



DECEMBER at the CATLIN HOUSE

**OPEN HOUSE**

*Visit the Catlin House as it is decorated for the Season  
Stop by on your way home from work or before your  
evening on the town.*

*December 13, 14, 20  
4- 7PM*

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY PROGRAM**

*December 15  
2-4PM*

*Marywood College Chamber Choir  
Directed By Robert D. Herrema  
Refreshments will be served*

*HAPPY HOLIDAYS to ALL!  
from the Staff of  
the Lackawanna Historical Society*

*Decorated by  
William & Michele Keen and Debbie Druchner of  
KEEN FLORAL FACTORY OUTLET of  
Scranton and Pittston*

*The LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
at THE CATLIN HOUSE  
232 MONROE AVE.  
SCRANTON, PA 18510*

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# The LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL

Founded 1886

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DECEMBER 1991



**BEST WISHES FOR THE HAPPIEST OF  
HOLIDAY SEASONS!**





Board Members at the Society's Annual Dinner included: Seated (l.to r.) M. Constance Sheils, Jane Dakin, and Janice Patterson. Standing Kathy Keating, Joseph F. Cimini, Esq., Charles Kumpas. Missing from photo but in attendance were: Leola Collins, Florence Gillespie, Edward Miller, and Marie Smith.

## HISTORIC HOMESTEAD SITE OF 1991 ANNUAL DINNER

On Wednesday evening May 8, 1991 the Lackawanna Historical Society held its Annual Dinner at the historic Tripp House on Main Avenue in Scranton.

Guest speaker for the evening was Shelley White of the Junior League of Scranton. Ms. White's presentation focused briefly on the history of the Tripp family and on the preservation of the Tripp House.

Members of the Historical Society may remember the year of 1971 and the protest headed by then Director Bill Lewis, against the demolition of the Tripp house planned by the Scranton Redevelopment Authority (the property owners at the time).

Largely through the efforts of Bill Lewis and many concerned community members, the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the SRA reconsidered the demolition and finally sold the property to the Junior League of Scranton.

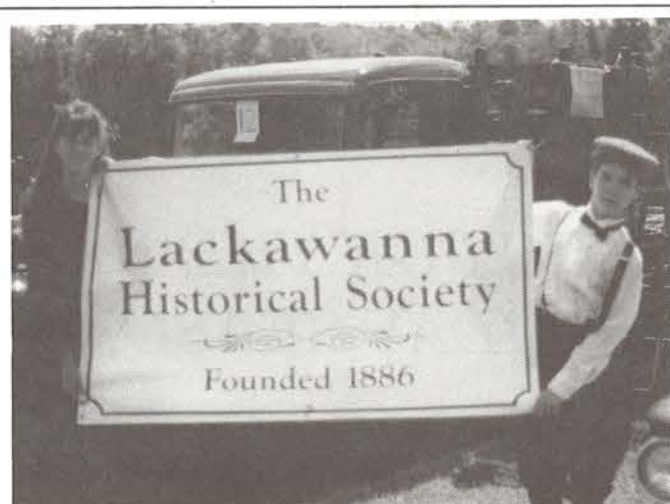
With advice of Lackawanna Historical Society

Board member, Architect Tom Horlacher and partner John Palumbo, the Junior League embarked on a \$350,000.00 rehabilitation project.

Since the official rehabilitation of the House began in 1980, the Junior League has invested much time, effort and funds into the preservation of not only a National Historic Land-

mark, but as the city of Scranton's oldest existing home. The Tripp House is a treasure within the community which represents another area of our region's rich heritage.

A special thank you to: Marie Smith, Shelly White, Florence Gillespie, and all who attended and made this year's dinner a success.



The Lackawanna Historical Society is represented once again in the Moscow Country Parade, held this past August 9, 1991. Above: Kellyann and Christian Calemno pose in front of an antique auto which also was driven in the parade. Thanks guys!!

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal, is published by the staff for the benefit of the Members of the Lackawanna Historical Society. Additional materials supplied by Jack Hiddlestone. Any inquiries should be addressed to the Director of the Society.

### 1992 STAFF and OFFICERS

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Mary Ann Moran  
Administrative Assistant  
Mary Ann Gavern  
Receptionist  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Hiddlestone  
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## OUT OF PRINT/LIMITED COPIES

The following titles are available to you for purchase at the membership rate listed.

**\*\*Perfect for gift giving\*\***

<b>FOLLOWING THE CONNECTICUT TRAIL</b> S. Fletcher Weyburn, Scranton, PA 1932	\$ 7.50
<b>HISTORICAL SKETCHES NO. 1.</b> S. Fletcher Weyburn, Scranton, PA 1928	\$14.25
<b>A HISTORY OF THE 13TH REGIMENT 1877-1923</b> Col. Frederick Hitchcock, Scranton, PA 1924	\$14.25
<b>TALES OF SCRANTON.</b> Philip V. Mattes	\$14.25
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<b>GENEALOGY: LACKAWANNA COUNTY HERITAGE..</b> Judith Juliano	\$4.75
<b>LUNA PARK</b> Jack Hiddlestone, 1991	\$8.95
<b>SCRANTON STATE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF</b> <b>100 YEARS.</b> Margaret Strom	\$5.30
<b>THE NORTHERN ELECTRIC</b> Norm Brauer	\$19.95
<b>REVISITING BAILY HOLLOW: A HISTORY OF DALTON</b> Norm Brauer	\$24.95

**The Following: \$4.25 each**

**ORIGIN & HISTORY OF THE FAMOUS ARCHBALD POTHOLE**  
S. Fletcher Weyburn, Scranton, PA 1929

**HISTORY OF A DISTINCTIVE FAMILY**  
**OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA**  
S. Fletcher Weyburn, Scranton, PA 1929

**DR. B. H. THROOP'S HISTORICAL NOTES**  
B.H. Throop, M. D. 1887

**EARLY LAND TITLES of NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA**  
William Alonzo Wilcox 1925

**MEMORIAL OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY**  
**LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA 1929**

**THREE WISE MEN OF AMERICA**  
S. Fletcher Weyburn, Scranton, PA 1927

**A STORY OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY**  
**AND LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
S. Fletcher Weyburn, Scranton, PA 1928

**A CONNECTICUT TOWN AND COUNTY IN PENNSYLVANIA**  
Oscar Jewell Harvey 1921

**POETS AND POETRY OF THE WYOMING VALLEY**  
Will S. Monroe 1887



Above: Note cards of Atty. and Mrs. George H. Catlin at the Archbald Estate, Ridge Row, Scranton, in 1910.

George Catlin lived here for over 35 years until 1912 at which time he built the home at 232 Monroe Avenue, today the headquarters of the Lackawanna Historical Society. Available at \$.75 each or 5/\$3.00



## REMINDER

Membership Dues for 1992 are payable by January 1. Help us reduce the cost of additional notices by mailing your dues in today or deliver your payment personally and save yourself the postage.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Categories

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Organizational	\$125

\*New Memberships as of Sept., Oct., Nov., & Dec. of 1991, are not due for renewal until Jan. 1, 1993.



## A LAND OF LAUGHTER

"Scranton Luna Park is unquestionably the grandest and most complete amusement and recreative place between the great ocean resorts. It was built by Frederick Ingersoll, of Pittsburgh, at a cost of \$300,000. It is an architectural fashion plate, and the scenic beauty is unsurpassed in this country. The institution is an elaborate example of the modern type of exposition parks with magnificent buildings, ball rooms, restaurants, roller coasters, shoot-the-chutes, concert bands, circus performances, exhilarating rides and exposition shows, combining the scenic, electrical, mechanical and theatric in make-up. It is necessarily a place of novel diversions; a land of laughter for the little ones, and a mecca for rest, retrospection and recreation.

To wander through this park is to meet constant novelty. There are the coasters, the chutes, the bands, the dancers, the daring performers, the animals and the glitter of the circus ring; the mystic, the curious, the entertaining and the dazzling in the great exposition shows. There are quiet nooks in the deep ravine and in the forest of virgin timber where little groups may gather for their picnic lunches and to talk just among themselves. It is an ideal outing place and the impressions one gets in this park will linger long and exquisitely in memory."

From brochure of Luna Park

### LUNA PARK

In this newly published booklet *LUNA PARK*, by Jack Hiddlestone, the reader is invited to take a trip back in time.

Following the turn-of-the century, millions of Americans across the country were entertained with the development of amusement parks.

In 1906, Scranton, being a progressive city for its time, opened to the region "the newest and biggest amusement resort" of this kind. This was Luna Park, and (it) existed for a very brief period in Scranton's history.

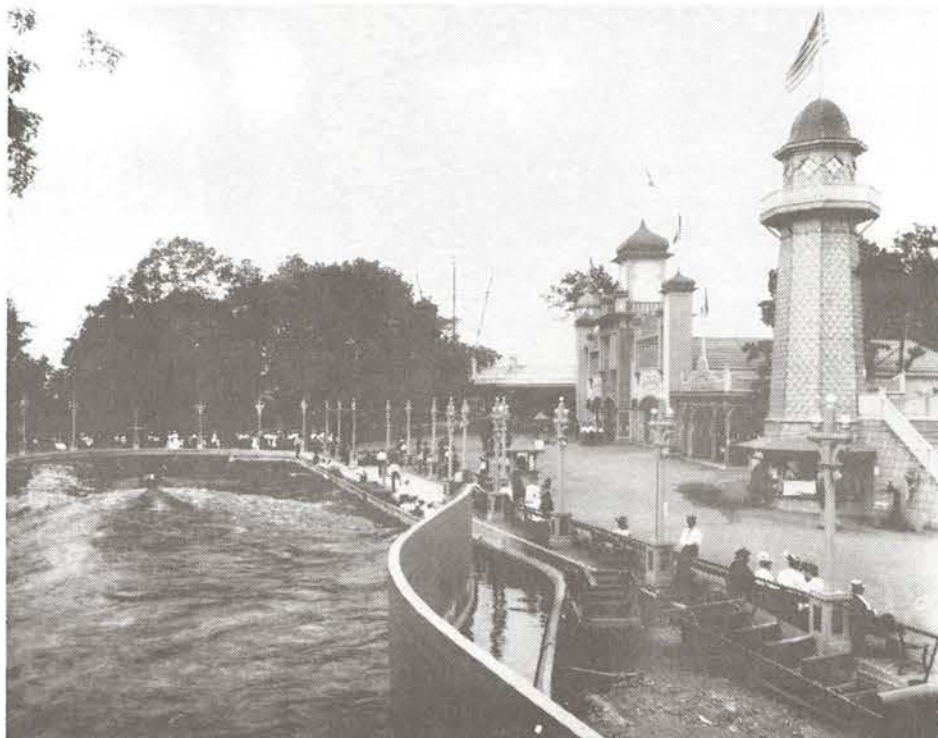
Many have inquired of the LHS the specifics surrounding this magical playland. Find out for yourself such facts as: Where was Luna Park exactly? Was it part of Nay Aug Park? Who was Frederick Ingersoll and

the Ingersoll Company; Ben Sterling and Arthur Frothingham? Learn of other amusement parks in the area at the time and their association to one another and many more interesting facts in this new thirty-five page booklet from the author of

"Greetings From Scranton." Copies are limited and available to you through the Lackawanna Historical Society for only \$8.95 + tax. If you are interested in a copy please contact The Lackawanna Historical Society at 344-3841.



The Dance Hall at LUNA PARK



LUNA PARK'S "SHOOT THE CHUTE"

## FAREWELL

As of Sept. 1991, secretary/assistant at the Catlin House, Darlene Miller had left the Historical Society to pursue a career in her true area of expertise with the University of Scranton's Art Department. Darlene is currently an administrative assistant to the chairperson in that department and completing her Ph.D. in Art History.

Although her title at the LHS indicated administrative duties, Darlene managed to adjust well to wearing many hats. She was responsible for initiating and devising the library cataloging project among many, many, projects. Those of you who had an opportunity to meet and/or work with Darlene within this past year, know that she is hard working and dedicated to anything in which she is involved. She will surely be missed.

We wish her all the best in her endeavors, success in her career, and much happiness in her new married life.



Receptionist Mary Ann Gavern (l.), Assistant Mary Ann Moran (r.)

## NEW FACES IN OLD PLACES

### PLACES OF WORSHIP



The Lackawanna Historical Society is planning a local tour of the many places of worship in and about Scranton for the Spring of 1992 (not that far away). If you would like to participate in the planning of this tour please contact the Society at 344-3841. We appreciate your input.

The Historical Society welcomes the two newest members of its staff, Mary Ann Gavern and Mary Ann Moran. Yes, another Mary!

Mary Ann Gavern is employed by the Green Thumb program and works at the Catlin House for the Historical Society as our receptionist. She was born in Scranton and grew up in the South Side area. After graduating from Central High School in 1951, Mary Ann married United States Navy Submariner James R. Gavern.

Mary Ann and her husband returned to Scranton in 1971, after raising her family in Connecticut for eleven years. Prior to her working with the Historical Society, she and her family operated a lunchroom business for five years in South Side and she had also been a caterer for Parish Church affairs.

Mother of six and grandmother of twelve, she

has always been active in the community. She is currently a counsellor at Birthright Crisis Pregnancy Center and is an alto in the choir of the Nativity of Our Lord Church. She is also chairman of the food stand at Nativity's Festival every year and has been active in Scouting, Little League and the P.T.A.

Mary Ann spends her free time writing poetry, sewing, and refinishing furniture. She enjoys hand crafts, indoor gardening, and traveling.

Should you call or stop by, Mary Ann Gavern will be there to greet you.

Mary Ann Moran is an Archbald native and has been recently hired as our new Administrative Assistant. She is responsible for library and artifact cataloging, public research assistance, as well as various other administrative duties within the Catlin House.

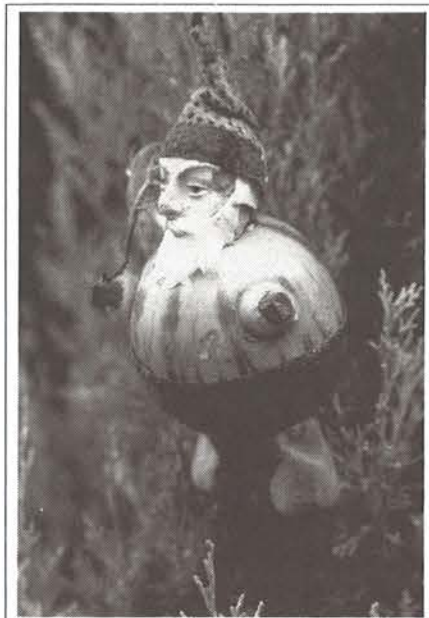
Mary Ann is a

graduate of Bishop O'Hara High School and earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Anthropology in 1990 from Kutztown University. During her final semester at Kutztown, she worked as a curatorial intern at the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum at McDade Park. Following her graduation, Mary Ann was contracted by the Anthracite Museum to catalogue their Hennemuth photographic collection.

Most recently, Mary Ann was employed as an Archaeological Technician by American Resources Group Ltd., Carbondale, IL. In this position she worked as a member of a field crew where she obtained practical experience in Phase II Archaeology both on site and in a laboratory setting.

We are very happy to have two very interesting additions to our staff at the Historical Society, and we hope you have the opportunity to meet them in person.





An early German Santa ornament on display at the Catlin House.

In the early years of the Twentieth Century, many American Christmas Trees were still mainly decorated with edibles. However, in the 1870s, the first store-bought ornaments appeared on the scene. These ornaments became increasingly popular as they could be used from year to year. So by the end of the Nineteenth Century, trees were magnificently decorated with the best of both worlds.

The oldest commercially made ornaments were made of tin. But through the years, a Christmas Tree could be decorated with ornaments made of tin, wax, tinsel, cardboard, and glass. Of these, possibly the most popular were the glass-blown ornaments that originated in Germany.

In 1880, no one, not even F.W. Woolworth, could have predicted the success of the glassblowers' creations, which were just beginning to be imported by a handful of American stores. It was not until 1890 that Woolworth would first travel to Lauscha,

## TO TRIM A TREE: Glass Ornaments Come to America

Germany to buy Christmas ornaments. While visiting Lauscha, he was taken from one glassblowers' house to another to decide which ornaments he could use. That year, he bought more than two hundred thousand ornaments.

Sixty miles north of Nuremberg, Lauscha was the birthplace of a cottage industry that supplied virtually all blown-glass Christmas tree orna-

ments from the 1840s to just before World War I. By 1930 approximately two thousand homes and six thousand people in the immediate vicinity of Lauscha were engaged in the ornament trade. Glassmaking began in Lauscha in the 1590s when religious persecution in the German province of Swabia forced little groups of Protestant glassmakers to leave their homes. They were drawn to the Thuringian mountains by an abundance of wood, sand, and limestone, the necessary ingredients for their craft. In 1597, with the permission of the Duke of Coburg, they built a small cooperative glass factory in Lauscha. Other glass works followed and in the next few centuries, the village became the center for glass products.

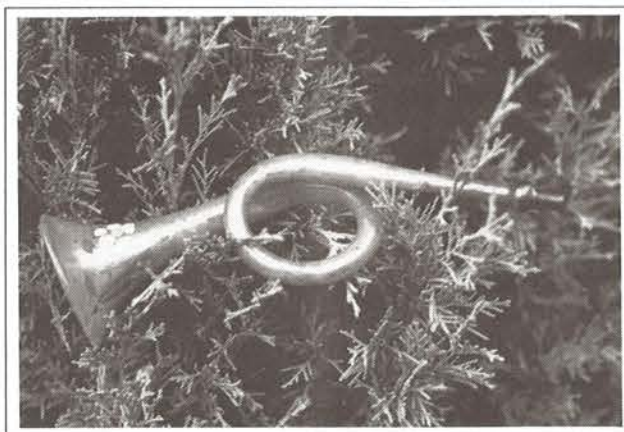
As more and more glassmakers were drawn to this new center of trade, local authorities decided to limit the building of new factories because of the heavy demand the furnaces were making on the wood supply from local forests. As a result, some glassblowers set

up small workshops in their homes. Some of these craftsmen began to make glass beads. The glass blower would first ignite a cup of turnip oil, increasing the flame by forcing air into the oil through a tube from the mouth. He would then melt the end of a small, hollow, glass rod in the flame and blow into it until he got a bubble of the right size. Hardened beads of glass were cut from the ends of the rod, coated on the inside with lead or zinc, and filled with wax.

One large family named Greiner specialized in beads, and at one time its members almost single

Schlotfeger, of the original bead-blowing Geiners later succeeded in duplicating the bohemian formula, thus saving what was left of the town's bead business. He also blew thick-walled glass balls, which he silvered with his shiny new mirror solution. Larger versions of these had been made before when Lauschan glassblowers amused themselves by trying to see how large a bubble they could blow. They were known as KUGELS. It was not long before the tree decorating Germans decided that these smaller kugels looked good on a Christmas tree.

In 1848 the first written record of glass



Hand-blown horn from a rod of glass.

handedly supplied the jewelry and millinery trades throughout Europe. Production of glass beads continued to grow until the demands of fashion made glass beads into Lauscha's number one business.

Almost overnight, Lauscha lost its bead market to the competition. By 1857, Bohemian Glassblowers had devised a silver-nitrate solution that gave the beads a brilliant, mirrorlike, silver luster. Louis Greiner-

Christmas tree balls appears in a Lauschan glassblower's record book as "six dozen of Christmas ornaments in three sizes"

The popularity of glass ornaments continued through the years but it wasn't until the late 1930s that they were successfully produced and sold in the United States. At this time, Max Eckardt, an importer of German Christmas tree ornaments since 1907, could see by the events in Germany

## SCRANTON'S OFFICIAL FLAG

On March 21, 1907, Mayor Benjamin Dimmick, forwarded a communication to Council (Select and Common) stating the following:

*"Having been asked by the Jamestown Exposition Commission of Penna., to forward to them, the flag of the City of Scranton, and having discovered that apparently the City has never adopted one, I would suggest to your Honorable Bodies, the appointment of a representative or representatives from each branch empowered, in conjunction with myself, to select and adopt an official Flag for the City of Scranton."*

Upon Motion of Mr. Merri-man, seconded by Mr. Jordan, this communication was received and filed.

On the same date, March 21, 1907, Mr. Merriman offered the following resolution (Order No. 6): "Resolved by the Select Council of the City of Scranton, the Common Council concurring, that the Mayor and the Chairman of each branch of Council be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to select and adopt an official Flag for the City of Scranton. Same was approved, upon motion of Mr. Merriman."

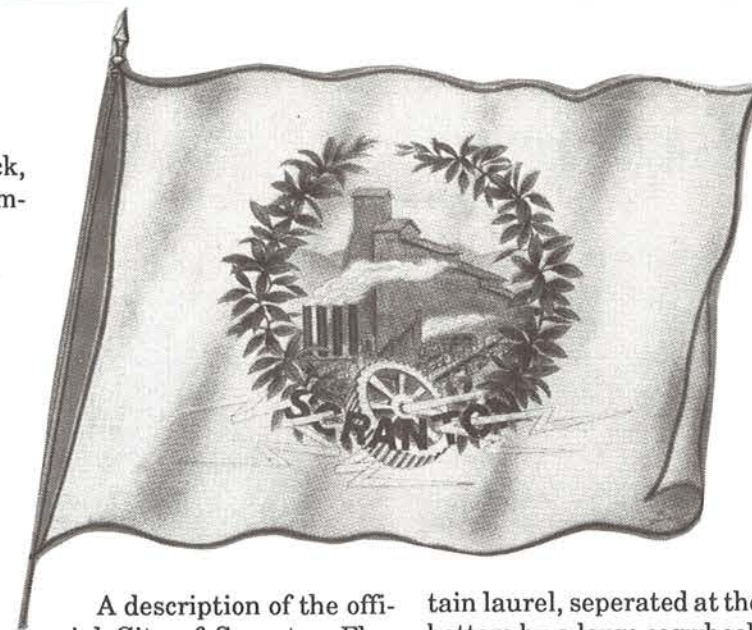
Mayor Dimmick approved this on March 30, 1907.

The Scranton Times sponsored a contest offering a prize of \$20.00 to the designer of the Flag which

would be adopted as the City of Scranton Flag. Mayor J.B. Dimmick, O. B. Partridge, and J. R. Thomas (latter two were members of Council), were authorized to act as a board of Judges to pass on all designs submitted.

On April 4, 1907, the contest ended and the Judges awarded the prize of \$20 to Mr. Victor Burschel who was the County Commissioner. Mr. Burschel divided the prize money and donated it between two charitable institutions: the Home for the Friendless and St. Joseph's Foundling Home.

The original City Flag was apparently placed in the hands of a Delegation from Scranton, who were proceeding to Harrisburg and it was never returned.



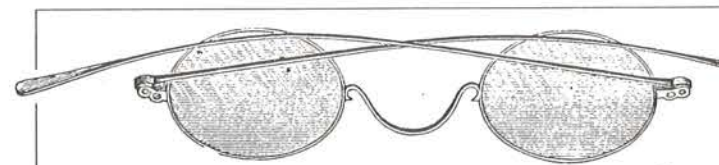
A description of the official City of Scranton Flag follows as set forth by the Council of the City:

A white background, rectangular in form, of which the length shall be 1 1/3 times its width; in the center of the same a colliery with background of culm heaps; in the foreground, at the left a power house with four stacks and smoke issuing therefrom, and at the right, locomotive numbered 1866 (date of incorporation of City); starting from colliery with train of loaded coal cars; encircling the said picture a wreath of moun-

tain laurel, separated at the bottom by a large cogwheel, about which are electrical flashes, and across which, following the circle of the wreath, is the word Scranton.

The center picture being slate in color, wreath green, wheel gray, electric flashes yellow, and the word Scranton black.

We at The Lackawanna Historical Society consider ourselves to be among the lucky few to proudly possess and display this artifact which represents an unforgettable legacy to our area's history.



We all know that the beautiful Lackawanna Valley was once known prominently as the Anthracite Capital of the World, but do many know that this Valley once also boasted the World's largest Button Mill, the Country's largest Lace Mill, and stood only second behind Patterson, New Jersey, as the Country's largest manufacturer of Silk. Other industries of prominence once manufactured Analine Dyes, Automobile Pumps, Beds, Bolts, Boxes, Centrifugal Pumps, Coal Mining Machinery, Curtains, Forgings, Handkerchiefs, Knit Goods, Mine Pumps, Nuts, Phonograph Pumps, Springs, Steel Castings, Stoves, Textbooks, White Lead, and many other products.



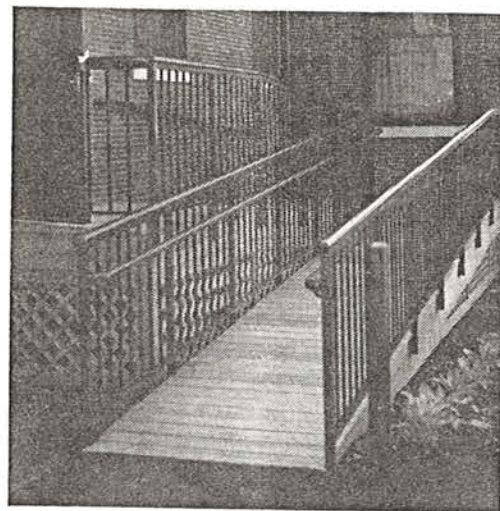
## RENOVATION UPDATE

After a long year of work, renovations at the Catlin House are nearly complete. Only a few minor touch-ups remain before the new handicapped access, library and research room will be in full working order. Once again, we apologize for the inconvenience and confusion caused by the construction process, and thank many patient researchers for bearing with us through our hectic, dusty and often traumatic transformation this summer. A tour of the new facilities will show, however, that the end results were worth the wait.

The rooms that have been renovated at the Catlin House, include the library, once a servants' dining room, and the research room, formerly the kitchen. Currently still under restoration is the Director's office, once the breakfast room. These renovations will allow the LHS to provide all of its researchers and visitors with access to a well organized reference library, and to still perform its own clerical and reception duties. At the same time, all new work maintains the integrity of the Catlin House

as an historic structure.

The first major project undertaken at the Catlin House was the construction of a handicapped access and washroom. Plans for the "Barrier Free" modifications were produced by the architectural firm of Palumbo & Horlacher, in accordance with the recently passed Americans with Disabilities Act, which requires that owners of historic buildings open to the public make their facilities accessible to the disabled. The modifications at the LHS includes a ramp, two new doorways, and a lavatory. In order to best preserve the original design and appearance of the house, the main doorway for the access was incorporated into a kitchen window, and a former closet was converted to accommodate the washroom. All doors, railings and moldings were matched with existing work at the Catlin House. Exterior work was finished with new stone and blacktop for parking areas, and the expansion of side and rear flower gardens. With these additions, the LHS is proud to welcome all guests with comfort and



confidence.

In order to create more work space, yet maintain the kitchen facilities necessary for hosting monthly programs, a non-original closet was removed from the kitchen. Existing appliances, were relocated for use during large events, and were replaced by a self-contained kitchen unit and a generous donation of a microwave oven by members Jack & Nancy Hiddlestone. Vertical files, work tables, xerox and computer equipment, previously located in three separate rooms, have been brought together in this expanded research and work room. Files have been consolidated, and are currently being re-cataloged according to the Dewey decimal system. As this system will also be used for hard cover books in the library, cross reference between books and file materials will be easier.

Books in the library have been removed from the previous wall shelving system, and placed on freestanding metal shelves purchased through the courtesy of the Scranton Public Library. This shelving system, along with the relocation of tables and copier equipment, has provided the LHS with ample space for the maintenance of its current library

collections, as well as future expansion. In addition, both the library and research room have been painted and carpeted. The resulting rooms are not only convenient, but also bright and pleasant places to work.

The final phase of this project is the renovation of the pantry and the director's office to functional, yet more appropriate period rooms. These rooms, which will serve as both display areas and working spaces, will establish a smooth transition between the period rooms and research sections of the building.

A special thanks to: Jack and Nancy Hiddlestone for all their fortitude and physical strength during the construction process. Marissa Sticker, Rick Volz and Bob Schweitzer for moving and assembling innumerable shelves, books, files, and kitchen appliances. Kit Shullenberger and Chester Kulesa for guidance and experience in organizing collections, and Connie Sheils and Charlotte Van Deusen for their efforts as well in helping turn an intimidating proposal into a rewarding reality.

that soon he was likely to be out of the ornament business. So he set about to make America the world's number one glass ornament maker in only a few years. Together with Bill Thompson of F.W. Woolworth was instrumental in convincing Corning Glass to take up the mass production of machine-made Christmas tree balls.

Eckardt was born in Oberlind in 1890, in the forest-covered, mountainous area of Germany that was economically dominated by crafts related to toy-making. Since Oberlind was twenty miles from Lauscha, the birthplace of the glass Christmas tree ball, he grew up with some knowledge of his future trade. After he left school, his first job was as a wooden toy manufacturer in Sonneberg. However, he soon found that all the important German toy firms were family held and promotion would be long and slow. Like many other young men from the area, he decided to emigrate to America.

Upon arriving in New York he went to work for a toy salesman who also imported ornaments from Lauscha. By 1926 Eckardt owned Strauss/Eckardt, and the same year he built a large factory with his brother Ernst in Oberlind. That partnership was called Gebrüder Eckardt (Brothers Eckardt), and they specialized in wooden toys and glass ornaments.

Eckardt's American firm was renamed Max Eckardt and Sons after World War II, and their toys and dolls were discontinued as his business became America's largest importer and manufacturer of Christmas tree ornaments.

In the 1930's Eckardt spent part of each year

in Germany, and followed the political situation there with a sense of foreboding. By 1937 he was convinced Hitler had Germany on a collision course with war.

He knew that a number of Lauscha glassblowers had, over the years, come to the United States to work for Corning Glass. He went to Corning, New York, to talk to some of them about his idea of starting an American-based glass-ornament business. While he was there an idea was born that would move the ornament capital of the world from Lauscha, Germany to a Corning plant in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania.

Corning held exclusive patents to a "ribbon" glassblowing machine developed for the manufacture of electric light bulbs. The machine could blow two thousand light bulbs a minute, and its production rate could easily be increased. Eckardt reasoned that if it could make a light bulb, it ought to be able to blow a Christmas tree ball.

In 1939, Woolworth's joined Eckardt in predicting correctly that war would soon cut off imports from Germany. It offered to place a huge order if Corning could

successfully adapt its bulb machine to ornaments. In December of 1938 Corning had already begun to experiment with ornament molds. Early in December of 1939 the first 235,000 Corning blown and machine lacquered ornaments were shipped to Woolworth's. The Corning machines could make more ornaments in a single minute than a German cottage glassblower could make in a day.

The following year big cartons of clear glass balls were shipped to Eckardt's new decorating plant in New Jersey, where they were silvered inside, lacquered, and hand decorated.

The new venture was only two years old when the United States entered World War II. The war-time shortages eventually made it impossible for Corning to get either lacquer or silver for the decorating, and soon metal for the little caps and hangers was also unavailable. Eckardt, whose decorating firm now produced ornaments under the trade name "Shiny Brite," continued throughout the war to decorate ornaments. However, in 1944, when he could no longer get silver or lac-

quer, he decorated the clear glass balls only with thin painted stripes in pastel colors. First folded cardboard hangers and later glued-on cardboard caps were used to replace the metal caps.

Following the war Shiny Brite became the biggest ornament company in the world. In the late 1940s and early 1950s Eckardt had four plants in New Jersey lacquering and painting the new ornaments that were placed on American trees. The reason for four small plants instead of one big one was the explosive nature of the silver nitrate and lacquer used. Despite the fact that nobody could smoke in any of the factories and that every possible precaution was taken, Shiny Brite had a number of small fires and one very bad one.

In the late 1960s Corning returned for the first time since the early war years to decorating in its own plants while continuing to supply blanks to Shiny Brite and other finishers. In one way or another, Corning still produces the majority of glass ornaments made in America today.

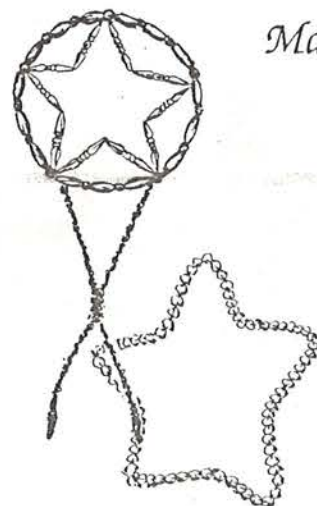


## Make Your Own Ornaments

With faceted beads and wire, you can reproduce copies of these Bohemian glass ornaments which were imported to the U.S. before 1900.

With about 18" of wire, string beads into the popular shapes of stars, circles, and hearts. Victorians liked their trees to sparkle with color, glitter, and frost. These ornaments helped achieve their goal.

You can see original Bohemian glass ornaments like these on display at the Catlin House.





December, SATURDAY 25. 1869.

Christmas. Received Scott's poems from Will a watch chain from Father & Sleeve buttons from Mother----  
M. Blair & Mrs. Archbald called this morning. A party went in the cars to Humphreysville to skate. Left here at 11 A.M. & returned at 7 P.M. we all went and called at Miss ----- she skated also. The party consisted of Selden Blair, M ----, M Archbald & friend M. Judson, ----- & Will. Ella Platt Fanny & I. Took dinner at hotel. Had a very pleasant time. Has been very pleasant.

This entry is from the diary of Alice Scranton. On Christmas Day, 1869, 15 year old Alice lists the gifts she received and describes how she spent her day skating with friends.

#### TRANSCRIPTION:

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#### A TASTE OF A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Christmas Day in Victorian times, not unlike today, usually included the traditional Holiday meal. This meal was rather elaborate consisting of everything from stewed oysters to plum pudding. So to compensate for such a hearty dinner, the Christmas tea was made up of light, elegant trifles.

Lemon Patties	Chocolate Macaroons
Fruit Leaves	Christmas Plum Cake
Curled Wafers	

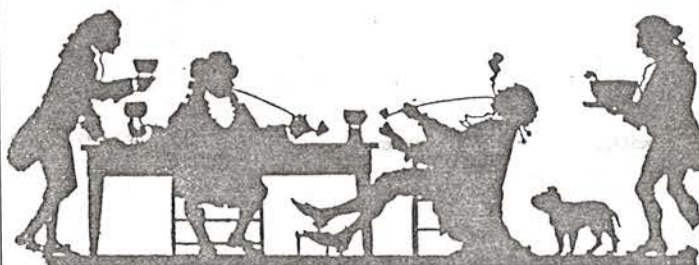


#### PARLOR GAMES FOR ALL

The Holidays were a time for indoor and outdoor games. Indoor games were played in the parlor among house guests and family. They were known as parlor games and were much like the games children play today at birthday parties. Charades and blindman's bluff were favorites. People also played guessing games, board games, such as backgammon and checkers, and card games.

Some parlor games were even dangerous. One such game called for the person who was "it" to try to blow out a candle while blindfolded. The other players then moved the candle around away from the person who was trying to blow it out.

The blindfolded person was directed towards the candle with "cold and warm" clues. When the person felt his chin sizzle, the player knew it was hot and blew with all his might!



#### WASSAIL PUNCH

The Wassail bowl is a Christmas tradition that originated in Anglo-Saxon celebrations. The words waes hael, meaning "health to you," were followed by a toast of drink hael for good luck.

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

Congratulations to Marissa Sticker of Pleasant Mount on her recent graduation from the University of Scranton. Marissa, who volunteered regularly at the LHS last semester, was awarded her degree in International Studies in June. We thank Marissa for all her help at the Catlin House, and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

Special thanks to Rick Volz of Montdale for all his patient and flexible volunteer efforts this summer at the LHS. Rick has helped to catalog books and artifacts, set up our new library and had staffed the LHS tent at the Lackawanna Arts Festival. His interest and enthusiasm are always appreciated and we wish him a great year at school.

Welcome to the newest members of our volunteer staff at the LHS, Jennifer Bauman, Kate Brannon, Carrie Colurso, Michael Corbett, Judy Donaldson, Sharon Marzocco, Tammy Ware, and Jennifer White. Jennifer B., Kate, and Sharon, are all presently undergraduates at the University of Scranton and have been working on inventory. Kate and Sharon, both of Bucks County, PA, have been working diligently cataloging a large collection of papers and letters, while Jennifer has been working in the newly remodeled library cataloging books and researching files. Carrie, a native of West Scranton, is a student at Keystone Jr. College, and has been completing an internship at the Catlin House by serving as a tour guide. Michael, a Scranton native holds a History degree from the University of Scranton and has been assisting in genealogy inquiries and cataloging photographs. Judy resides in Mt. Cobb and previously taught sixth and eighth grade students. She has been responsible for creating indexes for our large scrap book collection. Tammy, who resides in Clarks Summit, is a graduate of Wheaton College and is very interested in fashion history. She has been working steadily with the Fashions Committee since last summer. Jennifer W. lives in Uniondale, PA, and is a student at Marywood College. She has been working for a short while with us cataloging books in our collection.

Many happy returns and special thanks to Sandra Whitlock and Martha Sampson, both teachers in the Scranton area who have spent their summer vacations as volunteers. For many years, Sandra has helped with the fashions and artifact collections at the LHS during summer breaks and holidays. Martha has also assisted with the fashions collection and has helped restore some of our mannequins. We are grateful to Sandra and Martha for their time and expertise, and are happy to have them with us once again.

And, as always, we express our deep appreciation to Jack and Nancy Hiddlestone, who go far beyond the call of duty to make things work just right at the Catlin House; Charlotte Van Deusen and the Fashions Committee: Winnie Bell, Esther Horger, Fran Birmingham, and Ruth Scott, for their enduring commitment and steadfast support in helping us preserve one of the finest collections at the Catlin House; Also, Marie Smith, Leola Collins, Louise Finnetti, Florence Gillespie, Martha Holman, Madge Kiefer, Mary McNulty, Barbara Mears, Jessie Whitman, and everyone who assists in providing refreshments for our programs.

Special thanks to Bob Schweitzer and Bob Stark.

It is always a pleasure to work with such a diverse group

thank you - thank you - thank you.

## HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP!

Would you like to assist the LHS by actively serving on one of the following committees? If so, please contact the Society at 344-3841.

Reception, House, Program,  
Community Relations

#### RECENT DONATIONS

Bill Andrews: Frank P. Benjamin Bust.  
Anonymous Donor: Civil War Books.  
Jean Bennington: Gruvity Railroad material  
Susan and Ann S. Bright: Pamphlet, "Man Against the Sky"  
William P. Brothers: Genealogy.  
Brigid E. Carey: Personal Affairs Collection.  
Frank Cimini: Chapters in Wyoming Valley History by Sheldon Spear  
Joseph Cimini: "Gravity Workbook" ledger.  
Leanne Dyson: Mining Records.  
Carl Fennocchi / PennDOT: Maps of Spruce Street  
Flowers By Betty: Coleus plants.  
Ruth Freidenburg: Assorted books.  
Florence Gillespie: Various written materials.  
Betty Gordon: Sea Bee uniform.  
Jack Hiddlestone: "Brewed in Scranton" by Nick Petula; "Luna Park" by J. Hiddlestone, 2 copies; Bicycle Club post card; Assorted milk bottles.  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hiddlestone: Microwave oven.  
Lance Metz / Easton Museum: Canal History and Technology Proceedings: vols. 1-5  
Monroe County Historical Association: Golden Treasures booklet.  
Marjorie Parsons: Adair Artifacts.  
Charles Petrillo: Iron works stereoscope card.  
Nick Petula: Assorted milk bottles.  
John Repa: Topographical maps.  
Frances Sanders: Local bottles.  
Frank Scaringello: Naval Reserve Scrapbooks  
Toba Scherker: 11 x 14" Photograph of a child.  
Scranton Public Library: Scranton State General Hospital Scrap Book and newspaper clippings.  
Susan Shontz: The Book Of The Child illustrations by Jessie Willcox-Smith; assorted newspapers.  
William Steiner: Photographs  
Tom Stranko: Local bottles & railroad artifacts.  
J.E. Swartz: Civil War Ammunition Pouch.  
Dorothy Voorhees: Genealogical information.  
Waverly Garden Exchange: Perennial and annual plants for grounds and many informative ideas.  
Penny Wilson Morris, Julie Wilson Peirts, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wilson: Family fan collection.  
Jessie Whitman: H. E. Paine receipts.