.

BALTIC STATES, however, is unique and the kind of video to show to groups, to add to school and public library collections. It moves along at a nice pace, and stimulates the senses. Some travel bookstores would probably stock it. Savvy Traveller in downtown Chicago does.

International Video Network
ATTN: Customer Service
2242 Camino Ramon
San Ramon, CA 94583-9913
1-800-767-4486 x229

BALTIC STATES is an INSIGHT GUIDE published by Houghton Mifflin Company in 1993. It is edited by Roger Williams and photographed by Lyle Lawson. This colorful guide had collaborators from the three Bal-

BLp(LK)1195
1993,Nr.10

tic countries, including Lithuania's geography professor and former Cultural Fund Chairman, Ceslovas Kudaba (now deceased) and Anatol Lieven, a writer for The Times of London, who recently published his own book [The Baltic Revolution, Yale University Press, 1993]. BALTIC STATES is a travel guide written more in a European style, with an emphasis on cultural background. Yet it does cover "Travel Tips", short language sessions, useful addresses, a bibliography for further reading, and other information. This section is printed on gray pages and is at the end of the book, separate from the coverage of countries. The quality of the pages is good, but the 430-page book is not light when packed in a suitcase!

Looking at the Lithuanian portion, one is impressed with the variety of photographs. There are maps of the entire country, of Vilnius, Kaunas, Zemaitija, Aukstaitija, and the South. Specially-written topical issues include a section entitled "Basketball High-Flyer" on Lithuanian-born pilot Steponas Darius who made the ill-fated flight from the U.S. to Lithuania in 1933. It is said that he introduced basketball to Lithuania after being one of the U.S. volunteers for the Lithuanian army in 1920. There is also a section on the "Amber Coast", about Baltic amber and about the folk tales and legends which surround it.

BALTIC STATES may be obtained from a travel bookstore or directly from Houghton Mifflin Co. 2 Park Street, Boston, MA 02108.

U.S.-LITHUANIA BUSINESS CONFERENCE VIDEOS and PUBLICATIONS

If you weren't able to attend the U.S.-Lithuania Business Conference and Trade Expo organized by the LAC Economic Affairs Council (ERT) on September 29-30, 1993 at the Ritz-Carlton, Huntington Hotel in Pasadena, California, you can see it on video. Over 20 business persons as well as Lithuanian and U.S. government representatives gave presentations to over 100 attendees at the conference. Lithuania's President, Mr. Algirdas Brazauskas, Lithuania's Ambassador to the U.S., Mr. Stasys Lozoraitis and the American Ambassador to Lithuania, Mr. Darryl Johnson also spoke at the conference.

CONFERENCE VIDEOS

The videos will be a useful source of information for those interested in Lithuania's economy as well as those planning to do business in Lithuania. The VHS format, English language video tapes are priced \$24.99 each or \$99 for the set of five.

CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

Conference handout publications (in English) are available for a price of \$20.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Some business related publications of the Lithuanian Information Institute (in Lithuanian and English) are also available. Please write for the price list.

ORDERS

For delivery within the U.S., please add \$2.50 for packing & shipping per cassette and for conference publications. Make checks payable to Lithuanian American Community. Please send orders or information requests to:

LAC Economic Affairs Council
7311 Douglas Circle, La Palma, CA 90623
tel. 714-521-8694

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