Mark Those Dates!

Sodality Union Plans Busy Season

CHICAGO. — As a result of the last Sodality Union meeting, in Cicero, Sodalists may look forward to several highlights in the way of activities for the coming months.

May Crowning

One of the outstanding and most immediate going-on will be the Annual May Crowning at St. Anthony's church, Cicero, on Sunday, May 25, at 3:00 p.m. Helen Paulus of Immaculate Conception parish and present Union Prefect will be May Queen. Her court of honor will be made up of two representatives from each Sodality Union unit. As on the present, the following will represent their respective sodalities: Christine Kugo, Dolores Lazutka, Stella Janasonis, Florence Waitkus, Helen Zabel, Stella Vendzalis, Val Krukas, Virginia Skrubutis, Christine Normant, Shirley Clemens, Lorraine Sama, Sophie Mack and Marge Good.

The Union May Crowning always have been outstanding events and very impressive. Every arrangement committee is doing its utmost to make this year's affair a perfect success. A social, featuring bowling will be an ideal spot for an outing. For variety you can wear your bathing suit and swim in the lake. It's not going to be a very cold day! That's the day the Union Sodality Union fold. They'd have a good start, and George A. Wiltrakis and Lieut. Colonel Leo Wiltrakis, who is in command of the 122nd Field Artillery, will be present.

A donation of 25 cents parish, Navity Junior grammar, will follow the service. The delegates of Holy Cross sisters will be asked to help defray the expenses and make reservations.

Helen Gadwell and other Union Officers are doing their utmost to make this outing a thing long to remember.

The Great Speaker for this last meeting was Father V. Mikolaitis, professor at Quigley Prep. He gave us some very interesting talk on the Greek Orthodox Church. The talk called out a very lively and interesting discussion among the sodalists. We wish to thank Father Mikolaitis for his presence and informative talk.

Conratulations!

We were very glad to welcome St. Anthony parish senior sodality (Cicero) into the Sodality Union fold.

Father Julian Grigs led the delegates of Holy Cross parish, Navity Junior's and St. Anthony Seniors in the recitation of the pledge.

The following Union meeting will take place Sunday, May 4th, at 3:00 p.m., in Marquette Park. How about coming down and help us line up plans for further sodality activities.

Bowling

There was quite a bit of life and action at the Sodality Bowling Party. Helen Gadwell surely gave us a pin-boy something to work on. She herself worked on the bowling alley to make this a successful one and one for your enjoyment. Your attendance at this gay affair will not only guarantee you an evening of fun, but you will also be sure that you've helped to contribute towards the K. of C. Youth Center, as twenty-five percent of the net proceeds from this dance will be allotted for the said K. of C. Center.

K of C Council 14 Dance Sat. April 26

CICERO. — Council 14's annual "Lazy Daisy" Dance will be held this Saturday, April 26th, 1947, at the St. Anthony Parish Hall, 15th Street and 49th Court, Cicero.

Music for tripping the night fantastic will be furnished by Johnny Walker's well-known and liked band. Entrance is at 8:30 P.M. and the tickets are only .75c.

The dance committee consisting of: John Kaulaitis, Florence and Walter Arbirt, Frances and Stanley Kishkunas, Bernice and Ralph Palubin and Marianne and Ray Eism are doing their best to make this affair a successful one and one for the enjoyment of all his relatives most of whom he has never seen. His first stop-off was New York to see his brother Joseph and his family.

Next, he went to Boston to visit his aunt, Mrs. Frank Wiltrakis and her family. After visiting his mother and brothers in and around Chicago, he is going to El Paso, Texas, to meet his brother-in-law, then he and his wife will journey to Omaha, Neb., to visit his uncle John Jonaitis and meet his cousins for the first time, and from there he will go on to Alameda, Calif.

Lt. J. Wiltrakis

Visits Chicago

He also stopped in to see his brother's Lient. Colonel Edward's wife, who has made his residence in Chicago since her husband was sent to Tokyo under Army orders.

Lt. Jack Wiltrakis joined the Navy as a young lad with the rating of 2nd Machinist's Mate and served in World War I. He was stationed on the aircraft carrier Saratoga when World War II broke out. He had served on the Saratoga for 30 years up to the time it was bombed by the Japs. Jack was then transferred to the Lexington as take-off man, and that was bombed, but by God's grace, Jack managed to survive both bombings. His unit received the presidential citation.

Recently Lt. Jack Wiltrakis had been stationed at St. Simon's, Ga., but has now been transferred to Alameda, Calif. where both his wife and his family have a home of their own. Enroute to Alameda, Jack is visiting all his relatives most of whom he has never seen. His first stop-off was New York to see his brother Joseph and his family.

Next, he went to Boston to visit his aunt, Mrs. Frank Wiltrakis and her family. After visiting his mother and brothers in and around Chicago, he is going to El Paso, Texas, to meet his brother-in-law, then he and his wife will journey to Omaha, Neb., to visit his uncle John Jonaitis and meet his cousins for the first time, and from there he will go on to Alameda, Calif.
THE MARIAN WAY

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FR. JULIAN

In Passing

Once again comes the day of the Sodality Union crowning, and this year it will take place in Cicero. It seems kind of fitting too, because just five years ago there in the church of St. Anthony's a similar and inspiring event took place.

Everyone had worked so hard to make it a fitting day for Mary. The good Sisters, the Sodalists from other parishes had come. Because the day was so sunny and fair, the pastor suggested an outdoor procession about the parish grounds. Everything went on as expected — the altar boys first, then the priests followed, ready to leave the Church.

We were near the vestibule and could faintly hear the dulcet tones of that beautiful hymn, "Dangun, dan-" when as if with one mind and one heart the entire congregation of about six hundred people unexpectedly stood up and followed us.

To all those who attended it was a great day, a wonderful day. Later that day in the hall, the Sodality Union began; the first plans were made, a desire and a love for it were born. Once shy and quiet elderly strangers would stop the girls and thank them for having made them happy that one day. The gray haired pastor had little to say; he was too busy with his thoughts; too far back to the days of his youth even to see or hear anyone speak. "I remember of processions like this one once."

THE BOOK NOOK

AFTER BLACK COFFEE
By Robert I. Gannon, S.J.,
Declan X. McMullen, $2.

"After Black Coffee" is more than a collection of talks delivered at various gatherings; it is more than humorous entertainment enjoyed after banquets; it is, - I do not hesitate to say, — it is a deep study of the life and problems of our times. But, this book is not a joint meal written in the light and interesting style, characteristic of the illustrious President of Fordham University. One might mistake it for a humorous book for a comedian at first glance. Father Gannon is a humorist; he is not a comedian. A comedian has some humor to sell, so he wraps it around a skeleton of a plot borrowed for the occasion and passes it off as the real thing. A humorist, and Father Gannon is an excellent example, is the man with something deeper and more important to say, who clothes his facts in an element of humor, even satirical humor, to make his point more clear and more palatable.

"After Black Coffee" is the work of a humorist, an Irish humorist at that, at his best. Everyone should read and reread this book. We cannot say enough in praise of it.

Alex Margis, M.I.G.
A mother or daughter are said to be like the index on a dry tree and often live like the olive tree. Since there are no olive trees in Lithuania, such reference points to the antiquity of the dainos. Most dainos are love songs. The genuine love daina is sweetly melancholy and beautiful because of its mystery.

"Three youths For me have quarreled The first one said: — The maid is mine. The second said: — As the fates decreed. The third I loved, But he remained In meditation. Three maids For me have quarreled. The first one said: — The youth is mine. The second said: — As the fates decreed. The third I loved, But she remained In meditation." One third mention the rue wreath, the symbol of innocence and purity. With the wreath the maiden adorns her head until her wedding day, after which she wears a bonnet. The rue is a native plant which is tenderly raised by all the girls in their flower gardens. In the daina the rue is compared to the fate of the maiden — green but unknown and happy; withered, faded when she is saddened. It is also compared to time. The days become months, the months, years; the music like the rue — it is green, blossoms, withers and dies. Many "dainos" mention the bay-colt, the pride of youth. In the daina the boy sings of bright spurs, elegant saddle and silver bridle that will adorn the bay-colt he will some day possess. "Dainos" about wedding wreaths are numerous. Although the girl looks forward to her wedding day, marriage is always portrayed in a sad and dismal light. The maid, while at home with her mother, has few worries. Her future with a husband who may be lazy, stern or a drunkard will have many sad moments in store for her.

At wedding celebrations, which may last for three days, the singers improvise to tell the story of the meeting, courtship, the exchanging of rings and the assembling of the dowry. As the songs go on, they tell of the wedding day, the sad farewell with family and friends, and of the unknown future of the bride. Her husband will live near his father, but she will be among strangers. The "dainos" end by telling how the dowry is placed on the wagon, and the bride and groom drive away. In the following daina, the daughter, saying farewell to her mother, tells her that she must get another to spin, weave, and to do the other chores about the home:

"I have let know my dear mother, let her know before midsummer. Seek, dear mother, a spinning-girlish spinning-girl; a weaver girl. I have spun enough white flax; woven enough fine linen. Secured enough the white tables, and swept enough the windy yard. Listened enough to my dear mother, and now must listen to moth's law. I have raked enough the hay in the pasture, and carried enough new rakes. My patch of green rue will not long be green on my brow. My lovely braids of fine green silk will no longer gleam in the burning sun. Oh, my hair, my yellow hair, will not flutter in the drifting wind. I shall visit my dear little mother not wreathed, but hooded. Oh, my fine little hood, you will yet rattle in the drifting wind. My embroidery finely worked out will yet gleam in the light. And you, my braids of fine green silk, on the wall will hang and make me weep. My little ring — my little gold ring in the casket will lie and rust."

Although many "dainos" sing of home life, there are very few cradle songs because the women have little time to stay at home to cook and play with their children. Their help is needed in the fields, and in the home many tasks are always waiting for them.

The wars of the past are seen through the eyes of the daina but are never glorified. There are few heroes in song, but more often the slain brothers and sorrowing mothers and sisters are remembered. The war brought cruel warriors who practised bride stealing. In one daina we learn that brothers pursued a warrior who had stolen their sister; but she became reconciled to her fate and would not return home with her brother. The plundering, fearful Crusaders that overran the country live in the dainos which tell how prisoners were beaten and led away in chains. The wars left many orphans, and their sad lot is also told in the daina.

There are dainos of every kind — the wailing of old women over the dead; the lament of the girl who has traded her wreath of rue for the love of a worthless lad; the song of the little goose girl celebrating the wedding of bird and beast. The women sing while at their spinning-wheels, and the boatmen sing while pulling on their oars. The peasants sing at the end of planting, as they reap the flax, and most joyously at harvest festivities. There is a song for everything, for every aspect of nature, for every mood. Every age of work or play can be accompanied by an appropriate daina. Even the singing itself is cherished and prized: "Dainos, oh dainos, You never have an end. With dainos comes delight. Without dainos, sorrow." Other countries of the world have learned about the daina through translations and collections. The dainos have been translated into Czech, Polish, Russian, German and French. This work was begun by the Frussian Lithuanians who were always free to write and publish in the Lithuanian language. Even Lithuanians in America made collections during the forty-year ban.

In Kaunas, Lithuania, the Maironis House contains large collections of dainos. Over four thousand songs sung by groups or individuals accompanied by "kankles", a native musical instrument, have been recorded on phonograph records. The work of collecting and recording still continues.

It is impossible to quote the exact number of songs found in numerous collections, but in 1938 the folklore archives in Kaunas had a collection of over 500,000 various legends, songs, ballads, fables, riddles, and proverbs. The events of World War II will be sung about in new dainos, so their number will increase.

A traveler in Lithuania can hear many dainos. Whenever a group of people gather, they will sing. A favorite gathering place for those who like to sing is the stream with men and girls sitting on opposite sides in two long rows. The men and girls alternate and improvise stanzas so that the songfest becomes a battle of wits.

The daina is a precious treasure cherished by the people who gave it birth and nurtured it. The school children learn them; the university students study them; the musicians write musical scores for them. Every one sings them. No other country in the world has its history, customs, and life recorded in such an anthology of beautiful verse. Lithuania has had more great artists and fine singers, but the greatest of all, the finest of all, will always be the peasants who sing and create the daina.

(The end)
The Lithuanian University Club

It's here! The Lithuanian University Club “Evening of Stars” will be presented this Sunday, April 27th, at the Lithuanian Auditorium. This important milestone will be marked with a concert program of excellence. Congratulations to the organizers! As one ragged sweater came off and a magnificent new one was substituted, a little girl walked over to the window, wrapped her arms around herself and her new coat, and just stood there with closed eyes, oblivious to the world. We had no idea what was going through that pretty little head, but the face was radiant.

And then young Wertel aged six came up, and with a tremendous fear in his eyes that he might be denied, asked shyly, “Please could I have a new pair of shoes?” We looked down at his ragged pair of sneakers. Someone began searching for his size, while another took his hand and asked, “Recommended?” We hurried to offer our support to this worthy cause, and received the acclaim of Lithuania.

On February 17, introduced into the House of Representatives by Representative James W. Wadsworth, N. Y., and in the Senate by Senator Robert Taft, is a bill on the Status of Women, which is a GOOD counter-proposal to the former Equal Rights Amendment which we all know how many of us have been atune to the N. C. C. W. work know how many of us have sent letters of protest to Washington about the Equal Rights Amendment. We know that the N. C. C. W., along with other groups, has gone on record publicly as being opposed to the Amendment. Here is our chance to back up our counter-proposal. Have your groups write to their representatives and senators at the earliest possible moment, urging their support of the bill on the Status of Women.

GUIDED READING

Class A

Modern Fiction and Non-Fiction

My Vineyard

Dorothy Scharlemann

Look at America

Editors of Life

The Roosevelt I Knew

The Frances Perkins

Lake Champlain and Lake George

Fred Van de Water

Animal Tales

Ivan T. Sanderson

Royal Banners Fly

Anna Kuhn

Late Lark Singing

T. A. Daly

Less Than The Angels

Roger Dooley

Captive

Philip Roomey

Book of a Thousand Things

George Simpson

Dawn Over Zero

W. Lawrence

Driftwood Valley

T. Standwell-Fletcher

Mistress Masham's Repose

Thomas White

The Miracle of the Bela

Russell Janney

No Land Is Free

W. T. Person

When The Going Was Good

Evelyn Waugh

America: 1355-1364

Hjalmar Holand

Class B

Modern Fiction and Non-Fiction

Recommended

Small Town

Granville Hicks

Dear Father, Dear Queen

Margaret Bourke-White

Moonrise

Theodore Strauss

I Name Thee Mara

Edmund Gilling

Arsenal of Democracy

Donald Nelson

Mr. Hundings Builds His Dream House

Eric Hopkins

Balcas

Stefan Zweig

Singing Waters

Anne Bridges

The Seven Cities of Gold

Virginia Hersch

The Sudden Guest

Christopher La Farge

Years of Death

David Low

A Soj in Tom-Toms

Gene Fowler

Some Brass Tucks

Louis Bromfield

Spoonhandle

Ruth Moore

Last Chapter

Ernie Pyle

Blueprint for World Conquest

collection

Purgatory Street

R. McDougald

Joy in the Morning

J. W. Rodenhouse

LIEUT. FELIX WAITKUS attempted a New York to Thomas flight in Halsted St. at 4:00 P. M. The ticket price is $1.20, tax included and remember, please, that all proceeds of the evening will be donated to the B. A. L. F., our Relief Fund to aid our own Lithuanians in Europe! Won't you come? I, C. M.

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