



HISTORY BYTES

A Lackawanna Historical Society Publication

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July - August 2024

Rick Sedlisky, Editor

Summer 2024



Northeastern Pennsylvania

Image source: pinterest.com

lackawannahistory@gmail.com



Lackawanna River

Image source: Lackawanna River Conservation Association Irca.org



Delaware River, Pocono Mountains

Image source: alamy.com



*Image source: Susquehanna River North Branch
Photo by John Consiglio; Image source: pinterest.com*



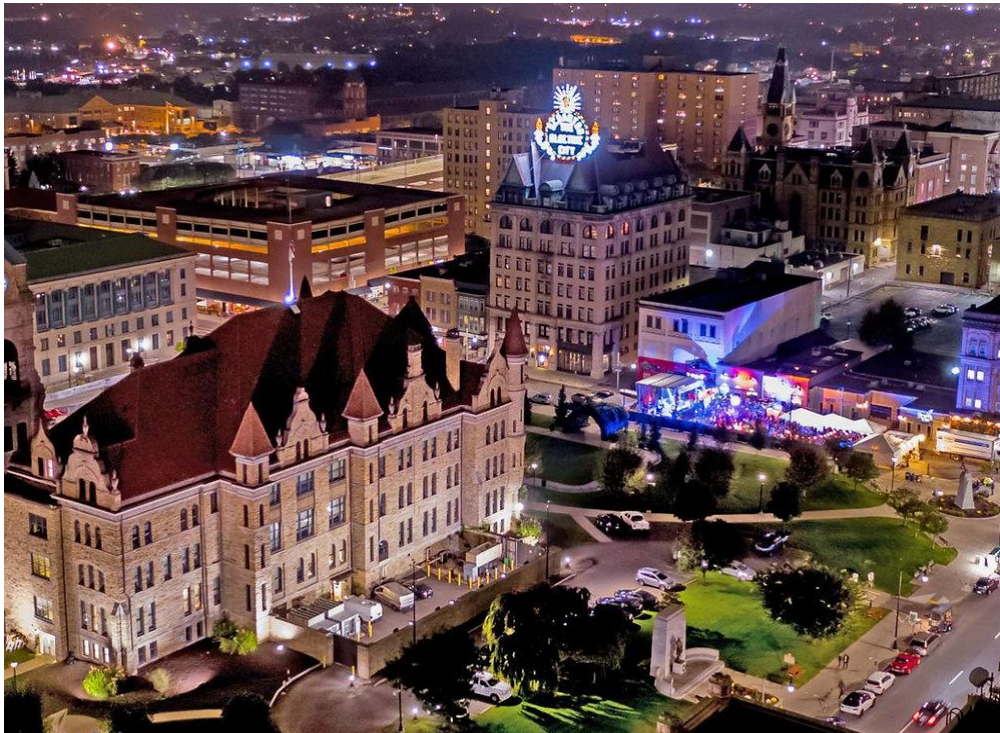
*Bushkill Falls
Image source: pinterest.com*



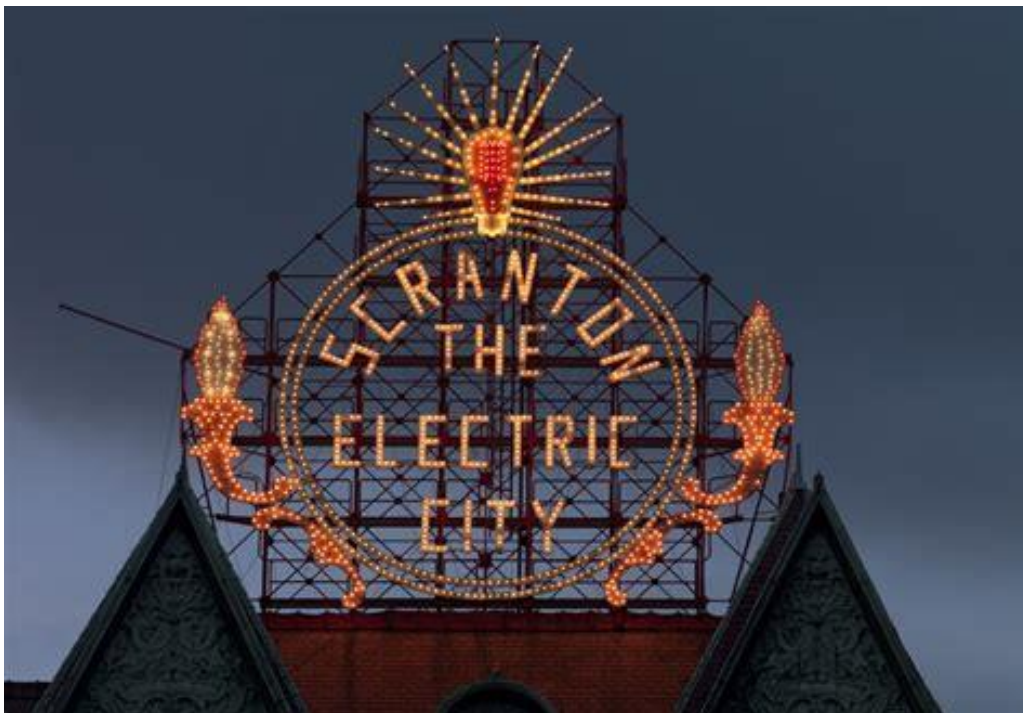
Endless Mountains
Image source: pinterest.com



Susquehanna River, Downtown Wilkes-Barre
Image source: pinterest.com



*Courthouse Square, Downtown Scranton
Image source: landmarkmgmtservices.com*



*Electric City Illuminated Rooftop Sign
Image source: expedia.com*



This is the third in a series of edited reprints from "The Laurel Northeastern Pennsylvania's Magazine." It is planned to republish this and subsequent articles in their entirety as a special feature of History Bytes. All reprints will center on economic development, local history, culture, social programs and initiatives, and recreation in the Greater Scranton region.

As best as can be determined, "The Laurel" magazine had a short life. Four (4) issues, thought to be the total production, are in a private collection (Volume 1, Numbers 1-3, and Volume 2, Number 1). If anyone can supply additional issues, please contact the Lackawanna Historical Society at lackawannahistory@gmail.com

RACE at GIANTS DESPAIR and BRYNFAN TYDDYN ROAD RACE

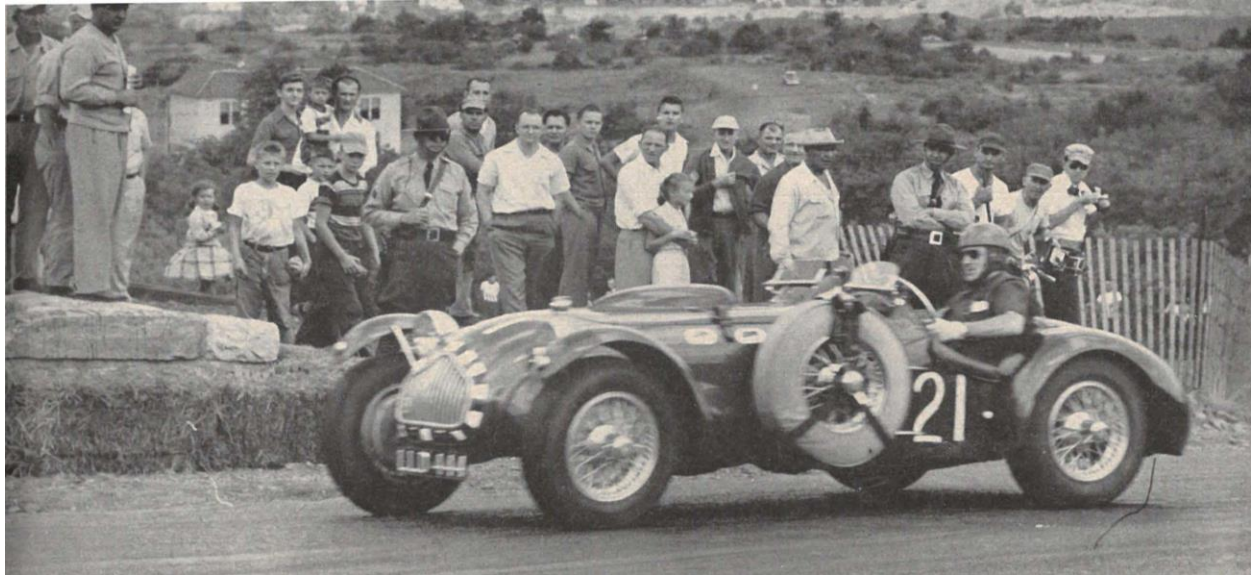
The Giants Despair Hillclimb race is the oldest hillclimb auto race in the United States, as well as the oldest motor sports event in Pennsylvania. It began in 1906 and is always held on East Northampton Street, in Laurel Run Borough, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, adjacent to the city of Wilkes-Barre, the county seat.

Early drivers included Ralph DePalma (Fiat Team), Louis Chevrolet (Buick), and others well-known in the sport, including Carroll Shelby (first driver to break the time of 1 minute), Roger Penske, and Oscar Koveleski.

The course is 1 mile long with an elevation of 650 ft. It comprises several sharp turns, one, the "Devil's Elbow," at 110 degrees! The course record is 38 seconds.

The Brynfan Tyddyn road race, a major sports car event, was held for years at Harvey's Lake, Pennsylvania, on a course near the home of the late T. Newell Wood (1909-1982), a Luzerne County Commissioner and Pennsylvania state senator.

--Richard Fitzsimmons, Ph.D., Transcriber



Winner Del Lee driving his Allard J2 rounds a curve in the Giants Despair Hill Climb

Races at Giants Despair

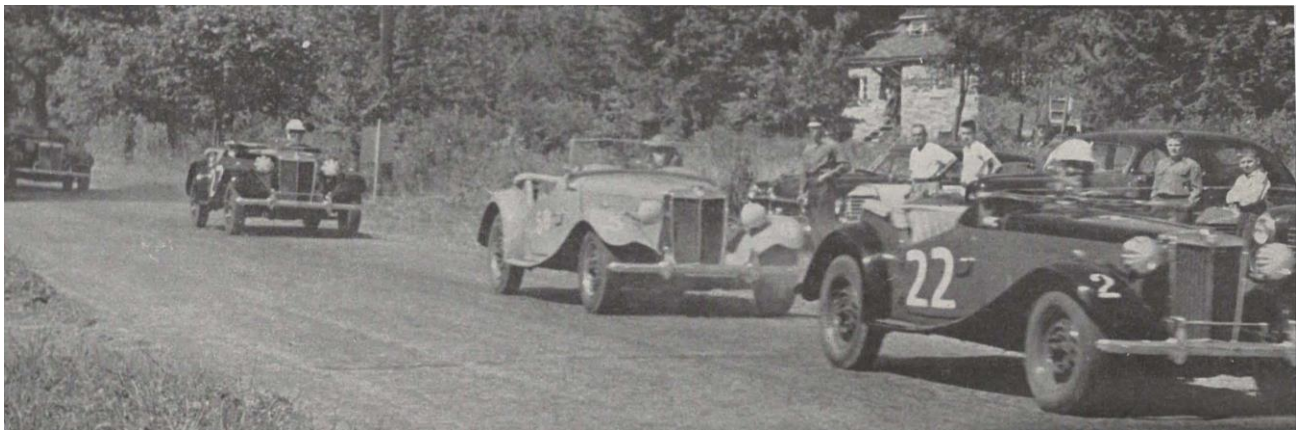
Thousands of sports car fans and race enthusiasts attended the annual Giants Despair Hill at Wilkes-Barre and the Brynfan Tyddyn road races at Harvey's Lake in the major sport car event of the East.

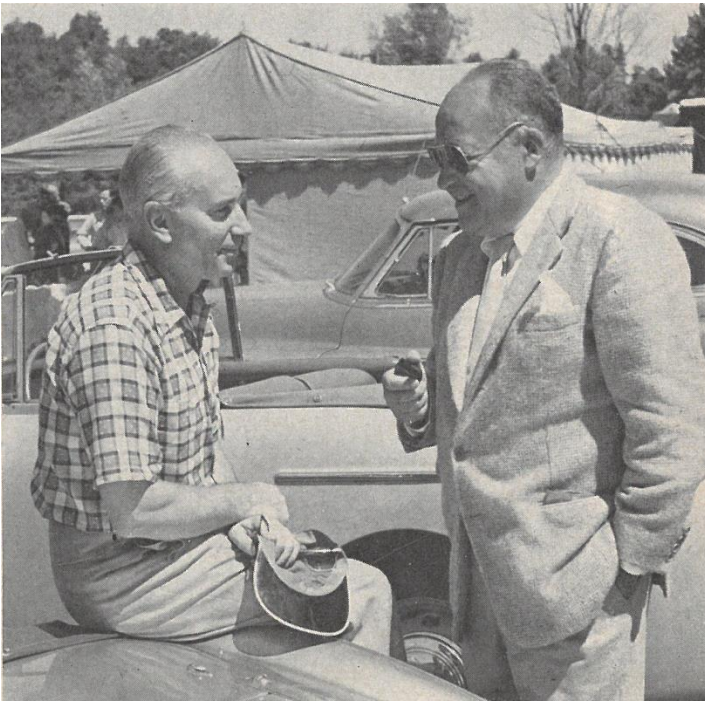
The two day even featured all the latest American and Foreign sport cars. They included Stock MG's, 1250cc., and dass G and H (500 to 750 cc), formerly the 113 (500 cc.) porsches and MK II MG's, and modified cars class F and E, 1100 to 2000 cc. in the road race. The road race was won by Fritz Koster, of Fayetteville, N. Y., driving a Maserati. The Giants Despair Hill was won by Del Lee, of Grossepointe, Mich., driving an Allard J2.

The Climb featured Duesenbergs, Hispano, Suizas, Allard-Lemans 5425cc., and Jaguars which are sold by the Goodwin Auto Company of Kingston, Pa.

The victory buffet was held the final night of the races at the Irem Temple Country Club which was attended by the drivers and owners of the sports cars, as well as hundreds of celebrities who were attracted to Wilkes-Barre during the races.

Harry P. Dager of Hatsboro followed by George B. Robe, of Mamaroneck, N. Y. in a fast stride in the Brynfan Tyddyn road races.





Ham Fischer, a Wilkes-Barre native, creator of Joe Palooka, was one of the interested spectators. Here he discusses the races with Count W. Kolaczowski.

The Giants Despair Hill Climb is one of the toughest races to be held in this section of country. The climb is open to all types of sports cars regardless of engine displacement which had to speed up a rugged miles long course with two S shape curves. Each driver was given an opportunity to make two runs against the clock for the record. Col. J. Henry Pool, President, of the Giants Despair Hill Climb Association, was in charge of this section of the program.



Miss Wood attended the races in her MG.



The winner, Fritz Koster holds the Brynfan Tyddyn challenge cup for road races while Miss Nancy Wood, daughter of Senator Wood congratulates Del Lee, winner of the John Welles Hollenback Trophy for the Giants Despair Hill Climb.

The road races were run on the Brynfan Tyddyn course near the home of Senator Wood, close to Harvey's Lake. The competing cars were divided into classes according to the size of their engines. This year's races marked the third year of effort by people interested in sport car racing to revive the Giants Despair Races, which have brought this event back into national prominence,



G. Vilardi, driving a PYX special 746 cc, swings around a curve in the road races.

LHS 2024 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 to renew your membership or give to a friend who is interested in joining. Please return it to: 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 for membership payment:

<http://www.lackawannahistory.org/benefits.html>

Lackawanna Past Times

Our monthly Zoom lecture series features famous local people and early regional history. Email us at lackawannahistory@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link. Catch up on past episodes on our YouTube channel.

The Past Times program will not be offered during July, but returns in August

Friday, August 30, 2 pm: Update on the Jenkins Archive.

Friday, September 27, 2pm: LOCAL DCNR parks and the Archbald Pothole, presented by Tony DeSantis, Environmental Educational Specialist.

Ghostly Gallery Link

<http://www.lackawannahistory.org/aghostlygallery.html>

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Genealogy Forum: The European Tour

Wednesday, August 14, 10am to Noon: Searching Italian Records,

Hosted by Ann Marie Castelgrande at North Pocono Library.

Saturday, September 18, 10am - Noon: Searching German Records,

Hosted by Tom Price at Abington Community Library.

For more information and to register go to: [LHS Forum Registration](#)

or send the following information via email to lackawannahistory@gmail.com:

Name; Phone number; E-mail address; Name(s) of ancestors researching; dates of arrival in the US; and names of towns and/or regions you are researching.

Genealogy Workshop for Beginners

Saturday, October 5, 12, 19, 26, 9:30am – Noon: LHS will partner with Albright Memorial Library, Vine St., Scranton, to host the Fall Genealogy for Beginners in the Hinkelman Room. Registration is required. Participants must commit to all four sessions.

The fee is \$25 for LHS members and \$35 for Non-members.

To register, please email at lackawannahistory@gmail.com or call 570-344-3841.

Northeastern Pennsylvania Local History Fair

Saturday, September 28, 10am – 4pm: Join us for the third annual Local History Fair in Northeastern Pennsylvania at the Viewmont Mall, Dickson City. Local historical societies and community groups will display, share and promote our incredible history.

Sunday, September 29, Local History Writers' Panel: Details TBA.

SAVE THE DATE: Night of Amusements

October 13, 5:30pm – 8:30pm

Details TBA

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

DINE LACKAWANNA

Wednesday, August 21: Sidel's Restaurant, 1202 N. Main Ave., Scranton 570-343-6544

Wednesday, September 18: State Street Grill, 114 S. State St., Clarks Summit 570-585-5590

Wednesday, October 16: Noir Dark Spirits, 222 Wyoming Ave., Scranton 570-871-4387

Thanks to Lamar Advertising for its ongoing support of Dine Lackawanna

Abingtons

Clarks Summit

Camelot The New Cafe
Formosa State Street Grill

Dalton
B&B

Chinchilla

Armetta's Restaurant & Pizza

Upvalley

Carbondale

KOL Steakhouse
Pat's Pizza & Hoagies

Eynon

Pasquale's t
Tiffany's Tap & Grill

Jermyn

JW's Bar & Gtill

Simpson

Frank's Place

Mid Valley

Dickson City

Texas Roadhouse
Colarusso's Coal Fired Pizza

Olyphant
OTown Bar & Grill

Jessup

Café Colarusso

Scranton

Ale Mary's at the Bittenbender
AV Scranton
Back Yard Ale House
Cafe Classico
Carmen's 2.0 Restaurant
Chef Von & Mom
POSH at the Scranton Club

Market Street Bar & Grill
Pizza by Pappas
Sidel's Restaurant
Stirna's Restaueant
La Cucina
Mansour's Market Café & Eatery
Villa Maria Lola's Cabana

Downvalley

Old Forge

Cusumano Dooley's Pub & Eatery

Dunmore

La Cucina
3 Jacks Burgers

Moscow

Delish on Main

Springbrook Twp

Olde Brook Inn

lackawannahistory@gmail.com



The Lackawanna Historical Society is bringing back its popular *Places of Worship* church tour, highlighting six communities of faith in Carbondale on Saturday, August 24, 9:30am – 3:30pm. In conjunction with the tour, a *Sacred Sounds* event will be held on Thursday, August 22, at Constantino's, featuring musical performances from five ethnic church communities, including Black, Latinx, Ukrainian, Welsh, and Indonesian. Join us to learn more about Lackawanna County's diverse history, architecture, and people!

Tickets are \$25 for the tour and \$35 for the *Sacred Sounds* performance. Registration is required for both events. A combo ticket is available for \$45. Tickets are available at Tickets are available here: <https://lackawanna-historical-society.ticketleap.com/>

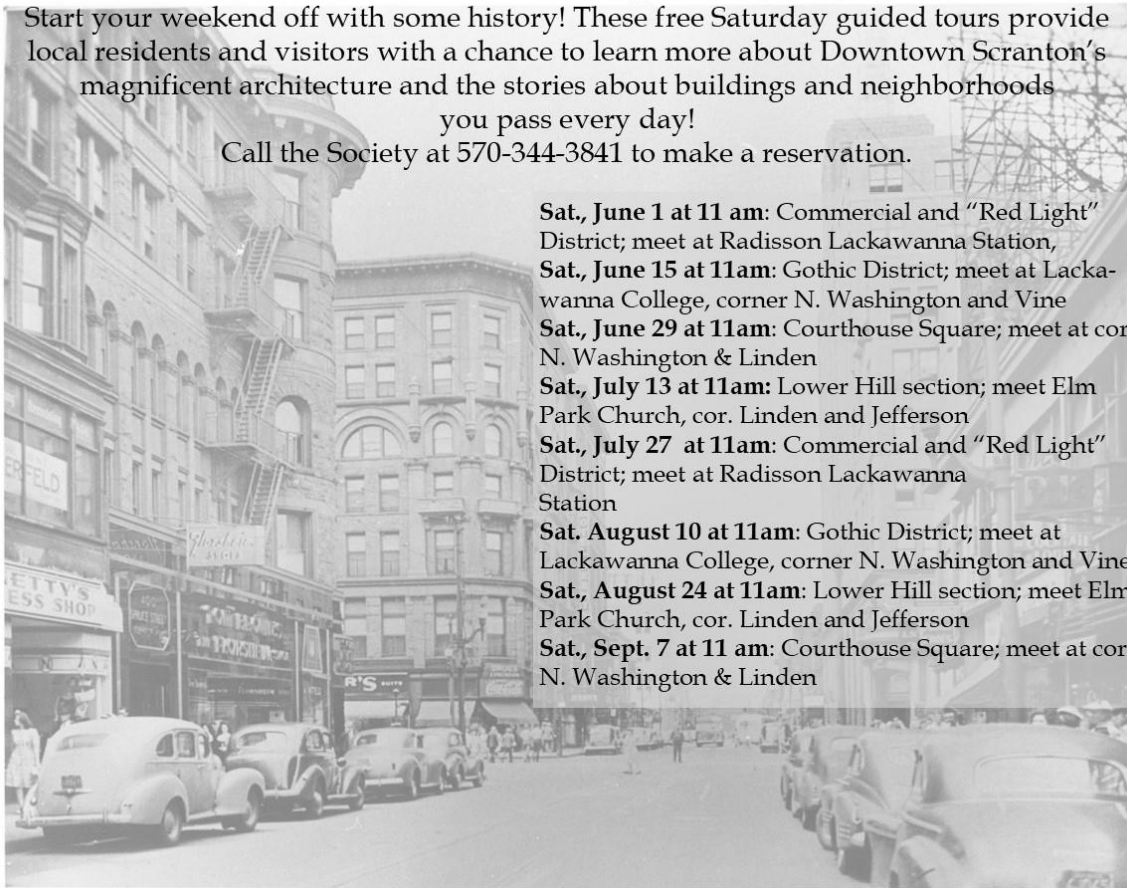
Special Recognition

LHS Board of Trustees' June meeting was held at PJ's 1910 Pub in the Hilton Hotel. At the meeting, the Board honored the Society's bookkeeper, Elaine Carroll, who retired in June. Elaine began working as the LHS bookkeeper in the late 1990s and since 2019 opted not to receive a salary. Beyond her bookkeeping duties, as a volunteer, Elaine helped to staff sales tables, greet visitors, assist with refreshments and on holidays helped to decorate the Catlin House. The Society wishes Elaine all the best and looks forward to her continued LHS membership and volunteering.

Architectural Walking Tours Return!

Start your weekend off with some history! These free Saturday guided tours provide local residents and visitors with a chance to learn more about Downtown Scranton's magnificent architecture and the stories about buildings and neighborhoods you pass every day!

Call the Society at 570-344-3841 to make a reservation.



Sat., June 1 at 11 am: Commercial and "Red Light" District; meet at Radisson Lackawanna Station,
Sat., June 15 at 11am: Gothic District; meet at Lackawanna College, corner N. Washington and Vine
Sat., June 29 at 11am: Courthouse Square; meet at cor. N. Washington & Linden
Sat., July 13 at 11am: Lower Hill section; meet Elm Park Church, cor. Linden and Jefferson
Sat., July 27 at 11am: Commercial and "Red Light" District; meet at Radisson Lackawanna Station
Sat. August 10 at 11am: Gothic District; meet at Lackawanna College, corner N. Washington and Vine
Sat., August 24 at 11am: Lower Hill section; meet Elm Park Church, cor. Linden and Jefferson
Sat., Sept. 7 at 11 am: Courthouse Square; meet at cor. N. Washington & Linden

Call (570) 344-3841 to reserve your spot!



Credit Score Seminar

Stop by to tour the latest exhibits at the Catlin House

Saturday, July 20th 1 pm - 2pm
232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton PA

Grab some snack and learn how to:

- Raise Your Credit Score
- Lower Monthly Payment
- Eliminate High-Interest Debt

As an LHS Member, you are eligible to bank at NET Credit Union!

Visit netcreditunion.com



lackawannahistory@gmail.com



Due to a scheduling conflict, Throwback Thursday in July is Throwback Wednesday, July 24.

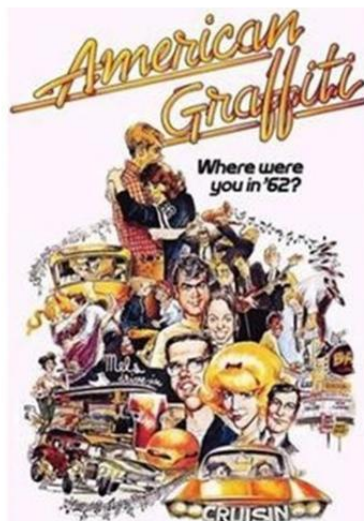
On Wednesday, July 24, as part of the "Christmas Vacation" screening, there will be prizes for people who dress as their favorite character as well as a special Christmas-themed basket raffle.

In August, the fun continues when we encourage classic car owners to come out for "American Graffiti" on Thursday August 22. Bring your antique/classic car and receive a complimentary bag of popcorn.

Tickets are \$9 adults, \$7 for children. Proceeds benefit LHS. All movies begin at dusk. Tickets are available at the gate or online at <https://circledrive-in.com/drive-in/>

*Throwback Thursdays
at the Circle Drive-In, Scranton Carbondale Hwy.*

AUGUST 22



*Join us
for a fun-filled
evening
of classic movies,
themed
basket raffles,
costume prizes
and more!*

*Celebrate Summer
with the
Lackawanna
Historical Society!!*



JULY 24

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

ANTHRACITE HERITAGE MUSEUM

Presents

*The
50th Anniversary
of the Anthracite Family Album
1973 ~ 2023*

HARDCOAL CHRONICLES

A HALF - CENTURY RETROSPECTIVE

1000 IMAGES

FROM SCOTT D. HERRING

OUR

"LAST ANTHRACITE PHOTOGRAPHER"

COVERING AN ENTIRE FIFTH
OF OUR QUARTER - MILLENNIUM AS

"THE PEOPLE OF THE BLACK DIAMOND"

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

MAY 5, 2024 THRU JANUARY 31, 2026

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Pittston Tomato Festival 2024

The 2024 Pittston Tomato Festival, which has been called one of Northeast Pennsylvania's best festivals, takes place beginning 5pm, Thursday, August 15 through Sunday, August 18 at the Tomato Festival Grounds, South Main St., Pittston.

The four-day event, which attracts tomato connoisseurs from across the region offers live music, a 5k run, arts & crafts, games, bingo, carnival rides, including a large Ferris wheel, and home-grown Pittston tomatoes. The emphasis is on food, which includes pizza, pasta, and many other Italian dishes.

All are invited to participate in the Annual Pittston Tomato Festival Parade to be held on Saturday, August 17 in downtown Pittston.



Image source: happeningsmagazinenepa.com

Two of the event's many highlights are the Tomato Contest and Spaghetti Eating Contest that will be held on Saturday, August 17. Categories include the largest, smallest, most perfect, and ugliest tomato. For additional information please visit <https://www.pittstontomatofestival.com/tomato-contest>



Image source: msn.com

Reading & Northern Excursion to the Pittston Tomato Festival

As part of its *Iron Horse Ramble* series of excursions, the Reading & Northern Railroad has added a run to the Pittston Tomato Festival. The train departs at 9am from Nesquehoning making stops at Penobscot (Mountain Top) and White Haven before arriving at Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Regional Station, Pittston.

Passengers can spend the day at the festival before returning to Nesquehoning in the evening. Based in Port Clinton, Berks County, Reading & Northern was founded in 1983. The privately-owned company operates more than 400 miles of track serving more than 80 customers in Berks, Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Northumberland, Schuylkill and Wyoming counties. The railroad handles about 40,000 carloads each year. The company's passenger excursion department accommodates nearly 300,000 riders each year.

A promotional poster for an all-day excursion to the Pittston Tomato Festival. The poster features a red and black color scheme with white and yellow text. At the top, it reads "All-Day F-Unit Excursion to the Pittston Tomato Festival". Below this, it says "Departing from Nesquehoning, PA to Pittston, PA" in large, bold letters, followed by "Sunday, August 18, 2024". The poster includes a section for "Ticket Prices" with a table listing Standard Coach, Crown Class, and Parlor Car options. It also mentions "Pullman Rooms" and provides a boarding location. A photograph of a train is shown at the bottom left. The poster concludes with a phone number and a website for purchasing tickets.

| Ticket Prices | | |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| STANDARD COACH - \$49/PERSON | CROWN CLASS - \$59/PERSON | PARLOR CAR - \$225/PERSON |
| PULLMAN ROOMS *- | | |
| DOUBLE OCCUPANCY - OPEN WINDOWS (2 PEOPLE); \$149/ROOM | | |
| DOUBLE OCCUPANCY - CLIMATE CONTROLLED (2 PEOPLE); \$149/ROOM | | |
| QUADRUPLE OCCUPANCY - CLIMATE CONTROLLED (4 PEOPLE); \$398/ROOM | | |

*Tickets for Pullman Rooms must be purchased via telephone

Boarding Location: Nesquehoning Station - 1 Iron Horse Way, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

Free 10 minute round-trip shuttle transfer to the Pittston Tomato Festival for all ticket holders!

PURCHASE YOUR ROUND-TRIP TICKETS TODAY!

610-562-2102

www.RBMNRR-PASSENGER.com

Image source: Reading & Northern Railroad

For excursion information visit www.RBMNRR-Passenger.com

Pittston Farmers Market Begins Its 40th Year

The Pittston Farmers Market, located in Downtown Pittston at the Tomato Festival lower lot, began its 40th year of service Tuesday, July 2. The market offers locally grown produce and fruits, as well as baked goods and other items.

Vendors returning this year include Brace's Orchards, Golomb Farms, Dymond Farms and Handles Ice Cream. New to the market are Back Mountain Microgreens and Farley farms. Farley will offer, among other items, meat, poultry, eggs, chicken breasts and steak for sale. The market operates Tuesdays, 9am – 2pm, through November.



Image source: <https://www.pittstoncity.org/galleries/pittston-city-farmers-market/>

CarbondAlien Festival

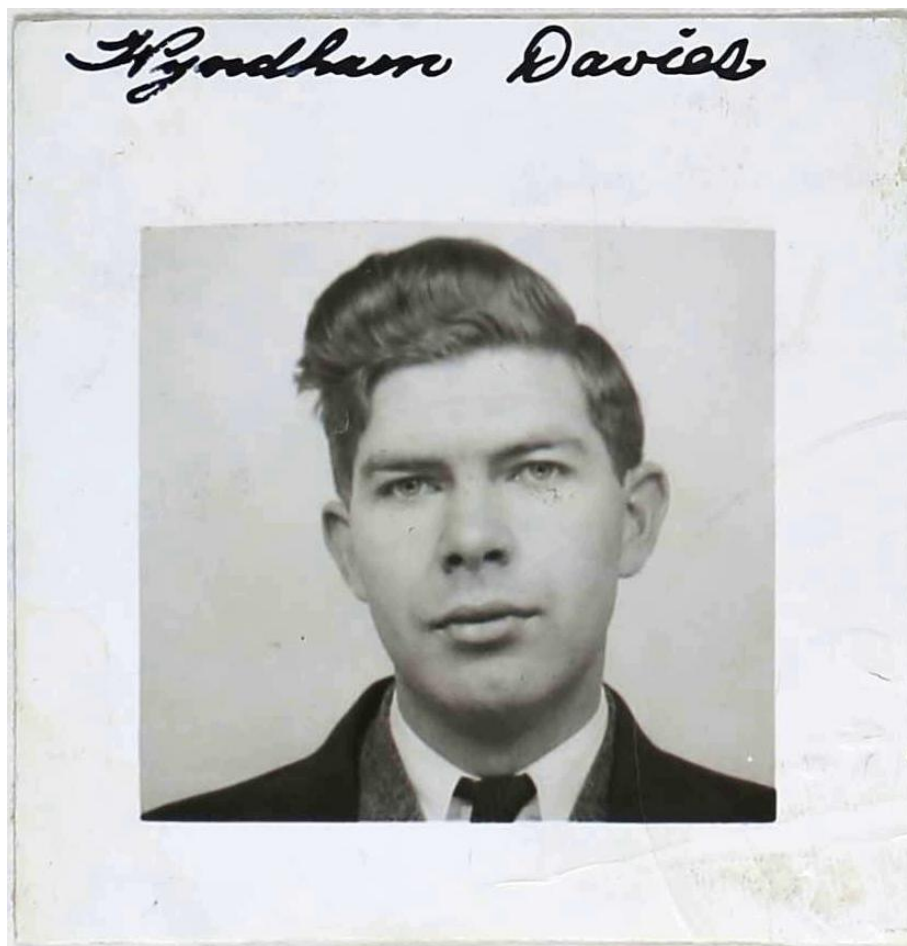
LHS is excited to be working with the Carbondale Arts Alliance to mark the 50th anniversary of an **unusual event**. *If you were there, please see below to share your memories.*



lackawannahistory@gmail.com

*Shady Lane Cemetery Resident:
Wyndham Davies (1912-2003)*

By Carol Wilkerson



*Wyndham Davies
Declaration of Intent Photo*

Wyndham Davies' story is the classic Scranton tale of Welsh immigrant success. Wyndham was born on September 28, 1912, in the industrial village of Skewan, Wales, outside Swansea. He was the son of John Davies and Louisa Edwards Davies. Wyndham had at least two siblings that we know of Mary Florence Davies (1901) and Gwyn M. Davies (1905).

John Davies died at some point prior to the family immigrating. We don't know exactly what the family circumstances were, but Gwyn apparently immigrated first, in 1923. Mary seems to have followed in 1924, and finally Louisa came with the youngest child,

Wyndham, in 1925. At some point after arriving in the U.S., Mary married John Clark Ure, a Scottish immigrant, and the couple moved to Bethlehem, PA.

The Davies family initially settled in Plymouth, PA, where Wyndham graduated from high school. In 1929, they relocated to Scranton, where they opened a fish and chips shop in West Scranton. The little restaurant was a success, with Louisa as the proprietor and Gwyn and Wyndham as waiters. The brothers were able to expand the business into the Scranton Fish Company, a retail and wholesale fish and seafood provider. But for many years, they still continued to sell fish and chips on Fridays.

254

TRIPLICATE
(To be given to declarant)

No. 30228

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA


DECLARATION OF INTENTION

(Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

State of Pennsylvania } In the District Court
Middle Dist. of Penna. } ss: of United States at Scranton, Penna.

I, WYNDHAM DAVIES
now residing at 417 N. Main Ave., Scranton, Penna.
occupation Fish Business, aged 24 years, do declare on oath that my personal description is:
Sex Male, color White, complexion Fair, color of eyes Blue
color of hair Auburn, height 6 feet no inches; weight 150 pounds; visible distinctive marks
None
race Skewen, Wales; nationality British
I was born in Skewen, Wales, on Sept. 28, 1912
I am Not married. The name of my wife or husband is _____
we were married on _____ at _____; she or he was
born at _____, entered the United States
at _____, for permanent residence therein, and now
resides at _____ I have No children, and the name, date and place of birth,
and place of residence of each of said children are as follows:

I have Not heretofore made a declaration of intention: Number _____, on _____
at _____
my last foreign residence was Skewen, Wales
I emigrated to the United States of America from Liverpool, England
my lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States was at New York, N. Y.
under the name of Wyndham Davies, on July 20, 1925
on the vessel Germania
(If other than by vessel, state manner of arrival)
I will, before being admitted to citizenship, renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly, by name, to the prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of which I may be at the time of admission a citizen or subject; I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to reside permanently therein; and I certify that the photograph affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a likeness of me: So HELP ME GOD.

Wyndham Davies


Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of said Court, at Scranton, Penna. this 30th day of August anno Domini 1937. Certification No 3-134877 from the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization showing the lawful entry of the declarant for permanent residence on the date stated above, has been received by me. The photograph affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a likeness of the declarant.

S. W. HOFFER,
Clerk of the U. S. District Court.
By T. H. CAMPION, Deputy Clerk.

Form 2202-1-1
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

14-2623
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

No 71223

Declaration of Intent

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

In 1937, Wyndham filed his Declaration of Intent to become a U.S. citizen. We know from his petition that he was six feet tall, had auburn hair and blue eyes, and wore his hair piled high in a stylish pompadour. On August 30, 1939, Wyndham married Hannah Morris, the daughter of Thomas Morris and May Richards Morris. Hannah had graduated from the Scranton-Lackawanna Business College and worked as a clerk for Alderman Mittelman. Though the marriage took place in August, it was not publicly announced until January 1940, which might have been related to maintaining her employment.

**MISS HANNAH MORRIS
WEDS WYNDHAM DAVIES**

Announcement is made of the marriage of Miss Hannah Morris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Morris, North Main Avenue, to Wyndham Davies, son of Mrs. Louise Davies, North Main Avenue, which took place on August 30, in the parsonage of the Tabernacle Congregational Church. The Rev. H. L. Goughnour officiated. There were no attendants.

The announcement was made at a buffet supper given by Mr. and Mrs. Morris at their home on Tuesday evening.

Mrs. Morris is a graduate of Scranton - Lackawanna Business College and is employed as a clerk by Alderman Samuel K. Mittelman. Mr. Davies is a graduate of Plymouth High School and is in business in West Scranton.

Scranton Tribune, January 11, 1940

Later in 1940, Hannah's father, Thomas Morris, died after a brief illness. His wife May purchased a plot at Shady Lane Cemetery, which had become a popular burial place for West Scranton families. That's probably why, when Louisa Davies died in 1945, Gwyn and Wyndham had their mother buried at Shady Lane as well. Wyndham and Hannah did not have children, so Hannah apparently used her business skills to help out with the Scranton Fish Company. She also enjoyed entertaining and socializing with her many

**Thomas Morris,
Hotel Owner, Dies
In West Scranton**

Thomas Morris, 58, 421 North Main Avenue, a West Scranton business man for the past 22 years, died at 8:30 o'clock last night at his home following a brief illness. He operated a cafe at the North Main Avenue address.

He was born in Buffalo, N. Y. At an early age his parents settled in the Archbald-Pyne section of Taylor Borough. As a youth Mr. Morris picked slate and later worked around the mines.

With the exception of a few years spent on a farm in Lake Winola, Mr. Morris was engaged in the hotel business, first on North Main Avenue, North Scranton, and later in West Scranton.

He was an ardent hunter and fisherman and was active in sporting circles. He was a member of Tabernacle Congregational Church.

Surviving are his wife, May Morris; two daughters, Mrs. George Kaeb and Mrs. Wyndham Davis, both of West Scranton; three brothers, William, Johnson City, N. Y.; Benjamin, Wisconsin, and Henry, Binghamton; seven sisters: Mrs. John Evans, city; Mrs. Mame Davey, Binghamton; Mrs. Lillian Evans, Sayre; Mrs. Maude Bartleson and Mrs. Edith Morris, Johnson City; Mrs. Margaret Brown, Scranton, and Mrs. Emily Chedester, Conklin, Pa. Two grandchildren also survive.

Scranton Tribune, April 23, 1940

friends. Besides his business, Wyndham was passionate about singing and was involved in both church and community choral groups. He was particularly fond of Welsh music and was a member of the St. David's Welsh Men's Chorus.

An article in the newspaper in 1949 praised the growth and success of the Scranton Fish Company, referring to Gwyn and Wyndham as having started as "a couple of Welsh greenhorns." That same year, Gwyn returned to Wales and married Mary Thomas, bringing her home with him to Scranton. The two brothers worked hard to maintain their successful company, but they also took time to relax. Wyndham and Hannah purchased a summer home on Baylor's Lake, using it to entertain family and friends.

Mrs. Hannah Davies Funeral on Saturday

Final rites will be conducted Saturday for Mrs. Hannah Davies, 635 North Hyde Park Ave., wife of Wyndham Davies, owner of the Scranton Fish Co., 415 North Main St.

Mrs. Davies was stricken fatally yesterday at the fish concern store on North Main Ave.

The funeral will take place at 11 A.M. from the Davies & Jones Funeral Home, 135 South Main Ave. The Rev. Albert E. Hutchison, Trinity Congregational Church, will officiate. Interment, Shady Lane Cemetery, Chinchilla.

Daughter of Mrs. May Richards Morris and the late Thomas Morris, she was born in this city. Mrs. Davies was a member of Trinity Congregational Church, its Women's Fellowship and the Trillium Guild.

Surviving are her husband; her mother, a sister, Mrs. Margaret Kaeb, this city, two nieces and two nephews.

*Scranton Times – Tribune
January 7, 1965*

Life was going well for Wyndham until January 6, 1965. While working at the Scranton Fish Company office that morning, Hannah suffered a sudden massive heart attack. She died before medical help could arrive. Hannah was laid to rest in the Morris plot with her father Thomas, where her mother, May Morris, joined them in 1969 and her sister, Margaret Morris Kaeb, in 2003.

Wyndham spent a year in mourning for Hannah, but in early 1966, he became engaged to 38-year-old Shirley James, the daughter of David John James and Betty Evans James. The couple married on April 30, 1966. Just three years later, in 1969, Wyndham was involved in a serious accident at work. While a restaurant delivery truck was backing up to the loading dock of the Scranton Wyndham was trapped between the truck and building,



Mr. and Mrs. Gwyn Davies, above, who were married in South Wales. Mrs. Davies is the former Miss Mary Sims Thomas.

Scranton Tribune, November 16, 1940,

Wyndham's injuries, his long recovery, and the litigation arising from the accident might have contributed to his decision to retire in 1974. Since neither Wyndham nor Gwyn had children, they decided to entrust the business to Wyndham's nephew, Thomas Kaeb, the son of Hannah's sister, Margaret Morris Kaeb. Wyndham was very close to his nephew, even standing in for the father of the bride when Tom married a German girl in 1970. Tom took over the Scranton Fish Company, leaving Wyndham and Gwyn to enjoy their golden years.

Man Pinned Between Vehicle and Building

Two men were injured — one seriously — Thursday in separate accidents in which vehicles backed into them.

The owner of the Scranton Fish Co., 417 N. Main Ave., is in guarded condition at State Hospital with internal injuries suffered when he was pinned between a truck and the back of his building.

Wyndham Davies, 56, 635 N. Hyde Park Ave., was rushed to the hospital in a Fire Bureau Ambulance manned by Lt. Sam Weinberg and Aidman Gaylord Jones.

Patrolman George Zvirblis said the man was struck by a 1965 truck driven by William J. Stash, 24 Armstrong St., Edwardsville, who was trying to

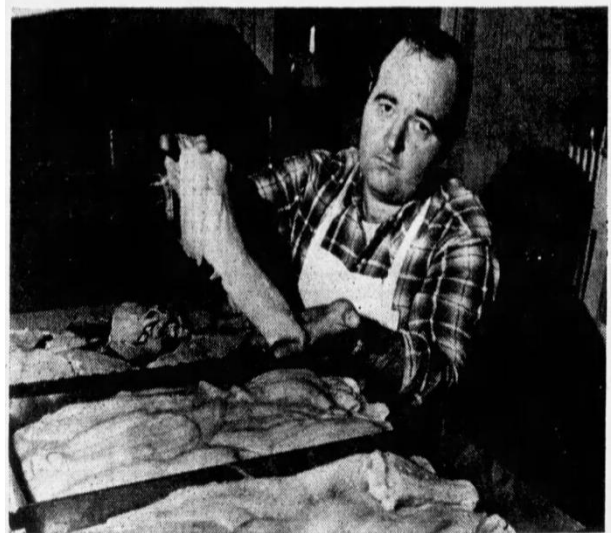
back into the loading platform at the store. The truck is owned by Vic Mars Restaurant, 612-14 Main St., Edwardsville.

Mike Domaleski, 69, 712 Ferdinand St., was treated at State Hospital after the other mishap.

Patrolmen William West and Robert Mayer reported he was struck by a car driven by Diane J. Streclecki, 1608 N. Main Ave., as he was waiting for a bus in front of her home.

They said the woman's car was parked illegally on the sidewalk and when she backed it up it struck the man.

Domaleski said he had his back to the car. The woman said she did not see the man standing behind her car.



FRESH FISH is abundantly available for the Lenten season, as evidenced by this display by Tom Kaeb, owner of Scranton Fish Market, a Hyde Park landmark since 1929. Kaeb says Scrantonians are partial to fresh lemon sole or haddock fillets. Although fish and seafood are popular for Lent, its great nutritional value should prompt most cooks into serving it in some form at least once a week. — Tribune Photo by Stanley Olds.

Scranton Tribune, July 11, 1969

Scranton Tribune, February 1, 1978

**HERE IS THE PLACE FOR . . .
FRESH CAUGHT SEAFOOD**



**417 N. MAIN AVE. HYDE PARK
WEST SCRANTON**

(Free Parking In Rear)

Closed Saturdays, 1 P.M.

Scranton Times – Tribune, January 18, 1956

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Wyndham's sister, Mary Davies Ure, was the first of the Davies siblings to pass away. She died in Colorado in 1982 and was buried in Bethlehem, PA. Gwyn, who had moved to Florida, died in 1991. His body was returned to Scranton and buried with his mother at Shady Lane, where his wife, Mary Thomas Davies, joined him in 2003.

Wyndham and Shirley celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary in 2001. They then celebrated two more anniversaries before Wyndham died in December 2003, at the age of 91. He was buried in a plot at Shady Lane close to his mother and brother. Shirley joined him there in 2013, when she died at the age of 85.

Shirley James Wed To Wyndham Davis

Miss Shirley L. James, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David James, 1613 Washburn St., was married to Wyndham Davies, 635 North Hyde Park Ave., son of the late Mrs. Louisa Davies, today at noon in Trinity Congregational Church.

The Rev. Albert E. Hutchison performed the ceremony in a setting of white gladioli and white Spring flowers.

Given in marriage by her parents, the bride wore a two-piece street-length ensemble of imported white lace knit with scalloped edge neckline and sleeves. Her pillbox hat of white orange blossoms had a short veil. She wore white French kid gloves and carried a crescent bouquet of white roses and English ivy nestled in stardust maline.

Miss Marjorie James, sister of the bride, was her only attendant. She wore a two-piece street-length ensemble of shell pink knit, trimmed with pink satin rings, and a pink flowered pillbox hat with short veil. She carried a crescent bouquet of pink sensation roses and English ivy.

Alvin Hobbs, this city, was best man, and John D. James, Scranton, brother of the bride, and Thomas Kaeb, this city, nephew of the bridegroom, were ushers.

A dinner reception followed at the Green Ridge Club.

When the couple left on a motor trip to Florida, the bride wore an apricot linen knit two-piece dress with beige coat, beige accessories and corsage of cymbidium orchids.

Mr. and Mrs. Davies will reside at 635 North Hyde Park Ave. The bride, a graduate of West Scranton High School, was employed as secretary in the general offices of Dean Phipps Stores. The bridegroom attended school in Plymouth. He is owner of Scranton Fish Co.

Mr. and Mrs. Wyndham Davies

Wyndham and Shirley Davies, Scranton, will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary Monday. They were married April 30, 1966, in Trinity Congregational Church by the Rev. Albert Hutchison. They were attended by Marjorie Grippa, sister of the bride, and the late Alvin Hobbs.

Mrs. Davies is the former Shirley James, daughter of the late David and Elizabeth James.

Mr. Davies is the son of the late Louisa Davies. Prior to retirement, he was the proprietor of Scranton Fish Co.



Scranton Times – Tribune

April 30, 1966

Above: 35th Wedding Anniversary Notice and Photo

Scranton Times – Tribune, April 29, 2001

As for the Scranton Fish Company, Tom Kaeb continued to offer high-quality fresh fish and seafood to retail and wholesale customers for many years. He had a host of loyal customers in West Scranton, who treated the business as a Hyde Park institution. Tom and his wife celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in 2000. By 2005, Tom was ready to retire, and he sold the Scranton Fish Company. The new owner operated for 18 months, but then closed the business and sold the building at 417 North Main Avenue.

Wyndham, Shirley, Hannah, Louisa, Gwyn, Mary, Thomas, and May all now reside at Shady Lane Cemetery—may they rest in peace!

Wyndham Davies

December 1, 2003

Wyndham Davies, 91, of West Scranton, died Monday morning at the Dunmore Health Care Center after an illness. He and his wife, the former Shirley James, celebrated their 37th wedding anniversary in April. His first wife, the former Hannah Morris, died in 1965.

Born in Skewen, South Wales, son of the late William and Louisa Edwards Davies, he came to America at the age of 12, settling in Plymouth. He attended Plymouth public schools and moved to Scranton in 1930. He founded the Scranton Fish Market in 1929, retiring in 1974 after 45 years. He was a member of Trinity Congregational United Church of Christ, where he was a former member of the choir and board of trustees. He was a former member of the St. David's Welsh Male Chorus and was a 50-year member of Union Lodge 291, Free and Accepted Masons, and the Keystone Consistory.

He was a man who was proud of his Welsh heritage and music. He enjoyed singing and taking long walks.

Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Gwyn; and a sister, Florence Ure.

The funeral will be Friday with services at 11 a.m. in the Davies and Jones Funeral Chapel Inc., 135 S. Main Ave., by the Rev. Dr. Frank Andrews, pastor, Trinity Congregational United Church of Christ, and Major John Fox, Salvation Army (retired). Interment, Shady Lane Cemetery, Chinchilla.

Friends may call Thursday, 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the memorial fund of Trinity Congregational United Church of Christ, 229 S. Main Ave., 18504.

Shirley L. Davies

December 18, 2013

Shirley L. Davies of West Scranton entered into eternal life early Wednesday morning at home after an illness. She was the widow of Wyndham Davies, the founder of the Scranton Fish Co., who died in 2003.

Born December 3, 1928, she recently celebrated her 85th birthday with her family present. Shirley was the daughter of the late David and Elizabeth Evans James. She was a graduate of West Scranton High School, class of 1946. Prior to her marriage, she had been employed at Acme Fast Freight and Dean Phipps. She was a member of the Trinity Congregational United Church of Christ and the Trillium Guild Women's Society. She was also a member of the St. David's Society of Lackawanna County, the Century Club of Scranton and a former member of the Junior Welsh Women's Society and the Scranton Choraleers.

To honor her and her husband's Welsh heritage and their love of "Gymanfa Ganu" music, Shirley donated a new organ in her husband's memory to Trinity Church.

The family would like to thank Dr. Nicholas Dodge, Sandy, Allied Home Health, Celtic Hospice and her caregivers, especially Dawn and Fran, for the excellent care and compassion they showed Shirley during her illness.

Shirley is survived by her sister, Marjorie Grippa of West Scranton; brothers, JD James and his wife, Jean, of Clarks Summit; and Curtis



James and his wife, Margaret of Crystal River, Florida; nieces and nephews; great-nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 11 a.m. in the Trinity Congregational United Church of Christ, 229 S. Main Ave., Scranton, officiated by Rev. Jeremy Mullen.

Friends may call Friday from 10 until time of service in the church. Interment, private in Shady Lane Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, Shirley has requested memorial contributions be made to Trinity Congregational United Church of Christ Memorial Fund, 229 S. Main Ave., Scranton, PA 18504.

To share a memory or to send an online condolence, please visit www.vanstonandjames.com

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Vanston and James Funeral Home under the care and direction of Robert C. Jones, funeral director.

Scranton Tribune, December 3, 2003

Scranton Times – Tribune, December 19, 2013

All inserts and photos courtesy of Carol Wilkerson

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Town Newspaper Research: Boom, Bust or Somewhere in Between?

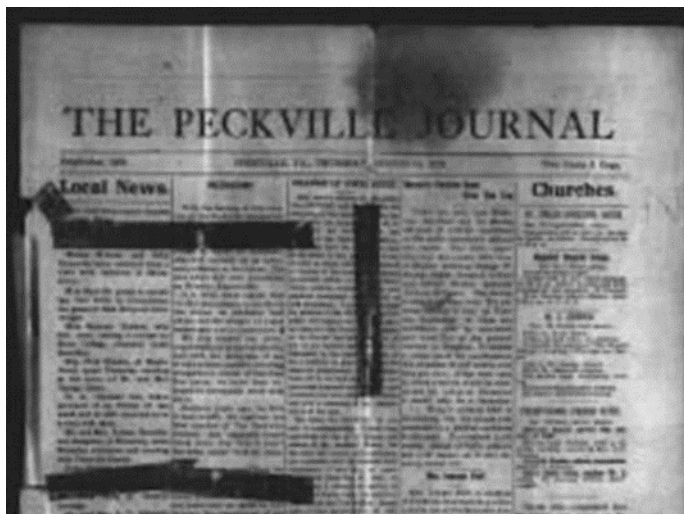
By Rick Sedlisky

Town newspaper research is like other types of research. Sometimes you strike it rich, sometimes you go bust. The latter is disappointing, but when you find a treasure trove of long-ago news from perhaps a four-page town newspaper, it's well worth the dig.

There's a third result that, depending on one's attitude, entices you to either continue to dig or throw in the towel. That result is insufficient information. Such is the case with the following three newspapers.

The *Jermyn Press* was established around 1890. When it ceased operating, to date, is not known. From what's been found so far, it appears that the paper was published on Fridays. It contained eight pages, measured 13" x 20" and had a circulation of less than 1,000. Paul W. Harris was the editor and publisher. It's possible that some issues and some information on Mr. Harris may be available at the Jermyn Historical Society.

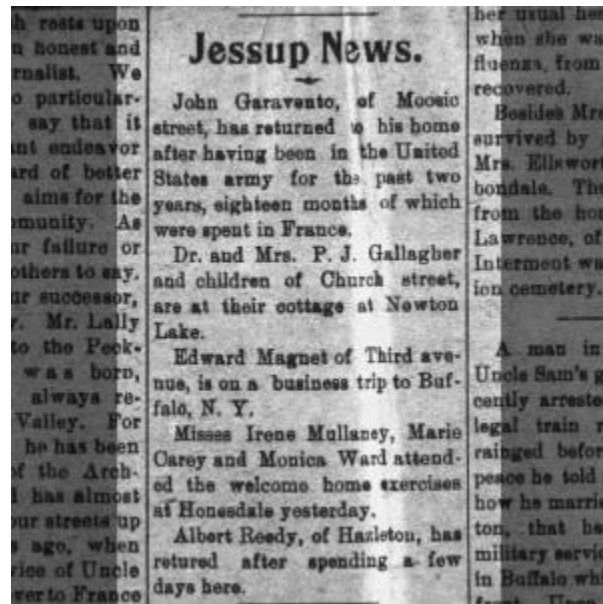
Sometimes the initial search comes up with nothing more than a one-line statement. Such is the case with the *Mayfield News*. From what's been found so far, it appears that the paper was in business from 1929 to 1958 and published on Fridays. If any issues exist, they may be in private collections.



<https://www.newspapers.com/paper/the-peckville-journal>

There is at least one issue of the *Peckville Journal* with eight searchable pages available at *newspapers.com*. The publication date is August 14, 1919. However, answers to the basic questions of when it was established and when it went out of business, to date, remain elusive. *newspapers.com* shows date of operation as 1919 – 1919, suggesting that the paper lasted for one year. Even if that's the case, the

August 14 issue contained an ad from the town's Ford dealership, as well as a column called Jessup News. The ad and the column suggest that the paper was able to attract business advertisers and appeal to readers outside of the town's borders. We can speculate that the car dealer, G. W. Roberts, knew that the paper had readers in nearby towns and that would help to expand his business' reach.

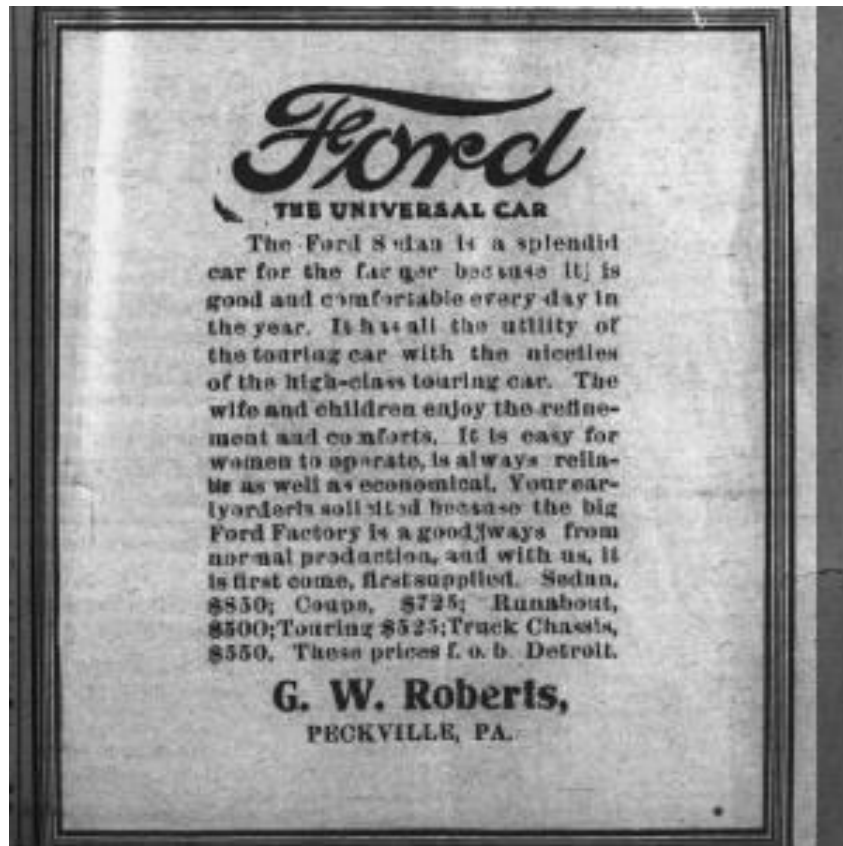


Jessup News, Peckville Journal, August 14, 1919
<https://www.newspapers.com/paper/the-peckville-journal>

If indeed the *Peckville Journal* lasted for only a year, the obvious question is why? One possible answer that comes to mind is competition from nearby town papers. As mentioned, Jermyn and Mayfield each had newspapers and although the *Jermyn Press* began publishing around 1890, as of this writing, when it ceased publication is not known. The *Mayfield News* first appeared in 1929 and therefore, is easily ruled out.

The *Carbondale Leader* existed from 1872 to 1924 and the *Archbald Citizen* from 1898 to 1938. While both could have been competitors, speculation suggests that any serious competition came from directly across the Lackawanna River. The *Olyphant Gazette* began publishing in 1887 and by 1919 was a well-established paper. The *Olyphant Record* was first published in 1892. The Gazette, however, was the stronger of the two and by 1919 was covering Dickson City, Throop, Jessup and Blakely/Peckville.

All of this is of course pure speculation. During a time when travel wasn't as convenient as it became a few decades later, these papers not only provided a needed service to their communities, but also showed that even in the smaller communities, Freedom of the Press was alive and well.



Ford Dealership Ad, Peckville Journal, August 14, 1919
<https://www.newspapers.com/paper/the-peckville-journal>

According to the above ad, the Ford sedan “has all the utility of the touring car with the niceties of the high-class touring car... It is easy for women to operate.” The sedan cost \$850 in 1919, which is \$15,431 in 2024 dollars.

Source: <https://www.in2013dollars.com/us/inflation/1919?amount=850>

Anthracite Ancestry



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Anthracite Ancestry covers various aspects of Northeast Pennsylvania’s coal legacy, including coal companies, coal barons, labor and labor unions, individuals, families, immigrant groups, disasters, subsidence and railroads. If your ancestors left behind anthracite stories of any kind, please contact us at lackawannahistory@gmail.com and include *Anthracite* in the subject matter.

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Brooks Mine Open for Visitors



Image source: <https://undergroundminers.com/brooks-mine-nay-aug-park/>

After having been closed and ignored for nearly 50 years, the Brooks Drift Mine, located in Nay Aug Park, Scranton, reopened in August 2023. The non-profit volunteer Underground Miners were responsible for rehabilitating the former tourist attraction.

Opened in 1902 by Greenwood Mine operator, Reese Brooks, the mine was part of the Scranton School of Mines program that educated the public about anthracite mining. It was built to be a teaching museum, affiliated with the nearby Everhart Museum.

At 150 feet long, the mine is not very large. It was driven into the outcrop of the Dunmore No. 2 and No. 3 veins and although it was never a commercial operation, Brooks contains a sizeable coal deposit.

Throughout its more than 120-year history, the teaching museum/tourist attraction was closed to the public on several occasions. The first time was in 1938. Fifteen years later in 1953, the mine received a major upgrade that included retimbering by the Moffat Coal Company, and an electrical lighting upgrade by the Scranton Police Traffic Repair Squad. It was again retimbered in 1969. The Brooks Drift Mine closed in 1975 with the opening of the 190 Slope Mine Tour.

In January 2022, Underground Miners volunteers decided to bring the mine back to operating status. In April 2022, experienced coal miners, timbermen and laborers began working toward that goal. More than 3000 man-hours were spent removing debris and retimbering, and because the mine had only one entrance/exit, a second opening was created as an escape route and to provide proper ventilation. New track was laid and a new electrical lighting system was installed. The reopening ceremony took place on August 11, 2023.



Images source: <https://undergroundminers.com/brooks-mine-nay-aug-park/>

The Brooks Drift Mine is open to visitors on Saturdays from 10am to 5pm through November 2.

The Underground Miners emphasize that no taxpayer money was involved in funding the project. The rehabilitation was financed entirely by donations from individual contributors, as well as local businesses.

Founded in 2002, Underground Miners is a 501©3 nonprofit organization, dedicated to preserving Pennsylvania's anthracite coal mining heritage through an historical online archive, equipment restoration and educational public events.

Subscribe to History Bytes

History Bytes offers a look at our past, as well as a look at Lackawanna and Northeast Pennsylvania in the 21st century. Who are we now? How do we embrace those who came before us and those who have newly arrived?

A subscription to History Bytes is free. If you would like future issues of our bi-monthly, e-newsletter sent to your inbox, please contact the Lackawanna Historical Society at lackawannahistory@gmail.com and place *History Bytes* in the subject matter.

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.

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Internet Links

Historical Attractions

Anthracite Museum and Iron Furnaces
Brooks Mine
Electric City Trolley Museum
Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour
Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority
Steamtown National Historic Site
Waverly Community House and Destination Freedom

County and Educational Partners

Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce
Lackawanna County
Lackawanna County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Lackawanna River Conservation Association
Leadership Lackawanna
NEUI #19

Cultural Partners

Albright Memorial Library and the Lackawanna County Library System
Black Scranton
Century Club
Circle Drive In
Everhart Museum
Garden of Cedar
Ritz Theatre
Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple
Scranton's Annual Civil War Weekend Events
Scranton Times-Tribune's Pages from the Past
United Neighborhoods Centers
Valley In Motion

Anthracite Research

Pennsylvania's Northern Anthracite Coal Field <http://www.northernfield.info/>
The North-East United States Historical Geographical Information System (NEHGIS)
<http://www.nehgis.org>

Historical Societies

Archbald Historical Society: Contact Ed Casey 570-614-3628
Carbondale Historical Society
Luzerne County Historical Society
Monroe County Historical Society
Plymouth Historical Society www.plymouthhistoricalsocietyluzernecopa.org
Scott Township Historical Society: Contact Robert Vail 570-254-9536
Susquehanna County Historical Society
Taylor Historical Society: Contact Christine Schaefer 570-562-1225
Wayne County Historical Society
Wyoming County Historical Society

The Lackawanna Historical Society 2023

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Founded in 1886 as the Lackawanna Institute of History and Science, the Lackawanna Historical Society provides the community with a record of local history through its museum and library collections, exhibits and programs. In 1942, at the bequest of George H. Catlin, the Society established its permanent home at Catlin's 1912 residence, located at 232 Monroe Avenue in Scranton, Pennsylvania. In 1965, it was designated as the official county historical society by Lackawanna County and continues to serve the county as a center for local history resources. The Society, a 501 ©3 nonprofit organization, is supported in part by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Catlin Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County and memberships.