

# END NOTES

## GRANTS PROJECTS

### CONSERVATION AWARD

The LHS has recently been awarded a Conservation Assessment Program Grant developed by the Institute for Conservation and funded by the Institute of Museum Services for a general institutional, conservation assessment of collections and facilities. The program will support a two day visit by a collections oriented conservation professional as well as an architectural conservator to assess the preservation needs of the historic house structure.

## ARCHITECTURAL BLUEPRINTS

In December of 1989, the LHS received a Local History Project Support Grant through the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for work on the "Scranton City Records" project. The project entailed removing several thousand architectural records from the vacant Oppenheim's building in Scranton and temporarily storing them at a branch of the Scranton Public Library. Since January 1990, professional archivist, Dr. John Bluth, has been unpacking and sorting through the collection to determine exactly what is there and to make some order. Many of the blueprints are of residences in the city and outlying areas of Scranton. None have been dated before 1900. The obvious condition of the prints from improper storage and neglect is poor. Dr. Bluth will conclude work in June having gone through almost all the prints. By that time we will have a better knowledge of exactly what we have. Funding is currently being sought to continue work on the project so that we can preserve these architectural documents.

## Dinner's Success

The Annual Dinner of the Lackawanna Historical Society, May 9, 1990, was a great success with a record crowd of **one - hundred and three persons** in attendance for dinner and several joining afterward for the presentation. Featured speaker for the evening was Mr. Francis C. Bosak, who spoke on the very interesting history of the Bosak family and of the entrepreneurial successes of his father, immigrant Michael Bosak, followed by slides of their early years.

A special thanks to all who helped make this year's dinner a success.



## VOLUNTEERS AT THE LHS

The Lackawanna Historical Society needs volunteers to give tours this summer of the Catlin House Museum. Individuals should be interested in history, and able to speak to groups of all ages. If you are interested please contact the Society at 344-3841.

## THANK YOU

To Mrs. Betty Lee of "Flowers by Betty" for her donation of 24 plants for the back of the Catlin House. Thanks also to Mrs. Charlotte Van Deusen for additional flowers and with the help of Sandra Whitlock thank you both for planting all of them.

## "GREETINGS..." are GOING

There are less than 75 copies left of Jack Hiddlestone's book "Greetings From Scranton." Since publication in 1986, the book has sold almost 1400 copies with all the proceeds going to the Lackawanna Historical Society. There will not be a second printing, however, Mr. Hiddlestone is working on a new book which we hope to see out in the near future. If you do not have "Greetings from Scranton," and would like a copy before it is sold out, please contact the Society. Membership price: \$10.00 + tax.

# The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal

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## FALL/ WINTER PROGRAMS 1990

September: A History of Scranton  
October: 75 years- The Nicholson Bridge  
November: The Civil War  
December: Holiday Program



The George H. Catlin Memorial House of the Lackawanna Historical Society is open every Tuesday through Friday, 10AM - 5PM. Appointments are suggested for guided tours during the week. July through September tours conducted every Saturday, 10AM-2PM.

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal is published quarterly by the Society's staff. Also contributing to this issue: Jack Hiddlestone and Ward V. Roe. All photographs Ward V. Roe

The Lackawanna Historical Society is a non-profit organization.



The Lackawanna Historical Society  
The George H. Catlin Memorial House  
232 Monroe Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18510

Non-Profit Org.  
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Scranton, PA



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## NOTICE FOR DUES PAYMENT

*Approximately three-quarters of the society's membership has renewed for the 1990 calendar year with many new members to the society. The Board sincerely hopes those who may have overlooked their dues payment for 1990 will respond to this notice.*

*The Historical Society could not exist without the generous support of the membership. In this one-hundred and fourth year, with new changes and growth, the society once again turns to its members - old and new - and asks them to continue their association in the future of the Lackawanna Historical Society.*

*Summer Hours:  
The Catlin House &  
Museum will be  
open for tours every  
Saturday at  
10:00 AM- 2:00 PM  
Beginning July  
thru Sept. 29, 1990*

## WELCOME

*to the following new members:*

Mr. & Mrs. T. Armstrong  
Mr. Dave Beemer  
Mr. James Bell III  
Mr. Kevin Betti  
Mr. Greg Cosminski  
Ms. Mary Kate Culkin  
Mr. Tom Driebe  
Mr. Frank Froment  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Hale  
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Ms. Wendy Saar  
Mr. Richard Wagner  
Ms. Alice Weber  
Mrs. Stanley Whitman

### Out of State Members

Mr. Robert Clark, IL  
Mr. Francis Durkin, MA  
Ms. Rory Killeen, NY  
Mr. Sean Killeen, NY  
Mr. Thomas Killeen, VA  
Mr. Ronald Leggitt, MI  
Ms. B. Dreier Turner, NJ

### Sustaining Members

Mr. Francis Bosak, PA  
Mr. & Mrs. T. Langan, VA

## Present and Former Trustees Mark Career Milestones

On the evening of May 5, 1990, Willard M. Henkelman, Esquire, was among those honored for 50 years membership in the Lackawanna Bar Association. Attorney Henkelman is a long-time member of the Lackawanna Historical Society, as is his wife, Betty, and he has been an active member of our Board of Trustees for many years. Along with paying tribute to its Golden Members, the Lackawanna Bar Association also used the occasion of their Annual Dinner Dance to note the lawyers' observance of 1990 as the organization's Centennial Year. (Watch for a feature article on the *Centennial of the Lackawanna Bar* in a future issue of the LHS Journal.)

On June 30, 1990,

Charles P. Connor, Ph.D., was among those ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood for service in the Diocese of Scranton. The new Father Connor holds membership in The Lackawanna Historical Society, as do his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph N. Connor. Prior to his seminary studies, which brought him to Europe for the past five years, Rev. Dr. Connor had been another of our active Trustees. He is assigned to St. Patrick's Church in West Scranton.

--- As an historical aside, the new priest chose for his commemorative prayer card a copy of the card selected by his uncle, Rev. Julian Connor, C.P., for his own ordination in 1936.

## RECENT DONATIONS TO THE LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

139 Photographs taken for the Scranton Tribune's Sunday Feature, "Then and Now."  
Donor: Jack Hiddlestone, Clarks Summit, PA; Sandy Tedesco, Scranton, PA.

2 Wedding Hats, Ca. 1880, estate of Catherine E. Parry, Welsch Immigrant.  
Donor: Lucille K. Poh, Lake Ariel, PA.

4 Stock Certificates: Riverside Iron & Coal; Lehigh Coal & Navigation.  
19 Bank Receipts/Checks: Scranton Savings & Dime, County Savings, Third National, First National, Traders National, Merchants &

Mechanics; Lackawanna Iron & Coal Co.; Ca. 1881-1932.  
Donor: John Repa, Gouldsboro, PA.

Lackawanna County Prison Commitment Records: 24 volumes, hand written, 1892-1932  
Donation: Lackawanna County Prison, Scranton, PA, Capt. Harvey

Cherry Pitter; "Enterprise Cherry Stoner #1"  
Donor: George Mollish, Holidaysburg, PA.

Smith & Wesson Rimfire Pistol: carried by Col. Frederick L. Hitchcock, Civil War.  
Donor: Elizabeth Brauer, Clarks Summit, PA.

2 Publications: "A Connecticut Town in Pennsylvania," Oscar Jewell Harvey, 1921, The Lackawanna Institute of History and Science; "Reminiscences of the Early History of Dark Hollow, Slocum Hollow, Harrison, Lackawanna Iron Works, Scrantonia," J.C. Platt, 1896, The Lackawanna Institute of History and Science.  
Donor: Robert Reid, Oceanside, CA.

Pamphlet: Scranton Republican Cooking & Homemakers School, Ca. 1932.  
Donor: Richard Ryczak, University Archives, Scranton, PA.

Opera Glasses & Case: Mother of Pearl, Ca. 1890's; Meerschaum Pipe & Case: Ca. 1890's; from estate of Jacob W. & Katherine Snell Warnke.  
Donor: David J. Etter, Scranton, PA.

Browning Paper Collection: Construction of Lackawanna Trail Hwy; Land Releases & correspondances of Atty. J. W. Browning, Lincoln Trust Co., Scranton, PA 1917-1922.  
Donor: Leonora Esther, Phoenixville, PA.

Wall Clock: Self-Winding Clock Company, N.Y., pat. 1898; Lackawanna Station.  
Donor: Diane Strasser, Philadelphia, PA.



# LOVE, PURITY, FIDELITY.--FRIENDSHIP, LOVE AND TRUTH.

*Celebration of the 74th Anniversary of American Independence, July 4th, 1851, at SCRANTON, Pa.*

The Committee of Arrangements respectfully request Societies who intend joining the procession, to report themselves through the Marshals at an early hour, in order that all confusion may be avoided.

The Committee have the pleasure of stating, that through the liberality of the Lackawanna and Western Rail Road Company, a Locomotive with a train of Cars will leave Bailey Hollow at 9 o'clock, A. M., and take up at any place along the line all who wish to avail themselves of this arrangement, without charge; returning in the afternoon. Two members of Roaring Brook Division, and two members of Lackawanna Lodge will accompany the Cars and see to the comfort of the passengers.

The procession will be formed at 10½ o'clock, A. M., at the Hall, and march from thence to the Rail Road Depot, where the exercises of the day will take place.

Seats will be reserved for the Ladies.

*Chief Marshal*—JOSEPH C. PLATT, Esq.

*Leader of the Choir*—SAMUEL G. BARKER, Esq.

*Leader of Brass Band*—FREDERIC BECKER, Esq.

## ORDER OF EXERCISES AT THE DEPOT.

Prayer . . . . . By Rev. Thomas P. Hunt.

CHOIR.—"Huzza, Huzza! Here's Columbia Forever."

Reading of the Declaration of Independence . . . By Rev. J. Delville Mitchell.

BRASS BAND.—"Hail Columbia."

Address . . . . . By S. McCarragher, Esq.

BRASS BAND.—"General Taylor's March."

Address . . . . . By Professor Howes, of New York.

CHOIR.—"Red, White and Blue."

Address . . . . . By T. Strong, Esq.

BRASS BAND.—"Jeannette and Jeanot."

Address . . . . . By Hon. S. F. Headley.

BRASS BAND.—"Yankee Doodle."

Address . . . . . By Rev. Thomas P. Hunt.

CHOIR.—"Sparkling and Bright."

## BENEDICTION.

The procession will be formed and proceed to Dinner, the price of which has been fixed at fifty cents each. [Richard & Phillips, Printers, Pittston, Pa.]

**Notice of an *early* celebration at Scranton, 1851**  
The Lackawanna Historical Society's Collection

# CATLIN HOUSE , FRONT PAGE NEWS

The following article appeared on the front page of the May 15, 1911 edition of the Tribune Republican, in which Canadian architect Edward Langley, reveals plans for the George H. Catlin residence, presently the headquarters of the Lackawanna Historical Society. The article was discovered by volunteer Bill Stone while working in the Society's newspaper archives.



contain a trunk room and two servants' bedrooms, with bath between.

The front part of the main building will contain the private suite of the owner. This suite will consist of two bedrooms, one twenty-five by twenty-eight feet in size and the other twenty-five by thirty-two feet. A dressing room, twelve by eighteen feet and a bath will separate the rooms. The second floor will also contain two guest rooms, each twenty-five by twenty-eight feet in size, and

## WORK STARTS ON CATLIN RESIDENCE

Architect Edward H. Langley  
Prepares Plans for Home  
of Capitalist

## DESCRIPTION OF PLACE

Ground has been broken for another residential show place, to be built by George Catlin on a large plot of ground on Monroe avenue, opposite the W.W. Scranton estate, according to plans prepared by architect Edward Langley. From an architectural standpoint and from the quality of the material to be used in the structure, and its interior arrangement, the residence promises to be one of the most palatial and convenient that has ever been erected in this city. It will occupy several lots, having a frontage of 115 feet on Monroe avenue and a depth of 200 feet, and will adjoin the residence of Judge R.W. Archbald on the southerly side. The residence will be of the English suburban style of archi-

ture. The first story will be pressed brick, and the second English stucco with one half timbered panels. The roof will be of tile. A porch, twelve feet wide and sixty-two feet long, terminating in a port cochere and driveway, will extend across the front of the house. A central hall twelve feet wide will bisect the interior of the residence. To the right of the hall from the vestibule entrance, a spacious library, twenty-five by twenty-eight feet will be located. Back of the library there will be an open stair hall, and the breakfast room will also be located to the right of the main hall.

## Other Fine Rooms

The general living room, twenty-five by thirty-two feet in size, will occupy the front of the house, to the left of the main hall. The dining room, twenty-five by twenty-eight feet, will adjoin the living room. The dining room will connect with the breakfast room and kitchen by a large butler's pantry. A large kitchen, a servants' dining room, and a trades entrance will occupy the first floor of a wing in the rear of the main building, and the second floor of the wing will

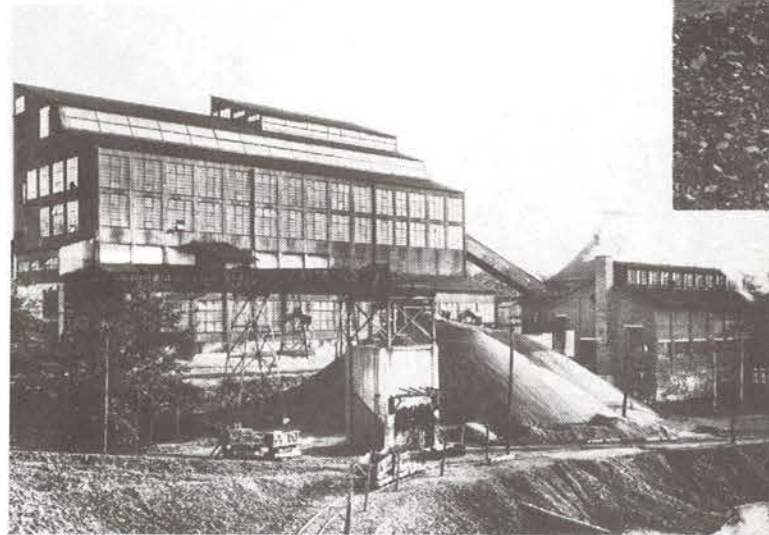
each having private bathrooms. The third floor will be fitted up as a billiard hall and will also contain several bedrooms. A large laundry with a steam dryer, storage rooms, coal rooms and a steam heating plant will take up the basement of the building. Each of the main rooms will be fitted up with open fireplaces and the house throughout will be trimmed in a chaste style. Every modern improvement is provided for in the plans prepared by Mr. Langley. The best plumbing, heating and ventilating systems, the most modern lighting arrangements and every other improvement known to modern architecture will be included in the structure. The heating system will consist of both the city heat and a private steam plant. A permanent vacuum cleaning system and a telephone system are provided for.

The house will cost between \$25,000 and \$30,000 to erect. The land it will occupy is part of the estate on which Mr. Catlin has resided for many years. This estate was recently divided, Mr. Catlin retaining the lots on Monroe avenue and relinquishing the old Archbald homestead, which faces on Monroe avenue.



# UNDERWOOD

by Ward V. Roe



## Then and Now...

Photo at right: Underwood Colliery at a time when the anthracite industry contributed the highest annual production in the history of the industry.

Photo above: The present site where the large Pennsylvania Coal Co. facility once operated. (The breaker's foundation can be seen in the center of the photo in front of the stack.)

Above the trees near the Throop/Olyphant border, in the area between the present Midvalley Industrial Park and the Midvalley High School, rises the powerhouse stack of Underwood Colliery. The stack, a few foundations, and banks of culm or coal waste are the only physical remains of the Pennsylvania Coal Company's large facility constructed to support the mining of anthracite coal. Across the present roadbed sat the company housing associated with the colliery, Underwood Village. While life in this particular village was in many ways similar to that of other regional mining communities, there are aspects of Underwood's history which are quite unique.

The history of Under-

wood Village begins with the timely construction of the colliery at the base of the Moosic Mountain by the Pennsylvania Coal Company during the years between 1910 and 1914. The construction was completed just in time for the World War I coal boom, a time period which contributed the highest annual anthracite production records in the history of the industry. The building of this colliery was also timely in the sense that it followed the Great Strike of 1902 by at least few years, thus by the time Underwood began production in 1914, relations between labor and industry had at least stabilized, mine workers were experiencing a rise in their standard of living, and the worst abuses by the

industry upon its labor force were in general, greatly diminished from years prior. In an era when demand was high, work was steady, and wages were at least fair, Underwood opened shop.

Underwood was one of the first "modern" collieries in the Lackawanna Field, replacing the fire-prone timber construction with iron, steel, and poured concrete. It was named for F.D. Underwood, president of the Pennsylvania Coal Company from 1901 to 1913, and president of the Erie Railroad when the colliery was finally completed. The village itself, built in 1912, most likely was given its name by the coal company, but newspaper accounts of the closing in 1936 attribute the naming process to the hand-picked villagers themselves who

were "greatly impressed" by Mr. Underwood during his visit to the village shortly after construction was completed. While the village did not survive the Great Depression of the '30's, the colliery did, and remained viable until the closing in 1953. Many of the people who once lived at Underwood Village retained or regained employment at the colliery once the economy began to improve, and moved to the neighboring communities of Olyphant or Throop to establish new residence. In fact, once the villagers were given notice as to the fate of their housing at Underwood, these two communities virtually opened their arms in welcome. The then Burgess of Olyphant, John Kilcullen, sought funds from the Federal

# A Celebration in Scranton

"September 11, 1840, is to this city what the Fourth of July is to our country-it is the birthday of Scranton. On that day Mr. Simon Ward struck the first pick into the ground for the foundation of an anthracite blast furnace for the smelting of iron. In the language of Judge Archbald, "Iron, and not coal, gave us our industrial beginning"; and, he should have added, that this industrial beginning was the genesis of our municipal existence."

- Col. Frederick L. Hitchcock, History of Scranton and Its People, 1914



Stock certificate from The Lackawanna Iron & Coal Company to George W. Scranton for 50 shares of the capital stock . 1853. Collection: Lackawanna Historical Society

In keeping with tradition, the city of Scranton will observe the 150th anniversary of the founding of the anthracite fueled blast furnace throughout the month of September.

A celebration, "September in Scranton," has been organized by the Historic Sites Forum, a group of individuals dedicated to "promoting the historic and cultural attractions in our region." Many of the historic sites in the area will be hosting events and will be offering

additional information in the approaching months.

The Lackawanna Historical Society's contribution to the festivities will be a new exhibit at the Catlin House Museum dedicated to the Lackawanna Furnace and early Scranton.

The exhibit is planned to occupy the two back rooms on the second floor of the museum. Features of the exhibit include original photographs of the iron industry in Scranton; correspondences, early

proposed maps of the city, daguerre-a-types, and more. The new exhibit is scheduled to be open by September. Also planned is an evening presentation entitled, "A Visual History of Scranton," by Dorothy Silva, to be held at the Catlin House, Sept. 12. In addition, we will host "Open House" each week-end throughout the month of September.

Additional information will be provided by the Historical Society late this summer.



Housing Administration to build homes for the former Underwood residents proclaiming, "We want them all here. We don't want them to scatter all around after they've lived together so many years. They're wonderful people. Never any trouble ever in Underwood."

The village was comprised of 23 modest company owned houses in which lived approximately 48 families. The total population of Underwood numbered around 250 persons. There were 18 double homes for the miners and their families, and 5 single dwellings for the company bosses. These were divided by a paved street with sidewalks, an unusual and progressive feature for a company village, which also served as the dividing line between

the boroughs of Throop and Olyphant. The miners lived on the Olyphant side of the street, the officials in Throop. Other sidewalks led to the important community buildings and to the colliery, and roads connected the village to the outlying communities. Bus service ran to Throop where it met the rail line, allowing the Underwood residents to access the markets and shops in Scranton. Rent was set at six dollars for the half doubles, and fifteen dollars was paid to the company for the single dwellings. All homes were equipped with electric lighting, steam heat, running water, and an outdoor "privy." The electricity and steam heat were both manufactured at the colliery's power plants, and were furnished to the



*A patch house today near the abandoned site similar to those of the Underwood Village.*

residents of the village free of charge. Each house had enough yard to justify a small garden, and all had porches in the rear, popular among the residents for relaxation. Individual automobile garages were provided for the officials and a large, multi-bay garage at the end of the street was provided for the miners. The then popular Model-T was apparently making its debut among the working class.

Another unique innovation at Underwood was the construction of the first up-to-date wash house built in a company town solely for the convenience of the miners, and an additional bath house for the use of their wives and children. While some residents of the village preferred the standard "Saturday night bath" in

a tub at home, the presence of these conveniences in a patch town may be seen as a striking innovation, breaking conventional practice by the coal companies in regard to the health, sanitation, and welfare of its employees and their families. Along these same lines, and central to the social and moral life of the village, a large community center was built consisting of a modern schoolhouse which also served as a house of worship; and the community building itself, the hub of social activity. The school was ungraded and students at all levels were mixed in the classroom. Instruction was relegated to the basics of reading, writing, penmanship, spelling, grammar, mathematics, and some basic vocational training.

The teachers were usually imported from Olyphant or Throop, and in the case of inclement weather an official from the colliery would be sent to drive the teacher to the school. On Sundays, the school served as the village church with services conducted by visiting ministers of various denominations on a rotating basis. The adults of the community taught Sunday school to the children.

The community center served as a meeting hall for the miners and as a social hall for dances and parties held by the residents. One former resident of Underwood recollected attending a large venison roast dinner here, which took place following a successful hunt by some of the miners. Around this building a



number of recreational facilities were built; including a ballfield, tennis court, and shooting range.

One feature common to company villages in the coal fields that was not present at Underwood was a company store. Prior to the 1902 strike, company stores often would extend credit to the miners and their families for food, dry goods, and mining supplies, often at inflated prices. The balance due would then be deducted, along with money for rent on the company house from the pay envelopes at the end of the week, often leaving the miner with little or nothing left for his family. At some company villages, the mine operators would even require the miners to buy all their goods from the company store or face termination of employment or eviction from their homes. It was not at all uncommon under these conditions, that a miner might work all week and on payday he would owe the company. Thus, the questionable practices of the company stores brought them under the scrutiny of the United Mine Workers Union, and later into the public concern during the federal investigation conducted by the Theodore Roosevelt administration in an attempt to settle the anthracite strike of 1902. Since the Pennsylvania Coal Company had made great strides in rectifying some of the problems inherent to company owned villages with the construction of "model" Underwood, it would then seem logical that they would avoid the problems connected with company stores altogether by simply not having one. Besides, Underwood was located in an area where the markets and stores in nearby Olyphant and

Throop could be easily accessed by the village residents, both on foot or by car, unlike some of the other more isolated patches in the region.

There is evidence, however, that at one time there was a small store opened at Underwood, possibly to alleviate some hardship on the part of the villagers. A former resident of Underwood now living in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, Mrs. Arlene Fritz, recalls that this store operated for a period of time during the 1930's and would extend credit to residents during periods of unemployment. Her recollections of life at Underwood during the Great Depression offers some insight into the sentiment of the village population regarding the coal company, employment at the colliery, housing conditions, and the closing of the village in 1936.

Mrs. Fritz, a native of Jessup whose father worked in one of the local mines there, moved to Underwood in the early '30's when her husband became employed as an electrician at the colliery. She indicates that they were very happy to be moving into Underwood Village, both because the job offered a degree of stability for their family in a time of economic hardship, and also that the village itself was simply thought of as a nice place to live. She uses the term "family" to describe the relationships between villagers, and notes a strong kinship among those who lived there. Even during the depression, the general sentiment of Underwood's residents remained quite good; and although work was not always steady, there was enough to support those who lived in the village.

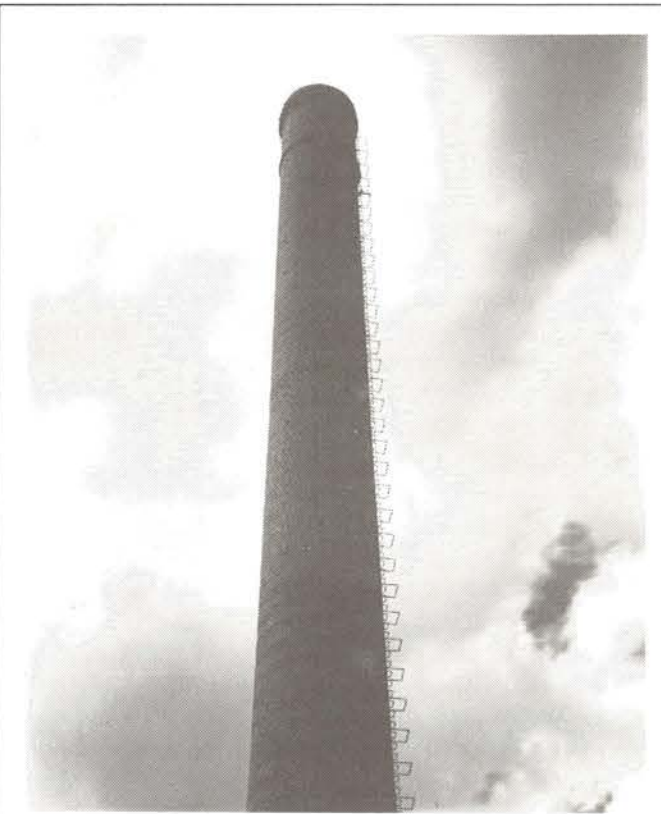
Her first son was born at

Underwood, attended by Dr. Lyons of Jessup. This was necessary because Underwood did not employ a company doctor. She recalls that while she was pregnant with her first child, there were at least nine other women at Underwood in the same condition.

Unfortunately, the optimism of Underwood's residents could not save the village from its inevitable fate, and in 1936 the Pennsylvania Coal Company served one year eviction notices to every family. Mrs. Fritz recalls a general feeling of despair experienced by the village community. By the following year, most of the residents had relocated to nearby communities including Jessup, Olyphant, Throop, and Peckville, with the men retaining their employment of the colliery. However, the close-knit community that once existed in

the village was never regained; and as the anthracite industry declined through the years, these families scattered farther and farther apart. The Fritz family eventually moved to the Stroudsburg area and established a business there once employment at the colliery for Mr. Fritz became erratic.

The colliery, however, continued to produce "Jet-Black" anthracite until February 28, 1953, when the company finally shut down its operation with a lay-off of approximately 300 workers. Today, the towering stack serves as a symbol of former glory, and continues to stimulate fond memories of Underwood Village in the hearts of some of its former residents.



*"...a symbol of former glory"*