"Draugas" Concert and Dance
Again Draws Capacity Audience

Full house braves cold weather to hear K of L Chorus, Brighton Park Glee Club, Algird Braslis, Mary Puskamis, comedy "Bed Bug Fever" and dance to gay music of Mickey Prinil's orchestra.

CHICAGO. — Yep, the "Draugas" did it again. The annual Concert and Dance held Sunday, Feb. 9th at St. Agnes Hall, will go down as another triumph for the only Lithuanian Catholic daily in the world. The affair must also be considered as one of the most colorful and most successful social gatherings in Chicago's Lithuanian circles.

The staff and members of the arrangements committee were not a little bothered by the cold wave which had gripped Chicago during the days preceding the date of the concert. In fact, for a while it seemed like the weather man wouldn't cooperate very well that day. But luckily the weather stayed dry; the sun broke through shortly during the afternoon, and that was enough to give the "Draugas" friends the go sign for a splendid afternoon and evening at St. Agnes hall.

From all appearances, those who came really felt it was worth it, and all had a grand time. The program, featuring the K of L District Chorus, Brighton Park Glee Club, Chicago Opera baritone Algird Braslis, Mary Puskamis, soprano and John Urban, director, provided first class talent rarely seen or heard at one time at Lithuanian going-ons.

The Glee Club, under the capable leadership of Anne Pieza, by means of musical magic, took the audience "on wings of song" to various nations of the world and provided music characteristic of these nations, for example: Lithuania, Switzerland, Austria, Mexico, America, etc. In between scenes, Helen Panulis and Gertrude Gaižauskaitė put the audience through a heap of laughs with a skit called "Breaking into Society." The K of L District chorus led by its gifted young director Leonard Simitas, Jr., provided select folk songs and hymns. Incidentally, both the Glee club and K of L chorus sang "a capella," and we think they did a swell job at it. As they are, they'll hold up against some of our best singing groups.

Algird Braslis, baritone, Mary Puskamis, soprano, and John Urban, tenor, captivated the audience with a high grade rendition of well selected scores, ranging from heart-rendering folk songs, operatic pieces and the lighter classics. They were accompanied by Mr. John Byanasakis. The Vesota players, consisting of Kazys Vesota, Christine Kuša, Anthony Petroknas and Vytautas Vesota, put the audience in a special gay mood through their presentation of a 3-act comedy "Bed Bug Fever." Dancing followed the concert. Music was provided by the popular maestro Mickey Prinil and his famous band. With another grand success of its credit, here's hoping for still greater "Draugas" promotions and accomplishments.

Mundelein Council
Gives Degrees Mar. 16

CHICAGO. — The new Cardinal Mundelein K of C Council 3624 announces the conferring of degrees of the Cardinal Mundelein "Charter Class" on March 16th, 1947, at Father Perez council chambers, 6710 S. May St., and cordially invites all friends likewise to attend.

Those wishing to join the Cardinal Mundelein council still have time to make this "Charter Class." Applicants are invited to be present at Nativity of R. V. M. parish hall, 65th and Washtenaw Ave. Tuesday evening Feb. 25th at 8:00 p.m. The arrangements and organizing committee will be more than glad to offer any assistance connected with joining the council. The deadline for applications for the "Charter Class" is March 1st.

DETROIT. — Eighteen Detroit Lithuanian organizations drafted a plea to the United Nations and Secretary of State Marshall demanding the restoration of Lithuanian sovereignty.

This appeal was approved at a mass rally of the Lithuanian community, Sunday February 9th, after hearing first-hand accounts from three refugees of the conditions in Lithuania. The meeting was called to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Lithuania's independence.

Three times arrested for his activities by the Russians and Germans and the last time saved just before the firing squad executed him, the Rev. Fr. Raymond Kiumbuls told of the mass deportations into Russia. He said 60,000 persons were sent into the interior of Russia as part of a scheme to retain control of the Lithuanian nation. He said some 50,000 partisans remained in the Lithuanian forests to battle "the Lithuanian puppet and communistic".

In the message to President Truman and Marshall, the Lithuanians asserted that over 20 months have passed since the end of hostilities in Europe, and Lithuania is still under occupation of the Soviet Russian Army.

"We appeal to our Government to demand through diplomatic channels and international conferences that Russia immediately withdraw her armed forces and secret police from Lithuania and permit the Lithuanian people to choose their own government in free and unmolested elections."

Ona C. Aksomaitis.

"Flying Cranes" Next

WASHINGTON. — A "flying crane" helicopter capable of lifting 20,000 pounds in tanks, trucks, guns or other equipment across a bridgeless river or jetting them down in relatively impassable places is being developed by a manufacturer in cooperation with the Army Air Forces,
Catholic Press Month...

Christ's Salesmen

We have something to sell, we have a market for it, and we have the buyers...yet it is up to us to "sell the goods".

Who has not felt a stronger attraction to read a secular paper, with sensational news and luring pictures, than a Catholic Paper which is doing it's best to appeal to readers? Obviously the Catholic Press must put up a strong fight to compete with the secular press for the interest and undivided attention of earnest readers. Catholics have to present matter of utmost importance in such a way that it will be practical and attractive. This is by no means easy! To express the supernatural duties of man in the language of an ordinary person, preoccupied with worldly matters is a real problem...a problem for the young Catholic writers of America.

On the other hand, enemies of the Church have found means to use the press to their advantage. If their doctrine was naturally repugnant, and in many cases this was true, they dressed it up and put it into more pleasing words. They won their point. We can learn from them. If they can use the press as a means of propaganda, so can we. If they can express their doctrine to suit the intelligence and inclinations of the people, so can we! We don't have to sacrifice principles or doctrine...We merely have to present them in a more palatable form.

Men shudder at the thought of what they would call feminine piety or "weak virtues". The doctrines of our Church are not made for the weak, but they were made to apply to all those who shared in the weaknesses of human nature. Men and women alike need the doctrines of the Church and hunger for them if only someone will inform them...That someone should be us! We must present religion in a language that men will understand. Men understand a language that speaks in terms of strength, courage, sacrifice and love.

We must also speak to women in a language that they will understand. A woman knows what it means to suffer and to love. She seeks protection from men who are strong and brave. She will listen to the voice of the Church if she recognizes it as a strong and brave friend, willing to defend her.

We must talk to youth in their own language. We must present our young with an ideal (and what could be better than Christ), an opportunity for great, heroic deeds. Youth does not like to be preached to; youth wants to know the how and the why of moral obligations. We cannot answer them with a simple yes or no. Youth will not read long dry tracts on religious doctrine or on any other subject. We must write in a manner that will hold their interest.

One of the greatest problems budding authors have to face is the difficulty of getting their original writing into the printed page of a paper or magazine. For Catholic writers that is no problem. Catholic publications are simply begging for articles and stories that are written from a Catholic viewpoint or those that are based on Catholic Philosophy. It would be a shame to let the opportunities that are present to us today slip through our fingers.

If we need Catholic writers, we need Catholic readers too. Too many Catholic homes are devoid of all Catholic literature. Catholic magazines have an appeal but we will never discover unless we open them and examine the contents...thoroughly. If your excuse is that you do not know of any good Catholic magazines to read, please write to us, tell us what type of magazine you like to read and we shall be only too glad to advise you. The same holds true for you young Catholic Authors who are wondering what and where to write...for publication.

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James A. Farley's Address

Opening Lithuanian Fund Drive

(The following is the text of an address by former Postmaster General James A. Farley, given at luncheon at hotel Waldorf Astoria, Jan. 24, officially opening the United Lithuanian Relief Fund drive, for 1947.)

The following is the text of the address by Mr. Farley:

"We are gathered here today to open the 1947 campaign of the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America. This organization, which, in the past, received most of its funds from the National War Fund, now embarks under its own power in search of aid from friends sympathetic to its cause.

"This cause is not new or unusual. The aftermath of war has left millions of innocent war stricken men, women and children, overwhelmed and unable to help themselves. Among them, and in great numbers, are the Lithuanians in Europe.

"For centuries, this nation waged many battles for its freedom and heroically resisted all foreign attempts of occupation and oppression. It fought and defeated the Teutonic Knights. It resisted all attempts of denationalization by the Russians during their ten years of occupation of Lithuania. Finally, the end of the first World War saw the return of complete independence to Lithuania and for twenty-two years it firmly established itself in the family of nations. It proved without doubt that Lithuanians as free men, under a democratic system of government, rightfully deserved their hard-earned freedom.

"The second World War inflicted furious and unspiring havoc on this small nation. In proportion, it was one of the most afflicted. It suffered carnage of its population, destruction of its land and property and, worst of all, foreign military occupation. A large percentage of its population was deported to slavery in strange and unfriendly lands. Others, seeking fundamental freedoms and human rights, left their homeland, and sought temporary refuge where they could.

"To aid in all these distressed Lithuanians is the chief aim of the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America. During the past three small years, this humanitarian agency extended all the relief and aid it could summon and assemble. It drew upon the generosity of the American people with vigor and appeal and when distribution was made abroad it was always done in the name of the American people who so generously responded.

"Want knows no religious, racial or physical boundaries. Under similar conditions, it affects all in equal degree and manner. Lithuanians in Europe share this common fate, a common fate of general want, of despair and uncertainty.

"Yet, as generally recognized and accepted that the people of Europe, and especially the refugees and the displaced persons, still need aid. To this end, national and voluntary relief agencies have worked unceasingly with force and sacrifice. However, international relief organizations alone cannot successfully meet this great and complex problem. Voluntary agencies, therefore, have been invited into this field to supply not only supplementary requirements and services, but also to provide the items of International bodies.

"We are fully aware that lack of all things material is prevalent throughout Europe. This lack is all the more acute among the displaced persons. And what is
Three Crosses

BY Capt. Alec Richards

All along the dusty highways in Lithuania, southermost of the three tragic Baltic states, could be seen carved wooden crosses, and wonderful wayside shrines. No small piece of ground, bright with flowers behind its stout wattle fence, lacked a cross with a shrine on top showing the patron saint.

Fishermen return near Memel carved out of wood and painted in gay colors.

Devout wayfarers, tired peasants returning from work, stopped before these roadside crosses and knelt reverently to say a prayer. They bore the happy friendly expression of people at peace with themselves, that one sees so often in Catholic countries, for Lithuania was 81% of that faith.

Their home was guarded against fire by St. Agatha and St. Florian while laborers put themselves under the protection of St. Isidore. Flaxen-haired children trooping gayly across bridges, wading and playing at the marshy edges of a brook, waved a greeting to the figures of St. Roch and his dog — who looked like their own shaggy Rover running at their heels. In their grubby little fists the children clutched freshly gathered field blossoms — cornflowers and poppies from amid the golden waving grain, as gifts to St. John the Baptist, or St. John Nepomuk stationed at the bridgehead.

Most villages had their "God Makers", as the carvers of saints and shrines were called. Under the nimble fingers of these men whose art was a craft and whose craft was an art, there came into being the Virgin and Child; St. Anne, patron of books and students; St. George and the Dragon; and the Pieta — the Mater Dolorosa with her dead son.

In the Lithuanian character practical hardheadedness mingled with great imagination and idealism. On the other hand, they were hard workers but after work they found great relaxation in the "dainos" as they called their folk songs and folk dances. Song has always come naturally to the Lithuanian peasant. He sang if he was happy to add to his joy. He sang if he was sad to lessen his grief.

An amazingly rich folklore was the heritage of every Lithuanian child, intertwined with many quaint beliefs, where nearly every hill and lake, bird and beast farming of one kind or another, with a flax output ranking third in the world.

The rest of the Lithuanian coast was sleepy and picturesque delightful for artists and vacationists, especially Nida with its painters living in modernized fishermen's huts with brightly painted roofs and blinds. Amber was found in quantity all along the coast collecting it made up the principal industry next to fishing. Strange to relate, amber has also been found in the bottom of lakes in the interior. This lends support to the theory that amber is the gum of balsam trees that grew aons ago when the world was very young.

"Wandering dunes", burying fishermen's huts engulfing whole villages — even partly submerging churches up to the steeples — used to be a problem along the Baltic coast. At last the dunes were controlled by a system of trellises something like those in vineyards, whereon coarse beach grass was planted. When this grass took root and anchored the blown sand, the first step to control the dunes had been taken. Next (Continued on page 4)

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The Lithuanians

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Quotations of the Week

"Just in case my fair-weather predictions go wrong." — S. D. Flera, Federal meteorologist in Kansas, who keeps umbrellas handy in his Topoka office.

"Lock me up, I can't stand this weather." — Exempted Convict John Turk, 47, reporting back to Salem, Ore., jail.

"It's an outrage!" — Kids of Louisville, Ky., on bayers' boycott against six-cent candy bars.

"Power in the hands of fallible human beings — without responsibility —results in social chaos. The present labor crisis is no exception to that rule." — Prentis, Jr., Armstrong Cork Co.

"It is obvious that something isn't clicking when one man can tie up industry and cause suffering to individuals." — Rep. Robison, Utah, on the coal strike.

"I think it is un-American to strike against the government." — Coal Miner Tom Carter, Westland, Pa., who struck anyway.

Lithuanian mother teaching her child to read
Quigley K of C Council to Honor
Lt. Don Varnas March 4th

CHICAGO. — The Archbishop Quigley K of C Council will honor Lt. Don Varnas with a First and Second Degree class when these degrees are conferred Tuesday evening, March 4, 1947, at their club-house headquarters, 1035 West 31st Street.

Lt. Don Varnas was past president of the Knights of Lithuania Chicago District, and Brighton Park council 36. He was also president of the Lithuanian Citizens Workmen's Benevolent Club of Chicago. Lt. Varnas was killed in Luxembourg, in a German prison camp, Jan. 15th, 1945. March 4th is the feast day of St. Casimir, the patron of Lithuanian youth. Recently a new American Legion post has been organized in Chicago and named in Lt. Varnas' honor.

Friends and admirers of Lt. Don Varnas are cordially invited to be present that day and pay their respects to this fine lad. Others have

(Farley from p. 2)

most deplorable is the fact that these poor unfortunates have to depend on others for their food, clothing and medical supplies. None of these essentials are available to them in adequate amounts. They can only share in what we Americans can and do spare.

"The plight of the Lithuanians, suffering the terrible consequences of the war, deserves the attention, the sympathetic understanding and support of every charity-minded American. Without this support, there is no other hope for their survival.

"If, however, they do receive the help which the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America has obligated itself to provide them during 1947, their faith in true democracy will be further strengthened. The realization of this fact, too, shall bring them solace and consolation in their misery and want.

"But material aid alone is not sufficient. The Lithuanian refugees, like the homeless of other countries who cannot return to their native lands, are seeking refuge in free lands of opportunity. They are sick to death of dependence upon others. They languish only in the hope of again living in freedom and self-sustenance. Let us not "close or narrow our gates" to them. They, like their relatives and friends here before them, will prove themselves worthy of our rich American heritage and prosperity, and become useful and valuable Americans."

Bob Lavoy, No. 39, Illinois center, takes the ball off the backboard in the second half of the Illinois-Wisconsin tussle, and is forced by Edward Mills, Wisconsin center. Illinois dumped the first place Badgers in Urbana, Ill., by a 63-57 score, which ties Wisconsin and Indiana in the race for the Western Conference title. Other players in the picture are, left to right, Walt Laufenbach, Wisconsin No. 30, Andy Philipp, Illinois forward and Robert Krueger No. 11, Wisconsin forward.

(Bob Lavoy, Acme Wire)

Make The Most Of Parting Moments

by Donna Gustaitis-Kaminskas

So time goes on. We either step along or are left by the wayside.

At some time or other, when alone, each one of us must return to tomorrow to glance back into the dead past. The devoted mothers whose children have grown up and married and formed their own lives, the sweet-hearts who loved and parted, and men who have lost their places in the wild hustle of fleeting things, hopefully clinging to the memories of yesteryear.

But one cannot live in the past with its regrets, its memories of glory, love and achievement of yesteryear, for yesterday is gone, dead. It's emptiness!

Before we lose the dawn of a new day, future! A new chance for adventure, achievement... usually when depressed or usually when depressed or


THE LITHUANIANS
By A. D. Yuknis

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