



## HISTORY BYTES

*A Lackawanna Historical Society Publication*

Vol. 3 No. 4

July – August 2020

Rick Sedlisky, Editor

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### *Reopening Update*

These last five months have been extraordinary, and the Lackawanna Historical Society staff has been challenged with adapting to working from home and increasing our virtual programming. We have heard from many of our members about how impressed they have been with our activities, including Sarah's *Daily Diversion's* on Facebook, Olivia's creation of the *Ghostly Gallery*, and our shared work in implementing *Lackawanna Past Times* and the *Covid-19 Archive Data Collection* survey.

The trustees supported the staff and worked with members, volunteers, and stakeholders to complete the strategic plan and continue to promote the Society and engage the public. LHS member **Scott Herring** offered an early challenge grant to ensure our financial stability during the shutdown, and more than 70 members and friends donated during *NEPA Gives day*.

New memberships and renewals continued to come in, despite our being closed. We also raised more than \$3,600 at our *Throwback Thursdays* with family-friendly, socially distanced evenings at the **Circle Drive-In** and implemented the *Genealogy Forum* with assistance from **Don McKeon, Barbara Spellman Shuta** and **Tom & Cyndie Price**.

Of course, while these are all positive points, nothing compares to our day-to-day operations, when we can welcome visitors in person for tours and library research. Beginning August 18, the Society will slowly resume its operating hours by offering visits by appointment only. Our staff will be onsite to greet visitors and provide assistance in a safe, sanitized environment. We will continue all necessary precautionary practices, including limiting person-to-person contact, limiting the number of visitors, maintaining social distancing, and enforcing the use of face masks. This will be considered the first phase of our reopening plan. More will be announced as we monitor the situation.

Please stay tuned for future email blasts, Facebook posts, and the website calendar for scheduling updates.

Mary Ann

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## ***Lackawanna Past Times Zoom Meetings Bi-Monthly Presentations, Fridays at 2 pm***

**Friday, August 7: Joseph M. Klapatch**, historian, presents Local Fire Companies  
**August 21: Julie Esty**, founder, Dearly Departed Players and Dunmore Cemetery Tour, discusses people buried at Dunmore Cemetery

**Friday, September 4: Janice Gavern**, historian, presents Women Veterans

**September 18: Jim Asselstine, founder**, presents Dorlinger Factory Museum

For an invitation with program link, please email [lackawannahistory@gmail.com](mailto:lackawannahistory@gmail.com)

A list of recent presentations is on Page 8. Zoom programs are available on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/lackawannahistory/videos>.

## ***Throw Back Thursday Movie Nights At the Circle Drive-In***

Throw Back Thursday Movie Nights continue during the summer at the Circle Drive-In located on Business Rte. 6 (Scranton-Carbondale Hwy.), Dickson City. Movies begin at dusk (\$8 adults; \$5 children). A portion of the proceeds benefits LHS. Guests are reminded to follow social distancing guidelines set by the Circle Drive-In.

**Thursday, August 20- Caddyshack**

## ***Downtown Scranton Walking Tours***

Downtown Scranton walking tours continue through July, August and September on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. Tours are free, but will be limited to six people. Pre-registration is required. To register, please call 570-344-3841. Masks are required at all tours. Dates, meeting times and locations are:

**Friday, July 31, 6pm**, Washington Monument, Courthouse Square

**Saturday, August 8, 11am**, Lackawanna College

**Friday, August 14, 6pm**, St. Peter's Cathedral

**Saturday, August 22, 11am**, Elm Park United Methodist Church

**Friday, August 28, 6pm**, Washington Monument, Courthouse Square

**Saturday, September 12**, Washington Monument, Courthouse Square

**Friday, September 18, 6pm**, Lackawanna College

For anyone unfamiliar with downtown Scranton, exact meeting locations are:

**Lackawanna College**, N. Washington Ave. & Vine St., across from Albright Library

**St. Peter's Cathedral**, Wyoming Ave. & Linden St.

**Elm Park United Methodist Church**, Jefferson Ave. & Linden St.

**Washington Monument**, N. Washington Ave. & Linden St. (Courthouse Square)

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## ***LHS 2020 Membership Information***

**About Membership:** Membership privileges include unlimited access to the Society library, 10% discount in our bookstore, advance notice, special discounts and invitations to all Society activities, members-only programs, the quarterly newsletter and the bi-monthly e-newsletter.

Attached is a membership form you can use to renew your membership or give to a friend who is interested in joining. Please return it to:

The Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Ave., Scranton, PA 18510.

### ***Lackawanna Historical Society Membership Form***

// Student	\$10	Name _____
// Individual	\$35	
// Family	\$45	Address _____
// Contributing	\$75	_____
// Sustaining	\$150	
// Silver Corporate	\$250	Telephone _____
// Gold Corporate	\$500	Email _____

Following is a link to complete for membership payment if you chose to use it.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSep8tRxXJUut7McTh4g4StczVjC4HRJAXMDE-ztxEDCzLncvA/viewform>

## ***Genealogy Forum***

Genealogists are invited to join us to share ideas, research tips, and local resources.

**Wednesday, August 12, 1 pm: Cyndie Price,** Family Research & Documentation with a focus on how to apply for membership in the DAR

**Wednesday, September 2, 1 pm: Martina Soden,** Resources of the Albright Memorial Library

**Wednesday, October 14, 1 pm: Tom Price,** A Review of Local Cemetery Records

To register, please email [lackawannahistory@gmail.com](mailto:lackawannahistory@gmail.com) or call 570-344-3841.

***Virtual Scavenger Hunt:*** Coming in October, details TBA

***Ghostly Gallery Links:*** <http://www.lackawannahistory.org/aghostlygallery.html>

Like us on [Facebook](#)

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## ***Dine Lackawanna***

Numerous restaurants support LHS through participation in Dine Lackawanna. Please continue to support the chefs and staffs through requests for delivery or purchases of gift cards, and be sure to call ahead for any changes in business hours or practices.

### **Abingtons**

#### **Clarks Summit**

Camelot  
Formosa  
The New Cafe

The Nyx  
State Street Grill

#### **Chinchilla**

Armetta's

### **Upvalley**

#### **Carbondale**

Kol at Hotel Anthracite

#### **Jermyn**

JW's Pub

#### **Eynon**

Pasquale's  
Tiffany's

#### **Simpson**

Frank's Place'

### **Mid Valley**

#### **Dickson City**

NOSH  
Texas Roundhouse

#### **Olyphant**

John Pierre's

#### **Jessup**

Café Colarusso

### **Scranton**

Ale Mary's  
AV Scranton  
Back Yard Ale House  
Cafe Classico  
Carmen's  
La Cucina  
Mansour's

Market Street Grill  
Pizza by Pappas  
Posh at the Scranton Club  
Sidel's  
Stirna's  
Trax

### **Downvalley**

#### **Moosic**

Marzoni's

#### **Old Forge**

Dooley's

### **Dunmore/North Pocono**

#### **Dunmore**

3 Jacks Burgers

#### **Moscow**

Van Brunt Grill

#### **Springbrook**

Olde Brook Inn

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# ***THIS HOME WAS REALLY A CASTLE SCRANTON ESTATE WAS BELOVED RESIDENCE OF WATRES FAMILY***

**By Sandra Skies Ludwig**

**Ed. Note-** The article originally appeared in the Sunday, September 23, 2001 issue of the Wilkes-Barre Times-Leader

Its name means "top of the hill" in Welsh, and it once perched proudly above Scranton. Pen-Y-Bryn, the estate of Col. Louis Watres and his family presided over Scranton's East Mountain for 35 years. A former Pennsylvania lieutenant governor, Spanish-American war veteran, newspaper publisher, politician and entrepreneur, Watres built his nearly 80-acre estate on what is now Pen-Y-Bryn Drive.

The castle-like stone mansion was surrounded by sweeping lawns, abundant rambler rose bushes and trees. It featured 23 rooms, five bathrooms, a \$50,000 pipe organ, works of art and Oriental rugs. The estate also contained tennis courts, riding and hiking trails, a concrete pool (known as Little Lake), a carriage house and a set of tower chimes.

"It was a great place for a small boy," says L. Arthur Watres, Col. Watres's grandson, who, like his grandfather, prefers to be called Arthur. "Grandfather was a wonderful, friendly, dynamic person."

Arthur Watres, now 78, was a frequent visitor to Pen-Y-Bryn. He tells a humorous story about the pipe organ.

"He had a mechanism whereby he could put in a roll as you used to be able to do with player pianos. Every morning, he'd make sure everyone was down to breakfast on time by putting in a Wagnerian number that would shake the house, and everyone would appear on time for breakfast."

According to newspaper accounts, Pen-Y-Bryn was a haven of hospitality to thousands. For many years, the home was open to civic groups and members of the public, who picnicked and toured the grounds.

"It was one beautiful place; I can't say how beautiful," says Robert C. Krager, childhood playmate of Arthur Watres and his sister, Harriet. "Grandfather was involved in all the public causes of the community," says Watres. "He had big affairs when hundreds and hundreds of people would come up there on summer days."

Krager, of Vestal, N.Y., and his younger brother, Ken, of Zephyrhills, Fla., grew up at Pen-Y-Bryn. Their father, Robert Krager, was caretaker of the estate from 1927 until 1942, and their mother, Florence, helped clean the colonel's office and the mansion.

The Kragers' uncle, Floyd Hawk, brother-in-law of local candy entrepreneur Gertrude Hawk, was the Watres family's chauffeur.

Pen-Y-Bryn was built starting at the turn of the 20th century, and construction took about two years, Col. Watres told the Scranton Tribune in a story dated March 22, 1937. Arthur Watres says it was constructed of stone from a quarry owned by the colonel in Spring Brook Township. Sadly, the stone walls were all that remained after a fire in 1937.

On Palm Sunday, March 21, 1937, Col. Watres and some of his employees stayed home while his wife, Effie Julia Hawley Watres, and one of their sons attended church services. They smelled smoke at approximately 12:10 p.m. News accounts state the fire was started by crossed electrical wires, although the exact cause is unknown.

Then 13-year-old Bob Krager witnessed the efforts of Col. Watres and Robert Krager to rescue Adele del Monte, a maid trapped on the third floor of the mansion.

"You could see the mansion in flames," says Bob Krager. "Mrs. Watres stood near the carriage house. She said to me, 'It's OK; don't cry, don't cry.' The firemen finally got through and got her."

Although Pen-Y-Bryn had two 30,000-gallon water tanks on site, it lacked fire hydrants. Because of the tanks' location on a hill behind the house, firefighters could not get adequate pressure and had to get water from other sources, which made extinguishing the fire slow and difficult.

Arthur Watres was then living on a yacht in Florida with his parents, Reyburn and Isabel Watres. A telegram arrived with the bad news. "I remember Grandfather said, 'Pen-Y-Bryn burned to the ground. Only the walls remain.' "Well, we bawled. A lot of people felt sad about it. It was an interesting place, and a lot of people had a lot of fun at it."

After the fire, Col. Watres and his family lived in his stone office building, which still stands on Pen-Y-Bryn Drive. The colonel wanted to rebuild the mansion, but he died June 28, 1937. Effie and the colonel had had four sons, two of whom - Reyburn and former U.S. Rep. Lawrence Watres - were living in 1937. The Watres sons had other properties and interests and did not wish to rebuild. Reyburn Watres died in 1946, and after his death, his son and widow made Lacawac, the family's property in Ledge Dale, their home.

"My uncle (Lawrence) was part owner of Lacawac, and we were part owners of the Pen-Y-Bryn property. We made a swap. We took over Lacawac and he took over Pen-Y-Bryn." Since 1966, the Lacawac Sanctuary has been a 500-acre research facility for science and education, managed by a nonprofit corporation.

Pen-Y-Bryn continued to attract visitors even though it was destroyed. "It was a very romantic ruin after the fire. It attracted people and it wasn't safe," says Watres. "Grandfather blasted down the walls, and sold the stone to local contractors."

Eventually, Lawrence Watres sold the property to developers. The Oakmont Gardens housing development was built on much of the site. Col. Watres's stone office/home was sold to a new private owner. The coach house, caretaker's house and maintenance building began to deteriorate. They might have been torn down, but along came Michael Dreher, 84, and his wife, Uta, 66, who moved to Scranton from Seattle.

In 1977, the couple were looking for a home in the Clarks Summit area but found what was available too costly. Then, a real estate agent showed them the remaining Pen-Y-Bryn buildings.

Uta says, laughing, "It was all broken down. And we thought 'It's wonderful, just what we want!'"

"It was in deplorable shape," says Michael. "But we buckled down and got ourselves to work and spent a lot of money and fixed the place up. I'm still saying, 'I'm going to do this, I'm going to do that; this needs fixing.' But I'm enjoying myself."

The property had been owned by Oakmont Apartments, and former tenants were "very careless," says Michael. Holes pierced the roof of the chauffeur's apartment, allowing the elements to damage the interior. It needed a new heating system, new shingle siding and landscaping work. The buildings were also full of old furniture.

The Dreher's live in Floyd Hawk's former apartment, their tenants live in the former Krager home, and the maintenance shed is used for the Dreher's various hobbies and for storage.

Michael and Uta Dreher received an Architectural Heritage Association Certificate of Merit in 1991 for their work. The Dreher's sometimes receive curious visitors and are happy to talk about Pen-Y-Bryn and show photo albums of the estate in its glory days.

The tower chimes have found a new home at the Lacawac Sanctuary. Damaged after nearly six decades of storage, the pipes, which Arthur Watres had restored as a birthday gift to his mother, rang out once again in 1997.

Today, most of Pen-Y-Bryn has disappeared under the streets and homes of Oakmont Gardens, and other, newer homes along Elmhurst Boulevard.

In the still silence of the hilltop, however, cardinals and hummingbirds cavort, a warm gentle breeze stirs the birch trees, and the city of Scranton seems very far away. When that happens, it seems easy to imagine that once upon a time, there was a place called Pen-Y-Bryn. And in the minds of those who remember it, and in the history books, it remains what neither time nor man can change: an oasis of beauty, generosity, hospitality and friendship, of music and art, of gardens and grace.

## Meet the Author



Photo courtesy of Aimee Dilger

Sandra Skies Ludwig is a lifelong resident of northeastern Pennsylvania. Her interest in history began when she was a child, when she begged her grandmother to tell her stories about “the olden days.” She has worked as a legal secretary, a journalist for the Times Leader in Wilkes-Barre, a communications coordinator at The University of Scranton, and is currently a librarian technician at Wilkes University. Sandra holds a BA in English from Wilkes. She enjoys reading, writing, making art and spending time with her husband and pets.

“I still find Pen-Y-Bryn to be fascinating and was lucky enough to be given a little dossier of old photos and some write-ups about the estate by the people mentioned in the story whose parents were in service on the estate. It was such a pleasure meeting the Dreheres as well. I believe Uta is still alive, but her husband passed away several years ago.”

## Recent Lackawanna Past Times Presentations

*“A Scarcity of Caskets: The 1918 Spanish Flu in Scranton” with Sarah Piccini*  
*“Italian Festivals in Lackawanna County” with Stephanie Longo*  
*“Scranton’s Downtown Architecture” with Mary Ann Moran Savakinus*  
*“From Suffragists to Senators: 100 Years of Women’s Suffrage” with Sarah Piccini*  
*“A Visit from General Winfield Scott” portrayed by John Hart*  
*“Louisa May Alcott” portrayed by Jenn Ochman*  
*“Electric Cars in the Electric City” with George Gula*  
*“Sylvester Poli: Builder of Palaces” with Stephanie Longo*  
*“Weddings Through History” with Maureen Hart*  
*“Dirty Little Secrets: Mary Ann and Sarah Tell All”*  
*“A Ride Along the Laurel Line” with George Gula*  
*“General Dan Sickles” portrayed by John W. Griffiths*  
*“A Return to Rocky Glen” with Bob Savakinus*  
*“The Daughters of the American Revolution” with Kathy Zinskie*  
*“Working on the Railroad” with Tom Myles*



***In The Mines***  
***The Daily Diaries of Thomas J. Goblick***  
***Anthracite Coal Mine Motorman***

***By Carl Orechovsky***

Thomas J. Goblick worked in the mines as a motorman. A motorman operates an electric or battery-powered mine motorcar to haul trips (trains) of cars, loaded with timbers, rails, explosives and other supplies, into a mine.

Mr. Goblick lived in the Austin Heights section of Old Forge. A friend was removing items from Mr. Goblick's house and came upon his work diaries that cover six years, extending from 1938 to 1944. The owner of the house didn't want the diaries.

As one who documents Old Forge history, I accepted the diaries that are smaller sized, spiral bound notebooks. After enlarging the notebooks through scanning, they were re-typed. The correct spellings of names included in the entries can now be confirmed by descendants of the miners who live in Austin Heights.

The enlargements were assembled into standard sized notebooks. The originals and standard sized notebooks were subsequently donated to the Old Forge Historical Society. Most entries pertain to Old Forge and I have permission to share the contents.

As 1939 begins, we find that Mr. Goblick has moved from the Barrier Section of the operation to the Jermyn Section. According to his entries for January, February and March 1939, there were no major disruptions such as cave-ins, although there was a flood in the mines on February 20. We also see that he was spending some money on things such as pool tickets and a shoe club. Observances such as Russian (Orthodox) Christmas and St. Patrick's Day are noted.

**January 1939**

**The Volpe Coal Co, Sibley Colliery, Old Forge, 1939: Jermyn Section**

January 1. Sunday. Off.

January 2. New Year's Day Colliery Idle. Off.

January 3. Arranging for contract price in Sibley. .50 cents for pool ticket.

January 4. Damp Day. 7½ hours worked.

January 5. Rain.

January 6. Warm.

January 7. Russian Christmas. Off.

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January 8. Sunday. Off.  
January 9. Moved No 1 shaker.  
January 10. Motor oiled and greased. Priest came in.  
January 11. Warm day.  
January 12. Shaker moved from the swamps.  
January 13. Snowing. Hair cut .50 cents.  
January 14. Pay Day  
January 15. Sunday. Paid Steve Cichy .80 cents.  
January 16. Cold day.  
January 17. Meter changed to outside of house.  
January 18. Cold. 2 tickets to Polka Dots.  
January 19. Cold.  
January 20. Tax paid in town.  
January 21. Peter worked in my place.  
January 22. Sunday.  
January 23. Joker off. Worked a double. 14 hours.  
January 24. Sonny got a haircut .20 cents.  
January 25. No entry  
January 26. New Brakeman.  
January 27. .50 cent pool ticket.  
January 28. No entry  
January 29. Sunday.  
January 30. Rain.  
January 31. Cold day, Pay Day. Paid Steve \$1.45.

## **February 1939**

**The Volpe Coal Co, Sibley Colliery, Old Forge, 1939: Jermyn Section**

February 1 - 2 - 3. No entry.

February 4. Worked on Booster. 10 hours worked.

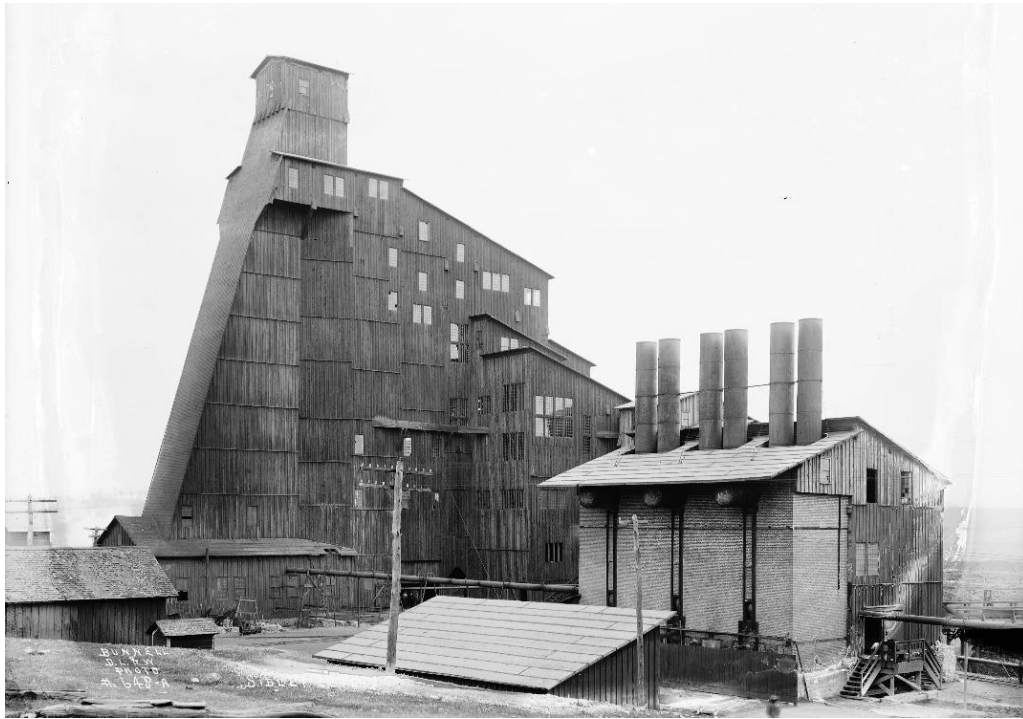
February 5. Sunday. Worked on booster. 7 hours worked.  
February 6. No entry  
February 7. Shoe club. (????)  
February 8. Angelo off. Gloves.  
February 9. Moved a shaker.  
February 10. Rain.  
February 11. No entry.  
February 12. Sunday.  
February 13 – 14. No entry.  
February 15. Pay Day. Paid Steve Cichy \$2.25, overpaid .40 cents.  
February 16. Paid toward shoe club .50 cents.  
February 17. Paid Steve.  
February 18. Chicken Dinner at Julia's, .50 cents.  
February 19. Sunday, Polka Dots in Hall.  
February 20. Flood in the mines.  
February 21. No entry.  
February 22. Blizzard, Cold.  
February 23. Angelo came to the mines.  
February 24. No entry.  
February 25. Sonny sick a little.  
February 26. Sunday.  
February 27. 2 bottles Bock Beer.  
February 28. Motor broke down. Pay Day. Paid Metzie \$1.25.

## **March 1939**

### **The Volpe Coal Co, Sibley Colliery, Old Forge, 1939: Jermyn Section**

March 1. 2 pair new wheels.  
March 2. 7½ hours worked.  
March 3. Francis not working.

March 4. 7 hours worked.  
March 5. Sunday.  
March 6. Very windy. Joe Puzio on belt line.  
March 7. Moved a shaker.  
March 8. Tough day to day. 8½ hrs.  
March 9. Colliery Idle.  
March 10. (Sick) digging cellar, bad cold.  
March 11. (Sick) stayed home. Digging cellar.  
March 12. Sunday.  
March 13 - 14. 7 hours worked  
March 15. Very sore eye.  
March 16. Colliery Idle  
March 17. St. Patrick's Day  
March 18. Colliery Idle.  
March 19. Sunday  
March 20. Paid Rudy for tickets .7 hours worked.  
March 21. Mike Adamiak mining No. 2.  
March 22. Mayes motor burned out coil.  
March 23. Colliery Idle  
March 24 - 25. Off  
March 26. Sunday  
March 27. Steam shovel behind our barn.  
March 28. 7 hours worked.  
March 29. Reel pinion ground up.  
March 30 - 31. Colliery Idle



**Sibley No. 3 Colliery West Side & Power House**  
Bunnell photos, Steamtown National Historic Site Archives. Group 1  
Courtesy of Carl Orechovsky

Carl Orechovsky, in addition to being treasurer of the Old Forge Historical Society, scans information for the Society's archives and conducted video interviews for the "Old Forge, Our Town Project".

During the winter season, Mr. Orechovsky works with the No. 9 Coal Mine Tour in Landsford, PA as a track man. Mr. Orechovsky is also responsible for maintaining the Tri-Boro Soccer Association's playing field.

## ***Game Show Winners***

Congratulations to **Mike Taluto** and **Matt Pritchyk** of the Lackawanna County Fair for being crowned "Local History Legends of Lore" in the "Virtual Edition" of our game show on May 30th! After ten years of hosting the show live we had to adapt to an online Zoom format with our friends at ECTV streaming the show live on both YouTube and the ECTV station.

Thank you to all of our contestants and the teachers and students from Valley View and Riverside who were so enthusiastic to take on new challenges and continue to bring the game show to audiences.

Want to catch up on what you missed? You can view the videos of each game on ECTV's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/ElectricCityTelevision/videos>

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**100 Years Ago  
Dedication of WWI Memorial  
Nay Aug Park, May 30, 1920**

**By Janice M. Gavern**



**World War I Memorial and Oak Grove  
Nay Aug Park, Scranton  
Photo courtesy of Janice M. Gavern**

It was a year and six months from the end of the Great War. One Memorial Day had already passed, but in the interim a planning committee had gotten the idea for a World War I Memorial to be displayed in Nay Aug Park.

The committee decided to use a large natural boulder of conglomerate rock weighing several tons as the holder for the bronze plate. It was placed in a newly planted oak grove halfway between Lake Lincoln and the Gravity Railroad car.

A list of the men and women from Scranton who had died during WWI was published in the paper. Readers were asked to check the names and add information that would help the committee identify everyone who should be included. They also requested contact information for next of kin so they could be invited to the ceremony.

Rupert W. Thomas, Chairman of the Tablet, went to New York to pick up the bronze tablet during the week of May 22. That would give them time to fasten the tablet to the large boulder.

The bronze tablet or plate was designed with an American eagle in relief at the top. On either side, wreaths enclosed two dates, 1917 on one side, 1919 on the other. The



dedication read: "In honor of the men and women of the city of Scranton who gave their lives in the world war for their country and for all mankind. These trees are dedicated as a living memorial." Below the dedication is the alphabetical list of the 242 men and six women from Scranton who gave their lives.



**World War 1 Memorial  
Nay Aug Park, Scranton  
Photo courtesy of Janice M. Gavern**

A platform was built adjacent to the boulder to seat the speakers. The boulder was covered and would be unveiled at the ceremony.

The dedication ceremony was planned for May 30, with the actual Memorial Day ceremonies scheduled for the following day. One newspaper confused the dates, apparently not realizing that there were both a dedication ceremony and a variety of Memorial Day activities scheduled for the same weekend.

On the afternoon of the ceremony, community singing was organized before the event. Seventy five uniformed American Legion members and several hundred in civilian clothes assembled at the intersection of Arthur Avenue and Linden Street and marched to the dedication site. Spanish American War veterans assembled at Linden Street and Penn Avenue and also marched to the site.

At the site, families of the deceased were given a white silk badge with a gold star and the date and purpose, and directed to special seating. Red Cross workers distributed programs and Boy Scouts acted as ushers. The dedication ceremony started promptly at 4:00 PM.

The *Scranton Republican* newspaper estimated that 10,000 people attended. The paper also reported that in addition to veterans of WWI, veterans of the Civil War and the Spanish American War were also present.

The picture in the paper shows a group of Red Cross nurses in traditional white uniforms with headdresses that displayed a red cross. Miss Helen Miskell, who had lost two brothers to the war, was garbed as Columbia. Little Miss Mildred Perry, whose father had died in the War, was dressed in a miniature Red Cross nurse costume. She would be the one who unveiled the memorial.

Also in the picture were the distinguished speakers, including Mayor Alex T. Connell, Chaplains W. J. Gibson of the 25th Engineers in France, Frederick Houghton, Rear Admiral A. M. Knight, Col David J. Davies and Hon. John G. Harmon.

*America* and *Onward Christian Soldiers* started the program, followed by Chaplin Gibson's opening prayer. Col David J. Davis made introductory remarks.

Admiral Austin M. Knight paid a glowing tribute to the part women had played, saying they brought home tenderness and home comfort into the hospitals and on the field, with no compulsion beyond the urging of their own hearts. He reported five women's names were inscribed on the tablet. He was partially correct. Five women nurses were listed: Misses Mae E Carter, Theresa Collins, Anna P. Gibney, Lillian M. Langdon and Romaine Lewis.

There was a sixth woman listed: Miss Eugenia Hosie. Her family was involved in Red Cross work. Miss Hosie wanted to help, but was not trained. She and a friend were employed as canteen workers by the YMCA, and she died of Spanish Influenza shortly after getting to France. She was buried in England.

The main speaker was Hon. John G. Harmon. Judge Harmon warned that we must not forget our war patriotism in peace. Bolshevism has reared its head. Some of his words speak to our current situation, and he was speaking 100 years ago.

He said, "Race riots have broken out. Strikes have throttled industry. Open lawlessness is worst of all, and all these things confront us. Does that sound familiar? What are we to do?" He recommended we "stick to our ancient moorings". He concluded that this was a time for the exercise of good, hard, common sense. A more extensive description of his speech is in the article included in the May 31, 1920 edition of the *Scranton Republican*.

After singing *Nearer My God to Thee* with the crowd, Chaplin Houghton concluded the ceremony with a closing prayer.

The simple, elegant World War I Memorial is still displayed in the memorial grove. Take a walk in the park and stop to reflect on our fallen WWI brothers and sisters.



This Memorial Day, my comrade, 11th District American Legion Commander Jerry Heid and I conducted a small remembrance ceremony in honor of the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the memorial. Some of our pictures are on the PA Homepage.



**Memorial Day 2020**  
**Janice M. Gavern (l.), Cmdr. Jerry Heid (r.)**  
**Photo courtesy of Lisa Gavern**

Although it isn't the same as 10,000 live bodies, our ceremony will be posted online to show that we still remember.

## ***Meet the Author***



Janice Gavern is originally from South Scranton and is a graduate of South Scranton Central Catholic High School. Ms. Gavern earned a BS in Psychology with emphasis on Engineering from Wright State University, Dayton, OH, and an MS in Military Logistics Management, Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright Patterson AFB, OH.

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Commissioned service positions included 2d Lt. Aircraft Maintaining Officer, Explosives Safety Officer for an F-4 unit, as well as Captain and Logistics Officer. Civil service positions include Engineering Psychologist with the Air Force Civil Service, and Personnel and Training Analyst and Logistics Analyst with Manpower.

Ms. Gavern currently serves as Deputy Commander, Woman Veterans Issues, for the 15<sup>th</sup> District American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania. She is working on the formation of a 15<sup>th</sup> District Woman Veterans Program. The program focuses on, among other things, identification and education of women veterans, recognition of women for their service, and remembering and honoring women veterans who passed away.

## ***Dedication of the Scranton Veterans Memorial Park and Monument***

**By Jim Kuchwara, Commander, VFW Post 25**



**View of Scranton Veterans Memorial Park and Monument  
Photo courtesy of Rick Sedlisky**

The Scranton Veterans Memorial Park Monument was dedicated by family, veterans, and a small group of invited speakers on Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. The 962 veterans named on the monument were honored and will be remembered forever.





**Artist's rendering of Scranton Veterans Memorial Monument**  
**Rendering courtesy of Pat Ahern**

The public will be able to visit the monument after it is constructed on site. Construction is by Parise Monuments. State regulations will require safe social distancing and masks. Visiting hours will be from dawn to dusk, pictures are encouraged. The park is located on the Scranton High School campus adjacent to Veterans Memorial Stadium, Providence Road.



**Close up of Scranton Veterans Memorial Park and Monument**  
**Photo courtesy of Rick Sedlisky**

We will conduct educational programs sometime in the future about the veterans named on the monument, the wars in which they died, and the branches of service in which they served.

The second phase, landscaping and signs, of the park is not completed yet due to the virus pandemic, but it is getting ready to be put out for bid soon by Lackawanna County.

The veterans committee thanks everyone for your help. Hundreds of people were involved in this project over the last five years. It was, and still is, a group thing. It's always a group thing when something great is accomplished. Thank You...

For further information, contact Pat Ahern at [ahernoffice@aol.com](mailto:ahernoffice@aol.com)

## ***Person of Interest***

### ***Cy Endfield***

**By Philip Mosley**



**Cy Endfield**

Cy Endfield, son of a Scranton tailor and furrier was born in 1914 and died in England in 1995. Educated at Scranton Central High School, Yale University, and New York's New Theater School, he began his Hollywood career in the early 1940s as a writer, graduating to short film directions, and then to B-pictures, including two in a Joe Palooka series based on the popular comic strip created by Wilkes-Barre's Ham Fisher.

He made a name for himself as director of two dark thrillers, *The Underworld Story* (1950) and *The Sound of Fury* (1950), both of which dealt with the issues of public persecution. After making *Tarzan's Savage Fury* (1952), Endfield was blacklisted by Hollywood following his naming as a suspected communist sympathizer by McCarthy's House Un-American Activities Committee. Along with fellow director, Joseph Losey,

Endfield went to the UK in 1951 to continue his career, often working under pseudonyms in his early years there.

After forming a partnership with British actor, Stanley Baker, Endfield made the rough trucking drama, *Hell Driver* (1957), *Sea Fury* (1958), and *Jet Storm* (1959) under his own name. *Mysterious Island* (1961), based on Jules Verne's classic sci-fi novel, features special "Dynamation" effects by Ray Harryhausen that were considered state of the art at the time, and a music score by one of cinema's most famous composers, Bernard Herrmann.

Recounting a historic 1879 attack by 4,000 native warriors on 104 garrisoned British soldiers, the battle epic *Zulu* (1964) was shot in South Africa and gave Michael Caine his first starring role. Endfield apparently disowned *Sands of Kalahari* (1965), a desert survival story, and made only two more films: *DeSade* (1969), of which his direction was curtailed by illness, and *Universal Soldier* (1971), starring Australian actor, George Lazenby, who once played James Bond.

In addition to his cinematic talents, Endfield was a professional magician who taught his art to Orson Welles, an author of books on card tricks, a drama teacher, and a sculptor in silver. He also invented the Microwriter, an early word processor, and the Agenda, an early pocket organizer.



**Microwriter MW4**  
**pininterest**



**Agenda**  
**computinghistory.org.uk**

As shown by his early word processor and pocket organizer, Endfield had a creative mind. In addition to his accomplishments in film, magic and early personal computer technology, he created a unique chess set, which he patented in the United States in 1974 (Patent #2,806,128).



### **Cy Endfield Chess Set**

The chess set enabled the owner to interlock all pieces into a tube for storage and transporting. The set became the official FIDE commemorative set used in the world-famous 1972 match between American, Bobby Fischer and Russian, Boris Spassky. Originally made from silver and gilded silver, original sets, should they become available, are valued between \$2,000 and \$3,000.



### **Chess Set Storage Tubes**

Source: <https://www.lybrary.com/cy-endfields-chess-set-a-19.html>

Philip Mosley retired from Penn State University in 2017. His is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English and Comparative Literature.



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If you have any Northeast Pennsylvania-related stories to include in History Bytes, please contact the Society at the above email address. Please include your name, email address and a brief description of your story.

## ***Internet Links***

### ***Historical Attractions***

- [Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority](#)
- [Steamtown National Historic Site](#)
- [Anthracite Museum and Iron Furnaces](#)
- [Electric City Trolley Museum](#)
- [Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour](#)
- G.A.R. Memorial Association Museum: Contact Joseph Long, Jr. 570-457-8438

### ***Cultural Partners***

- [Albright Memorial Library](#) and the Lackawanna County Library System
- [The Everhart Museum](#)
- [Scranton Cultural Center](#) at the Masonic Temple
- Scranton's Annual [Civil War Weekend](#) Events
- Scranton Times-Tribune's [Pages from the Past](#)
- [Pocono Arts: Where Culture Builds Community](#)

### ***Anthracite Research***

- [Pennsylvania's Northern Anthracite Coal Field](http://www.northernfield.info/) <http://www.northernfield.info/>

### ***Historical Societies***

- [Carbondale Historical Society](#)
- [Dunmore Historical Society](#)
- [Luzerne County Historical Society](#)
- [Wayne County Historical Society](#)
- [Susquehanna County Historical Society](#)
- [Monroe County Historical Society](#)
- [Wyoming County Historical Society](#)
- Archbald Historical Society: Contact Ed Casey (570) 614-3628
- Scott Township Historical Society: Contact Robert Vail (570) 254-9536
- Taylor Historical Society: Contact Christine Schaefer (570) 562-1225

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**[lackawannahistory@gmail.com](mailto:lackawannahistory@gmail.com)**

## ***County and Educational Partners***

- [Lackawanna County](#)
- [Lackawanna County Convention and Visitors Bureau](#)
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The Lackawanna Historical Society is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization, which is dedicated to keeping vital the history of Lackawanna County. The society is supported in part by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Catlin House Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County and membership dues.

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