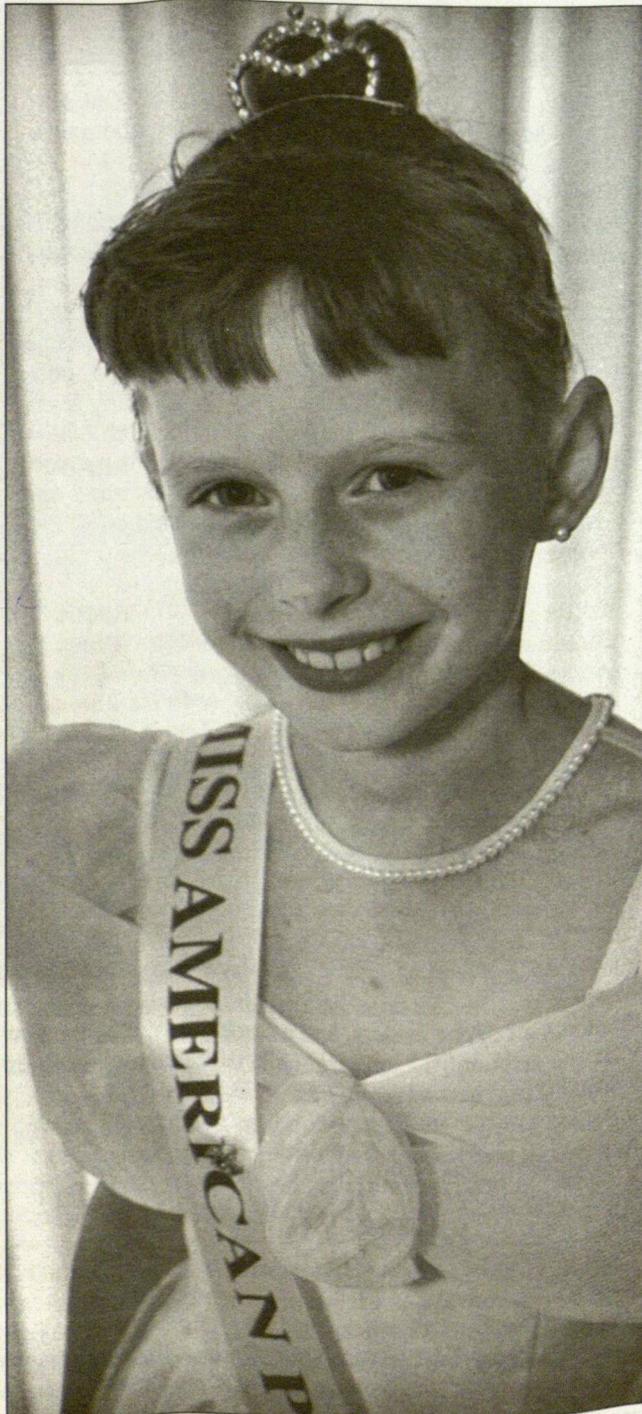


BRIDGES

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Volume 20, No. 10

DECEMBER 1996



CONTENTS

Table of Contents

- 3 **Politics**The Ends of
Non-Recognition Policy:
Washington and the
Recovery of Independence
Paul Goble
- 7 **Opinion**NATO: Bigger Is Better
William Safire
- 8 **Business** ..Business and Investment News
Algis Rimas
- 12 **Newsbriefs**Bits and Pieces
Ramunė Kubilius
- 18 **Culture** ...Description of the Lithuanian
Museum-Archives of Canada
Rasa Mažeika
- 19 **Media**Videos from Lithuania
- 20 **Health**Excerpts from Lithuanian
Health Publications
Ramunė Kubilius
- 24 **Human Interest**The Americanizing
of Alina
Rachel Brown
- 26 **Human Interest**Adopting Older
Children: A Dream Come True
Michele Brand
- 27 **Human Interest**From Lithuania to
Catonsville, With Love
Cheryl Clemons
- 29 **Human Interest** ...A Journey to Linkuva
Jeanne Dorr
- 32 **Education**Officer Offers
Lithuanians Advice on Policing

To Our Readers:

Christmas is a time of thanksgiving, and a time for reflection on the year past and the new year ahead. This issue of BRIDGES attempts to look at both.

We can be grateful that Lithuania has made it through another year of independence, and still stands firm. We can breathe a little more easily now that the populace cast its vote for a Parliament no longer heavily comprised of former Soviet functionaries. It seems that disillusionment set in with the rule of those to whom the Lithuanian voters had turned during a time of economic deprivation, so much so that they are willing to chance it once again with the "piano player."

The next charge is membership for the Baltic countries in NATO. It is an uphill struggle, and one not popular among American isolationists. NATO membership, however, is an inevitable link that Lithuania must forge in order to assure its place in the world community. William Safire and Paul Goble speak to this issue eloquently. Algis Rimas gives us a thumbnail sketch of ministers in the new government.

On a more personal note, we bring you stories in this issue not only of orphans who have benefited from the generosity of American patrons, but also of orphans who have been successfully adopted by Americans. Seven of these children attend the same Lithuanian Saturday school that my children do (Karaliaus Mindaugo in Baltimore). I feel particularly happy to be able to bring you the firsthand story of one of the mothers, Michele Brand. Alina, one of the four children Michele and her husband, Philip, have adopted from Lithuania, is featured on the cover of this month's issue.

In this issue we would also like to recognize the success of two private ventures which have brought the history and culture of Lithuanian closer to those of us in the US. The first, Val Ramonis' Lithuanian Heritage Magazine, is a glossy, bi-monthly English-language publication with a wealth of useful articles and information. We include a list of contents of back issues. The two-year old magazine is one you will be proud to have on your coffee table.

The second is Arvydas Reneckis' shop in Downers Grove, Illinois. For years I have searched for a good source of quality Lithuanian-language videos already converted to the American system. Reneckis' offerings range from the documentary about the late Stasys Lozoraitis, Jr. to many children's films

A special thanks goes to Ernest C. Raskauskas, Sr. and Frederick L. Potter who together donated \$10,000 to Lithuanian Orphan Care in the name of the late Joe Simanis. Their generosity is exemplary. And a special

BRIDGES: Lithuanian-American News Journal
(USPS 0735-830) is published 10 times per year by
the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.
2060 N. 14th Street, Suite 217, Arlington, VA 22201

BRIDGES

Editorial Offices

7416 Piney Branch Road
Takoma Park, MD 20912
Voice 301-588-8559
Fax 301-588-8942

Subscription Offices

LAC, Inc. Treasurer
1927 West Boulevard
Racine, WI 53403

Subscription rate is \$18.00 annually (US Mail serviced subscribers; subscriptions to other addresses are \$32.00), payable in advance (US funds). Periodicals Postage paid at Auburn, MA 01501; and additional locations. Copyright ©1996 Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission of the publisher. All statements and opinion, including product claims, are those of the organization/advertiser making those statements or claims. The publisher does not adopt, or put forth, any such statement or claim as his own, and any such statement or claim does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher. Unsolicited manuscripts must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope if return is desired.

EditorDiana Vidutis
BusinessAlgirdas Rimas
Humanitarian AidJeanne Dorr
Political NewsAsta Banionis
Contributing EditorPaul A. Goble
Contributing EditorRamune Kubilius

BRIDGES - The Official Publication of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc.

Postmaster: Send any address corrections and/or changes to
BRIDGES JOURNAL, 2060 N. 14th Street, Suite 217, Arlington, VA 22201.

thanks to all of our readers, and a sincere wish that the new year is a bountiful one for all Lithuanians, both in Lithuania and abroad.

Su viltim,

Diana S. Vidutis

Cover photo by Ed Bunyan, Staff, Catonsville Times

Paul A. Goble



The Ends of Non-Recognition Policy: Washington and the Recovery of Baltic Independence

On August 31, 1991, the Lithuanian government issued the following press release:

Mr. Landsbergis thanked him for his good words and future good news, also for the fact that President Bush informed him in advance. "Always, even during the most difficult times, we had confidence in you and America," said Mr. Landsbergis, wishing President Bush good health and success.

This statement came 51 years after the Soviet Union illegally occupied the three Baltic countries, an action that prompted the United States to declare and maintain that it never recognized the forcible incorporation of the Baltic states into the Soviet Union.

It came 17 months after Lithuania had declared the recovery its independence and eight months after Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had sent Soviet troops into Vilnius and Riga, an action that cost more than 20 lives.

It came one month after President Bush chose not to hold Moscow responsible for murderous attacks on Lithuanian border posts and also one month after he told a Ukrainian audience that the pursuit of independence was a form of "suicidal nationalism."

It came 10 days after the Moscow coup collapsed and Estonia and Latvia had joined Lithuania is seeking the immediate recovery of their independence.

It came one day before President Landsbergis was scheduled to appear on an American Sunday morning talk show to discuss his reaction to the failure of the U.S. to follow the lead of most European countries and Canada in recognizing the recovery of Baltic independence and hence the legitimacy of the governments there.

Mr. Goble is assistant director for broadcasting at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. In 1990-91, he served as Special Advisor for Soviet Nationality Problems and Desk Officer for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania at the State Department. The views expressed here are his own.

And this statement appeared two days before President Bush announced that the United States now recognized the governments in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, thereby becoming the 37th country to take this step, just after Cuba and just ahead of Outer Mongolia, according to the score-card kept in the Baltic newspapers at that time.

Thus closed what many saw as the final chapter in the history—sometimes glorious, sometimes sad—of America's non-recognition policy.

Three Sources of an Unexpected Policy

Like the Bush Administration's actions in 1991, the origins of American non-recognition policy reflected the interplay of three factors: basic American principles, the imperatives of domestic politics, and hardheaded calculations about the pursuit of American national interests abroad.

The Soviet occupation of the three Baltic states in June 1940 confronted the United States with an unwelcome situation and a challenge to its foreign policy. The Soviet government claimed that these three countries had asked to join the USSR, but it was immediately and painfully obvious that Stalin had invaded them on the basis of his earlier agreement with Hitler, the notorious Molotov-Ribbentrop pact of August 1939 which divided Eastern Europe into spheres of influence and set the stage for World War II in Europe.

The United States was already on record as opposing any change in the political map of the world by force. In September 1931, Secretary of State Henry Stimson condemned the Japanese creation of a puppet regime in Manchuria and said that the United States would not recognize any change in political status by means "contrary" to the covenant of the League of Nations and the 1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact. And this policy, known as the Stimson Doctrine, remained settled American policy, having perhaps especial force regarding countries that the United States had diplomatic relations with, a status Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania had enjoyed since the 1920s.

Following the Soviet military occupation of the Baltic states, officials in the Department began to consider what could be done. The head of the working group, the European Affairs Division's Loy Henderson argued in a confidential memo for a clear response to Soviet aggression:

"Is the Government of the United States to apply certain standards of judgment and conduct to aggression by Germany and Japan which it will not apply to aggression by the Soviet Union? In other words, is the Government ... to follow one policy with respect to, say Czechoslovakia, Denmark, and German-occupied Poland, and another policy with respect to Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, and Finland? Is the United States to continue to refuse to recognize the fruits of aggression regardless of who the aggressor may be, or for reasons of expediency to close its eyes to the fact that certain nations are committing aggression upon their neighbors?"

Henderson's argument persuaded Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles to issue a declaration on July 23 that became the foundation of American non-recognition policy:

"During these past few days, the devious processes whereunder the political independence and territorial integrity of the three Baltic Republics—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—were to be deliberately annihilated by one of their more powerful neighbors, have been drawing rapidly to their conclusion. From the day when the peoples of these Republics first gained their independence and democratic form of government, the people of the United States have watched their admirable progress in self-government with deep and sympathetic interest. The policy of this Government is universally known. The people of the United States are opposed to predatory activities, no matter whether they are carried on by the use of force or by the threat of force. They are likewise opposed to any form of intervention on the part of one State, however powerful, in the domestic concerns of any other sovereign state, however weak."

In addition to Henderson's reaffirmation of American principles, Welles' statement reflected calculations about both domestic politics and broader foreign policy issues. On the one hand, Franklin Roosevelt was running for a third term, and the Baltic diasporas in the United States numbered more than 600,000 people. Consequently, it is no surprise that Roosevelt met with representatives of the largest diaspora group, the Lithuanians, and reassured them that Washington would not recognize the forcible incorporation of the three Baltic states by the Soviet Union.

On the other hand, Washington was under some pressure to act from Latin American countries who had already declared a policy of non-recognition of Soviet aggression. And Washington found it relatively easy to act because

Moscow was so clearly cooperating with Berlin—especially so because Washington expected that all the states whose independence had been compromised during the war would be restored and because Washington was not committing itself to liberating these countries, only to a moral stance against aggression.

Franklin Roosevelt was running for a third term, and the Baltic diasporas in the United States numbered more than 600,000 people. Consequently, it is no surprise that Roosevelt met with representatives of the largest diaspora group, the Lithuanians, and reassured them that Washington would not recognize the forcible incorporation of the three Baltic states by the Soviet Union.

And that balance among the sources of the policy inevitably changed as Washington's relations with Moscow shifted from Nazi ally to American ally to American enemy in the Cold War to closer cooperation later on.

What The Policy Meant and What It Didn't

If American non-recognition policy was primarily a moral stance, it nonetheless had three important consequences for American action, in addition to the impact Washington's moral position had on other countries and peoples.

First, the United States from 1940 to 1991 continued to receive diplomats appointed by the Baltic governments before 1940 (and after 1980 to Baltic diplomats appointed by senior members of the Baltic diplomatic services). To that end, the Department maintained a Baltic desk officer, albeit not an especially busy position and one who always had other responsibilities as well. Indeed, for many years, his only task was to prepare national day greetings and to review the budgets of the Baltic diplomatic missions. Such a review was necessary because throughout this period the U.S. disbursed funds from the frozen accounts of the Baltic governments held in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Thus, the Baltic missions were always paid by their

own governments. (The only exception was that the Lithuanian legation in Washington received funds from its two Baltic partners after it ran out of money in 1981.) And it kept the Baltic flags flying in the Department lobby and insisted that US government maps carry a note that Washington did not recognize the forcible incorporation of the Baltic states by the Soviet Union.

Second, the Department prohibited any senior official—generally defined as someone whose position required confirmation by the Senate—from visiting the three countries under Soviet occupation. While more junior officials could and did visit the three countries—indeed, consular officers from Leningrad regularly visited the three—no American ambassador to Moscow ever did in his official capacity.

And third, the United States publicly declared that it did not recognize the governments installed there or their actions as legitimate, a legal position with enormous consequences both then and even more after these countries recovered their independence. Because such a position meant that all Soviet actions there were without any legal standing in the view of the United States, unless and until they were reconfirmed by freely elected governments.

But it is equally important to remember what the policy did not include and what it did not commit the United States to do. Again, there were three main points: First, the United States did not recognize any governments in exile, despite the formation of several such entities. Instead, Washington effectively said that it would deal only with the governments whose ability to function had ceased because of Soviet occupation.

Second, the United States did not commit itself to any specific action beyond moral condemnation. Consequently, Washington had wide scope for shifting its application of the policy as relations between the United States and the Soviet Union evolved. When relations between Moscow and Washington were good, the US did play down but never ended its non-recognition policy. When relations were bad, then non-recognition policy was used as a political weapon.

Despite the expectations of many, the U.S. took many steps over fifty years which many denounced as de facto recognition of Soviet power there. It returned Simas Kudirka, a Lithuanian sailor who sought asylum on an American ship in 1970, and it gradually expanded diplomatic visits to the area in the 1980s.

And third, the United States did not assume that its position was permanent. Instead, it based its policy on the principle that the peoples of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania had not had the opportunity to express their views on the subject of incorporation. Were they to do so, and to approve the incorporation, the United States was willing to acknowledge that the basis of its policy had changed and

that the policy itself was thus extinguished. But that never happened.

All these things sparked sharp criticism from Baltic Americans, members of Congress and others concerned about freedom in the Baltic states. But it is worth noting here that three charges often made against the United States in general and the State Department in particular are not true.

Despite some clumsy language at Potsdam, the United States did not commit itself to recognizing Soviet occupation of the Baltic countries as legitimate at some future peace conference. Moreover, despite Soviet claims, the US did not recognize Soviet power there in the Helsinki Final Act. Instead, American negotiators and President Gerald Ford explicitly noted that nothing in that document changed American non-recognition policy. And third, the State Department did not actively oppose the policy despite occasional comments by some desk officers and others to Baltic Americans that suggested Washington should give up on what they called a quixotic policy. Indeed, the Department never acted with open contempt to the rights of Baltic diplomats as did some of the other foreign ministries whose countries also maintained a non-recognition policy.

A Policy Put to the Test

American non-recognition policy was put to its greatest test in March 1990 when the Lithuanian people succeeded in electing a government that announced the restoration of the pre-war independent state. While this event captured the minds of the American people and warmed the hearts of Baltic Americans, it certainly complicated life for the American government which was actively pursuing closer ties with the Soviet government of Mikhail Gorbachev.

Immediately, journalists and congressmen began asking when would the first American ambassador be appointed to Vilnius. After all, the journalists said, did not non-recognition policy require just such a step? Such demands led Washington to make two important policy shifts. While neither of them explicitly compromised non-recognition policy, both caused serious problems both then and in the future.

The first of these was the enunciation by the Department spokesman of the principle that the United States could not recognize a government that did not control its own territory and borders and to which an American diplomat could not go without obtaining a visa from a third country. While reasonable on its face, this position in fact reversed the Department's earlier practice with regard to a number of other countries. And consequently, it appeared to many both then and now to be a concession to Moscow's sensibilities.

But the second was far more important. Within weeks of the Lithuanian action—and it was followed by slightly less dramatic steps in Estonia and Latvia—U.S. government spokesmen began changing the language in which they discussed the Baltic states. In place of references to non-recognition, these spokesmen began to talk about the right of all peoples to self-determination.

Such a shift may have gotten these spokesmen off the hook by squelching questions about when Washington would send an ambassador, but it had three far-reaching implications. First, it led many in the Baltic countries to feel betrayed because such a verbal shift inevitably lowered their status relative to the Soviet republics.

Second, it radicalized Ukrainians and other non-Russians in the USSR because it suggested that Washington would support them just as much as it had supported the Balts. After all, Washington had routinely referred to their right to self-determination.

And third, and most important, it convinced hardliners in Moscow that their past interpretation of American non-recognition policy was correct, that Washington was using non-recognition policy as a Trojan horse to destroy the Soviet Union. And hence it convinced them and ultimately Gorbachev that they must make no compromises with the Balts lest these lead to the destruction of their own country.

And when Gorbachev ordered the killings in Vilnius and Riga in January 1991, once again Washington was challenged on its policy and in the eyes of many in the Baltic states and elsewhere found wanting. The American people and the Congress, the repositories of American principle, were horrified. The Baltic Americans, numbering almost one million and the repository of domestic influence on Baltic policy, were outraged. But the American government, necessarily worried about doing anything that would undermine broader policy concerns such as the informal agreements with Gorbachev about Desert Storm, was very cautious.

And it continued that caution right up to the events described at the beginning of this essay, a caution that led many to conclude that Washington had betrayed its principled policy of non-recognition.

But as President Bush and his aides were at pains to say: all's well that ends well, and the actions of the United States, albeit slower than some might have wanted, were definitive on the recovery of Baltic independence, far more so than any other country's steps could ever be.

The Future of Non-Recognition Policy

Many in the Bush Administration and more generally were convinced that American recognition of the governments

in place in the Baltic states as the legal successors and continuers of the pre-war governments marked the end of non-recognition policy.

But such a conclusion was profoundly wrong. Not only had that policy had an impact on the Baltic states and on the dissolution of the Soviet Union in the past, but it has had three continuing consequences, even if many do not want to recognize them.

First, American non-recognition policy represents an international seal on the principle of legal continuity of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania from the 1920s, something the current Russian government has not yet been willing to recognize. Consequently, any dismissal of non-recognition policy and hence of Baltic exceptionalism undermines the independence of these states in the future.

Second, American non-recognition policy represents the legal basis for these states to overhaul the Soviet actions on their territories between 1940 and 1991, an overhaul that is far from finished and one that is a precondition of their becoming full members of Europe.

And third, American non-recognition policy, with all of its defects, represented and represents one of the longest sustained commitments to a position of principle against expediency in the world. To act as if that is a matter of only historical interest is thus to betray both our principles and our selves.

American non-recognition policy, with
all of its defects, represented and
represents one of the longest
sustained commitments to a position
of principle against expediency in the
world.

As Loy Henderson and Sumner Welles understood in 1940, that is something Washington must not do, because such a step, however much it might win us in the short term, would cost us infinitely more in the long run.

Consequently, like the Baltic states, non-recognition policy must not die; the survival of both is very much a matter of principle and policy for all of us.

WILLIAM SAFIRE

NATO: Bigger Is Better

WASHINGTON

"Who wants to die for Danzig?"

That was the battle cry of American isolationists earlier in this century — from right-wingers before World War II to left-wingers afterward — before we learned that only by helping Europe unify to prevent war on that continent could we avoid the loss of U.S. lives.

Isolationists now have strange bedfellows: many members of the Council on Foreign Relations and their media acolytes. They have decided that the inclusion into NATO of what used to be called "the captive nations" of the Soviet Union would be unduly humiliating to the new Russia. They fear a rebirth of the cold war.

Thus, we can expect an amalgam of the head-in-the-sand right and the nail-nibbling left to join Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov in opposing NATO enlargement.

At Warrar, Christopher's swansong meeting in Brussels two weeks ago, Primakov was able to extract a pledge from the Atlantic alliance that no nuclear weapons would be deployed in nations that join NATO. That major Western concession, made too soon, did not cause Russia to

... And let's not
sell out the Baltics.

diminish its opposition. All it did was make the West's diplomats more comfortable about setting a date of next July for announcing the probable opening of the gates to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

In Moscow, Vladimir Lukin, a member of the Duma who knows the U.S. well, observed: "Madeleine Albright's appointment as U.S. Secretary of State shows that Washington intends to take a tougher stance with Moscow."

Let's hope he's right. Christopher and deputy Strobe Talbott have been selling a "Partnership for Peace," a fuzzy club that Russia could join, confusing European defense. Senator Richard Lugar called P.F.P. the "policy of postponement," failing to set a timetable for NATO expansion.

But in farewell to a gentleman leaving the diplomatic scene, let us assume Chris's P.F.P. was intended only as an elaborate ruse to reduce Boris Yeltsin's exposure to national-

ist criticism. Now begins the business of explaining real NATO enlargement here at home.

At her confirmation, Mrs. Albright should expect to be asked: How is America's security enhanced by extending NATO protection to ex-captive nations?

My answer: NATO is a military alliance born to defend the West from Russia. So far so good. In coming decades, Russia — with its literate population and rich resources unencumbered by Communism — will rise again. Its leaders will want to pay a visit to the Irredentist under the guise of protecting their "near abroad." The only way to deter future aggression without war is by collective defense. And only in the next few years, with Russia weak, do we have the chance to "lock in" the vulnerables.

Does Russia have a right to feel threatened by moving the no-invasion line eastward? Nonsense. Russia remains a nuclear power; Hungary, loser of its last seven wars, is not about to attack. As our military alliance expands, the European Union will feel pressure to bring in members, reducing the threat of a dominant Germany. Russia's main strategic worries lie south to Islam and east to China, not west to Europe.

Enlargement must include the Baltic nations. That's where modern Communist imperialism began, in a deal between Hitler and Stalin, and it is where the Evil Empire began to come apart, as Lithuania's Vytautas Landsbergis (re-elected recently) insisted on the independence that the U.S. never ceased to recognize.

History shows that the Balts need NATO's insurance more than anyone, but their pre-existing condition of being easy pickings for predators makes insurers wary. They should be included as applicant members at the accession talks next July. As Germany sponsors Poland, France sponsors Romania, Italy sponsors Slovenia, we can sponsor the Baltic three — with ultimate membership determined by democratic stability, not by Russian threats.

How strong will Clinton be? The Washington Post reports he was impressed with a suggestion in this space for the discipline of regular monthly press conferences, and in his solid performance last week he was undoubtedly prepared for one on NATO enlargement. But nobody asked him about it.

Let's hope for journalistic interest in foreign affairs next time, and a follow-up that goes, "And what about the Baltics, Mr. President?" □

December 16, 1996

Reprinted with
permission of the
New York Times.

Algis Rimas

Business and Investment News

Prime Minister Vagnorius' Economic Agenda

Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius and his cabinet have taken over the government's executive functions following the Conservative Party's win in the recently held parliamentary elections. Dr. Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the Conservatives, has been confirmed as speaker of the Seimas, a powerful position from which he may manage his party's legislative agenda and also prepare to run for the presidency in 1998. President Algirdas Brazauskas, the former leader of the ousted Democratic Labor Party, and elected by direct vote in 1993 for a five year term, did not have to face the voters this Fall. How well President Brazauskas will be able to work with his erstwhile political opponents who now control the Seimas and the government administration remains to be seen.

The Vagnorius economic program aims to stimulate growth and bolster the country's emerging free market economy. The prime minister said he wants to double the annual rate of national income growth beyond this year's 3.6 4 percent range and emulate such high performers as Singapore and South Korea. To stimulate investment, Vagnorius proposes, among other measures, to reform the tax system. Rates for the value added tax (VAT) would be cut from 18 to 15 percent, top rates for personal income tax would be lowered, over time, from 33 percent to a range of 28 to 30 percent. The 28 percent corporate profits tax would be phased out over a ten year period and income reinvested in obtaining modern plant equipment and technology would be exempted from taxation immediately. Other incentives to stimulate growth could include the expansion of the privatization program. For starters, the privatization agency has recommended placing portions of the telecommunications industry and the state-owned airline on the auction block.

To assist the country's exporters, legislation is being proposed to set up a fund for export promotion. A separate program will provide insurance coverage for exporters. According to Mr. Vagnorius, at least one-half of future concessional foreign loans will be earmarked for assistance to the manufacturing sector. Other programs are being designed to encourage formation of small and medium sized private companies. Keeping the litas a strong currency is also part of the strategy. However, the government and the Central Bank appear determined to eventually abolish the currency board system and return to the Central

Bank the function of influencing the exchange rate. According to the bank's policy director, Gitanas Nausėda, who was interviewed by the Vilnius daily, Respublika, the currency control board may be abandoned in favor of direct Central Bank control as early as in the first half of 1997. Steps would be taken to change the existing legislation which ties the litas to the dollar. In the last stage, which would not be reached before 1998, the litas would be untied from the U.S. dollar. Instead, the litas would be valued at a fixed exchange rate, according to a basket of currencies that would include the German mark as well as the dollar.

Proposals are also being discussed to streamline government ministries. According to current news reports, the plan is to abolish the present ministries of environmental protection, economics, energy, forestry, industry and commerce. In their place would appear new ministries. They would include a revamped economics ministry, a ministry of environmental protection and natural resources, and a ministry for European Affairs (to handle the economic aspects of Lithuania's entry into the European Union).

One immediate challenge for the Vagnorius government is to review and pass a revamped 1997 budget. According to initial reports, spending cuts are proposed to pare the deficit. Subsidies and social assistance programs are likely to be sacrificed in favor of incentives to encourage private business investment and job creation. Government tax revenues are also expected to increase by tightening enforcement of the country's tax and employment laws. Efforts to reduce the deficit are timely since government borrowing is increasingly urgent. In the past months, demand for treasury bills has slowed driving up interest rates. Until the budget is approved, monthly spending by government departments may not exceed the previous year's corresponding monthly levels.

Vagnorius' Economic Team

In early December, Lithuania's parliament, Seimas, approved a new cabinet headed by Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius. Brief biographical sketches of the ministers handling finance, economic and business issues are provided below. The information was obtained from the Lithuanian news service, ELTA.

The plan is to abolish the present ministries of environmental protection, economics, energy, forestry, industry and commerce. In their place would appear new ministries. They would include a revamped economics ministry, a ministry of environmental protection and natural resources, and a ministry for European Affairs (to handle the economic aspects of Lithuania's entry into the European Union).

Finance Minister Rolandas Matiliauskas, was born on July 10, 1968 in Utena. He was graduated from Vilnius University with a degree in economic analysis and accounting. He also studied economics at Cambridge University, England and at Ohio University. From March 1991 to July 1993 he served as deputy head of the currency and securities department in the Ministry of Finance. From 1993 to 1995 he held a management position with the now bankrupt Credit Bank. Prior to his appointment, he was chief financial officer with the company, Interfarma, a German-Lithuanian joint venture trading in pharmaceuticals. Mr. Matiliauskas is fluent in English and German. His wife, Jolanta, is also an economist. They have one daughter.

Industry and Trade Minister Laima Andrikienė (née Galdikaitė), was born New Year's Day 1958, at Druskininkai into a family of returned deportees who had suffered under the Communist regime. After obtaining a diploma in economics from Vilnius University in 1980, she began her professional career at the Research Institute of Lithuanian Agricultural Economics where she worked as a research associate. In 1988 she completed postgraduate studies at Manchester University in England and later, in 1995, she earned a doctorate degree. Ms. Andrikienė's political career took on a higher profile with her 1988 appointment as assistant to the Vice Chairman of the pre-independence Lithuanian Council of Ministers. In 1990 she was elected deputy to the Lithuanian Supreme Council and on March 11 of that year she was one of the signatories of Lithuania's Independence Act. Her political affiliation was with the Sąjūdis movement and the Independence Party,

then headed by Dr. Vytautas Landsbergis. In 1992 she was elected member of the Seimas and served on its foreign affairs committee. In 1996 she was reelected to the Seimas on the Conservative ticket. Ms. Andrikienė is widowed and has one son, Šarūnas.

Economics Minister Vincas Babilius, born in 1937 in Kaunas, is the former Chairman of the Board of Litimpeks Bank and vice-president of the Lithuanian Industrialists Confederation. Between 1981 and 1993 he held the position of general director and chairman of the Vilnius electrical metering machinery plant. He had worked as senior engineer at that state enterprise since 1962. Mr. Babilius completed his studies at the Kaunas Polytechnic Institute in 1959. He and his wife, Joana, have two grown sons.

Communications Minister Rimantas Pleikys, born in 1957 in Vilnius, was the founder, in 1989, and chief editor of Lithuania's first independent, privately owned radio station, M1. In 1990 he expanded his media company, Radiocentras, to include another radio station. In 1995, he took over the Vilnius affiliate of a private TV company, Kaunas Plus. Mr. Pleikys trained as a journalist, graduating from Vilnius University in 1981. From 1984 to 1988 he worked abroad as a foreign correspondent for Vilnius Radio. In the political arena, he was a Conservative Party activist who rose to become a vice chairman of his Party. He contributed to the Conservatives' successful 1996 electoral victory by managing its election campaign headquarters. Mr. Pleikys also served on the board of the Lithuanian Journalists Society, advised the Radio and Television Association and took part in the work of the governmental task force that developed the recently adopted mass media legislation. Mr. Pleikys' wife, Gracija, is a professor of English at Vilnius University. They have two young children, a son and a daughter.

Transport Minister Algis Žvaliauskas, born in 1955 in the Prienai District, comes to his new ministerial post from serving as the elected, two-term mayor of the city of Marijampolė. He also won a Conservative seat in the 1996 parliamentary election. Prior to holding elective office, Mr. Žvaliauskas worked as the chief engineer for the Marijampolė City Council. In 1991, he was among the first of the post-independence entrepreneurs to start a private manufacturing business. Before then, he worked in Marijampolė as a construction superintendent. He is a 1979 graduate of the Vilnius Engineering Construction Institute. Mr. Žvaliauskas and his wife, Rima, have two daughters and a son.

Minister for Social and Labor Affairs, Irena Degutienė, born June 1, 1949 in Šiauliai, is a physician who most recently served as Secretary of the Ministry of Health, the second highest office in the Ministry. Prior to 1994, Dr. Degutienė was deputy head of the Vilnius University Red Cross Hospital. A graduate of Vilnius University's Medical School, Dr. Degutienė specialized in her medical

practice as an anesthesiologist rheumatologist and later as an gastroenterologist. With her husband, Gediminas, also a physician, she has raised a son and a daughter.

Agriculture Minister Petras Knasys was born in 1937 in the Kaunas District. He was the last Agriculture Minister of Lithuania under the Soviet regime and, after the restoration of independence, he continued as minister in the first post-independence government. Mr. Knasys is an eminent research scientist in horticulture and holds a doctorate in agricultural science. Affiliated with the Agricultural Institute, he has published several books and over 100 research papers in his field. He also was a frequent contributor to the "Valstiečių" (country people's) newspaper and worked on policy development issues for the executive board of the Chamber of Agriculture. Mr. Knasys was a cofounder of the agrarian branch of the Sajudis movement. In 1996, he won a parliamentary seat on the Conservative ticket during the Fall elections. With his wife, Dalia, they have raised a son and two daughters.

The Seimas has two committees overseeing financial and economic affairs. The Budget and Finance Committee is chaired by former Finance Minister Elvyra Kunevičiene, and the Economics Committee by former Prime Minister and Economics Minister, Albertas Šimėnas. Both legislators are members of the Conservative Party. Vilnius University economist, Ms. Birute Visokavičiene, has been appointed chairperson of the Social Affairs and Labor Committee.

Business Opportunities

International Competition for the Klaipėda Free Economic Zone

The City of Klaipėda has issued a public tender for bids to manage the city's free economic zone. The winner would be required to prepare a business plan and legal statutes to administer the 205 hectare zone. The project is sponsored jointly by the City of Klaipėda and the Lithuanian Government. Interested parties are invited to apply by submitting a completed official application form by March 20, 1997.

For details regarding requirements and application forms, please call or fax the Foreign Relations Department of the Klaipėda Municipality, tel. (370 6) 259979, tel/fax. (370 6) 214795. Application forms may be filed after payment of a 1000 litas (or \$250) fee. Payment should be made via bank transfer to the following account: Klaipėda Municipality, local currency account no. 142023, or hard currency account no. 11070919, Klaipėda Branch, Lithuanian State Commercial Bank, 1 Turgaus g., 5800 Klaipėda, Lithuania. The completed official application form and the bank transfer confirmation should be sent to the following address: The Municipality of Klaipėda, Room no. 120, Liepu 11, 5800 Klaipėda, Lithuania. Envelopes should be

marked as follows: "Documents for International Competition on Klaipėda Free Economic Zone".

High Quality Manufacturing SubContracting Services in Minneapolis

Darell Tamošiūnas is the Lithuanian-American president and CEO of VerSaTil Associates, Inc., 18400 West 77th Street, Chanhassen, MN 55317, tel (612) 949 2400. Mr. Tamošiūnas recently wrote us to invite readers interested in obtaining precision machining, mechanical assembly, deburring, cleaning or packaging services for any volume of product to call or visit his state of the art, high quality standards plant in the Minneapolis suburbs. Mr. Tamošiūnas' company has been providing reliable, quality services for American manufacturers since 1966, and he would be interested also in providing such services to potential Lithuanian customers.

Lithuanian Customs Duties and Gift Packages from America

During this Christmas season, readers should be reminded that some personal packages mailed to Lithuania via the postal services may be subject to payment of customs duties by the recipients. According to Lithuanian rules, packages weighing not more than 31 kilograms (70 lb.) and having a declared value of not more than 400 litas (\$100) may be imported dutyfree. However, packages exceeding either of the above limits are subject to a 10 percent tariff based on the declared value and to an additional 18 percent value added tax. According to media reports, some Lithuanian recipients were required to pay duties and taxes exceeding the real value of their gift packages because senders, fearing a high possibility of loss in the mails, had insured the packages for an excessive amount.

Economic and Business Briefs

The Lithuanian Central Bank, in its December quarterly bulletin, reported that Lithuanian investment abroad rose to \$73 million in the second quarter of the year. However, foreign investment in Lithuania also increased to a record \$285 million. About 58 percent of the latter reportedly was in the form of loans. The current account in the first half of the year was about \$275 million in the red. The trade balance deficit at current prices almost reached \$430 million during that period.

Western Union announced that Lithuania is its second largest location in Central Europe for international currency transfers. Poland claims first place. Under a joint arrangement with the Lithuanian State Savings Bank, media sources report that approximately \$5 million were transferred to Lithuanian customers in 1996.

The Kaunas glassmaker, Aleksota, was voted to be the best performing Lithuanian manufacturer by the country's

Ramunė Kubilius

Bits and Pieces

Happy 735th Birthday, Utena!

The Lithuanian city of Utena celebrated its 735th anniversary in September. Although official written documents first mention Utena in 1261, archaeologists have found evidence that people had lived in Utena even a thousand years ago.

On September 28th, 1996, the city celebrated in various ways. It held fireworks, a celebratory mass, the lighting of a symbolic flame on the Narkunas hill (piliakalnis) where the Utena castle once stood, and the blessing of a memorial plaque. Six people received honorary citizens awards, including Norway's Vidar A. and Berith Tangen, who worked on humanitarian aid for Utena from Norway aid agencies between 1991-96. Crowds of people went along Aušra Street, which was closed to vehicular traffic, visiting the art fairs, tasting Utena beer and the "Mėsa" 735 decimeter long sausage (about 15.5 feet-rk) which was carried by 66 workers. The sausage was cut up and consumed in about 15 minutes.

About 37,000 people now live in Utena. Approximately 40 companies and cooperatives based in the city contributed to its anniversary celebration. According to Mayor Rimantas Dijokas, not one refusal was received from any of the firms which were approached to contribute toward the celebration.

(Draugas, 10/19/96, from an article by Regina Rutkauskienė/Rutkauskas)

Palanga 96

The Four-day Palanga music festival celebrated its 25th anniversary this year. The festival, begun in 1972 as "Baltijos jaunyste" (Baltic Youth), has over the years encompassed 100 days of music at which 563 musicians and dancers performed. Some of Lithuania's most popular composers, F. Gorbulskis, M. Novikas, A. Raudonikis, M. Tamosiunas, V. Telksnys and others, provided music for the festival. Guest groups at this year's festival included performers from Latvia, Poland, Germany and Finland.

(Draugas, 10/17/96)

Another Musical Talent

The Juilliard School in Lincoln Center, NY has achieved world recognition for its education of musically talented young people. The Lithuanian violinist, Vilhelmas Čepinškas, has been studying there for several years.

Now, a second young Lithuanian musician has been accepted at the school. Gabrielius Alekna, a young pianist, is a graduate of the M.K. Čiurlionis School of the Arts in Vilnius, has received a scholarship which covers tuition (\$20,000), and a stipend to cover his living expenses. He has played piano since he was five years old. His long-time teacher was Liucija Drasutis (Drasutienė), whom he describes as "intuitive and strong-willed."

Alekna has participated in several music competitions, including the international M.K. Čiurlionis Music and Organ Competition held in Vilnius last year where he received third prize. This past summer, the Yamaha Muzik Foundation of Europe awarded him a first prize.

Alekna played with the Lithuanian Philharmonic Orchestra 1994-1996 as its concertmaster and performed with them in over 40 concerts. He has had solo concerts as well, and recently began conducting courses in Lithuania with conductor J. Aleksa, a new area in which he would like to continue his studies at Juilliard

(Draugas, 10/17/96)

Hot Springs Radio Show

On October 12th, the Hot Springs, Arkansas Lithuanian radio program "Leiskit į Tėvyne" celebrated its 20th anniversary with a banquet at St. Michael's School. The program, heard Sunday mornings at 8:30 am, is transmitted on KXOW AM 1420 on radio and Station 5 on television.

The founders of the program were Salomėja Šmaižys, Petras Šmaižys and Antanas Kruklys. Two of the original founders have died, and Mrs. Šmaižys is the remaining original announcer, whose daughters and their husbands provide assistance with English language texts. Lithuanian historical events, sad and happy moments from local Hot Springs Lithuanian American life, all receive attention.

Persons of non-Lithuanian descent have said they like listening to translations of Lithuanian music and songs.

(Draugas, 10/17/96)

Pocahontas by Paškevičius

One of the principal costume designers for Walt Disney is Alyja Paškevičius (Kalinich-Clegg). She designed the costumes for the "World on Ice" version of "The Spirit of Pocahontas" which is touring the U.S. at this time and for the costumes for Walt Disney's "Christmas Parade" to be held in Anaheim, California. She is the daughter of Ona Dokalskas and Mykolas Paškevičius and lives in Anaheim.

(Darbininkas, 11/1/96)

Lithuanian Basketball

The Lithuanian men's basketball team, which will represent Lithuania in the 1997 World Games, toured the U.S. in November playing against college teams such as Northwestern, Minnesota, Alabama-Birmingham, Trinity Christian College, Knox College, and Monmouth College. The Head Coach is Edas Nickas, Assistant Coach is Antanas-Algis Cizauskas, Manager Zita Nickuvienė, President Juozas Paukštys, Head of Delegations, Janis Unbedahts, Medical Personnel, Dagnija Unbedahte, and Sponsor Vydmantas Svabas.

(from the Northwestern University game program)

Lithuanian Postal Costs

As of September 1st, some postal service costs have become more expensive in Lithuania. The cost of mailing of letter up to 20 grams in Lithuania is now 50 cents, a postcard 40 cents, a small package up to 100 grams- 90 cents. International mail up to 20 grams is 90 cents, air mail 1.2 litai...Tariffs for international packages are approximately 11%.

(Darbininkas, 10/18/96)

New School Year

In the fall of 1996, 54,000 students began their new school year at 15 institutions of higher education in Lithuania. Of these, 10,800 young men and women were freshmen. Women comprise 54% of the first year classes overall, and 82% of the entire student body at the Šiauliai Pedagogical Institute. The Institute plans to convert to a university next year.

One-fourth of the students at the police academy are women. There were 2.8 candidates for each one available slot (2.3 last year).

Vytautas Magnus University experienced the largest increase in number of applicants.

(Darbininkas, 10/18/96)

Ambassador Bačkis Honored

On September 11th, 1996, Lithuanian diplomat (now retired) Stasys Antanas Bačkis received the title of captain in the French Legion from the French Government. The tradition was begun by Napoleon in 1802. Stasys Antanas Bačkis has more than sixty years of diplomatic experience. He served in France for many years after Lithuania's occupation, and later in Washington, D.C. France's representative in Lithuania, Michel Touraine, bestowed the honor upon Ambassador Bačkis who now resides in Vilnius.

(Darbininkas, 10/18/96)

Million Litai Donation in Kedainiai

The "Atžalynas" school in Kedainiai, supported by a grant from the Kedainių susivienijimas (cooperative?-rk) "Vikonda" of 1 million litai to equip the classrooms, has begun offering economics and informatics classes. The president of "Vikonda," Viktoras Uspasckichas, believes strongly that funds invested in education will have double returns. Twenty-five of the smartest Kedainiai region students will have the privilege of attending law economics, business, and accounting courses as well as the opportunity to conduct special projects. "Vikonda" has plans to donate money for studies abroad.

Father Stanislovas of the Cappucian house in Dotnuva blessed the new facility, wishing the students many new learning achievements, and the teachers fewer grey hairs!

(Draugas, 10/8/96, from an Article Originally in Lietuvos Rytas)

Čiurlionis Postage Stamp

The government agency "Lietuvos paštas" (Lithuania's mail) issued two new stamps honoring the creativity of musician/composer/artist Mykalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis. The new postage stamps come out on the eve of the 121st anniversary of Čiurlionis' birth. The stamps are of the paintings "Auka" (Offering) and "Kapinės" (Cemetery), and the postal stamp block will feature several Čiurlionis paintings, arranged by artist Kostas Katkus. Like most of Lithuania's postage stamps, these commemorative stamps will be printed in Budapest, Hungary in the government print shop.

(Draugas, 10/5/96, from ELTA information)

The Tasmania Lithuania Connection Again

Audronė Berzauskas, an Australian Lithuanian studying art at the University of Tasmania, won first prize in a multi-cultural sculpture contest held in Hobart, Australia. Her sculpture was called "Pilies gatvė" (after the street in Vilnius, Lithuania).

(Tėviškės Žiburiai, 10/1/96)

Mother-In-Law Comedy

The Juozas Miltenis Drama Theater invited inhabitants of Panevėžys to the premier of the comedy Balys Sruoga's "Uošvė" (Mother-In-Law). The comedy was written during the years of World War II when Sruoga, along with other Lithuanians, was incarcerated in the Stutthof Concentration Camp. The premier included popular music of the 1930's. Directed by Vytautas Kupsys, scenery for the play was created by artist Vitalijus Mazuras. According to Balys Sruoga (1896-1947), only through creative efforts such as this play was it possible to escape the mental distress and the possibility of a nervous breakdown while in the Nazi Concentration Camps.

(Tėviškės Žiburiai, 10/1/96)

Father Šeškevičius: a Sao Paulo Lithuanian With Principles

On the occasion of his 75th birthday, Father Juozas Šeškevičius of Sao Paulo, Brazil, shared memories and opinions with Jesuit Father K.J. Ambrasas, who was visiting him. (Father Ambrasas, a former university literature and journalism professor in Lithuania, finished the underground seminary still in the days of occupation. Today, he is based in Montreal, Canada, at Our Lady Gates of Dawn Lithuanian Parish (Aušros Vartai) and often conducts interviews with diaspora Lithuanians which he writes up in the Lithuanian language press.-rk)

Father Juozas Šeškevičius' decision travel to Brazil was strongly influenced by the book, *Brazilija*, written by Petras Babickas. Born in 1921 in the Marijampolė region of Lithuania, Father Šeškevičius studied at Freiburg University (Germany) and later at the Gregorian University (Rome, Italy) where he gave his priestly vows. He decided that he wanted to work more with people than to do scholarly research, so he left for Brazil where he heard there were shortages of priests, knowing no more Portuguese than how to pronounce his name.

Fr. Šeškevičius worked at the Lithuanian parish in Sao Paulo for eight years, then later at the Cipo Parish in the country. He founded a country school and taught Latin and mathematics at the small diocesan seminary. For the past 22 years, Fr. Šeškevičius has been the pastor at the Villa

Zelina Lithuanian parish in Sao Paulo. Thanks to his efforts, the rectory was built, as was the Lithuanian park "Lituanica," and in that region he is also finishing the building of a nursing home. For many years, Father Šeškevičius was able to arouse interest in the "Ateitis" Lithuanian Catholic Federation among young people. He organized plays, and was a frequent contributor of articles on the Lithuanian language press.

Of his early days in Brazil (after World War II), Father Šeškevičius remembers the church being filled with the faithful at the St. Joseph (Sao Paulo) Sunday Lithuanian-language Masses in four different locations. A Lithuanian-language school was founded where 200 children were taught by six volunteer teachers. A folk dancing group, an accordion playing group and an orchestra thrived. During some concerts one hundred people performed on stage. The parish was not wealthy materially, but in the post-War years, there were some very faithful and stalwart parishioners.

Unfortunately, there are only a few persons interested in Lithuanian life now from the middle generation. The parish Masses are now conducted in Portuguese and are well attended, and it remains for Father Šeškevičius to visit the Brazilian Lithuanian families, the sick and people in nursing homes. Father Šeškevičius reminisced about his years in Cipo. Before his arrival, the villagers in Cipo hadn't had a priest for seven years. Their generosity was touching. They would give 400 cruzeiros ("kruzeirai") at the offering, and Father Šeškevičius knew that a bus ticket in the area cost 300. It was not easy to work alone in that region—the parishioners were not very well educated, and the most educated persons in the area were three grade school teachers. Other teachers traveled from Sao Paulo, since there were 100 grade school classes. In one year, he travelled 50,000 km seeing parishioners and offering Mass.

Father Šeškevičius had definite opinions about the recent visit of the contingent from Lithuania to Brazil — President Brazauskas, accompanied by government officials, including army leadership in fancy uniforms. He called that type of trip "linksmybių traukinys," a comedy train, since it was sometimes hard to pinpoint the concrete benefits of such a trip to either the visitors or the hosting country...He prays that God will aid Lithuania to reach a more optimistic future, that good will overcome evil. The steering wheel of Lithuania, he feels, should be in the hands of people genuinely concerned about the good of the people and not only their personal gain. "Let us not build monuments, but help the poor in Lithuania. "

During his visit to Brazil, Lithuanian President Brazauskas wanted to bestow upon Father Šeškevičius the Gediminas medal ("DLK Gedimino ordinas"), an honor celebrating his life's work. Father Šeškevičius refused the honor from the former Communist party secretary. He felt that there were far more Lithuanians who had suffered horrors in

Siberia and elsewhere who were more deserving of the honor, and no one had offered to hang medals upon their chests.

(Draugas, 11/24/96, from an interview conducted by Rev. K.J. Ambrasas, S.J.)

Baltic News Service

A new agency "Baltic News Service" has begun to make news available on the Internet with updates every two hours. The news is available in English and in Lithuanian. Some of the links on the BALTIC NEWS SERVICE Web home page are interesting in their diversity. The Lithuanian page leads to home pages such as the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture (in Chicago), the folk dancing group "Audinys" (in Detroit), to food recipes, information about Lithuania's weather, travel information, links to governmental agencies, etc.

The home page address is www.bns.lt

(from DARBININKAS, 10/5/96 and from sweeping through the site a bit-rk)

Calendar Items Needed

Each effort to support a medium through which Balts keep in touch and stay informed is to be congratulated. Those of us who can read the Lithuanian language press and listen to Lithuanian language radio, watch television, search the Internet feel very rich indeed.

There is also an audience for Baltic-related English language print magazines, newsletters and newspapers. **BRIDGES** is an English language newsletter which comes out ten times a year. It is published by the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., but includes items of interest even to persons not active in the LAC. Featured articles include overviews of Lithuania's politics and business, reviews of books and movies with Lithuanian themes, reports of activities of Lithuanian Americans and articles about humanitarian or other projects. Sometimes articles are reprinted (with permission) from the U.S. press. Although its targeted audience (now numbering a few thousand subscribers) includes folks living in the United States, we've gotten word that issues reach the Maironis Center in Lithuania, and the newsletter also has subscribers in Canada and elsewhere.

Take advantage of the forum provided by **BRIDGES** to spread the word about events in your areas: visiting artists or performers from Lithuania, local Lithuanian American celebrations. News items from other countries are welcome, too!

Send advance publicity and information about the event, including dates, place and contact name or address.

Send calendar items, announcements and articles to: Diana Vidutis, BRIDGES Editor "snail mail": 7416 Piney Branch Road, Takoma Park, MD 20912; FAX 301-588-8942. Call the editor at 301-588-8559. Or best yet, send your items by e-mail: vidutis@paltech.com or dvidutis@winston.com.

To get a subscription to BRIDGES, send your check for \$18 to: LAC, Inc. Treasurer, 1927 West Boulevard, Racine, WI 53403.

IESC

The International Executive Service Corps (IESC) was founded in 1964. Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and based in Stamford, Connecticut, the corps utilizes retired executives as practical goodwill business ambassadors and consultants in developing democracies. The organization now has 67 divisions in 55 countries. Since 1990, 34 divisions have been operating in the former Soviet Union and Eastern bloc countries (including Lithuania). There are three major areas in which the retired executives assist — in technical assistance, business plan execution, and public administration. Each year, the organization completes about 1000 projects, lasting about 2 months on the average. The cost of completing one project is about \$25,000.

Donatas Satas was the first Lithuanian to participate in an IESC-sponsored project, and Antanas Grina was the first director of the Vilnius office of the IESC in 1992, and by 1993, the IESC was assisting in business development projects throughout Lithuania. The present IESC Lithuanian branch director is George Gray. In the last 4 years, 40 projects have been completed in Lithuania; 16 of the projects were completed by Lithuanian-Americans: Antanas Grina (2 projects), Albina Janus (5 projects for which she was awarded an IESC medal and was invited to talk at the IESC conference in Washington about her work in Lithuania), Milda Jasins (project), Zenonas Petkus (4 projects), and Cezaris Ugianskis (5 projects and a finalist in the service award category). A group of Americans have also assisted in Lithuania, with the assistance of translators.

When a request is received from Lithuania, a computerized match is made in the IESC database for a person with the qualifications needed. If the candidate is acceptable to the client, an agreement is made of the project dates and travel details. The IESC pays travel expenses and housing costs if the client is unable to pay these fees, and arranges for health insurance. Upon project completion, the volunteer executive and the client each make reports.

Albina Katilius-Janus, a former actress in pre-World War II Lithuania, now a retired accounting executive for the beverage company Heublein in Connecticut, has consulted Lithuanian companies on the computerization and Westernization of their accounting practices: balance sheets, profit and debit reports, financial analyses. Most of

the companies had computers but were not using them for accounting purposes. Some firms plan on continuing accounting changes with outside consultants after Albina's projects are completed, and it is said that the Lithuanian government has given companies the edict that in the next two years they must convert their Soviet-style accounting practices to Westernized practices.

Albina has played the role of student and teacher, as each trip to Lithuania has brought new insight into the willingness of companies to expand and revise their old practices. They have learned about exporting possibilities, learned how to arrange for order-taking contracts in a more proactive fashion. She has assisted at small and large companies which make beverages, porcelain, fixtures, and has maintained correspondence upon her return to Lithuania with persons she had met.

The IESC is always looking for volunteers, especially those who know Eastern European languages. Retired persons feel useful and share their years of accumulated experience on projects which take them into a country where they can feel its day-to-day pulse. IESC, Stamford Harbor Park, 333 Ludlow Street, Stamford, CT 06902, P.O. Box 100005, Stamford, CT 06904-2005.

(*Draugas*, 10/19/96, from an article by Salomeja Valiukenas)

Baltic-German Student Exchange

Not for the first time, the "Balt-German Youth and Students' Association" (Germany) and the "Association of Estonian Students in Germany" kindly asks for your help. In particular, we are looking for people living in, or with contacts to Germany and Austria!

In cooperation with partner student groups from the Baltics we are organising an annual students' summer exchange between the Baltics and Germany plus (starting in 1997) Austria. Thus, each summer some 15 - 20 students from Estonia, Latvia and - also starting next year - Lithuania receive the chance to come to Germany for about 3 weeks in July, followed by the return visit of their German partner students to the Baltics in August. (See the German announcement at the end of this message for more detail.) This program has been funded by, e.g., the European Union or the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

As both our associations are relatively small and as we lack substantial financial funding of our own we face problems in advertising the exchange sufficiently for finding enough German participants. This will probably even more be true for Austria as we are not organised in this country yet. Therefore, we are looking for people either at Austrian/German university level schools (students, staff etc.), with contacts at Austrian/German newspapers or any other organisations which might help us in distributing information on next year's program! (According to univer-

sities we are looking for people who might attach our announcements to local bulletin boards.) All those who could help us either directly or indirectly (via friends or with addresses), please contact one of the following two organisers:

Alexander Raschig:
st000684@hrz1.hrz.th-darmstadt.de
phone: (06151) - 425019
or Zane Starevica:
zanesta@rummelplatz.uni-mannheim.de
phone: (0621) - 306431

(Zane speaks German and Latvian only.)

Thanks in advance to all those who are willing to help!

Yours,

Christian Hewicker

For further information on the

- exchange program see (starting in December 1996)

<http://www.th-darmstadt.de/~st000684/baltikum.html>

- Association of Estonian students in Germany (EU"U"S)

<http://www.informatik.uni-kiel.de/~erm/euus.html>

or write to:

Mihkel Tasa (mihkel@estemb.de)

Studentenaustausch mit dem Baltikum

Im Sommer 1997 fuehren der Deutschbaltische Jugend- und Studentenring e.V. (DbJuStR) sowie die Vereinigung Estnischer Studenten in Deutschland (EU"U"S) den neunten Studentenaustausch mit Estland, Lettland und Litauen durch. Je acht estnische, lettische und litauische Studierende werden im Juli fuer knapp drei Wochen nach Deutschland kommen und dort privat bei ihren Austauschpartnern wohnen. In der dritten Woche wird eine Rundreise organisiert, um den Gaesten verschiedene Teile Deutschlands zu zeigen Die deutschen Teilnehmer reisen umgekehrt im August ebenfalls fuer drei Wochen ins Baltikum. Wie Esten, Letten und Litauer, so werden auch sie durch die private Unterbringung und gemeinsame Fahrten einen individuellen Einblick in den Alltag ihrer Partner, in Politik und Kultur der baltischen Republiken gewinnen Wer hat Lust und Interesse, sich an dem Austausch zu beteiligen Die Kosten betragen 600,- DM plus Ausgaben, die bei der zehntaegigen Aufnahme eines Gastes entstehen. Teilnehmen koennen Studierende aller Fachrichtungen im Alter von 19 bis 25 Jahren, die bereit waeren, sich auch an Vorbereitung und Durchfuehrung zu beteiligen. Weitere Informationen und Anmeldeformulare koennen bis zum 19.01.199 erfragt werden bei :

Zane Starevica
Am Steingarten 12 / 42
68169 Mannheim
Tel. 0621 / 306 431
E-mail : zanesta@rummelplatz.uni-mannheim.de

Lithuanian Papers of Tasmania

The 1996 edition of Lithuanian Papers is still a great read overall and a tribute to the enterprise and imagination of the Lithuanian Studies Society at the University of Tasmania. Special congratulations to Al Taskunas (editor) and Amanda Banks (Lithuanian Studies Society). A professionally produced glossy annual publication with refereed (English language) articles.

Looking over the contents it is pleasing to see some familiar BALT-L names, some publishing material for which research help was requested on BALT-L or continuing discussions carried here.

For example, Gudni Thorlacius Johannesson gives an account of Iceland's support for Lithuania in the crucial months of 1990-1991. I know he had a good response for his request for help on this list earlier in the year.

In cultural matters, Andrius Dzundila examines the revival of the Romuva religion, Genovaitė Kazokas analyzes the work of Australian-Lithuanian painter Vladas Meškinas, and Mikalaujas Daukša (writing in 1599 so just too early to be a BALT-L contributor) rhapsodises on the qualities of 'a native language'...

Looking at economic matters, Thoma Grennes continues his analysis of the impact of the currency board and looks at alternative monetary strategies. This is a hot issue now that the Lithuanian government is to change and the cur-

rency board strategy perhaps up for re-assessment. Clemens Muth provides a sobering account of recent attempts at economic reform in his analysis of Lithuanian currency reform "From Rouble to Talonas to Litas".

Taking up wider political themes, Darius Furmonavičius describes his work in progress analysing the North European Security Community.

That's not the half of it... many more items, cultural, social and political including short notes and book reviews.. 80 pages about Lithuania today.

Last year the print run sold out, not least because so many BALT-L contributors placed orders. So if you want a copy you might need to get an order in quick.

Lithuanian Papers Volume 10 1996
ISSN 1031-3958

Price six dollars (US or Canadian or Australian) including postage. Payments accepted in Bank Drafts, postal orders, personal cheques or cash but NOT credit cards.

Postal address:
Lithuanian Papers
PO Box 777
Sandy Bay
Tasmania 7005 Australia
e-mail "A.Taskunas@educ.utas.edu.au" "Al Taskunas"

Lithuanian Fonts

My system is a:

Mac Win/PC - 3.5" disk Win/PC - 5.25"

Desired format:

PostScript

TrueType

Name _____

Yes I want to order:

Palanga \$40

Address _____

Udraliai \$40

Skuodas \$30

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Felšiai \$30

All 4 fonts \$125

Phone _____

add \$5 shipping and handling for total order



x

Make check payable to

Litnet; mail order to:
litnet Typographics
7 Arthur Rd.
Rosemont, PA 19010

TRANSPAK

Established 1987

Packages to Lithuania by SHIP or AIR for less than postal rates, including home delivery.

HOLIDAY FOOD PACKAGES

Money Transfer in US Dollars

Delivery time 3-5 days

**TRANSPAK: 4545 West 63rd St.
Chicago, IL 60629. Tel.: (773) 838-1050**

Rasa Mažeika, Ph.D., Director

Description of the Lithuanian Museum-Archives of Canada

Our Museum-Archives was established in 1989 to collect, preserve and display documentation of Lithuanian-Canadian community life and activities. We also collect the family heirlooms of Lithuanian Canadians. Once Lithuania began to break away from the Soviet Union, we added a third category of collections: documentation of the process and atmosphere of the era of regaining Lithuania's independence, 1989-1992. Our holdings include:

1. Documents, photos and ephemera (programmes, pamphlets, posters, memorabilia, flags) of **Lithuanian Canadian organizations** such as the Lithuanian Canadian Community, the Lithuanian Canadian Foundation, the Lithuanian Community Houses in Hamilton and Toronto, "Šauliai", Lithuanian Veterans, Lith. Scouts, World Lith. Youth Association, Lith. schools in Ottawa and Toronto, Lith. Catholic Womens Assoc., etc.
2. Documents, photographs and letters of some **individual Lithuanian Canadians**, especially relating to their emigration from Lithuania and immigration into Canada.

Larger collections include the papers of:

- Elzé Jankutė (daughter of writer and publisher Martynas Jankus)
- historian Adolfas Šapoka
- diplomat and historian Martynas Ansysas
- L. Balsys, liaison officer for Balt refugees with Allied occupation forces in Germany after WWII
- author and journalist Pransys Alsenas
- Winnipeg Lith. community activists E. Fedaras and K. Strikaitis
- Lithuanian Canadian Community founding member dr. P. Lukoševičius
- opera singer E. Kardelienė
- Lithuanian Canadian Community founding member Jonas Kardelis
- former Lith. army officers Tadas Bartkus and Mecys Pranevičius

and many others.

3. **Maps** of Lithuania (including 4 antique maps).
4. **Posters** produced in Lithuania and Canada. Ephemera of all kinds relating to Lithuanian Canadian events: programmes, tickets, lapel pins, banners

5. News service faxes, newspaper and magazine **articles** from all over the world, "Sajudis"-sponsored newspapers, photographs, posters and souvenirs from the era of regaining Lithuanian independence, 1989-1992. Documentation of elections in Lithuania 1992 and 1996.
6. **Current news** about Lithuania from ELTA news service, OMRI-L, BALT-L, other Internet sources and Canadian newspapers.
7. **Historical objects and heirlooms**: old Lithuanian textiles, coins, medals, stamps, folk craft objects, tools, carvings by prisoners in Siberia, objects from post-WWII "DP" refugee camps, military uniforms, a piece of the Lenin monument which stood in Vilnius during the Soviet era, etc. etc.
8. **Art** by Lithuanian modern artists — painting, lithographs, sculpture.
9. Approximately 1,500 **rare books and journals**, dating from the 1860's to the 1940's.
- 10.a) Full sets of the two **Lithuanian Canadian newspapers**, "Tėviškės Žiburiai" and "Nepriklausoma Lietuva".
 - b) some issues of most **Lithuanian American magazines and journals**.
 - c) full or almost full sets of the journals "**Moteris**," "**Karys**," "**Aidai**," "**Laiskai lietuviams**," "**Lituanus**," "**Lietuvių Dienos**."
11. A small **library** with 1,152 catalogued and approx. 200 uncatalogued books. We have some fiction, but the best collections are in the areas of history, archaeology, folk lore and folk religion, music, art, study of Lith. language, religious books, documentation of Soviet rule in Lithuania and the political fight against this in the United States and Canada.

A partial catalogue, still in rough form and in the process of being corrected, is available in ASCII or "Word for Windows" format. This is a abbreviated version of our database catalogue which does not encompass all our holdings because, like all archives and museums, we have a backlog of uncatalogued materials and during our first two years material was catalogued using a borrowed non-DOS computer. If you would like a copy of the DOS brief catalogue, I can try to send it as an attachment by e-mail (will be about 50 pages) or can send a disk to you.

We usually cannot spare the time to do much research, but will be very happy to send copies of finding aids to our col-

Videos From Lithuania

We understand that the quality of these tapes is good, but one has to allow 8-12 weeks and sometimes even longer for delivery. It's a wonderful service that this outfit is providing which is why we are listing their available titles in BRIDGES. Let's hope that they speed up their filling of orders in the near future!

1. Night in Lithuania (Naktis Lietuvoje): a 55-minute documentary film about the fight for Lithuanian independence and the suffering entailed. A. Reneckis, Dir. (\$25)
2. Lithuanian Film Chronology 1918-1940 (Lietuvos kino kronikos 1918-1940) Authentic historic pre-war footage and commentary by Juozas Urbšys. A. Reneckis, Dir. (\$20)
3. The Ballad of Daumantas (Baladė Apie Daumantą) Documentary film about partisan Juozas Daumantas. V. Landsbergis, Dir. (\$25)
4. President of Hope (Vilties Presidentas) Documentary film about the life, election campaign, and memories of Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis. V. Landsbergis, Dir. (\$25)
5. Government (Valdžia) A television drama about Lithuanian King Mindaugas. J. Sabolius, Dir. (2 hours) \$25
6. Twins (Dvynukės) A television drama about the extraordinary story of two sisters based upon the novel by E. Kestner (2 hours) \$25
7. Nature's Great Call (Didysis Gamtos Sauksmas) Documentary film about the animals of Lithuania. V. Jankevičius, Dir. (29 min) \$25
8. Upside Down (Aukštyn Kojom) A musical play for children by Lithuania's "Eccentrics' Theater" (\$20)
9. The Yellow Brick Road (Geltonų Plytų Kelias) The most popular Lithuanian musical TV play for children by the "Eccentrics' Theater" based upon "The Wizard of Oz" (\$30)
10. The Dandy Men's Group "Erelis" (Intymi Vyrų Grupė "Erelis") A concert/play by Vilnius' "Eccentrics' Theater" for adults. Includes popular songs and humor (\$20)
11. Maja the Bee (Bitė Maja). Children's puppet show (\$20)

12. Pif's Adventures (Pifo Nuotykių). Children's show (\$20)
13. The Circus is a Circus (Cirkas yra cirkas). Children's puppet show (\$20)
14. The Little Witch (Raganiukė). A television play for children based upon O. Proisler's story of the inventive little witch who wanted to do good deeds. (60 min) (\$20)
15. Whatever Grandfather Does, It Will Be All Right (Ka senelis padarys, viskas bus gerai) Children's puppet show (\$20)

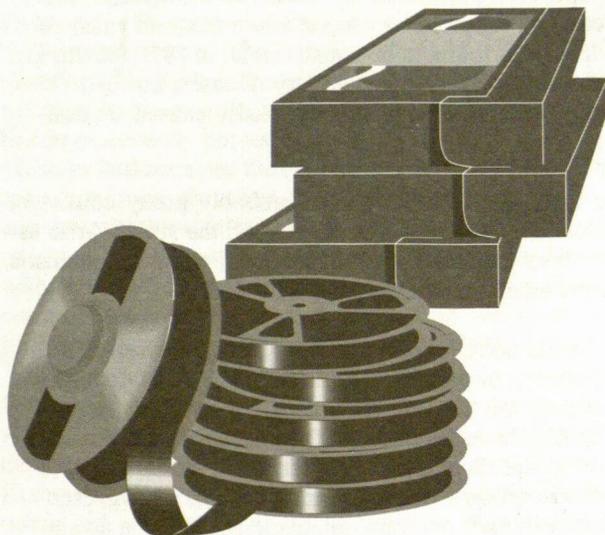
Audio Cassettes

Peliuko Mikio Smagumai. Songs for Children by the "Eccentrics' Theater." (\$10)

Please complete the order form and send to the following address:

Lithuanian American TV, Inc.
5643 Sherman Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60516
Tel: 630-969-6554

Make checks out to "Lithuanian-American TV, Inc."



lections or of specific documents if you know what you require and are willing to pay a photocopy and mail fees.

Our address: Lithuanian Museum-Archives of Canada
2185 Stavebank Rd.

Mississauga, Ont. L5C 1T3
tel. 905-566-8755
fax. 416-252-7638 (allow to ring 6 times)
e-mail: litharch@the-wire.com

Ramunė Kubilius

Excerpts from Lithuanian Health Publications

Medical Journal

ACTA MEDICA LITUANICA is a quarterly English-language professional journal which has been published since 1994 for the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences by the publisher "Academia." The second issue for 1996 indicates that there are 300 subscribers.

The journal is geared to a medical audience, but occasionally articles may prove to be of interest to a larger audience. One such article appeared in the second issue of 1996. "Major Causes of Death in Lithuania: Levels, Trends, Inequalities" by R. Kaledienė, J. Petrauskienė, A. Zaborskis of the Kaunas Medical Academy. According to the authors,

"In 1970 to 1994, the most prominent place in the structure of overall mortality among the Lithuanian population was taken by CVD (cardiovascular disease-rk) followed by cancer, while the third cause of death was found to be not so stable: in 1970 the third place was taken by respiratory diseases, but in 1975 they were superseded by externally caused mortality..."

The main causes of death are probably pretty consistent worldwide, but it is disturbing to read the authors' discussion about the comparison of mortality rates for Lithuania against other countries:

"International comparisons in mortality disclosed a dramatic picture for Lithuania: male mortality was among the highest rates in the European region, females have found themselves in the highest mortality group...Trends in cancer mortality in Lithuania are characteristic of Eastern Europe and increasing, especially in male and rural populations...There is no single reason nor explanation for increasing mortality in Lithuania, but the socio-economic and political situation makes a considerable influence on the health of the population...Lack of governmental support for health and social programs also tells on mortality trends. Our study disclosed the most vulnerable group: male rural population..."

As is always the case, portions of an article do not always reflect the facts conveyed in the entire article, but the conclusions quoted from this article are quite clear...

Health Matters in Lithuania

The Health Ministry of the Lithuanian government recently sponsored a press conference on the formulation of socially oriented medicine for Lithuania to discuss whether it is an alternative or a blind alley. In attendance was Dr. Giunter Daner, a representative from Germany's hospital financial departments to the European Commission, Leonas Kačinskis, Lithuania's Secretary of Health, and Dr. Gediminas Černiauskas, PHARE expert in Lithuania.

Antanas Vinkus, Lithuania's Minister of Health, addressed the attendees. He commented that often people think that insured medicine is a panacea to protect against all health and social problems. It is not quite that simple. Many problems will follow. Insured medicine will not increase health system funding, but perhaps monies will be allocated more effectively.

Lithuania's health insurance law was passed December 9, 1925. During the years between the wars, hospital treasures paid for physician visits to the home, drug acquisition costs, etc. The system was liquidated at the end of 1940. Discussions about health insurance were begun in the 1980s. Although the ranks of medical personnel and the numbers of hospital beds were increasing, the health of the population was not getting any better. Health professionals were not happy with their salaries or their status.

In 1989, 80% of Lithuanians said they wanted health financing reform. Socialized medicine makes up the foundation of all European nations' health systems. Money should follow the patient, while ensuring the interest of medical professionals in their profession and recognizing the need for continuing education.

The decision as to which medical departments should reduce their ranks will depend on voters. For many years, we became used to thinking that healthcare doesn't cost anything. The process of changing that thinking will be painful and it may take a while.

Dr. Daner reminded attendees that health insurance in Germany began in the times of Bismarck. A system remained in place even during the most difficult Fascist and post-war years...

Journalists at the end of the conference raise the issue that some physicians have an incorrect assumption that after elections, there won't be any need for reform.

(GYDYTOJŲ ŽINIOS, 9/19/96, from an article by Vanda Bogušas (Bogušienė), press representative for the Health Ministry)

College Nursing Degrees in Lithuania

This fall is yielding a good harvest for the Kaunas Medical Academy. The Nursing Faculty accepted its first class of middle school graduates into the baccalaureate program. Prof. V. Barkauskas (a University of Michigan Nursing faculty member who went to Lithuania on a Fulbright scholarship-rk) helped draft the curriculum guidelines.

The Nursing Faculty began five years ago, and the applicant pool increases each year. Young people are determined to finish a university-level nursing program. A few years ago, physicians and Health Ministry officials looked sceptically at this undertaking. However, results showed that registered/certified nursing specialists are needed and easily employed in school clinics, as nursing administrators and elsewhere.

In the fall of 1996, St. Ursula College Nursing Professor, Rauda Gelažius, arrived from Cleveland, Ohio to teach a course on psychiatric nursing for three weeks. The Lithuanian-born and Lithuanian-speaking professor brought best wishes from her colleagues, as well as textbooks and videocassettes.

Lectures and practical experience are the foundation of the nursing program in Lithuania today. In talking about psychiatric nursing, Prof. Gelažius stresses the need for nurses to communicate with their patients in order to improve the patient's physical and spiritual health. Nurses can be instrumental in working with patients who have attempted suicide. Prof. Gelažius is lecturing to the nursing students, thanks to the initiative and invitation of Professor Barkauskas.

(GYDYTOJŲ ŽINIOS/News for Physicians-rk/, 9/19/96, from an article by Dr. A. Šeškevičius, Dean of the Kaunas Medical Academy Nursing Faculty)

Plastic Surgeon

Dr. Saulius Jankauskas, a Lithuanian American plastic surgeon from Florida, visited Lithuania, demonstrated various reconstructive surgery techniques, and talked with some Lithuanian journalists. One reason to interview him, of

course, was to get his response to a thought-provoking article by Dr. F. Markuckas, which had appeared in *Kauno Diena*, claiming that plastic surgeons place too high a value on appearance and not enough on the longevity of (skin and other) cancer patients.

Dr. Jankauskas expressed the opinion that those types of comments were most common in the United States about 15-20 years ago. Now the thinking is that not only is the actual cure important to the patient, but also the quality of life which comes from the patient's self-esteem and confidence in his or her appearance.

Plastic and reconstructive surgery in the U.S. is now widely used not only in cancer patients, but also after trauma, burns, etc. Skin from the patient is harvested to contribute to the surgery on the affected area. Dr. Jankauskas had especially strong feelings about some outdated thinking about breast reconstructive surgery that plastic surgeons should not presume to tell oncologists what do with cancer patients, and that plastic reconstructive surgery can take place later when the patient is on the road to recovery from the cancer itself. A woman should have a choice on her care.

On a visit to Lithuania three years ago, Dr. Jankauskas visited mostly with relatives, but also decided to meet with some of his professional colleagues. A correspondence began, and in August of 1996, he returned to the Kaunas Medical Academy to assist in two surgeries. His consultation on a burn victim's case was at the request of the Chicago-based humanitarian aid group "Lietuvos Dukterys" (Daughters of Lithuania) to whom the patient had written. Rather than bringing the girl to America for treatment, Dr. Jankauskas proposed going to Lithuania and assisting on reconstructive surgery for the young girl who had been severely burned as a child. An earlier surgery in Moscow had been just the beginning. The surgery involved removing bones from her rib cage to reconstruct her nose, and surgery done to repair her lips. Dr. Jankauskas also operated in a breast reconstructive surgery. He worked with the Plastic Surgery Center physicians, consulted on various cases, lectured to surgeons and residents, and promised to write articles for the journal *MEDICINA*.

One thing that many Lithuanians who seek to go to America for various plastic and reconstructive surgery procedures don't realize is that the Plastic Surgery Center of Kaunas does many of these operations. Various humanitarian aid organizations in some case were preparing to send children abroad when it became clear that the money would be better utilized sending patients abroad only those whose cases are so complex that advanced medical procedures not yet performed in Lithuania are needed.

(LIETUVOS RYTAS and KAUNO DIENA, 8/96, from articles by Giedre Butvytas/Budvytienė and Vilma Bartuška/Bartuškaitė)

Libraries for the Blind

In 1928, the libraries at the Kaunas Institute for the Blind and the Vilnius School for the Blind were founded. In 1940, the Vilnius school and its library were closed down, and the Kaunas library was the only one serving that audience until 1947. Now there are again libraries for visually handicapped children in Vilnius and Kaunas. In Vilnius, the library collection is larger, consisting of 66,000 volumes, in large part Braille books, but it also includes some books on tape. The libraries are in large part used by the children who attend the special schools...Nowadays it has become common that children with visual handicaps attend schools in their locales, and the Lithuanian Library for the Blind assists by lending out materials, in some cases with "portable collections... The library also assists LASS, the Lithuanian Association for the Blind and Visually Handicapped.

(Tarp Knygų -Between the Books, 9/96, from an article by Jadvyga Kuolas/Kuolienė)

Psychological Help Line

Lithuania's Unified Telephone (Psychological) Help Line Association started work in October 1996. This association links together telephone assistance personnel such as psychologists, psychotherapists and volunteers who have completed special courses, as well as consultants.

The need for such an association was recognized a long time ago. Those who work in this difficult and challenging field recognized that the work is hard and has its own problems. There is a need for standardized qualifications, factual materials, information-sharing, ethical guidelines and networking with international organizations.

Nine representative service organizations from Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Marijampolė and Druskininkai participated in the founding meeting of the Association. The Association elected a president and officers and voted to follow the international telephone assistance services work ethics code. The Association President is Dr. Kristina Ona Polukordas (Polukordienė) and the headquarters are in Vilnius at the Youth Psychological Assistance Center (Jaunimo psichologinės paramos centras), Rasų gatvė 20.

(Lietuvos Sveikata /Lithuania's Health, 10/17-23/96, from information provided by the Association headquarters)

Kidney Centers

One of the largest medical treatment facilities in the Baltics is the Kaunas Medical Academy and its network of clinics. There are 30 kidney patients who must use the facility regularly because their kidneys are damaged and cannot filter the blood properly. Unfortunately, the facility has only room for 16 hemodialysis stations.

The number of children suffering from kidney failure in Lithuania continues to grow. There is a great shortage of kidney donors in Lithuania, however, so kidney transplantation is rarely an option. According to expert Dr. Vytautas Kuzminskis, the principles of organ donor laws in Lithuania are not favorable to patients. In Australia, for example, a person can decide while still alive to become an organ donor after his or her death (some states in the U.S. also indicate this information on drivers' licences-rk). In the Lithuanian Donor Law Project, however, doctors must declare a person brain dead, then keep the person alive by artificial means another 24 hours and only then decide on the issue of transplantation possibilities.

Aside from other benefits to the patient, kidney transplantation is less expensive than kidney dialysis. In Lithuania at this time, maybe 50 patients a year receive kidney transplantations. According to expert estimates, for every 1 million inhabitants, a country should have at least one kidney transplantation center. Little Denmark has three centers, whereas Lithuania has just one. The future is not entirely bleak for Kaunas to get a center, too. Lithuania has qualified specialists, so other organ transplantations could be done as well.

(Kauno Naujienos- News of Kaunas, 10/3-9/96)

Longevity

Lithuania's National Medical Library in Vilnius hosted the first conference on active aging on October 25th. The conference honored Chicagoan Prof. Juozas Meškauskas (a former Lithuanian medical school dean in pre-World War II days-rk) on the occasion of his 90th birthday. The six hour program was scheduled to include 16 talks and lectures on Lithuanian longevity through the ages and the impact of environmental pollution and genetics on longevity...

(Gydytojų Žinios- Physicians' News, 10/17/96)

Births

The Lithuanian Family Planning Association ("Šeimos planavimo asociacija") has operated in Lithuania for one and a half years. Not everyone realizes that a major goal of the association is to ensure that healthy mothers have healthy children, children who are Lithuania's future...Other issues involve the legality of pregnancy terminations (abortions) which are the most effective contraception used in Lithuania today. Of course, every family should make its own choices, and complete, correct information is essential.

The birth rate in Lithuania has been decreasing in the last two years. Some see a tie between low birthrates and economic hardships in Lithuania. Physicians cannot impact on these economic factors. Our expertise and attention are

focused on as individual's health. Women who are bearing children should receive regular care in a normal pregnancy, and specialized care in a complicated pregnancy. A pregnant woman's nervous system is affected by the pregnancy; there can be episodes of depression, all tied in with the mother's psychological state. Sometimes psychotherapy is indicated, and that may assist a mother in deciding to carry a pregnancy to term rather than to abort.

In Lithuania, the number of family physicians is increasing, and they are important partners in the care of a pregnant woman, together with obstetricians. The Association is ready to assist physicians.

(GYDYTOJŲ ŽINIOS- Physicians' News, 10/17/96, from a talk with psychotherapist Dr. Viktoras Sapurovas, a member of the Family Planning Associations' Board of Directors)

Volunteers Organized

University of Illinois pre-med student Daina Kazlauskas, from the Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis Parish Mission in Lemont, IL travelled to Lithuania where she organized a volunteer team for the St. Jacob (Šv. Jokubo) Hospital in Vilnius. The hospital is the only Catholic hospital in Lithuania, and the students who volunteered to work there were recruited from the Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis Parish in Vilnius.

The students worked with Daina during the summer and promised to continue the project into the school year. The group of 20 students, with Daina's leadership, was modelled after American "candy strippers" who visit patients, read to them, comb their hair, joke with them. Volunteerism was forbidden in the years of Soviet occupation, since it wasn't "necessary" the Central Party organized everything "so well." According to those plans, hospital beds were numerous and were to be kept filled at all times, so patients often were kept in the hospital much longer than was necessary. Donations paid for the volunteer group's uniforms and some everyday supplies.

The initial volunteer effort targeted four hospital departments. For her stay June-August 1996, Daina herself chose the neurosurgical ward where she helped distribute food, assisted nursing staff, and even was able to translate and observe some operations. Funds were donated by the Lithuanian Catholic humanitarian aid groups and included the physicians' fraternity "Gaja," the Lithuanian Foundation, and the University of Illinois. Plans are underway to spark interest in such volunteer efforts at other Lithuanian hospitals.

(Draugas, 11/2/96, from an article by Dr. Linas Sidrys, and letters from St. Jacob Hospital neurosurgeon Dr. R. Sumauskas and Daina Kazlauskas herself)

With Gratitude...

The Lithuanian Orphan Care Committee received \$10,975 in donations through the Joseph G. Simanis Memorial Fund. \$975 were donated by friends and relatives of the Simanis family. \$10,000 were received through the efforts and generosity of Mr. Ernest C. Raskauskas, Sr. Mr. Raskauskas and his friend, Frederick L. Potter, donated \$2,500 each. An additional \$5,000 was received from the non-profit corporation "Seneca House," also through Mr. Raskauskas.

This is a tremendous gift to the unfortunate children in Lithuania and a beautiful and meaningful Memorial to Joseph G. Simanis. Jane and Joe Simanis had been "foster parents" to an orphan in Lithuania.

The Lithuanian Orphan Care Committee and the Simanis family wish to thank all who contributed, especially Mr. Raskauskas. Additional contributions to the Simanis Memorial Fund can be sent to: Lithuanian Orphan Care Committee, 2711 West 71st Street, Chicago, IL 60629. For more information, call Teresé Landsbergis (301-336-5250), member, Lithuanian Orphan Care Committee.

Rachel Brown

The Americanizing of Alina

"Once upon a time I was beautiful. My hair was thick ... My skin was smooth and soft ... my mouth was dark pink ... my eyes were large and clear. Unfortunately, I was 4 years old at the time. It's been downhill ever since." — Geneen Roth in "Age Before Beauty"

At age 7, Alina Christine Elizabeth Brand is holding her own — so much so that she participated in the Miss American Princess of Maryland last weekend at the BWI Marriott.

And if anything, it was the culmination of a wonderful two years for this little Catonsville girl.

When Alina was 4, she was living in an orphanage in Lithuania, which had rescued her from the streets the year before.

But in September 1994, when Alina was 5, she was adopted by Catonsville residents Michele and Philip Brand, who also adopted a boy, Vitalius, now 9. Since then the family has expanded to include Villa, a 4-year-old from Lithuania, and the Brands are planning to adopt a 12-year-old girl this fall [Angela finally arrived after Christmas 1996].

The kids become Americanized really quick," said Michele Brand, adding that Alina spoke English her first month in the United States and was fluent by the third month. Alina backed this up by saying her favorite toy is Barbie and what she likes most about living in America is Chuck E. Cheese's.

Alina's brother Vitalius was also fast to take up American pastimes, joining a local Little League team. Villa, who has only been in this country a month, can already count to 10 in English.

Although the Brands are proud of Alina's strides in becoming an American — she formally became a citizen last year — they also want the children to retain their Lithuania heritage. Once a week the children attend a Lithuanian class [on Saturdays at the Karaliaus Mindaugo Lithuanian School of Baltimore] to learn the language and history, as well as learn the country's cultural heritage, such as cooking, dancing and traditional dress.



Lithuanian Independence Day celebration, Baltimore Lithuanian Hall. From left: Angela Schulte, Alina Brand, Arthur Schulte, Victoria Schulte, and Vitalius Brand.

The Brands also keep a large treasure chest for each child that contains their adoption papers and photos, as well as Lithuanian money, art work, toys and tapes of the children's voices when they first came to the United States.

But equally important are the numerous photo albums and scrap books of life in the United States that the Brands helped Alina and her brother compile.

"It's so important to do this because it builds their own history and helps them get past their sense of loss," Michele Brand said.

The photos depict numerous community events that Alina and Vitalius have participated in, such as dressing in costume for Catonsville Community College fund raiser and delivering Easter Baskets to shut-ins for their church.

And what could be more American than participating in the Miss American Princess Pageant? To prepare, Alina spent the weekend with 88 other contestants being coached in how to walk on stage, speak into a microphone and answer interview questions.

On the first evening of the two-day pageant, Alina was escorted on stage by her father. She walked forward and continued on page 26

Michele Brand

Adopting Older Children — A Dream Come True

My husband, Phil, and I considered adopting after we experienced two failed pregnancies, expensive fertility programs and a two-year waiting period with another adoption agency for an infant, with no results. Finally, we decided to rethink our expectations and in June, 1994, we applied to 'Adoptions Together' to adopt a child from another country. This time we did not have specific expectations and as a result, we immediately fell in love with the picture of Alina, a frail 31-pound orphan, five years of age.

I remember thinking in bed one night that we must have lost our minds to consider adopting two older children. But as our story goes, shortly before our trip to Lithuania, in September 1994, we received the call "There is a little boy named Vitali, and he is seven years old." I recall wondering to myself "what am I going to do with a seven year old boy ... I don't even like football!"

After the call, Phil and I had long talks about whether Vitali's personality was already formed, and what he would think and feel since he would be fully aware of the changes in his life. All of our discussions together and with the agency staff led to our final decision to adopt both children.

Needless to say, all of our fears were eased the moment we were introduced to our frightened and very shy children in the Director's office at Vilnius Children's Home #2. I remember looking into the faces of Vitali and Alina for the first time and feeling so guilty that I had any doubts about these children. They were timid little babes who clung intensely to each other for security. Phil and I knew at that moment that these two older children were right for us.

Since returning from Vilnius, it's hard to believe that Alina and Vitali have only been with us for such a short period of time because of the wonderful bonding everyone has experienced. In retrospect, our biggest fears concerning adopting an "older" child have been overcome by the advantages we now understand; their age can make this perhaps even easier in some respects than adopting infants.

In just four months, Vitali and Alina have a good command of the English language. As a result, Phil and I are now privileged to hear and understand intimate details of their life in the orphanage and before. As a parent, this gives us an unusual opportunity to understand our children better and to channel our parenting skills in a direction that is both

positive and loving. It also gives our children an opportunity to talk about their personal fears, losses, and separations that would not be possible with a young child or toddler who had not developed communication skills at this level.

Although you might imagine that orphanage life may not be the ideal living arrangements for children, my husband and I are amazed at the ease of acceptance and sharing family responsibilities that must have been taught at the orphanage. When our children first arrived home, they immediately initiated chores for themselves such as cleaning the kitchen table, sweeping the floor, and making their beds. They also dress themselves and keep their rooms very clean. They are innately driven to complete tasks successfully and place a high value on being participating members of our family. These wonderful characteristics have not faded with time.

Vitali and Alina outwardly express appreciation for such little things as having their own toothbrush, getting the opportunity to bathe each day or for feeling safe and loved by their new mama and papa. They frequently talk about their new life as a "Brand kid" in comparison to the many years of life in the orphanage. I uncontrollably get all teared up whenever one of my children thanks me for simple, basic things in life that my husband and I have always taken for granted. It can sure make one feel very humble.

The biggest reward for Phil and me has been the immediate joy of sharing life experiences with Vitali and Alina. They are well aware of their surroundings and demonstrate an enjoyable sense of participation. Recently, we planned a family outing to see Beauty and the Beast On Ice. It was a wonderful experience as a parent to witness the delight of the event on our children's faces, and to have them communicate their personal fantasies about the show. Although we originally thought adopting an infant was the only possible scenario for a successful adoption, we have come to understand that the joys of parenting cannot be placed within a tight framework by age. As our children so often refer to Phil and me as their "Princess and Prince," we too are thankful that our willingness to accept children outside the traditional profile of infancy has resulted in all of our dreams coming true.

Reprinted with permission from the Quarter Newsletter from Adoptions Together, Inc. March 1995.

continued from page 24

spun around for the judges while the emcee said that Alina enjoyed dancing, singing, crafts and helping others. He also read that her ambition in life is to be a doctor, a mom and a friend. On the second night, Alina danced in a line-up with other contestants wearing a full-length white peau de soie dress.

"This was her idea. She really wanted to do this," her mother said, adding that Alina became a finalist by mailing in an application, then lining up sponsors. She added that the pageant is unique in that it does not allow the 4- to 7-year-olds to wear make-up.

"No one wants to see a 4-year old walking across the stage caked with makeup," said George Scarborough, the pageant director. "Besides, the judges are looking at the girl's inside beauty as well as her external beauty."

The Beauty who walked away with this year's title was a 6-year-old from Frederick who receive \$500 in cash and prizes as well as the opportunity to compete for the national title in Orlando, Fla. While there, she'll visit Disney World.

The Brands aren't worried that Alina will miss out on Disney World. She's already been there, and the family plans to return later this year. It's a world away from Lithuania, after all.

Adopted from Lithuania two years ago, Alina Brand 7, never dreamed she'd one day compete in an American pageant.

Cover photo by Ed Bunyan, staff, Catonsville Times.

Reprinted with permission from the Living Section of the Catonsville Times, August 14, 1996.



The Brand family today seated from left to right are Alina, Villa, Philip, and Vitalius. Standing are Angela and Michele Brand.

Cheryl Clemons

From Lithuania to Catonsville, With Love

Philip and Michele Brand of Catonsville (Maryland) spent their seventh wedding anniversary on September 6 in a courtroom in Vilnius, Lithuania, becoming parents.

The day before, the director of Vilnius Children's Home No. 2 had called Alina, 5, and Vitalius, 7, into her office to meet the Brands and ask how they'd feel about going to live with them in America. "Mama? Papa?" she'd asked, motioning to the Brands.

Vitalius, excited but apprehensive, nodded his approval. Alina, on the other hand, ran right over to Philip Brand and curled into his lap.

Less than one week later, the Brand home in College Hills, Maryland, looked like there have always been children there. Cheerful chalk scribbles color the driveway, Walt Disney's "Aladdin" dances across the television screen and upstairs there is a pink bedroom full of Barbies and Disney characters and a yellow bedroom stocked with Hot Wheels cars. Positioned prominently in both is a large American flag.

The Brands' trip to Lithuania was set in motion late last spring when, frustrated by the long wait for a domestic adoption, they contacted Adoptions Together, a Catonsville agency specializing in domestic and international adoptions. So far this year, the agency has placed about 100 children.

In early August they received word of Alina, followed shortly thereafter by news of a young boy. The Brands had requested two children, hoping that the major adjustments the children would have to make would be eased by a sibling. They expressed no preference for age or sex.

Although the Brands knew there would be mountains of paperwork with no guarantees of success, they took it as a

This article, which originally ran in the September 14, 1994 issue of the Catonsville Times, has been reprinted with the permission of Patuxent Publishing. Michele Brand is currently the Vice President of the CCC Alumni Association. The entire Catonsville Community College community extends its best wishes to the Brand family.

good omen when the court date was set for their anniversary.

Once in Lithuania, the Brands spent as much time as they could with the children. On one occasion, they brought the children back to the apartment they were renting to bathe and dress them in clothes they had brought.

The children loved taking long hot baths, and Alina was immediately smitten with a pair of black patent leather shoes the Brands had bought for her.

"She wanted to know if these were her shoes for today or if she could keep them," said Philip Brand, chief compliance officer for the Internal Revenue Service. "Once we told her she could keep them, they were like cement on her feet. She could only take a few steps at a time before she would have to stop and look down at the shoes."

At the orphanage, all the children dressed out of communal bags of clothes. When Alina and Vitalius saw the suitcase of clothes their new parents brought them, they went wild.

Once the Brands cleared all of the legal hurdles, they returned to the orphanage to throw a going-away party complete with ice cream, cookies and bananas, which are like candy in Lithuania. Alina was eager to leave with her new family, but Vitalius took his time, tearfully kissing each child good-bye.

The family arrived at Baltimore-Washington International Airport on Saturday, September 10th and were greeted by about 25 friends and family members, all carrying flags, balloons and gifts. Among the revelers was proud grandmother Margaret Funk.

Deirdre Schaal, whose mother Liz Swann traveled to Lithuania with the Brands to serve as interpreter, said she couldn't wait for the Brand children to get acquainted with her own son and daughter.

"I'm hoping that my children will learn about their own Lithuanian heritage from them, and at the same time teach Alina and Vitalius about their new American heritage."

John and Cindy Lawson of Ellicott City, who attend Hope Presbyterian Church with the Brands, were at the airport with their two daughters, Alona 6, and Anna 4, both adopted from Lithuania in May.

The Lawsons said the greatest hurdle they have had to overcome in the past four months was the language barrier, although both girls now speak fairly good English.

The Brands plan to keep a low profile this week, letting the children become accustomed to their new family, home and neighborhood at their own pace.

Alina will attend a kindergarten program at the social Security Administration, where her mother is director of visual graphics.

Vitilius has begun school at Catonsville Elementary, where he will receive special attention throughout the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program.

School may present a challenge. For the moment, large, institutional-looking buildings terrify the children. They are still afraid of being returned to an orphanage.

"What's most important for us to work on now is their sense of security, because once that's in place, all the rest will fall in line," said Michele Brand. "If that means I have to go to school with them for six months, then that's what I'm going to do.

"It's so hard to describe what it's like to be in the kitchen in the morning and two little children come downstairs with their arms out to you wanting to be held," she said. "They are so affectionate. They suck up love like little sponges."

Individuals interested in adopting healthy older children (5 years +) from Lithuania without contracting with an adoption agency may call Michele Brand (410-744-2005).

Call for Programs, Workshops, Lectures for Lithuania 1997

The American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education (A.P.P.L.E.) seeks program proposals, workshop plans and detailed lecture outlines or completed papers for presentation at its Teacher In-service Seminar, to be held in various Lithuanian cities early July to early August, 1997.

Proposals in the areas of educational administration, early childhood and elementary education, teaching ethics and teaching democracy, vocational and special education, school psychology, counseling, educational media, librarianship, bilingual education, educational reform and teaching methods in all subject specialties are welcome. At this time, overriding concerns for Lithuanian educators are assessment and integrated curricula as applied across all subject areas. This year's A.P.P.L.E. program will reflect these concerns. A.P.P.L.E. is also interested in proposals that would create a two-step program: basic and advanced (or more narrowly focused) approaches in a particular field. Selected participants must be able to make a minimum two-week commitment.

Please send 2 copies of detailed proposals or complete papers **ASAP** to Seminar Registrar Shirley Sabo, 118 Cook Rd., Prospect, CT, 06712.

Everyone is also greatly encouraged to call Shirley Sabo at (203) 758-4600 for developing details of the 1997 Summer Seminar. A.P.P.L.E. needs to know of your potential interest right away, even before a proposal is submitted. This allows us to match specialists with similar interests for potential team teaching and to keep our Lithuanian colleagues abreast of what courses we might be able to offer in each city.

Jeanne Dorr

A Journey to Linkuva

It was a chilly, dreary morning as we left Vilnius for a "Charity Day" which was sponsored by the Countryside Children's Fund (Kaimo Vaikai). The sky overhead looked like it was about to open at any moment but Regina Svoba, who is in charge of Countryside Children, kept reassuring me that it never rained on these special days. I was not about to question such an expert opinion. More to the point, I wasn't quite awake.

We left Vilnius about 8 am which was not my idea of vacation hours. I wonder why Orphan Care people seem to be the only Lithuanians who are ever on time, especially for morning appointments. Regina Svoba, Dr. Albina Prunskienė, honorary president of Lithuanian Orphan Care, Bernardas Saknys, a correspondent for the newspaper, *Valstiečių Laikraštis*, Jonas Dilys, the paper's photographer, Stasys Tyskevicius, the driver, and I were on our way to Linkuva in the newspaper's van. I certainly wasn't complaining about the mode of transportation since it was far more comfortable than many other ways I have traveled in Lithuania.

We were to be met in Linkuva by Vladas Vasiliauskas, another driver for the newspaper who volunteered to give up a vacation day, without compensation, to drive a big truck packed to the brim with food and clothing. I later learned that many employees of *Valstiečių Laikraštis* work on their days off or work overtime without compensation so that Lithuania's children can have a better future.

Image and Reality

As we drove along the beautiful Lithuanian countryside, I noticed people working in the fields and walking along the road. It was almost like being caught in a time warp. Families were riding in hay-filled wagons pulled by horses. Others were working in the fields while women pushing heavy wheelbarrows walked along the road. At every bend of the road one could see cows or goats tied to stakes in the ground, grazing contentedly. But regardless how I looked at it, and many of the scenes did look like picture postcards, I realized that, although we are standing on the brink of the 21st century, technology had not reached the average Lithuanian farm family. Many of these very families are receiving help from Lithuanian Orphan Care.

We traveled over dirt roads and sent chickens flying ahead of us. Some of the roads were so bad I could feel the fill-

ings in my teeth rattle. Just as we arrived in Linkuva, the sky opened — so much for the tradition that it never rains for a Charity Day.

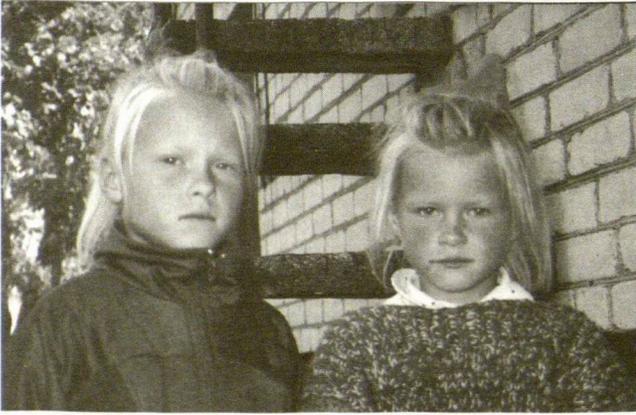


Valstiečių Laikraštis's driver, Vladas Vasiliauskas, unloading Countryside children (Kaimo Vaikai) gifts in Linkuva.

Charity Days are organized, usually once a month, by Countryside Children to acquaint people with their program. Twenty families were invited to attend the meeting in the local town hall. These families were selected by two social workers who knew their circumstances. The group consisted of women and children. It was difficult to judge the ages of the women because all were work-weary. Their hands had calluses and their faces were lined with worry. Their children sat quietly at their sides. One of the first things that struck me was the behavior of Lithuanian children. These are children who do not demand the attention of their parents and do not have to constantly be the center of attention.

Regina Svoba introduced and explained the Countryside Children's Fund. She told them of other available services such as Children's Hope for those families who might need certain kinds of surgery. Very often, the people who need the most services do not know what help is available to them or how to find it. She sincerely thanked the American sponsors and such groups at SOS Florida for their shipments of necessary items.

She also mentioned that without the work of MERCYLIFT, none of these items would reach Lithuania. BRIDGES readers, please don't forget MERCYLIFT when you are deciding where you should donate. They are responsible for providing transportation for the huge con-



Two sisters who attended Charity Day in Linkuva.

tainers of goods and medicines which are shipped to Lithuania by many humanitarian organizations. Tax deductible checks can be sent to them at

MERCYLIFT
14911 127th Street
Lemont, Illinois 60439

Without this fine organization, many other Lithuanian groups would have to curtail their work because there would be no way to ship the goods.

All of this was explained to the people in Linkuva. Mrs. Svoba told the women we were not there to judge them but rather to help. She said she knew how difficult country living was, especially for women. At that moment, she asked how many of the women had husbands who did not drink. Only one woman raised her hand. Dr. Prunskienė was the next speaker and she explained how Orphan Care worked in America. I spoke about our American role. Although we may be second, third, or fourth-generation Lithuanians, this does not alter the fact that the blood of our ancestors runs through our veins. I told them about people who are not of Lithuanian descent but who sacrifice to help Lithuania's children have a better future. I closed by reminding them that Orphan Care is not a handout or a gift, it is a loan to be repaid by one person's getting on her feet and then helping her neighbor.

After we finished speaking, the driver brought in a box of used toys.

One little girl asked if she could take something for her sick sister. If not, it was okay — she would give her sister the toy she had selected for herself. Fortunately, there were extra toys. The children then went back to their seats with their toys and the talking continued. As time went on, the women seemed more at ease; they began to open up and speak more freely. We were no longer strangers but someone who would listen and not judge them and, maybe, just maybe, be able to give their children some hope for the future.

Each child was told to come to the front of the room and take an item. The children did not move until their mothers gave them permission. There was no pushing or shoving and, above all, there was no greed.

The Scourge of the Countryside

The two main problems seemed to be alcohol and money. The villages are being strangled by alcoholism. There is very cheap and often deadly liquor coming over the border. Why are so many drinking? My guess is that they have lost hope. Some cannot adjust to a system where the government no longer does your thinking for you and provides for your needs. Many cannot find jobs. The alcoholism is bad in itself, but it is often accompanied by child and wife abuse. There are no temporary shelters or places to run when a mother and her children are being beaten. One woman inferred that she would be afraid to leave because it would be worse for her when she returned home — and she would have to come home. She had nothing and owned nothing. She was trapped. Her only consolation was that perhaps someday her children would have a better life.

Many of the people who work the land have pooled their resources. However, when prices are low and the farms don't make a profit, then nobody gets paid. Factories and farms are going bankrupt at an alarming rate. The money situation, when combined with alcoholism, often makes for a deadly combination.

As we opened the door to go outside to distribute the packages and food we had brought, lo and behold the rain had stopped and the sun was shining! After the torrential downpour, I put the sunshine in the category of a minor miracle.

And now I'd like to introduce you to some of the people I met that day. The first was a woman with a son about 12 years old. Initially, I thought she was the child's grandmother. Her husband is an invalid and she cleans the local school. In addition to a regular job, she works at anything else that is offered to her so that she can support her family which consists of her husband and three children. She told me this was the second time she received a charity package. Tears rolled down her face as she tried to express her gratitude.

The truck was loaded with food as well as huge bags that had been filled before we left Vilnius to match the needs of

each family. But what brought the “oohs” and “aaahs” were the boxes of brand new sneakers purchased by Lithuanian Orphan Care in Chicago. The Orphan Care Committee had the opportunity to purchase a large number of sneakers at an unbelievably low price and, thanks to MERCYLIFT, they were sent to Lithuania. I wish each and every one of you had had the opportunity to see the faces of those mothers and children. For some of these children, it was the first and only pair of new shoes they ever owned. Thank you, readers. Your donations helped purchase these sneakers and bring such joy to these children.



A young recipient of a stuffed animal donated through Countryside Children (Kaimo Vaikai).

One of the greatest needs faced by
Countryside children is children's
wheelchairs. There are 2,000 children
in need of the chairs and the social
agencies provide 150 a year.

As the woman waited for her name to be called and was handed her bag, she once again started to cry but these were tears of joy. I spoke with her while she was trying to tie her packages to a rusted old bicycle with a seat that was covered with a burlap bag. For an instant an image flashed before my eyes — that of my neighborhood children who carelessly leave their very expensive bikes outside in the rain. As I helped her tie her packages to her bike, she told me that she and her family pray every night for all the people far away who help them.

Another woman asked if she could speak to us privately. She told us how difficult life was for her children and her because of an abusive, alcoholic husband. The package she received from us that day would be left at her neighbor's house because her husband would sell anything and everything for a drink. When she finished talking, we asked her how we could help her. She replied, “Thank you, you have already helped me by being here and just listening.” She thanked us for her package and walked away with her head held high. She asked for nothing except a few minutes of our time.

I saw so many successes of the Orphan Care program but we still have a long road to travel. It's only been a few years since independence and it will take much more time to repair the damage left by 50 years of destruction.

One of the greatest needs faced by Countryside children is children's wheelchairs. There are 2,000 children in need of the chairs and the social agencies provide 150 a year. If you have an invalid in your family, you will certainly understand the desperation of this situation. Many families

have to maneuver several flights of stairs to take their children outdoors. I have seen mothers exhausted from carrying children from room to room. A wheelchair would give flexibility to the child as well as some relief to the beleaguered families. A chair can be purchased for approximately \$250. The chairs are manufactured in Lithuania so buying them also keeps people working. If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of a child's wheelchair, please make a notation on your check or enclose a note. I am urging our generous organizations to consider purchasing a wheelchair for a child. It is a gift that will last for years; as the child outgrows the chair, it will be passed to another child on the endless waiting list.

I hope you were able to see some of the people through my eyes. When I return from Lithuania, I come home rejuvenated! I've had new life and a new spirit of purpose breathed into me by Lithuania's children. Some people are refreshed by the beach or the mountains. I have to travel Lithuania's dirt roads and meet her children. They are Lithuania's hope for tomorrow and you are their hope for today. I've lost count of how many times I have swallowed my pride and have come to you to ask for help for Lithuania's forgotten children but I have not lost count of your generosity. BRIDGES readers are an integral part of Lithuanian Orphan Care. I'd like to close with a Hindu proverb. “Help you brother's boat across and your own will reach the shore.”

The cost to sponsor a child is \$150/year but any donation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address below. Please send your tax-deductible checks to:

LITHUANIAN ORPHAN CARE
2711 W. 71ST STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60629

Officer Offers Lithuanians Advice on Policing

Jon Schwartz and three Lithuanian police officers trudged through foot-deep snow near the city of Panevezys, Lithuania, to a barn-like building used for indoor target practice.

Two of the officers had Schwartz fire each of their 9mm semiautomatic handguns. Standing on a dirt floor in the building, Schwartz fired a series of rounds and hit the target each time.

One of the officers, who was serving as an interpreter, said to Schwartz, "You have passed the test. We believe you are a true police officer."

Of course, Schwartz is a police officer — a member of the Rochester (Illinois) Police Department who works as a DARE officer and is a community liaison between Rochester village and the Rochester schools.

He spent two weeks in January as part of an American group invited to Lithuania, a former Soviet bloc country. The purpose of the visit: Help that country, with its newfound independence, work on community-police relations and substance abuse prevention.

Schwartz, along with retired school counselor Jack Irwin of Geneva, Illinois, visited Lithuanian schools and police departments, where he talked about police training and the activities of the Rochester Snowball program. Irwin has helped organize Snowball activities in Lithuania. The Lithuanian teens Schwartz met asked about American schools and activities, clothes and trends.

"They weren't that much different from

young people in our country," he said.

Alcohol abuse is a serious problem among younger and older Lithuanians. Drug use and gangs don't seem to be as significant a problem as they are in the United States, Schwartz was told.

"Part of the reason drug abuse may not be as much of a problem there is that young people in Lithuania don't have that much money," he said.

Community policing and school-police activities that stress friendly interactions between law enforcement, schools and the public, while being met with generally positive feedback in the United States, are met with skepticism in Lithuania. That could be due to the former police state that ruled the country, said Schwartz. The other problem could be the hesitation that comes with most new activities.

"Lithuanians in the past did not talk about their feelings or what they hoped to do," he said. "That's something Snowball encourages young people to do. After a while, they really opened up. They asked a lot of questions about where I came from, what the schools were like, what the United States was like."

"I was treated with a great deal of respect. I may have planted a seed or two, particularly about school-police relations and community policing," Schwartz said.

Rutledge called Schwartz an "ambassador, not just for Rochester, but for the United States. ■

Reprinted from the State Journal-Register

Reprinted with permission from the May 1996 issue of *IMPACT Your Community*, a publication of Operation Snowball, Inc., Springfield, Illinois.

Don't forget to renew!

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

To the Most Exciting
Lithuanian American Publication
to come out in 122 years!

Don't miss a single issue. Return the
subscription form with your payment today!

Please Note!
The date above your name on the address label
indicates the last issue of your subscription.
Make sure you renew your subscription in time
so you won't miss a single issue.

Get *Lithuanian Heritage* Magazine... for yourself!

Yes! Please enter/renew my subscription to
Lithuanian Heritage magazine for:

- 1 year (6 issues) for only \$29.95
- 2 years (12 issues) for only \$55 (That's a savings
of \$4.90 off the annual price)

**Rates good in U.S. and possessions only; Canada: add US\$12
per year; other countries: add US\$21 per year. Foreign payment
must be in U.S. funds, drawn on a U.S. bank.**

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____ Date _____

**Make your check or money order payable to Baltech Publishing,
P.O. Box 225, Lemont, IL 60439-0225.
Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of first issue.**

Do you know someone who would also enjoy reading *Lithuanian
Heritage* magazine? Send us their names and addresses and we'll make
sure they get all the information about subscribing.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

5/96

Give *Lithuanian Heritage* Magazine... as a gift!

Yes! Please enter/renew subscription to *Lithuanian
Heritage* magazine for the person named
below:

- 1 year (6 issues) for only \$29.95
- 2 years (12 issues) for only \$55 (That's a savings
of \$4.90 off the annual price)

**Rates good in U.S. and possessions only; Canada: add US\$12
per year; other countries: add US\$21 per year.**

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

**Make your check or money order payable to Baltech Publishing,
P.O. Box 225, Lemont, IL 60439-0225.
Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of first issue.**

My Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____ Date _____

5/96

Complete your Lithuanian Heritage magazine collection by ordering Back Issues today!

Nov/Dec 1994 – "The Great Families of Lithuania", "Barbora Radvilaitė, Grand Duchess of Lithuania", "Gateway of Faith", "A City by Any Other Name is Still the Same City", "Christmas Eve in Lithuania", "Why Can't we Understand Each Other?", "Humor From a Not Too Distant Past", etc.

Jan/Feb 1995 – "Sahara on the Baltic", "Long Road to Independence", "Dr. Jonas Šliūpas – Patriot of Two Continents", "A Good Man is Hard to Find", "What's in a Name?", "The Lithuanian Alphabet", "Swan, the King's Wife", etc.

Mar/Apr 1995 – "Lithuania Minor – Cradle of Lithuanian Culture", "Klaipėda – Lithuania's Window to the World", "Martynas Mažvydas and the First Lithuanian Book", "Lithuania Minor Place-names", "Symbol of Spring and New Life", "Is it All Greek to You?", "The Legend of "Pilaitė", etc.

May/June 1995 – "The Rise and Fall of Two Parishes", "The Rolling Stones of Lithuania", "The First Lithuanian in America", "Searching for Your Roots in Lithuania Could be Costly", "Joninės", "Sigutė", "Dainos", etc.

Jul/Aug 1995 – "The Spirit of Lithuania", "Zolinė", "Napoleon's Adventure in Lithuania", "Building the Citadel", "Origin and Formation of Lithuanian Surnames, Part 1", "Revisiting the Past in a Funicular", "Impressions of Lithuania as a Peace Corps Volunteer", etc.

Sep/Oct 1995 – "Rumšiškės", "The Old Town that Was", "The Women's Hour", "Lithuanian Surnames, Part 2", "What's so Different About Lithuanian Women?", "Vėlinės – Celebration of the Dead", "Lithuanian Tales of the Crypt", etc.

Nov/Dec 1995 – "Witnesses of an Honorable Past – Lithuanian Castles", "M.K. Čiurlionis – Visionary Painter and Composer", "Lithuanian Surnames, Part 3", "The Empty Chair", "Kūčios", "An Old Lithuanian Proverb Says...", etc.

Jan/Feb 1996 – "Lithuania's Major Minorities", "A Man for All Reasons", "Museum of Ancient Beekeeping", "Lithuanian Surnames, Part 4", "The Ides of March", "Grabnyčios", etc.

Mar/Apr 1996 – "Kosciusko: Soldier, Humanitarian, Lithuanian", "The Other Minorities", "Battle of Wits", "Palm Sunday in Lithuania", "Timeline: Lithuania". "The Slavization of Lithuanian Surnames", "Lithuanian Riddles", etc.

May/June 1996 – "Out of the Past", "Solved Mystery", "Women's Names", "We've Got Rhythm", "Amber – Window to the Past", "How Lithuanians Curse", "The Heart and Soul of Lithuanian Basketball", "Day of Mourning and Hope", "Summer Comes to Lithuania", etc.

Jul/Aug 1996 – "Vytautas the Great", "Battle of the Century", "The Jewel in the Crown", "Relief Was Just a Pen Stroke Away", "Lithuanian Surnames in Exile", "The 'Good Old' Days", "Where to Eat in Vilnius", "Tenth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival", etc.

Sep/Oct 1996 – "The Man from 'Red October'", "Rūta – National Flower of Lithuania", "A Million Signatures for Lithuania", "Helping Hands", "The Game of the Names", "Lithuania: Big on Potential, Slow on Results", "It's Apple Picking Time", Results of First Photo Contest, etc.

Back Issues Order Form

All back issues are \$6.50* postpaid. Payment must accompany order. All checks must be in U.S. funds and drawn on a U.S. bank.

Please enter below the quantity of each back issue needed.

Issue	Quantity	Issue	Quantity
Nov/Dec 1994		Nov/Dec 1995	
Jan/Feb 1995		Jan/Feb 1996	
Mar/Apr 1995		Mar/Apr 1996	
May/June 1995		May/June 1996	
Jul/Aug 1995		Jul/Aug 1996	
Sep/Oct 1995		Sep/Oct 1996	

Name _____

Address _____

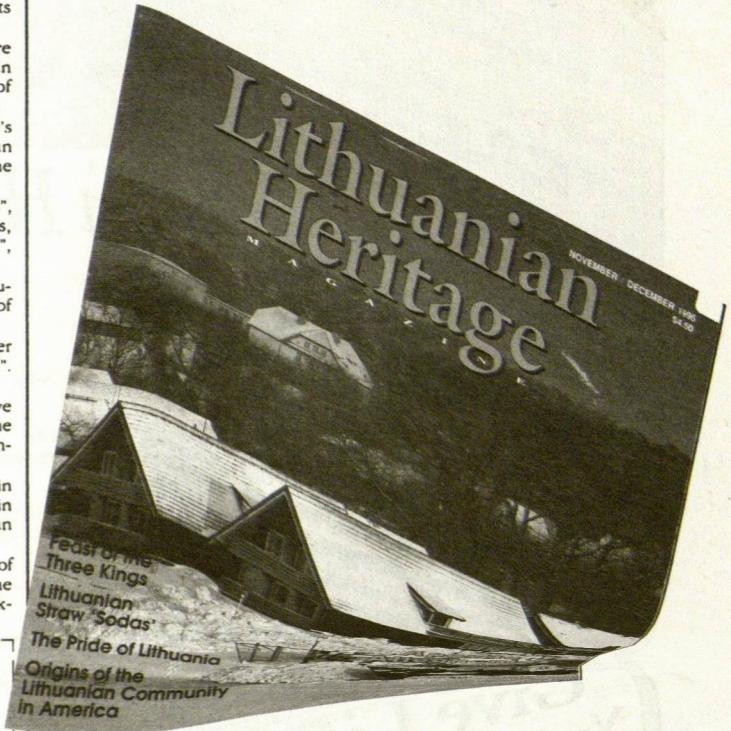
City _____

State/Zip _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Send Order and Payment to Baltech Publishing, P.O. Box 225, Lemont, Illinois 60439-0225.

*Back issues to Canada and Mexico postpaid: US\$7.50. To other countries by surface mail: US\$8.50; by air mail: US\$9.50.



BRIDGES

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Volume 20, No. 2 FEBRUARY 1996 \$2.50 per copy

CONTENTS

- 3 Opinion A Place at the Table Victor Mizek
- 5 Politics In Lithuania, The Party Is 1 Over Paul A. Gaidis
- 7 Politics Lithuania and NATO: Will There Be Security Concerns? Arta Bostrom
- 11 Education Working for Lithuania's Brighter Future Steve Buzaitis
- 15 Business & Investment News Algis Rimas
- 18 Events List of February 19 Commemorations
- 21 Education List of Lithuanian Sunday Schools



BRIDGES

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

is for everybody!

BRIDGES

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Volume 20, No. 3 MARCH 1996 \$2.50 per copy



CONTENTS

- 3 Opinion At the Water's Edge Victor Mizek
- 5 Politics Lithuanian-Americans as the First Line of Defense for Lithuania Tada Bostrom
- 9 Business Business and Investment News Algis Rimas
- 12 CyberPlace At the C-Kiosk, enter a... Myles Buzaitis
- 13 Education View of Two Fulbright Scholars From Lithuania in America and From America to Lithuania Robert A. Scheraga, Ph.D.
- 16 Books Henry's Remembrance Dawn Vaisis
- 17 Human Interest The Youngsters of Lind Joana Ci
- 21 News Briefs Excerpts From Lithuanian Sources in the Russian Ruble
- 24 Events Calendar of Upcoming Events
- 25 Events Neringa Camp Site

BRIDGES

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Volume 20, No. 4 APRIL 1996 \$2.50 per copy



Members of the Grand St. Peter's in Detroit who helped finance the church and took its contents into a container for shipment to the Holy Sepulchre in Alytus, Lithuania. Lithuanian Holy Sepulchre members: (clockwise from left) Steve Buzaitis and Bob Mizek. (11th and 12th from left)

CONTENTS

- 3 Opinion Saying Your Piece or Keeping the Peace Victor Mizek
- 5 Politics U.S. and Lithuanian Political News Arta Bostrom
- 8 Business Business and Investment News Algis Rimas
- 11 Education U.S. Public Foundation to Distribute \$50,000 for Lithuanian NGOs Robert Mizek
- 12 Medicine Nursing in Lithuania as "Involved by Lithuanian Nurses Laima H. Kerzanas, MD, APRN
- 17 History
- 19 Human Interest
- 23 News Briefs
- 25 Sports

Subscribe today!

BRIDGE

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Volume 20, No. 5 MAY 1996 \$2.50 per copy



Chicago's New Place, site of the 10th Lithuanian (19th) Dance Festival is "an acquired" evening.

CONTENTS

- 3 Politics The State of the Free Press and Media Arta Bostrom
- 7 Opinion The Beginning of the End Albert Cieslauskas
- 8 Business and Investment News Algis Rimas
- 11 Human Interest Mothers Leave Star
- 13 Events Dance Festival Details Petrus Ruzickas
- 17 Culture Films and Karolis Nekrošius Exhibition
- 21 News Briefs Excerpts from Lithuanian Sources in the US Myles Buzaitis
- 27 Education Studying in Seattle Dawn Vaisis

BRIDGES Subscription Form

Your Name: _____
 Address: _____
 If this is a gift, recipient's name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/ZIP _____
 Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable to: **BRIDGES**
 Subscription Rate is \$18.00/year
 Mail to: **BRIDGES**
 LAC, Inc. Treasurer
 1927 West Boulevard
 Racine, WI 53403

What can you buy for \$30 in 1997?
You can change the life of a Lithuanian teacher!

Our object with the A.P.P.L.E. Teacher Seminars has been to assist in the reformation of Lithuania's education infrastructure, as she rejoins the community of nations and is reborn in democracy and freedom. The unfortunate reality is that the cost of transportation and lodging for the Seminar becomes a real—but unnecessary—obstacle to participation. In the past, we have asked our members to sponsor Lithuanian teachers. In return, those who received scholarships wrote personal letters to their sponsors, providing a first-hand account of the influence the seminar experience had on their lives and professional development.

These letters confirmed our hopes—and the promise of our headline.

We are hoping to provide a scholarship to every participant this year, and we believe that we can cover most of their costs for \$30 each. If you sponsored a teacher last year, you know the value that was received; if you didn't, this is your chance to find out. Consider commemorating a special day—February 16, March 11, the Feast of the Three Kings, St. Valentine's Day or St. Patrick's—with this special gift. You will be making a difference! *Please send scholarship donations to A.P.P.L.E. at Box 617, Durham, CT 06422. Use the coupon below and make copies for all of your friends and colleagues. We can reach so many more people with your help.*

YES! I want to support Lithuanian teachers participating in the 1997 Seminar. Enclosed is my donation for the scholarship pool.

_____ Scholarships for 1997 @ \$30 each _____ Total

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

BRIDGES

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Volume 20, No. 10

DECEMBER 1996

Suite 217
2060 North 14th Street
Arlington, VA 22201

V16 19991231
Pasaulio Lietuviu Archyvas
5600 S Claremont Ave
Chicago IL 60636-1039

2 3

