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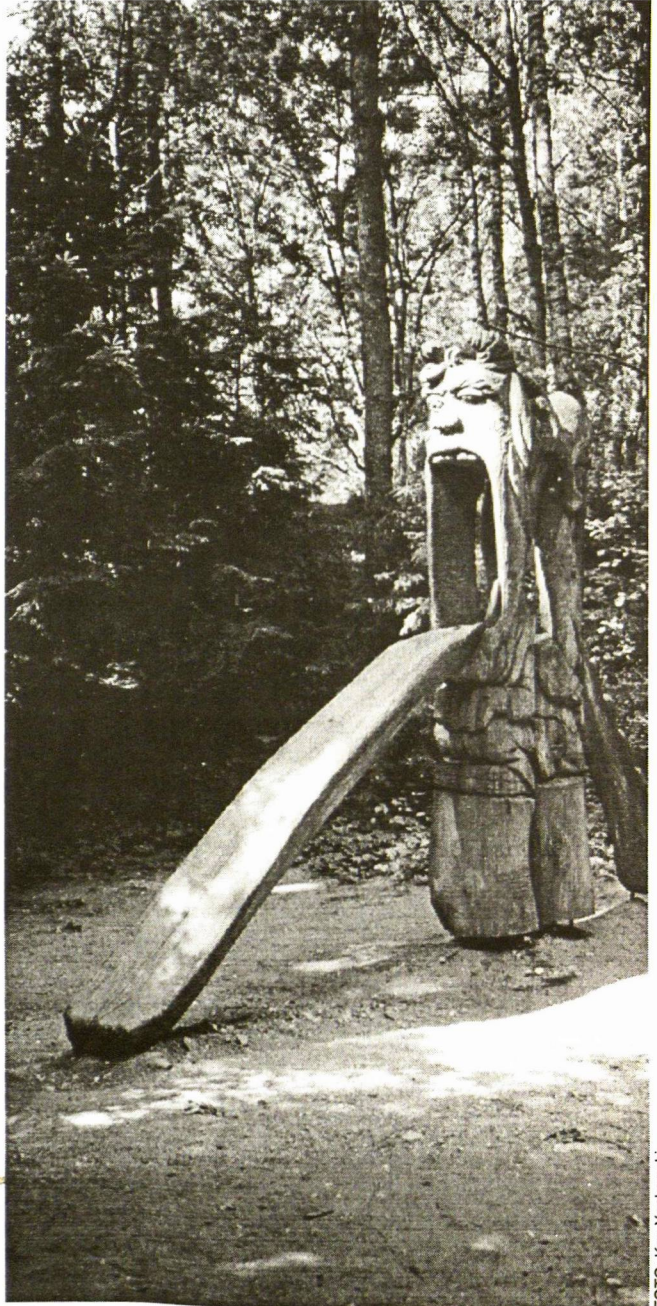
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Sliding board at Raganu Kalnas

FOTO: Kay Yankowski

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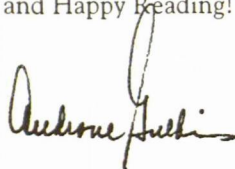
To Our Readers:

With this issue, I bid BRIDGES readers farewell. I will no longer be editing the journal. I feel it has evolved into a well-balanced, informative publication. For this, I thank the Editors of the various sections; Asta in Politics, Jeanne in Humanitarian Aid, Algis in Business, Aukse in Cultural Arts, Vytas, filling in for Pranas in Sports and last but CERTAINLY not least Ramune for all her tireless efforts in keeping us in tune with the Lithuanian Press and various other happenings. Without the Editors' timely and interesting contributions, my job would have been impossible. In addition, my thanks go out to the many readers who have contributed material in the past. I encourage you to continue doing so in the future as well. Thanks again.

Although I am quite satisfied with BRIDGES and what it has become, I have always believed in the benefits of evolution and change. I believe new ideas from the Editor's chair can make it an even more interesting and widely read journal, and thus my decision to move on.

As of yet, an Editor has not been selected, but the balance of this year's issues will be compiled with the help of the LAC, Inc. Public Affairs Office staff in Arlington, VA. All inquiries and correspondence (including renewals) regarding BRIDGES should be directed to that office until further notice. I hope you enjoy this issue as much as those of the past.

Thanks again to everyone
and Happy Reading!



Audrone Gulbinas

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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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Asta Banionis

Christmas In October: Whose Stocking Will Get The Lump Of Coal?

The U.S. Congress has returned from its August recess to face the almost impossible task of approving the thirteen separate appropriations bills which will fund the activities of the U.S. government for fiscal year 1996. Why impossible? Because the fiscal year begins October 1, 1995 and when they left town three weeks ago, the House and the Senate had managed to fully complete only one of the thirteen spending bills.

If appropriations bills are not approved in time, the U.S. government does shut down -- everyone not deemed essential for national security is ordered to stop working. It's happened before. During the Reagan Administration when a Democratic-controlled Congress was warring with a Republican president the government closed for a few days - luckily the weekend intervened to minimize the disruption. Now, we're about to see a Republican-controlled Congress shut down a Democrat's presidency.

National newspapers have been filled over the last few weeks with news stories and editorials about "the impending train wreck", i.e., the U.S. government shutting down because of partisan bickering between the Republicans and Democrats. But this I assure you, Bridges readers, is not the story. The real story is that to get out of this fix, the House, the Senate and the White House will have to drag out the proverbial "Christmas Tree" from the attic.

Yes, the Christmas Tree better known as the "C.R.". The Continuing Resolution (C.R.) is an omnibus spending bill which contains all the spending provisions the Congress can agree to make. This spending bill can get to be thousands of pages long and is the Washington special interests' dream bill. If you have enough manpower to keep track of the wheeling and dealing that goes on during this frenetic few weeks as the bill is being put together and you have the political muscle to back up your congressional supporters, you can load up the spending bill. Hence, the christmas tree analogy. C.R.'s are notoriously laden down with special provisions which can't pass muster during the normal, deliberative appropriations process.

September, 1995 is going to be a nerve-wracking month for people who care about the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe since the "foreign ops bill", the appropriations bill which funds all U.S. foreign assistance, has not yet been completed and is likely to end up in the C.R. Bridges readers will recall that the

bill made it through the House in late June, but Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY), chairman of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations in the U.S. Senate has held off until now in drafting an appropriations bill because the Republicans and the White House were so far apart on both spending levels and the Republican plan to "reorganize" the foreign policy agencies by eliminating the Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA).

Just how far apart the Republicans and the White House are on these issues was demonstrated in early August when the Senate Democrats managed to filibuster the two authorization bills. Senator Helms (R-NC), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee attempted to bring to the floor for a vote both the bill which would have reorganized the foreign policy agencies and the bill which would have authorized U.S. foreign assistance programs. With instructions from the White House, Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) maintained discipline in the ranks and prevented Senator Helms from getting the 60 votes he needed for cloture. With other pressing matters on the Senate calendar, Senator Helms was forced to withdraw the two bills from consideration.

Now, as the month of September slips by, we'll get to see who plays a better game of poker - the White House or the Congressional Republicans? It's too late in the legislative process to get the authorization bills voted on, so Senator McConnell, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, becomes a key player at the table. The appropriations bill has to get done or foreign policy agencies start furloughing employees on October 1. If there is no agreement between the warring factions (Republicans vs. Democrats; Senate vs. House; Congress vs. White House) to finish the appropriations bill, appropriations provisions for foreign aid and the foreign policy agencies will be wrapped into the Continuing Resolution.

Although Senator McConnell is a supporter of the Central and East European democracies, and is an able and clever legislator, he will need help from his colleagues when the assembly of the C.R. begins (the dressing of the christmas tree, if you will). Support for countries like Lithuania has to be broad-based, otherwise it's easy to be lost in the fracas. If Bridges readers

didn't take the time to write or call their Senators and Congressman over the summer, it's likely that Lithuania will end up with a lump of coal in her foreign aid stocking because there won't be enough vigilant Senators and Congressmen throughout the convoluted and swift process. Many a shiny, new "gift" has been lost or switched in a wink when a C.R. is being written.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO NATO?

The Continuing Resolution will also affect the pace of NATO expansion. There had been hopes earlier in the year that the Republican-controlled House and Senate would help nudge the President along in expanding NATO membership to the Central and East European democracies. Remember the fight over H.R. 7 (the foreign policy provisions of the Contract with America)? The infamous Torricelli (D-NJ) amendment introduced on behalf of the White House gave the Russians a veto over NATO expansion. Luckily, Congressmen Durbin (D-IL) and Knollenberg (R-MI) managed to convince enough House Republicans and Democrats to reject this approach.

Later, the House under Congressman Gilman's (R-NY) leadership went on to write and pass an authorization bill which would have encouraged the Administration to take bolder steps on the path towards NATO expansion. The bill called for an expanded Partnership for Peace program and approved the Warsaw Initiative program which expanded assistance levels for the Central & East European democracies. But, President Clinton threatened to veto the bill because it also called for the "reorganization" of foreign policy agencies through the elimination of USAID, USIA and ACDA.

The Senate version of the bill was defeated by a Democratic filibuster, and now we find ourselves just days away from the end of the fiscal year and the legislative cycle. An appropriations bill is not a proper legislative vehicle for public policy, and yet, numerous appropriations bills over the years have contained policy prescriptions and prohibitions. As much as the congressional leadership and the White House grouse about it, the appropriations bills can't help but shape U.S. public and foreign policy because these bills actually distribute the primary resource of the government: money. Where there are resources, there is activity, and hopefully some coherent and productive policy emerges.

Although U.S. policy on NATO expansion hasn't seen any major announcements nor actions, 1995 wasn't a bad year for Lithuania and the other countries of Central and Eastern Europe which want to join NATO. The U.S. military and the State Department had enough resources this year so Lithuania's fledgling military did get some help in preparing for its ultimate NATO admission tests. The month of August saw Lithuanians participating in two significant joint military training exercises

- one at Fort Polk in Louisiana and the other at the Lithuanian Army's training base at Rukla, Lithuania.

From August 8 - 26, 1995 nearly 1,000 soldiers from 14 countries of the former Soviet bloc participated in the joint exercise called "Cooperative Nugget 95" at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Among those troops were 30 young Lithuanians, second year students at Lithuania's Military Academy. The purpose of the exercise was to practice peacekeeping missions in realistic war situations. It was conducted under the auspices of NATO's Partnership for Peace program and included 3,700 military personnel from the Louisiana-based Joint Readiness Training Center and also Canadian and British forces. It was the largest land exercise conducted by the PFP program this year.

From August 1 - 24, 1995 "Operation Amber Valley 95" provided both theoretical and practical training for 56 Lithuanian soldiers at the training base at Rukla. Many of the Lithuanians were members of LITPLA-1, the Lithuanian platoon which has already completed its tour of duty as UN peacekeepers in Croatia. They were joined by 10 U.S. military personnel commanded by Captain Peter Gorky. This was a significant event which marks an improvement in the type of assistance being given under the Partnership for Peace program.

There was also good news on the Baltic Battalion front. The nearly infamous \$10 million in Baltic Battalion assistance for 1995 was finally "found" and dispersed by the State Department. Bridges readers will recall that last year President Clinton promised that the U.S. would provide \$10 million for the training of the Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion. Although the money was actually appropriated as a line item by the Congress in FY 1995, the State Department promptly "reprogrammed" most of the money (\$7.1 mil) for Haiti peacekeeping operations.

After, we, and other interested parties like the U.S. Congress called this matter to the attention of the State Department, officials started scrambling to find money to replace the reprogrammed funds. It took all year, but we're glad to report that the missing \$7 million has been found and turned over to the proper accounts -- and it didn't come out of SEED funds. Congressman Gilman and Senator Helms deserve our thanks for their exceptional determination to see this issue through to a successful end. Now, where's the \$5 million V.P. Gore promised for this year?

As long as events do not significantly deteriorate in Russia, Lithuania and the other nations of Central and Eastern Europe have the luxury of time to prepare their young armies to meet NATO standards. It is our sincere hope that the U.S. Congress does not strip resources from the Partnership for Peace program because it is a wise investment in our future defense. The decision to expand NATO is ultimately a political one. But while we're all waiting for the planets to properly align and the correct political milieu to develop, it's wise to keep these programs funded and working.

Two staunch allies in the NATO expansion debate died on August 19, 1995 in the tragic accident outside of Sarajevo, Bosnia. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Robert C. Frasure and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Joseph J. Kruzal were both supporters of NATO expansion as well as sympathetic friends of the Baltic states. These men made a difference within the foreign policy establishment and their death will be a great setback for the cause of European peace and stability, not only in war-torn Bosnia, but throughout the region all the way north to the Baltics. It is our hope that their families will feel a little comfort from knowing that millions of Americans admired their loved ones as defenders of what is good and just in the world.

TWO AMERICAN DEATHS

By Paul A. Goble, Editor of the *Monitor*

The deaths of two important Americans were reported last week, and both the deaths and the way in which the American government reacted to them are significant for all three Baltic countries.

On August 17, members of the family of Fred Cuny confirmed what many of us had long suspected: namely, that the American aid specialist who had been missing in Chechnya since April 9 had been murdered. While the family said that a Chechen unit had done the deed, they placed the blame for Fred Cuny's demise squarely on the shoulders of the Russian government. Not only has Moscow been less than helpful in trying to find out anything about Cuny's death, it has spread and continues to put out rumors in Chechnya and more broadly that Fred Cuny was "anti-Muslim" and an agent of "Western intelligence services".

Anyone who knew Fred--and I am proud to count myself among them--or even knew a little of his biography would immediately recognize how slanderous the Moscow-originated comments are. Fred worked tirelessly as a private citizen to defend Muslims in Somalia, Bosnia and Chechnya. He was too much the independent operator to ever be part of any government agency, let alone an intelligence one. And he took seriously the Christian injunction to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable seriously. Consequently, his actions in Chechnya where he challenged the comfortable assumptions in Moscow and the West about what that war was about and how it was being conducted give lie to charges smacking of the Soviet era.

Not surprisingly, the Cuny family has called on the international community to bring pressure to bear on Moscow for both an apology and a full accounting of exactly what happened. But one place from which such pressure apparently will not come is Washington, the capital of the country Fred Cuny was proud to be a citizen

of. Asked for comment on the Cuny family statement, a State Department spokesman said he could not confirm it and implied that the family could not possibly know what had taken place. Moreover, apparently reflecting continuing claims by Russian intelligence agencies that Fred Cuny is still alive, the spokesman in contrast to the family continued to speak of Fred in the present tense and to suggest that the department had hopes that he might still be found. There was a time when the State Department would have been expected to back the claims of Americans missing abroad and to issue forceful demands for a full accounting of what had happened to them. Apparently, with regard to Moscow at least, Washington will do nothing of the sort--a silence that sends a message stronger than any words.

The other death last week was that of Robert Frasure, the American special envoy on Yugoslavia and earlier the first U.S. Ambassador to Estonia. He died when the armored vehicle in which he was riding went off a mountain road near Sarajevo August 19. As Estonian President Lennart Meri observed in his statement awarding Frasure with the Estonian Grand Cross of Terra Mariana, Ambassador Frasure "played a pivotal role in developing cooperative relations between the United States and the Republic of Estonia as well as consolidating peace and stability in the Baltic Sea region." But those of us who knew Bob Frasure know that even those words do not begin to capture what he did.

With a rare grasp of the nature of both national identities and of what was possible in both Tallinn and Washington, Ambassador Frasure played the central role in American efforts to help Estonia give new content to its restored independence. Had he not been in Tallinn when he was, many things that have gone right in the past four years would have gone in a very different direction. And it is fitting that President Meri has given him this award; it is only sad that it had to be a posthumous one. But the continuing impact of Frasure's role in Tallinn will be his real monument and reward.

Fortunately if not unexpectedly, Washington reacted rather better in this case both because no one could dispute what had happened and because Moscow was not so immediately involved. President Clinton ordered American flags to be lowered to half staff to honor Frasure and his two colleagues, both of whom were also friends of the Baltic cause. And the American media mourned the passing of three men usually described as the "idea" men on Bosnia and "the institutional memory" of the American government on this issue.

Citizens of the Baltic countries and their friends should remember both these deaths and Washington's reaction to them. Only by so doing can they hope to make sure that the forces that inevitably led to both can be contained and ultimately defeated.

Jeanne Dorr

An Unusual School Year

September usually signals the beginning of a new school year. I would like to introduce you to a very special teacher and her three children. Jurate Krokys

Stirbys is a special education teacher in the Philadelphia school system. She and her family have always been active in helping Lithuania, even before the days when it became the "in" thing to do. Jurate applied for a Fulbright fellowship to live in Lithuania during the 1992-1993 school year and help with the education of children with special needs. Her primary goal was to educate the educators. After many months of waiting, her proposal was approved and the preparations began. She would be accompanied by her three children. At the time Rasa was 11, Gintautas was 7, and Gaja was 5. Each would celebrate a birthday in Lithuania. Staying behind in Philadelphia would be Jurate's husband, Rimantas. She would also be separated from her parents and sisters. This was a family whose members were very close to each other and the separation would be the most difficult part of Jurate's

and the children's year in Lithuania.

It is very difficult to cover a year in the lives of four people on a few pages and I really didn't know where or how to start this article but Jurate solved the problem by

sharing with me a photo album which chronicled the year spent in Lithuania from leaving Philadelphia to the return trip home. I asked Jurate to bring her children

when she came to talk about that year abroad because I wanted them to share their own memories with me. I never had an afternoon fly so quickly. They spoke with such enthusiasm, I felt I was living in their apartment and going to school with them each day. This article is written in the hope that it will give you some insight into everyday life in Lithuania through the eyes of a family who were not tourists. Perhaps it will help someone else make a decision as to whether this is the way for them to serve Lithuania. I ask the reader to keep several things in mind. This happened during 1992 and 1993 and life in Lithuania has changed since then. Also remember that there



From "Dialogas" newspaper; Gaja, Rasa, Jurate and Gintautas

are many people, Americans of Lithuanian descent and non-Lithuanians who have either lived in Lithuania or are living there now. They serve in many different capacities and their experiences may not have been the

same. I am always interested in hearing from other people who worked or volunteered in Lithuania for an extended period of time. I am simply relaying to you the story of one family.

I had the pleasure of being part of this wonderful photo album which started with the family packing to live in Lithuania for a year. There would not be an opportunity to return home during the coming year. The packing took tremendous planning and nothing was left to chance. This was still a time when everything was not readily available in Lithuania. I thought of myself packing for one person for a couple of months and it was only then that I could realize the undertaking this project would entail. The packing crates were so big that the younger children could pose inside them for a picture. There were the sad scenes of the family saying good bye to their friends at home and later to each other at the airport. This was a time filled with sadness at leaving behind their loved ones but also joy and anticipation for their new life in Lithuania.

Jurate and her children would be living in Vilnius. It was here that they had several advantages. Her mother had relatives in the city so there would be no need to search for living quarters. This was arranged for them before their arrival. All four in the family were fluent in Lithuanian which was another hurdle that did not have to be crossed.

The apartment consisted of two bedrooms, a living room and a kitchen. It was on the seventh floor of a nine story building with an elevator that had a mind of its own; some days it worked and other days it was "on vacation". On those days the family walked up to the seventh floor and hoped they didn't forget anything which would require another trip down and back up again. Jurate was determined to live as closely as she could to the way an average Lithuanian family lived. She did admit that she had certain advantages. When it became desperately cold she would light the oven in the kitchen for warmth. This was the winter that the Russians would sporadically cut off natural gas supplies and the winter was extremely cold. The average Lithuanian family could not afford such a luxury. She had no help in the house as far as cooking, cleaning or laundry. The laundry was a story in itself. We have so many things that we simply take for granted. We don't miss them until we no longer have them. We assume everyone fills up a washer, presses a button and comes back a half hour later. Jurate explained that laundry was a three day project. In the beginning she had a small machine that resembled a washer but it tore the clothes and eventually broke. She took to washing the clothes in a tub. On nice days she would dry them on her balcony until the neighbor below complained that they were dripping all over her balcony. After that, she had rope all over the house; through trial and error it was discovered that one bedroom was better for drying. The first step was to wash the clothes in the tub and hang them in the bathroom, moving them to the

bedroom when they were partially dry. In the winter, there was little if any heat, so drying took several days. Later, she paid one of her relatives to help her iron. Although they would have gladly helped her, she insisted on paying them for ironing and babysitting.

Jurate was to be working at the Vilnius Pedagogical University and the Teachers' Inservice Institute. There would be nights she would have to work until 7 or 8 PM. Her cousin would pick up the children at school and stay with them. The one promise Jurate had made to her mother was that the children would never be left alone. Her children would be attending a comprehensive school which is a system with all grades in one building. She spoke about waking up on mornings when there was no heat, warming water on the stove and trying to heat the apartment with the oven. When she walked the children to school at 8 AM it would be dark outside. But nobody complained. They learned to walk through the snow and on the ice. The children told me it takes great skill to accomplish this task. Their day ended around 1:30 PM and everyone left for the day. The school was overcrowded and on split sessions. The teachers were underpaid and overworked. This particular school also had Saturday sessions. In spite of everything, the children



Gaja and Gintautas in their Vilnius apartment.

spoke with great enthusiasm about their teachers and classmates. They talked about all the creative things they did beside their academic studies, such as plays, musicals, and sledding. Please keep in mind that Lithuanian teachers, unlike their American counterparts, are not threatened by the fear of lawsuits every day

when Gintautas became very homesick for his father, her relatives would take him outdoors for some sort of physical activity, which seemed to help him. Probably one of the biggest extravagances the family enjoyed was a weekly telephone call back to Philadelphia. These telephone calls were therapeutic to the families on both sides of the Atlantic.



A father in Ignalina trying to keep his family together, the mother abandoned the children.

they enter a classroom. Therefore, they can afford to be creative in class or to take the children outside to enjoy sledding. Rasa, who was in sixth grade, explained that much of their learning was oral rather than written. They were reading international authors so that they would be able to discuss literature with students from anywhere in the world. The usual amount of homework was at least two hours a night. Rasa said that some of the things she learned in Lithuania in the sixth grade, she would be learning two years later as an eighth grade student in Philadelphia. The album was filled with pictures of Gaja in the many plays and musicals that were part of her kindergarten education. In one picture she portrayed a mushroom! The kindergarten teacher insisted that every child needed a nap and so something similar to little drawers would be opened and the children would take a rest. It was agreed that there were fewer discipline problems in the Lithuanian schools. Gintautas also enjoyed his school days, but he spoke more about his activities outside of school. He told me how good he became at chopping wood and fishing. His mother told me that

breaths while they were in the classroom. The older children wore their coats all day in school. They would often bring hot tea from home to drink while they were in class.

The winter months were filled with visiting friends and family and taking part in outdoor activities. First priority on the visiting schedule was to find someone in the part of Vilnius that had hot water. The grapevine worked overtime. As soon as a friend was located who had hot water, the entire family would go to visit. They would take their towels, soap shampoo and set out for their visit. Of course, no well bred Lithuanian ever goes to visit someone empty-handed, so there was always some small treat to share. The trip would be made the usual way that Lithuanian travel, on a crowded city bus. The baths and hair washing would take the better part of the day, so there was a lot of time for conversation. When Jurate's part of the city had hot water, she would reciprocate by inviting her friends over for a bath. This

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Valentinas Raugas

Plans for Lithuanian Security



A conference for retired and former Lithuanian-American officers of the Armed Forces of the United States was held in the Baltimore area on June 17, 1995. The conference was held under the auspices of the Baltic Institute. Conference organizers included: Algimantas Garsys, Col. U.S. Marine Corps (Retired), John Kronkaitis, Col. U.S. Army (Retired), Donatas Skucas, Lt.

Col., U.S. Air Force (Retired), and Eugenius Vigelis, Col., U.S. Army (Retired). John Kronkaitis chaired the conference. The purpose of the conference was to adopt a proposal for the security plan for the armed forces of Lithuania. The proposal was patterned after the existing organization and structure of the U.S. defense establishment. Emphasis was placed on adhering to democratic principles in the formulation of the plan. The goal of eventual admission into NATO membership was also stressed.

A presentation of the various aspects of the proposal was made to the participants of the conference. In the afternoon, the proposal was formally presented to the Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States, Adolfas Eidintas. In his acceptance speech, Ambassador Eidintas promised that the proposal document would be hand delivered by him to the President of Lithuania, Algirdas Brazauskas, within two days of the conference. President Brazauskas would then have the

option of formally presenting the proposal to Seimas for possible implementation into law.

The purpose of the proposal is to establish a system for the national defense of Lithuania as stipulated in Section XIII of Lithuania's Constitution. The provisions of the proposal would be known as The Lithuanian Defense Reorganization Act of 1995, once it is to be enacted into law.

The basic proposal conforms with the provisions of the Lithuanian Constitution and NATO requirements. It conceptualizes the Defense structure and forms a philosophical foundation for the Lithuanian Armed Forces.



Warrant Officer G. Ambrozaitis who spent 9 months with the Lithuanian army.



Many factors and principles were taken into consideration in the preparation of the proposal. First and foremost was the basic principle of democratic government and its adherence to the concept of civilian control of the military. The military structures of large and small countries were studied, as well as the specific security threats to Lithuania. The conclusion reached was that Lithuania would fight to

Valentinas Raugas is a Lithuanian-American and former U.S. Marine Corps officer.



Colonel G. Klimas speaking at the Conference.

action and has to have the capability of rapid mobilization. It must also be well-trained and well-equipped. Respect for the individual must be a basic tenet of leadership. Effective organization of Lithuania's armed forces would also facilitate admission into NATO membership.

During the conference, the group also heard from several officers who either had officially trained or visited with the Lithuanian army units. The impressions were marked with the presence of many problems, among which the most formidable being the fact that many officers were former Soviet Army officers and as a result, portray Soviet-style leadership and emphasize Soviet military doctrine. This results in lack of initiative and lack of flexibility in a combat situation on the part of the individual combat soldier. The concept of centralized planning and de-centralized execution needs to be developed.



Col. A. Garsys (USMC, RET) who spent 6 weeks with the Lithuanian army.

no common basic training sites and no common basic training program. SKAT units were generally considered

preserve its sovereignty, protect its citizens, and secure national borders. The proposal establishes an organizational structure and defines lines of authority and responsibilities. It also assigns missions, prescribes functions and provides for the creation of a military justice system.

In addition, the conference stressed that Lithuania needs armed forces which are flexible and prepared for a broad range of contingencies. The Lithuanian army must be capable of quick re-

action and has to have the capability of rapid mobilization. It must also be well-trained and well-equipped. Respect for the individual must be a basic tenet of leadership. Effective organization of Lithuania's armed forces would also facilitate admission into NATO membership.

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The use of military intelligence in combat is almost non-existent under the Soviet-style of waging war. The presence of Interior troops is a controversial issue and a major concern since their control is outside the chain-of-command of the army and they may be used against the citizens of Lithuania. The present conscription program of one year is another weakness since it is much too short. There are also

under-trained and lacking combat-effectiveness. On the positive side, the caliber and quality of the junior officers is excellent, as good as those in the US Armed Forces. There is also a growing recognition of the need for much more training in the English language. The development of a Non-Commissioned Officers' School patterned after that of the US Army is a significant step in the right direction. Currently, Lithuania is receiving assistance from the U.S. through a military-to-military exchange program, the Partnership For Peace programs and training, and the designated Pennsylvania National Guard Unit (PA/79th ARCOM) which has the responsibility for providing assistance to Lithuania's Army.

School Year

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certainly was a far cry from the way she entertained in Philadelphia. As ridiculous as the whole thing sounds now, it was a way of bringing people together. They all had faced the same problems and they were all willing to help each other. As I have said in almost every article I have written in this column, democracy came with a high price tag.

Now that I have worked on this column for several days, I realize as hard as I might try I cannot write everything that happened to this family in one column and so I have decided to put it into two issues. I want to tell you about Jurate's work with the educators and parents and also more about her children.

I'd like to close by telling you about the Christmas preparations. There was great excitement because Rimantas was coming for Christmas. The children wanted everything to be just right so the search was on for the best tree they could find. Of course, all the family ornaments were left behind in Philadelphia. When the tree was found, they decorated it with handmade ornaments and candles, but found the top was still lacking something special. It was decided to cut out a five pointed star for the top of the tree. To the family, it looked perfect, however, as friends opened the door they either gasped or looked alarmed, too polite to say anything. After much cajoling, Jurate found out the problem. It seems the only place the Lithuanians had seen this kind of star was in communist symbols and that was how they associated the Christmas star.

It was during this time that the weather was fierce. As Jurate and five year old Gaja were trying to walk across the street without being blown to the ground, Jurate turned to her small daughter and suggested that maybe all this was too much for them; maybe they should all go home. Gaja looked up at her mother and in a child's wisdom said, "Oh no, Mommy! This is just God's way of testing us. It will soon be better." After all, who could argue with a mushroom? Even a five year old understood there was still so much to be done!

Algirdas Rimas

Business News

List Your Company in Our Business Directory at No Cost

The Lithuanian-American Community's Economic Affairs Council (EAC) is planning to publish a business directory of US companies interested in trading with or investing in Lithuania. The publication will be written in both the English and Lithuanian languages. Copies of the directory will be distributed free of charge to Chambers of Commerce, business associations and government agencies in Lithuania in order to promote the American market-place. In the US, the directory will be available for sale to the public under terms yet to be announced in "BRIDGES".

If you are interested in having your company listed in the proposed EAC business directory, you may do so free of charge simply by getting in touch with us. Please write or fax, preferably using your company's letterhead stationery, to the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., 2060 N. 14th, Suite 217, Arlington, VA 22201, FAX (703) 524-0947, Attn: A. Rimas. We would need the following information submitted in your signed and dated letter:

- company's name
- full address including phone / fax / e-mail / telex
- year founded, approx. Annual sales, number of employees
- name of C.E.O. / president
- name of appropriate contact person (if other than C.E.O.)
- name and address of representative in Lithuania, if any
- short description of products and services offered
- short description of business aims in Lithuania (e.g. direct sales, looking for agent/distributor, source of imports, possible manufacturing base, etc.)

To ensure that your company gets listed, please let us hear from you, at the latest by October 30. You may also reserve a copy of the directory itself by attaching a check for \$30 payable to the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Your copy will be sent to you by direct mail and at no extra cost as soon as possible after publication which is expected to be in January, 1996.

We believe that the publication of a Directory of American Companies Trading or Investing in Lithuania would improve both your business prospects abroad and assist in the economic and commercial development of Lithuania. So please let us have your data soon. If you have any questions or comments, please write or fax

Algirdas Rimas at the above address or call him at (703) 471-1711.

Work With Your Local LAC, Inc Chapter to Organize a Business Committee

Delegates representing LAC, Inc chapters across the nation met on a hot June weekend in Washington, DC to review the Community's activities and plans for the future. Business relations with Lithuania was one issue raised at the Washington meeting. The EAC reported on its projects, including the May conference held in Chicago on doing business with Lithuania (we wrote about this conference in a previous edition of BRIDGES).

Despite the difficulties that many business persons have experienced in Lithuania during its current period of economic transition, the EAC believes that Lithuania continues to be a potentially desirable location for foreign investment and that many Lithuanian companies would make excellent trading partners for US firms. To assist in developing better business ties with Lithuania, the LAC has started a project to publish a business directory of American companies interested in Lithuania (see above article). The EAC has also proposed that each chapter of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc establish a business committee to serve as a point of contact between the importers, exporters and potential investors in its area and companies in Lithuania.

Specific suggestions on what such committees of local Lithuanian-American business persons could do include learning the addresses of their local chambers of commerce, trade associations interested in foreign trade, state and local business promotion agencies and principal companies interested in exporting. This reference information could then be shared with business visitors from Lithuania making their trips here potentially more rewarding for both themselves and for the local American business communities. The EAC could also assist in spreading information both in the US and in Lithuania on various trade opportunities that are offered by American and Lithuanian companies and in providing publicity on US trade fairs. The business committees would be performing a great service by gathering such information.

A detailed written account of how these business committees could work was distributed in June to the individual chapters of the LAC, Inc. Those readers who are interested in pursuing this topic further should contact their local LAC chapters or the EAC.

Market Study on Lithuanian Small Businesses Available

New material on market research related to small businesses in Lithuania was published recently. Dorothy Minkus-McKenna, professor of business administration at Marymount College in Tarrytown, NY, who has lived and taught in Lithuania, is the author of an article, "Pitfalls of Doing Market Research in Lithuania" which appeared in the November, 1994 issue of *Marketing Review*. Dr Minkus-McKenna also co-authored with Judith J. Kirchoff of Long Island University and Gytis Galkis of Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas a scholarly research paper titled, "Demographics of Indigenous Lithuanian Small Business: Market Opportunities and New Venture Niches".

This material contains ground breaking information and quantifiable data which should be interesting to US businesses that wish to sell in the Lithuanian market. Copies of the papers may be obtained by calling Mr. Paul Swaggart at (203) 655-4511.

Business News from Lithuania

In the last issue we reported on the passage of a new law on foreign investment. Now, the Lithuanian Seimas enacted a long-awaited law authorizing the creation of duty-free industrial zones. Details on Lithuanian laws may be obtained from Lithuanian diplomatic and consular offices in the US. The establishment of duty-free zones is intended to attract more off-shore investment into Lithuania. Investors could import goods duty-free into designated areas for the purpose of manufacturing or assembling products for re-export.

A new 20 percent tax on interest income was introduced recently on earnings from loans to or deposits at entities other than banks and official credit institutions. The tax covers corporate bonds. A separate tax on interest paid by banks is expected to be enacted in 1996.

The Seimas also voted to accept a reported offer from the US EXIM Bank to fund part of an off-shore oil handling terminal project carried out by the California engineering company, Fluor Daniel. The Lithuanian government reportedly will issue a guarantee for the EXIM loan. The Lithuanian press reported that the loan will be for \$80 million repayable in 10 years at 8.5 percent interest.

Government financing was extended to Lithuanian Airlines for its purchase of a used Boeing 737-200 aircraft from Delta Airlines. The \$6.4 million aircraft was built in 1982 and refitted for service with Lithuanian Airlines on routes to western Europe. According to news reports, the financing package consists of a repayment guarantees to Vilnius Bank and the State Savings Bank for loans totaling \$3.5 million and a direct interest-free government loan of 11.5 million litas. The aircraft has been named "Steponas Darius" in honor of the Lithuanian-American aviators who died completing the

first-ever nonstop flight between the US and Lithuania. A second Boeing is to be purchased, and as you may have guessed, it will be named "Stasys Girenas", the name of Darius' co-pilot.

Financing has also been secured for the development of Siauliai airport, a \$29 million project to be administered by the Dutch multinational, Philips. The city of Siauliai reportedly has put-up \$1.5 million. Another \$3 million reportedly has been loaned by the State Savings Bank to the Siauliai airport development company. The remaining funds, constituting the bulk of the needed financing, comes from a loan provided by Britain's Midland Bank. The project seeks to convert Siauliai airport into a major transit point for cargo. The project should break even if the airport succeeds in eventually attracting 15 flights per day.

"Lietuvos Rytas", Lithuania's largest circulation daily newspaper, has re-organized itself into a public stock corporation. The paper's shares are traded on the Vilnius stock exchange. Based on the initial capitalization of the company, its shares went on sale for 13 litas each (one dollar buys 4 litas). They are currently trading in the 20-30 litas range. The majority of the 90 plus stock holders are officers and employees of the paper.

IMPORTANT!!!

Effective September 1, 1995 BRIDGES address has changed.

ALL INQUIRIES and RENEWALS should be directed to:

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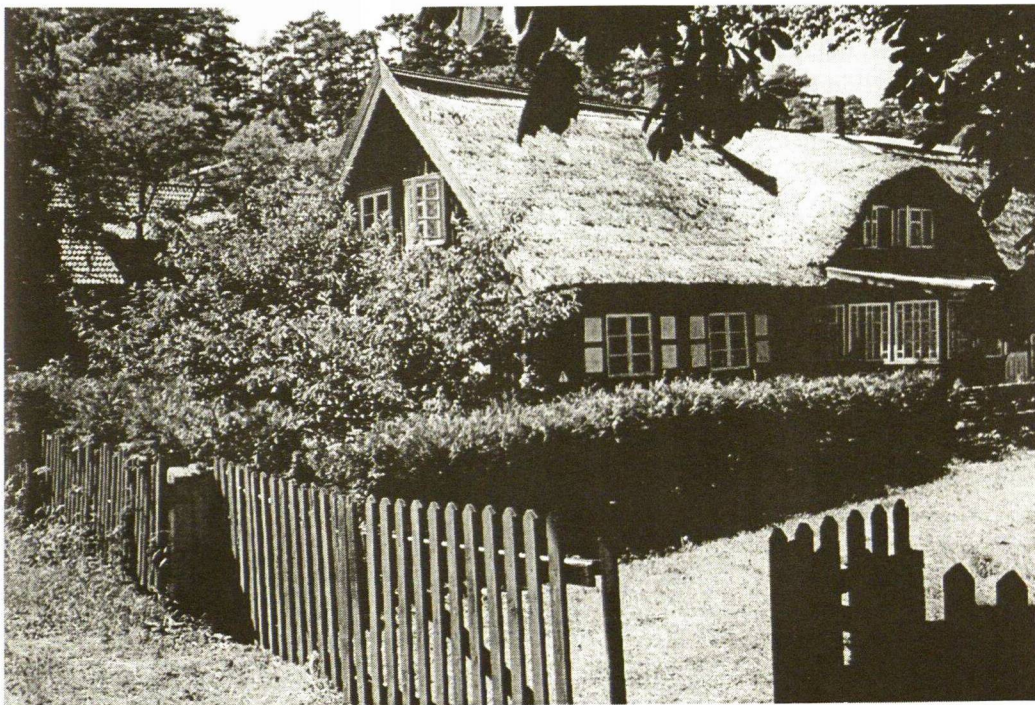
Nida: The Guest, The Guide and the Dracona!

Nida - a special place, I'd been told, and at long last, I was going there. My guide, the 26 year old daughter of a friend, had a friend who would drive us to Nida to stay with their neighbor, a retired 70 year old professor. But nothing is "for sure" in Lithuania, and our driver sold his

limousine was in the shop!) After some clock-watching, we arrived with only minutes to spare. Another pal saw us off; in 5 hours we'll be in Nida!

We had rolls and butter along with water bottles in our hand luggage for our breakfast on the bus. We had a

rest stop (Head for the woods!) And were in Klaipeda in no time. Automobiles must queue for the ferry, while buses have priority, so we boarded quickly all the while thinking how far back we would be in a car. The ride across is just minutes long but it was pleasant to get off the bus and enjoy that brief time in the fresh air, then we had a short ride to the place where we had to purchase permits to enter. People got off at various stops along the way; we rode to the end of the line.



Old house in Nida

car days before we were scheduled to depart.

"Plan B" - the guide would go to the bus station at 6AM to try to buy bus tickets for us. If she didn't call me back, my host and I would depart our flat at 7AM and meet her at the bus station. We got on our public bus at the end of the line and so were able to sprawl with my baggage (my carry-on, a duffel bag of food, and another bag of things I'd sent in a Relief shipment for our hostess in Nida) across the entire back seat. As the bus filled, we squeezed in to let a fellow sit down next to me. We were very cozy - he and I, thigh to thigh - and he stared at me for the almost hour long bus ride, finally erupting in laughter that an American would ride a trolley bus! (My

My guide and I struggled with our luggage until I could go no further, so she went on ahead, found our house and came back for me. The house was a quaint place: 3 families living in one building, each with a separate yard/garden and entrance, so there was privacy. This house previously belonged to the father of our hostess and she'd had it for 33 years at this point. It is even more of a treasure there than a vacation home here would be. Think of how few people are lucky enough to have 2 residences!

Our hostess heard me cough and blow my nose (I had the misfortune to become ill on my first day in Vilnius.) and turned into the Dracona (a dragon). I could not sleep in my "synthetic" nightdress; I would have to sleep in one

of her flannel ones - OK. It was cold; I would have to sleep in her sox - OK. One blanket was not enough; I would have to use 2 more (rolling over was near impossible) - OK. But, the crowning touch, 2 woolen scarves on my head and wrapped around my neck! Also, my sandals, scheduled for double duty at the beach and as house slippers, were deemed too cold - out came a warmer pair! I gradually disrobed - the scarves first, sox next, then a blanket, and finally off to sleep.

The next morn we (guide and guest) took a taxi (a van crammed to capacity: 4 rows of 4 people across, with no ventilation but loud music) to Raganu Kalnas (Witches Hill), my favorite excursion of the whole trip. It is a rigorous climb and not suitable for the faint of heart, but well worth the effort. I always think of these Lithuanian wood carvings as their version of our totems. The wood carvings in the wilderness are also my favorite thing in Lithuania - I think they are beautiful and unique, art at one with nature. We stopped for a snack near a throne and a huge dracona (she was always with us!). Several Germans passed us on the way, swatting at their bare legs - mosquitoes were merciless and I was grateful for my long sleeves and long pants. We climbed to the top and down again, enjoying the sculptures: hideous, horrible, beautiful and funny - the sliding board that has you walking up steps, through a carved head and finally sliding down the tongue! I climbed atop a wooden horse, doubting my ability until my guide (less than half my age) did it and encouraged me to do the same. There were many toys, tricks and games amidst the carvings. At the bottom of the hill it was time to take off my turtleneck and put on a short sleeved tee shirt. (This climate - cold in the morning, hot in the afternoon and cold again in the evening - kept me coughing and blowing my nose for the entire journey.)

We returned to our real live Dracona and found her at the cook stove (against our wishes - we asked for beds and nothing more; we'd brought food with us). Everyday we told her not to cook, and everyday we would reenact this same scenario. She would mix an egg, some flour and some curds (cottage cheese) in a bowl. One day it would patties, another day pancakes. Another day pancakes filled with cottage cheese (like blintzes). Except for the form, the formula never varied - always fried in copious amounts of lard and always served with sour cream. I have dangerously high cholesterol and this combination struck terror in my heart, not to mention my blood vessels.

The Dracona sniffed at my cans of water packed tuna

and salmon (supplemented by fresh cucumbers, tomatoes and bread) saying "conservatives" (the preservatives in canned food) cause all our allergies, cancer and AIDS! She did admit that she loved ketchup and showed me three jars of it in her refrigerator. I questioned,



Cemetery next to church in Nida

"conservatives?" and got a pussy cat smile in return. She also said cold drinks were harmful to my throat; only hot drinks would do! I was dehydrated for two weeks; there was no such thing as a cold drink, much less an ice cube, in Lithuania. My trusty water bottle was always with me, but by day's end, it was too tepid to be much more than "wet". One night as I had a coughing spell, she shook her finger at me and said that was from eating ice cream. Like naughty children, my guide and I had ice cream every night when we "escaped" for a walk before bedtime.

She did make cherry compote which I enjoyed, and as proof, I had to eat it for every meal, every day, to appease her. She ate 4 times a day and couldn't understand why I didn't eat more and more often (I am hardly wasting away and, frankly, always look forward to walking off a few pounds on these trips). Her gardens were her pride and joy, lovely flowers and the cherry tree as well as strawberries and raspberries.

The after meal ritual was always the same: the guide washed - taking grey water from the downstairs bathroom spigot into a small porcelain basin and "washing" the dishes with an equally grey rag that stayed draped over the kitchen sink spigot. No soap was used and I found this process unsettling as I dried and put away the dishes.

The kitchen tap water gave off a sulphur smell. It was used for tea or coffee, then the remaining boiled water was poured into a ceramic pitcher which remained atop

the refrigerator for drinking water. It was room temperature, not cold, and “things” (numerous and big enough to be easily seen) floated in it. Except for brushing my teeth, I preferred to use my own bottled water which I kept refrigerated (but not really cold).

Downstairs, you entered the front (and only) door through the veranda where we ate meals. There was only one set of keys, like those used to lock up a castle! One morning I tried to unlock the outside door and the key “floated” all around inside the key hole. Only the Dracona had that magic touch! Flies (that gave the term “horse flies” new meaning) buzzed constantly, completely unnoticed by “them”, but nerve wracking to me since my mother instilled in me a fixation that flies are dirty and thus must be swatted forthwith.

Since there are no screens on windows, flies are always with you.

Next there was a hallway with a door leading to the second level on the right, a bathroom under the stairs and the door to the kitchen on the left. The kitchen was



Walking along the lagoon in Nida

a spacious square; the sink and stove were tiny by our standards but there were built-in cupboards (the only ones I ever saw in Lithuania) recessed in one wall and a small table in front of them.

Beyond the kitchen was a very large room with enough space for single beds plus room to spare. Off to the right was another door into “my” room, where there was one single bed. My guide slept in the larger room and the Dracona slept upstairs where there were two small bedrooms and yet another bathroom - pretty spacious and pretty grand all in all.

Stairs in Lithuania seem relegated to the least possible space, therefore, the treads are short by our stan-

dards and the incline very steep. Going up is one thing, but those shorts treads on the way down make for slow going - at least for this “amateur”.

The Dracona presented me with two towels: a linen one for my “rankos” (hands) and a thin terry one for everything else - both were tea towel size as is customary there. Who knows how old the plumbing was, but no paper went into the toilet. There was a basket beside the toilet for paper. The downstairs tub was under the stairs; a contortionist would feel comfortable there. Since there was a dishpan under the bath tap to catch water and a board across the tub with various bar soaps and another dishpan on top, I took my baths crouched like a crab. A little awkward, but nothing duplicates the feeling of warm water rolling off your weary body at the end of the day.

We tried to go the “pliažas” (beach) about 3-5 PM so as not to burn. The guide always went in the sea (for a bath as well as a swim). That water is much too cold for me and I was content to lay quietly in the sand and read.

One morning we went to the beach early to find “gintaras” (amber) that might have washed up overnight. We spent several hours, finding little, but we walked a long way in peace and solitude.

Another morning we visited the Fisherman’s Cottage. It’s a sweet old blue clapboard house and garden near the lagoon. We also hiked up to the “kopos” (dunes), through the forest one day and up the stairs another. Many times it was just the two of us and Mother Nature.

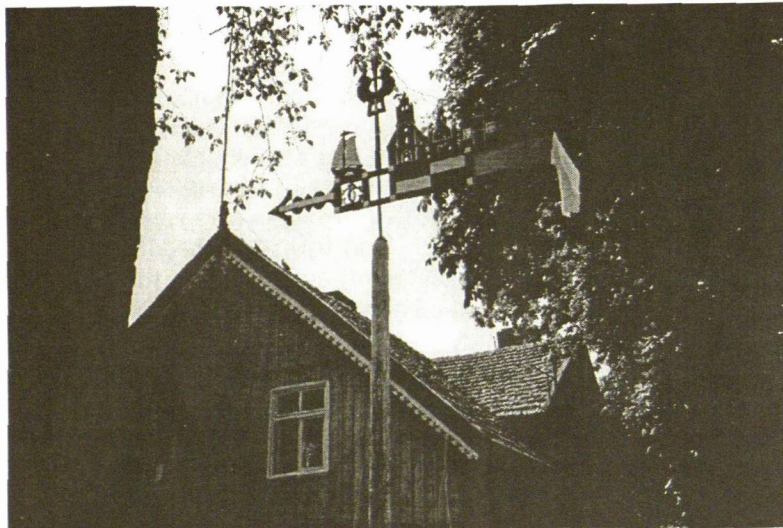
Thomas Mann lived in Nida for several years and his lovely home is now a museum. It is high above the lagoon with a breathtaking view through towering pine trees. We stopped more than once as we climbed the stairs from the street up to his house.

On Sunday, we attended Mass with the Dracona in her lovely church. She decided that my white slacks were appropriate, but

my guide appeared in an orange/black polyester dress. I gave her a questioning look; she looked sheepish and said, the Dracona! Too bad it wasn’t Halloween, because the dress would have been perfect. That same evening, my guide and I attended a harpsichord concert in the church after our promenade.

Nida is prohibitively expensive for most people and so is not crowded with Lithuanians, although Germans and Russians were in abundance. An article I read in the English/Lithuanian paper said lack of night life keeps young people away, but families seemed to enjoy it. There were mini skirts and flashy outfits galore each night for the promenade along the water.

We stopped in every shop and at every street stand to look at "gintaras" (amber) and other souvenirs. The most beautiful and expensive objects were, of course, in the



Street sign in Nida

shops. Natural linen sweaters were particularly lovely and the Gintaro Galerija had magnificent things for hundreds of dollars, but they were truly spectacular. In our meanderings, I saw an amber "žuvis" (fish) in the Galerija and another, not so nice and also more costly, in a small shop. Neither shop was willing to negotiate on price, so on my last day in Nida, I splurged and treated myself to the little beauty in the Gintaro Galerija; somehow the exchange rate that day was 10 litas in my favor - a small victory for me!

We had one rainy afternoon, just at our beach time, so we finally got down to the water about 5:00, at which time we would usually be ready to head for home. By this time most people were leaving the beach, but we nevertheless had some sea air and sea breezes that day too. The walk to the "pliažas" took about 20-30 minutes, a good husky distance.

One afternoon, we noticed a crowd gathering at the water's edge; a German woman had died in the surf. Attempts were made to revive her, but to no avail. We heard later that she had heart problems. It was chilling to see.

Later, we found out that another tourist had been struck and killed by lightning while climbing the kopos (dunes). Perkūnas, the god of Thunder, talked loud and long some days. Where I live in Virginia, that much noise would have meant a lot of rain

soon, but not so in Nida. While Perkūnas made a lot of noise, people did not scurry for cover and it usually did not rain. I don't think I saw any lightning there the whole time Perkūnas was grumbling.

Evening found us promenading with everyone else along the lagoon. The water was brownish and murky, not clear. It was disconcerting to see people fishing close to the stench of raw sewage washing up.

Our fifth and last day - the most beautiful - it's Murphy's Law! We had morning time at the beach since we were taking the "Raketa" (hydrofoil) back that afternoon as far as Kaunas. It was hot and lovely as we threw coins in the Baltic to insure our return someday. The Dracona asked when I was coming back although she was convinced that she would not be alive (she's only 70!).

I kept telling my guide, she (the Dracona) hates me (because I didn't cave in to her demands about my eating habits) and my guide kept saying, she likes us. The

Dracona wouldn't call me by my American nickname, and so she called me Ponia Kotryna. While she spoke no English and I speak/understand a little Lithuanian, she would occasionally speak to me at length and I would understand every tenth word if I was lucky. But that didn't stop her from "telling" me about all the dissertations in her family, who of her relatives would be coming to visit her next, the ones who had come to the United States, what their jobs were, about their big houses/cars, etc. She also told me that she was not interested in coming to America, but she would consider going to Italy



Devil sculptures at Raganu Kalnas

where they had things cultural and historical. There was the occasional pussy cat smile along with the lectures. But she did give me an amber ring, saying that she had another. I was surprised and touched. On our last day, she walked with us to the "Raketa" and stayed on the pier waving long after everyone else had departed. Her cottage was much quieter that night without us.

The "Raketa" was fun and I'm glad we took that mode of transportation home. However, the guide thought the trip took 2 hours so that we would arrive in Kaunas in time to get good connections to Vilnius. On that basis, we called a pal in Vilnius to meet us (running between the bus station and the train station because we didn't know which we would ultimately use, depending on our arrival time in Kaunas) and to help me get home again. Well, the trip took 5 hours, so our pal was pacing while we were on the river with no opportunity to advise him of our change of schedule. This also meant that instead of arriving at 5 or 6 PM (in time to buy something to eat), we arrived at 8:30 and would be lucky to make connections to get to Vilnius by 11. As luck would have it, I had a tiny can of Vienna sausages in my hand luggage. Don't tell the Dracona, but we devoured them, "conservatives" and all, laughing and licking our fingers.

We stopped a few times along the way for the hasty arrival or departure of another passenger. At Jurbarkas we waved to my friends; they were not there, but we saluted them anyway. When we had plans to go by car, we were going to stop there on our return.

Imagine my surprise when we disembarked at Kaunas and I looked up to see familiar faces. My friends had driven down from Jurbarkas to see me, however briefly. They brought a huge sack of cucumbers (from "my" Relief Shipment seeds), a cheese from their cow and a jar of honey from their bees. We took some photos after having a picnic on their blanket and then they drove us to the bus station where we made a fairly quick connection, albeit a "local". We boarded the bus like the gypsies we were, but this time including all the remains of our picnic plus another sack of three fish caught by my friend's husband! How fortuitous to see my friends, to get fed, to get a ride to the bus station and to make an easy connection. God is Good!

My guide saw me to my doorstep. After all, I am a babe in the woods there and easy prey. My friends all warned me about clutching my parcels to me on buses. Only after my guide had gone did I notice the sack of fish next to my suitcase on the floor near my bed! Thank goodness I saw them before I smelled them!

We had five lovely days in Nida - not perfect, but very nice. I wish the Dracona hadn't insisted on cooking every day; we would have been happy just to have sleeping quarters. It made for an uncomfortable situation when I saw her frying with huge amounts of lard that she

expected me to eat, even though we asked her daily not to cook for us, and when she peered suspiciously into every can that I opened. But it was an adventure; one that I will long remember.

People seem to have preferences for either Nida or Palanga. I've spent some lovely times in Palanga and was anxious to visit Nida. I found little difference: both have the same kind of beach, dunes and wooded walkways. Perhaps Nida is a little more woodsy, and Palanga a tad more sophisticated. Each is wonderful and very different from our beach resorts. I love them both!

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From the Lithuanian Press...

Selected excerpts from the Lithuanian Press in America.

Cultural Council Directory

The Lithuanian-American Community's Cultural Council is organizing lists of various musical groups, speakers and others who potentially could be invited to participate in various Lithuanian American commemorations and holidays. The Cultural Council has undertaken the coordination of the list of speakers, actors, singers, instrumentalists, ensembles and others in order to help communities, especially those further from the larger centers which want to invite participants from outside their communities. Names, addresses, phone numbers should be sent to Laima Zliobis, 1500 Lake Shore Dr., So. Barrington, IL 60010, tel. 708-381-3772.

(DRAUGAS, 7/29/95)

Chicago's Lithuanian Radio Programs

The "Rytmečio ekspresas" radio program can be heard (as of July 31st) in the Chicagoland area, Monday thru Friday 10am-11am WVVX 103.1 FM. Other "Zeme L" programs are: TILTAS, a weekly overview of news from Lithuania, heard Saturdays, and the cultural program VAIRAS which can be heard Sundays at 10am on WNDZ 750 AM. The address is: Lithuanian News Radio, Radio Station WVVX 103.1 FM, 210 Skokie Valley Road, Highland Park, IL 60035. The studio telephone is 708-831-1031, and the FAX number for advertisements and obituaries is 708-831-5296.

The American Lithuanian Radio Program changed its scheduling. Programs can now be heard on Tuesdays 8-9pm on WCEV, 14.50 AM. The Sunday morning program remains the same- 7-8am. Program Director is A. Slutas, 4459 S. Francisco, Chicago, IL 60632, tel. 312-847-4903.

(DRAUGAS, 7/29/95)

Lithuanian Naval Cadets

Two young Lithuanians are attending naval academies in the United States. Andrius Kaikaris is attending the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD and Vytautas Kacerauskis is attending the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT. These first cadets from Lithuania will finish their studies in 1999. There is hope that Lithuanian students will be able to attend all US Military Academies in the future. The "pioneers" were lucky to get full scholarships, worth more than \$31,500 each. The Lithuanian Freedom Through Education Fund, Inc. will again help young people prepare for the Scholastic Aptitude Test, since this type of exam is very new and different from exams taken by Lithuanian students. The

Lithuanian Defense Ministry and the Lithuanian Freedom Through Education Fund, Inc. are grateful to the Californians who supported the scholarship fund, donating the needed funds in a very short time. The students arrived in the United States in June and immediately went into basic training at their academies (one is seventeen years old, one just celebrated his eighteenth birthday). We wish the students the best of luck and hope their health and stamina hold up.

(DRAUGAS, 7/28/95, from an article by Liuda Avizonis)

K of L Convention

The 82nd Knights of Lithuania Convention took place August 6-13th at the Hilton Hotel in Novi, Michigan. More than 200 Knights of Lithuania representatives gathered from various U.S. cities and towns. At the banquet, former Michigan State University football head coach George Perles received a medal for his support of and work for Lithuania. The "Friend of Lithuania" award went to Mercy International Health

Service president Glen Haydon for the Service's efforts to build a modern hospital in Lithuania...The banquet was attended by representatives of all of the classes of St. Anthony Parish School. Among the visitors were Bishop Paulius Baltakis, OFM; the Director of the Seminary in Rome, Prelate Algimantas Bartkus; the General Secretary of the Lithuanian Bishops' Conference, Rev. Gintaras Grusas...Cardinal Adam Maida concelebrated with other priests...During his homily, the Cardinal congratulated the St. Anthony Parish choir for its uplifting singing, and mentioned that he would support the parish as long as there are parishioners. He has already allocated \$10,000 to "Aid to Lithuania" and an additional \$10,000 will be allocated to Bishop Baltakis to distribute during his visits to Russia and other former Communist countries. He acknowledged that Lithuania, too, is in need of support and help; he reminded listeners that the inventory (worth more than \$100,000) from the closed St. Peter's Church in Detroit was sent to Lithuania for a new church under construction in Alytus...Robert Boris is to be congratulated for his vision in seeing the possibility of joining the Knights of Lithuania 82nd meeting with the 75th anniversary celebration of the St. Anthony Parish.

(DRAUGAS, 8/17/95, from an article by "lm")

Lithuanian Scout Life Flourishes

211 Lithuanian Scouts camped in Camp Rakas, near Custer, MI beginning July 22nd-August 5th. The camp was

divided into three sub camps - Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and young families. The scouts spent their time learning practical scouting techniques in a Lithuanian language speaking environment. Dr. Dalia Trakis, Maryte Utz and a group of experienced scout leaders directed the camp. Parents of the scouts were invited to visit the camp during the week-end to observe the scouts in action. /From news sent from Rakas to DRAUGAS editors/

In Lithuania, the Kaunas Sea Scouts celebrated five years of scouting reborn May 11-14th by conducting a four kayak outing to Brazuole River...Other outings took scouts boating to various rivers and lakes of Lithuania, to camps, scouting and sailing courses throughout the summer...Kaunas sea scouts are busy learning sailing techniques on a small sailboat given to them as a gift by Dr. Algis and Mrs. Vija Paulius (of Elgin, IL)... The Kaunas "Divytis" scouts and leaders wish everyone "Gero vejo" (a sea scout slogan for sailors meaning "We wish you fair winds for sailing"-rk). /From news provided by Algimantas Malkevicius/

(DRAUGAS, 7/26/95)

Twins need more surgery

Vilija and Vitalija Tamulaitis (Tamulaitytes-plural, in Lithuanian-rk) are Lithuania's only "Siamese" (conjoined) twins. Born joined at the head, they were successfully separated in Texas. Now they are eight years old and their bodies have rejected one skull bone each. They are back in Texas, under the care of Dr. and Mrs. Vytautas Vygantas for more surgery. To help cover the costs of their surgeries, several Chicago area humanitarian aid groups pooled their efforts to coordinate a fund-raising luncheon at the World Lithuanian Center in Lemont, IL on July 9th. The groups include the "Sunlight Committee to Aid Orphans in Lithuania", Lithuanian Mercy Lift, Lithuanian Children's Hope, Lithuanian Orphan Care and Lithuanian Roman Catholic Charities, Inc.

(DRAUGAS, 6/24/95)

A new center was opened April 27th at Vytautas Magnus University's Humanities Faculty. It is a center for the study of Lithuania's diaspora (Iseivijos studiju centras, ISC). Rector Prof. Bronius Vaskelis spoke at the opening about the inspiration of well-known Lithuanian emigre activist and collector ("enciklopedistas") Bronius Kviklys who in 1989 had said "If I don't return to Lithuania, at least my library will". When Mr. Kviklys died in Chicago in 1990, his family sought to fulfill the second part of his wishes in finding a worthy home for his vast collections of Lithuanian language publications and publications about Lithuania, including many things he himself wrote. Participating at the opening was Ruta Kviklys-Kulikauskas who explained the particular sentiment her father felt for the university where he passed some of the happiest days of his youth. She felt that her father's archives found a safe and good home, and that the caretakers agree with her father's sentiments-that the material should be made accessible to all who show an interest. The Center's Director is the dean of the

Humanities Faculty, Dr. Egidijus Aleksandravicius, who said that when he first saw the collection, he was astounded. Its size and the variety of handwritten manuscripts is not typical of all such archives.

The collection includes the archives of former Lithuanian President Antanas Smetona (1940-44) during his time of exile in the post World War II years. It includes his correspondences with various Lithuanian activists of the time, and with U.S. politicians. It is clear that his efforts were geared towards reinstating Lithuanian independence. A yet unpublished manuscript, called "Lithuania Propria" is also in the collection.

The archives include manuscripts and notes of Bronius Kviklys as he prepared each part of his Lithuanian churches series. The book and journal collection of Mr. Kviklys comprised about 300 boxes. The entire container weighed 8 tons. Books include those written between the World Wars in Lithuania and the U.S., books written all over the world about Lithuania. There are also books published in Lithuania during Soviet occupation- in the humanities and public affairs. The oldest book found in the collection so far is dated 1774—a book in Polish published in Vilnius. Some of the books are unique in Kaunas, and researchers will not have to travel to Vilnius to see them.

A special exhibit was prepared during the opening of the center, similar to what B. Kviklys used to take around to Lithuanian American communities. They illustrated "gems" in his collection or various historical events. Plans are underway to organize more specialized exhibits in the future as well. The Center also has the archives of architectural historian Jurgis Gimbutas. It is hoped that more private collections will also be donated to the center. However, the center has no plans to compete with the monolithic collections of M. Mazvydas National Library of the library of Vilnius University. Our collections will not only be housed but studied by researchers through an interdisciplinary approach. It is hoped that the center will be able to organize conferences to discuss research about the Lithuanian diaspora. Some attention will also be focused on the recent emigration of Lithuanians, a phenomenon known for its economic motivations and inability to work with the previous wave of settlers, but which also has a psychological side worthy of study.

The public has shown interest in the collections, but they are still being cataloged and is not yet ready for public viewing. It is hoped that the center will help bring the diaspora closer to Lithuania, and will allow Lithuania to better understand the diaspora.

(DRAUGAS, 6/24/95, from a "Universitetas Vytauti Magni" May 1995 article reprint by Linas Saldukas)

Concentration Camp Memories

Stuttholf, Poland was chosen as a Nazi concentration camp site in August 1939. In 1940, 250 Poles were sent there. By 1943 when our group of Lithuanians was sent there, there were 3500. The camp was enlarged, and in 1944, there were 57,000 prisoners, and there 38 "branch camps" in the area. Arriving prisoners first saw the pond with swans swimming in front

which truly presented a very misleading picture of what took place in the camp. Ultimately, there were 110,000 persons there - men, women and children representing 23 countries and 25 nationalities (since Jews and gypsies did not live in one country). The torture was varied: slave labor, starvation, unhygienic conditions, many forms of physical and psychological torture...

A special 50th anniversary commemoration was held May 8-10, 1995 in Stutthof. I was invited to attend, along with other survivors or their relatives, by the Polish government. I went with some trepidation in my heart, since this was a mass grave where 65,000 persons were buried...How could I separate out the memories of each of my friends whose lives were snuffed out right next to me?...Should I feel happier that I survived? I can, however, be a witness. The worst memory is that of dying people thinking that no one will remember them. Kazys Bauba told me- "You are younger, you may survive. Tell my wife that I die with God in my heart and with her in my thoughts"...

An entire busload of persons came from Lithuania, including camp survivors, their families, historians, archivists, journalists, and television reporters. The bus was organized by the Genocide Research Center's General Director Vytautas Skuodis. Lithuania's Ambassador to Poland Antanas Valionis and General Consul Sarunas Valionis came from Warsaw. The commemoration included the dedication of a memorial plate (with an engraving "Lithuanians who suffered and died here"), religious ceremonies, and a procession. A wreath dedicated to survivors was carried by Lithuanian, Norwegian, Israeli, and Czech representatives. Ceremonies were conducted by Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran and Jewish religious. (The rabbi was concentration camp survivor Chackelis Zakas from Kaunas, since Polish rabbis had all been summoned to Israel for a special conference. Rabbi Zakas sang some very meaningful religious psalms which commemorate the dead.)

Attendees stayed at a Baltic resort Stiegen, where their Polish hosts were very considerate. There were opportunities to attend a religious music concert or a young people's concert. (DRAUGAS, 6/24, from an article by concentration camp survivor Pilypas Narutis, who now lives in the suburbs of Chicago)

Lithuanians invest abroad

It is strange that Lithuania's government does not interest itself in Lithuania's millionaires who are investing abroad. One sensational article in the January 20th LIETUVOS AIDAS quoted a clipping from THE HARTFORD COURANT of May 27, 1994. The owner of the "Romar" soccer team of Mazeikiai, "Nafta" businessman Romas Marcinkevicius purchased the "Sisti mansion" for \$2.7 million. The mansion, formerly owned by G. Sisti who went bankrupt, has 17 bedrooms, 33 bathrooms, a movie theater, an artificial waterfall. Apparently, the new owner paid cash. It is amazing that a soccer team owner, even with a winning team, could afford such a mansion. It is also interesting to ponder how the state-owned petroleum prod-

ucts salesman was able to direct that much money into his own pocket. Such matters are a "holy cow" (hot potato?-rk) in Lithuania these days. Such millionaires do not come to the attention of the Lithuanian government, and it is a shame that the millions are not directed to help the poverty-stricken in Lithuania: orphans, the elderly, return of deportees to Siberia. It seems easier to take the earnings of "bankrupt" Lithuanian banks overseas and form delegations which dash about the world looking for investors in Lithuania's economy or new loans for which there are not plans for return.

(DRAUGAS, 5/10/95, from an article by Bronius Juodelis)

Collective Farm Woes

The conversion of Communist kolchoz ("kolukiai") collective farms to private farms in Lithuania is encountering serious problems. Lithuania, a farm country, must now import grain and feed for animals. It is said that Lithuania now only farms about 40-60% of the land's potential. In the past five years, the number of cattle has dropped by 28%, the number of pigs by 54%. To date, about 130,00 landowners have taken over their rightful farmland—they farm 60% of the arable land, while for-profit groups farm 31% —they rent the land from the owners. Some say that the for-profit companies don't differ from the communal farms of Soviet days. The rate of unemployment has risen in the countryside along with apathy & laziness and alcoholism. Agricultural institute experts recommend crops to be farmed—those that don't require expensive fertilizer. According to experts, the farming methods of pre-War Lithuanian farms will no longer work in present-day Lithuania. It is recommended that farmers with small plots of land raise chickens, vegetables and flowers. The Soviets closed the cooperatives and a project was introduced a year ago to revive the cooperatives for milk, sugar, etc. Among other things, they would ensure farmers good prices. Government aid to farmers with financial hardships is also being suggested.

(DRAUGAS, 6/23/95, June 28, 1995 from an article by Juozas Navakas)

Mushroom exports

The first export of mushrooms has taken place from Lithuania's Dzūkija region to Germany. For one kilogram of "baravykai" and "voveraiciai", the German firm is paying 32 litai (\$8 U.S.). It is wet and warm in Lithuania this summer, so the mushroom season has already begun.

(DARBININKAS, 6/30/95)

Aid to Lithuania work continues

The President of "Aid to Lithuania", Robert S. Boris has announced that on June 12th the group's 25th container was sent to Lithuania. The 14,717 pound container was filled with medicines provided through the efforts of retired Memphis physician Dr. Bart Etter. The container was

designated for Kaunas. The group's 26th container, scheduled to be sent June 21st from the Catholic Medical Mission Board in New York. That container is designated for Caritas in Marijampole, where Dr. Emilija Montvila will distribute them to 12 hospitals.

(DARBININKAS, 6/30/95)

Pensions raised in Lithuania

The Lithuanian government has determined a new minimum wage. It will be raised by 30 litai as of July 1st to 150 litai. Presently there are 848,000 retirees in Lithuania. The average pension is 142 litai.

(DARBININKAS, 6/30/95)

Lithuanian Consulate opened in Dubai

Lithuania established a consulate in the United Arab Republic capitol of Dubai June 1st. The region is considered important since many Lithuanians travel to that city. In addition, the region is important to Lithuania because of investment and petroleum import possibilities. Lithuania's businessmen travel to Dubai to buy goods there which they send back to Lithuania in specially hired airplanes. The new consulate is the first for Lithuania in an Arab country.

(DRAUGAS, 5/24/95)

Toronto's "Gintaras" celebrates anniversary

The Toronto, ONT dance and folk ensemble GINTARAS celebrated its 40th anniversary May 27th in Anapilis Parish Hall with a three hour program. The group has been taught for the last 30 years by Rita and Juozas Karasiejus. The anniversary program featured 180 dancers who sang and danced their way through the stages of a person's life paralleling the growth of the group, from the young children's performance to the veterans' dances. It was clearly evident that the group had practiced for many months. It is wonderful that the young people still sing traditional Lithuanian folk songs, something that is unique among (diaspora-rk) Lithuanian dancing groups these days. One might suggest that the beautiful songs be further incorporated into the dancing, rather than be featured as separate entities. The group's growth was equated to that of an oak tree—the young people who grew as the young tree does, nurtured into strong saplings, young people who learned to love the music, song and dance of Lithuania. The group has danced in many North American communities, has danced at Disney Land, has travelled to Lithuania. The dedication of the Karasiejus

family (the Karasiejus children now teach the younger dancers) together with their energy and patience allowed the formation of a larger family which joins parents, grandparents and grandchildren. We can only hope that GINTARAS will survive for many more years, instilling the Lithuanian spirit in our younger generation— best wishes for the continued patience, health and dedication of

the group's leaders.

(DRAUGAS, 7/1/95, excerpted from a detailed article by Nijole Beniotas)

Books sitting on shelves

When visitors from Lithuania come to visit the Lithuanian language daily newspaper DRAUGAS administrative offices, their eyes are often drawn to the tables of Lithuanian language books. Although the cost of some of the books has already been lowered to \$1, these people can only pat the covers as they walk by, as if the book is a dear friend's face. Lithuanian language books have always been precious to Lithuanians. Knowing how to read has always been equated with being a knowledgeable, cultured person. It has been an honor, but also a responsibility. Many suffered to deliver Lithuanian language books to the people during the days when Russian czars and others censored and forbade Lithuanian language books, ideological books... They knew the power of the written word. Books are teachers. However, a book without a reader is dumb. It cannot pronounce its message. During the school year, teachers manage to persuade children to read even in this age of technological advancement, but during the summer not enough time is found. Unfortunately, the Lithuanian language book and journal literature is no longer of interest to young people growing up outside of Lithuania. It is understandable that to them, reading and comprehending what they read becomes more difficult in Lithuanian. People are used to taking the "easy road", so the poor Lithuanian language book is left on the shelf to gather dust. One wants to shout—who will occasionally read the Lithuanian book and give it new life?

(DRAUGAS, 7/1/95, from an editorial by Danute Bindokas)

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Florence Morkus

Special Olympians Win Gold

The 1995 Special Olympics World Games were staged throughout greater New Haven, CT in July. Every four years since 1968, when the first Special Olympics World Games were held in Chicago, thousands of athletes from around the globe meet for nine days of international sports competition. This year from July 1-9, more than 7,200 adults and children with mental handicaps from 140 nations, including Lithuania, competed in the widest variety of sports. There were 45,000 volunteers and \$30 million from sponsors which made the event possible. In addition to the 500,000 spectators at the Games, millions of television viewers around the world were able to witness the events.

The town of Haddam sponsored the 24 Lithuanian Olympians and their coaches. The delegation of four young women, 15 men and 5 coaches stayed together at Camp Bethol in Haddam. Many activities were planned for the delegation prior to the start of the Games. Since translators were needed, several members of Holy Trinity Parish in Hartford volunteered to help.



Lithuanian Special Olympians on a cruise down the Connecticut River; l to r Jurga, Daiva, Nijole, Florence Morkus, Irga.

The Boy Scouts treated the Lithuanian delegation to breakfast and then awarded them Boy Scout medals for which the Lithuanians thanked them by singing a Lithuanian folk song. Later that day, the delegation



watched the Olympic torch run which brought the Olympic flame from the Acropolis in Greece. They ended their day with a boat cruise on the lovely Connecticut River, where William Gillette, the actor, built his million dollar castle high on a hill

in the early 1900's. The Lithuanians enjoyed the sightseeing, while translators introduced them to such American favorites as Pringles potato chips and Werther's candy.

The athletes then went on to compete in the Games, in which they fared well. They spoke of their triumphs at a cookout hosted by the Porters of Haddam. Medals were claimed by the Lithuanians in basketball, power lifting, table tennis, golf and running.

The highlights of the Games included a 4th of July fireworks extravaganza as well as a visit from President

and Mrs. Clinton. Yet, when asked what they enjoyed the most, Audvydas Balchiunas replied that the best time was had in Haddam - because of the warmth of their hosts.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver - founder of Special Olympics International said, "In a world where poverty, war and oppression have often dimmed people hopes, Special Olympics athletes rekindle that hope with their spiritual strength, their moral excellence and their physical achievements...For as we hope for the best in them, hope is reborn in us."

It was truly gratifying to see the Lithuanian Special Olympians as part of this hope.



Haddam, CT welcomes the Lithuanian Special Olympics Athletes

The many activities the Lithuanian athletes enjoyed included a pancake breakfast graciously hosted by Boy Scout Troop 44 at Camp Gustafson.



Audvydas Balchiunas has nothing left to give after winning the World Games half-marathon in 1:17:19.

Marc Yves Regis/The Hartford Courant

Ramune Kubilius

29th Lithuanian Studies Week

Lithuanian culture will remain alive in North America as long as young people show an interest. Posing for cameras are the young participants of the Lithuanian Studies Week, held August 6th-13th at Camp Dainava, near Manchester, MI. Some of those pictured are children of Lithuanian language teachers attending the camp, others are the children of those attending the Lithuanian language classes. All of the children and their group leaders sang Lithuanian songs,

learned to dance traditional dances and enjoyed the active days of life at Camp Dainava. Pictured in the upper left is LAC Educational Council member Vida Brazaitis who coordinated the activities and program of the almost three dozen children at the camp.

The Week included some musical moments. Here Juozas Kasinskas plays the traditional Lithuanian "kankles", Lynn Cox and Alfonsas Seniunas play accordions, while Ziggy Mikuzis plays his



"kitchen drums and kettles".

Educational Council member Alicija Brazaitis, President Regina Kucas and former President and author of a new book/audio cassette program to Learn Lithuanian,



Jonas Kavaliunas

A trio of happy Talent Night viewers; in the center is Danguole Varnas, the "Spinduly" dance group choreographer/instructor from Los Angeles, surrounded by Michigan residents.



Plans for the Ninth Lithuanian Symposium on Arts and Sciences

The next annual Symposium on Arts and Sciences will take place in Vilnius on November 22-25, 1995. The Cultural Congress is scheduled to take place immediately following the Symposium.

The Symposium provides an opportunity for members of the academic community to meet and share thoughts on their accomplishments as well as their goals with the entire Lithuanian community.

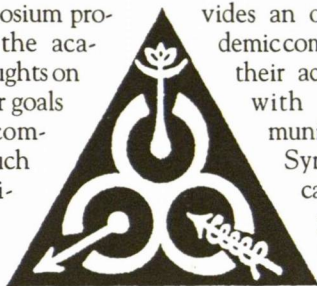
The first such Symposium took place in Chicago in 1969. Subsequent Symposiums were held every four years in Chicago, until 1991, when it was held in Vilnius and Kaunas. Many Lithuanian scholars from the US and elsewhere participated, solidifying relationships between themselves and their Lithuanian counterparts.

The Board of Directors for the Ninth Lithuanian Symposium on Arts and Sciences encourages Lithuanians living abroad to participate in the upcoming Symposium. The Symposium provides a unique opportunity to strengthen relations between Lithuania and Lithuanians living abroad.

Persons interested in making presentations are asked to forward their subject thesis via e-mail by Sept. 30, 1995 to: mkstezes@uj.pfi.lt or by mail to: Studentu g-ve 39, VPU Teorines fizikos katedra, 2034 Vilnius, Lithuania. Please include a 4 X 6 black & white photo of the author. Questions regarding the symposium can be forwarded via e-mail to: mks95@uj.pfi.lt

Further information regarding the Symposium will be

published as soon as it becomes available. In the meantime, inquiries can be directed to Albertas Kerelis, 9525 S. 79th Ave., Hickory Hills, IL 60457. Tel (708) 599-2000, a member of the Board of Directors here in the US.



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