

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

SATURDAYS
THIS SUMMER

COURTHOUSE SQUARE WALKING TOURS
REGISTRATION: COLUMBUS MONUMENT, 10:45 AM. TOURS START AT 11:00 AM

COMING THIS FALL...

SEPT. 23

HISTORIC AMERICAN CEMETERIES
PETER OSBORNE, MINISINK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DIRECTOR
WILL PRESENT A SLIDE LECTURE OF THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN CEMETERIES
CATLIN HOUSE 7:00 PM

SEPT. 27

ANNUAL DUNMORE CEMETERY TOUR
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND, THIS TOUR WILL HIGHLIGHT THE GRAVESITES OF SOME
OF THE COUNTY'S FOUNDERS AND SOME OF DUNMORE CEMETERY'S BEAUTIFUL GRAVESTONE ART.
DUNMORE CEMETERY 2:00 PM

OCT. 18

ITALIAN IMMIGRANTS IN NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
PRESENTED BY UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON HISTORY PROFESSOR, WILLIAM PARENTE, PH. D.
CATLIN HOUSE 2:00 PM

THE LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
at THE GEORGE H. CATLIN HOUSE
232 MONROE AVENUE
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18510

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The Last Vicissitude

Earlier this year, Tom Rinaldi, a University of Scranton student, visited the Historical Society to learn more about the Hotel Casey. When asked about his interest, Mr. Rinaldi stated that he was not working on any specific assignment but had been impressed with the building at first sight and wanted to know more about it. As his research continued, he soon became aware of current issues including the announcement of the hotel's structural instability and its impending demolition. As a tribute, Mr. Rinaldi has compiled the following article for the LHS newsletter. Please note that due to the length of the article, the Society will print the first half in this newsletter and include its conclusion in the fall issue.

At 7:50 on the morning of August 26, 1909, A.J. Casey drove a pickaxe into the newly cleared lot at the northeast corner of Adams and Lackawanna Avenues in Scranton.

While A. J. was busy with the pick, his younger brother P.J. used a spade to turn the earth. With a spirit of optimism that would pervade the site for the next half century, these two Irish immigrants broke ground for the hostelry that to this day bears their name; construction had officially begun on the Hotel Casey. It was the first apparent materialization of this much anticipated undertaking.

The story of the Hotel Casey begins in County Sligo, Ireland. From Sligo came the Caseys; first Andrew Joseph in 1872, then, Patrick Joseph in 1883. Upon landing at New York on June 29, 1872, 14 year old A.J. immediately boarded a train for Scranton, where he arrived that same night. In Scranton, he expected to join his older brothers, Timothy and Laurence, in the family's "liquor establishment," which was then located on Penn Avenue. Finding that there was no room for him in the business, A.J.

was forced to take work at the Cliff Works, (locomotive division of the Dickson Manufacturing Company). Within a few months, space was found for him, and A.J. left his position at the Dickson Co. drill press for one at the liquor store. In 1874 the firm moved to a site on Lackawanna Avenue. With the death of Laurence on December 18, 1882, A.J. became a partner in the rapidly expanding firm. P. J. arrived from Ireland on May 30 of the following year, and with the death of elder brother Timothy in 1887, he joined A.J. in the partnership: the Casey Brother's corporation was formed.

Before long, the liquor business had earned the Casey brothers a fortune-- A. J. and P. J. were soon among the most prominent businessmen in Scranton. Over the course of the next 45 years, the Caseys would make great contributions to the city that made them rich. When, in 1900, misman-

continued on page 4



FROM the PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Since we last corresponded with you, many exciting things have been happening at the Society. Our major fundraiser, *Wish You Were Here...* pictorial book was presented to the members, sponsors, and the public, a successful wreath laying ceremony and historical program was presented in commemoration of the Centennial of the Spanish American War, and a delightful program on quilting was presented to our members. Thanks to the staff and volunteers who participated.

Our Building and Grounds Committee has submitted a grant proposal to the City of Scranton for much needed repairs to the Catlin House. Our existing budget has no money to rehabilitate our current home, only to provide the basics. If this funding isn't received, we then have to choose the most critical projects and have a fundraiser for that phase of the rehabilitation.

The Society would like to wish our local Scranton city Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution a happy ninetieth birthday. Our neighbor, the Wayne County Historical Society is also celebrating their Bicentennial Year and we also extend our congratulations to them.

We have heard from more members on our last survey and have made some changes to the format of this newsletter in response to their comments. Let us hear from you.

We have some very interesting programs lined up for the summer and fall and hope that you will support us in advancing the Society towards the future.

Sincerely,

Alan Sweeney
President

Wish List

As the Society continues to organize its collections and plan new and exciting programs and activities at the Catlin House, we call upon you are members in assisting us in acquiring some much needed objects including:

screen
IBM compatible computer
office supplies (copy paper, toner, etc.)
library supplies (Dewey Decimal Book, index cards, labels etc.)
archival supplies (photo/postcard sleeves, acid-free folders, etc.)
maintenance supplies (hedge clipper, grass edger, etc.)
blank VHS tapes
library table
library chairs

The Lackawanna Historical Society 1994-95

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

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Volunteer Corner

Volunteers at the Catlin House continue to serve the Society in a variety of ways such as cataloguing collections or guiding tours. Many times volunteers first come to the Society due to a specific

interest in one of our collections. One such volunteer is Bridget Conlogue. Bridget, a native of California, first came to the Society as a visiting tourist, hoping to learn something about Lackawanna County. In addition to some local history Bridget learned that the Society housed one of the largest fashion collections in the region.

This fact was of special interest to Bridget because she had been collecting and making her own

period costumes for several years. When Bridget also learned that the Society had a need for people to catalogue these collections, she immediately offered her time.

For the last two years, Bridget has worked extensively with the LHS clothing collections, cataloguing, researching, repairing, and preparing exhibits. Her time and work have been a definite plus to the Society.

In January of this year, Bridget began a new facet of her work in period fashion. She began designing historical clothing patterns for women. Her main focus is the Edwardian and Post Edwardian Eras. So far, she has completed one pattern and found a market for it through the Amazon Catalogue, "purveyor of

A young man, Jacob M. Koehler, who had been deaf since childhood, was the impetus for the founding of the Scranton State School for the Deaf. Having attended Gallaudet College, Koehler returned to Scranton determined to teach deaf children through sign language. Eight students of his first class met in the basement of the Baptist Church, located at Adams Avenue and Mulberry Street.

He then organized meetings through the Board of Control and convinced leading citizens of the need for a school for the deaf.

Led by Harry Belin, Jr., prominent Scranton businessman and father of three deaf children, a group of men including Alfred Hand, William Connell, and Charles C. Welles, opened a school on September 10, 1883 with twelve students meeting in the chapel of the German Methodist Church. The school was first known as the Pennsylvania Oral School for Deaf Mutes.

By 1884 the first building, now the superintendent's residence, was constructed on 10 acres of

land bounded by Electric Street and North Washington Avenue.



Today nine beautiful buildings include dining facilities and infirmary make up the campus, situated in one of the loveliest residential areas of the city. Approximately half of the students enrolled are 4 day boarders, returning to their own homes on week-ends. Those remaining are day students.

By the Pennsylvania Legislative Act of 1913, the school became the property of the Commonwealth and was renamed the Pennsylvania State Oral School for the Deaf. Full control was assumed by the state on

items for the 19th Century Impression." The pattern is also available for purchase at the Catlin House.

Bridget plans to continue to draft a variety of patterns using original garments from her private collection and from the Society's collection. We congratulate Bridget on her success in this endeavor and thank her for her continued assistance in helping us organize our collection and make it more available and educational to our members and visitors.

RECENT DONATIONS

The Historical Society thanks Archbald resident Hank Robinson for his recent donation of a video and booklet series on Nay Aug Park's Toni the Elephant. The series includes footage from Toni's days in Scranton and her new home in Washington D.C. The video is available for loan to members from our library.

January 20, 1916. Its purpose was to "maintain and educate children and young adults with hearing loss." A pre-school nursery education program was introduced in 1952.

Prior to September, 1960, the school held the policy that students who were 16 years of age were transferred to the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf at Mt. Airey, Philadelphia to continue their secondary education.

In September of that year, the Department of Public Instruction adopted a secondary school program at the school upon the recommendation of Dr. Neal V. Musmanno, deputy state superintendent. The plan called to add the ninth grade that year and another grade each following year up to the twelfth grade. The first graduating class of four students occurred on June 9, 1964.

By authority of Act 199, approved July 9, 1976, the school name was changed to the Scranton State School for the Deaf.

The school has "a commitment to excellence in the education and social development of each youngster with a hearing loss. As a day and residential school for deaf individuals, faculty, and staff view the education of the child with hearing loss as a continuous and ongoing process."

The primary task of the Scranton State School for the Deaf "is to nurture the positive development of the child with hearing loss in the areas of communication, academic, and vocational skills, personal development and social skills."

"Since 1968, Scranton State School for the Deaf has pursued the use of a multisensory approach with youngsters with hearing loss, called Total Communication." This method "incorporates a combination of speech, sign language (signed English and ASL), finger spelling, gestures, reading, writing, and/or other approaches that would successfully aid in the transfer of information to the mind of the child with hearing loss."



Call for
printed
histories

Has your organization, company, or business recently celebrated an anniversary. The Society is interested in obtaining any published works on the founding and history of any local organizations. If your group has recently compiled a history or if you are aware of any local businesses that have done so, please contact the Society about donating a copy to the library.

Welcome New Members

Student

Thomas E. Rinaldi	Pleasant Valley, NY
John Strong	Clarks Summit
Peter Swift	Bridgewater, NJ
Cheryl L. Towne	Philadelphia
Matthew Walker	Dunmore

Individual

Dorothy Bambach	Scranton
Andrew W. Billek	Scranton
Sharon Van Fleet Boynton	Hansville, WA
Angela Casey Cusick	Scranton
Alexis Connell Davis	Dalton
Lynn M. Dziak	Lackawanna, NY
Sean C. Farry	Clarks Summit
Donna Lee Fonduti	Forest City
Thomas G. Gallagher, Jr.	Dunmore
Sharon Grasso	Peckville
Candy Kalwaytis	Dickson City
Conall Killeen	Dunmore
Christopher Killeen	Morristown, NJ
Rory M. Killeen	Woodbury, CT
Sean Killeen	Ithaca, NY
Marie Labonich	Dickson City
Thomas J. Loven	Scranton
Connie Magistro	Scranton
Stephen Marder	Shillington
Daniel K. Perry	Nicholson
Maryla Peters	Clark Summit
Frederick J. Platt III	Lyme, CT
Robert Quell III	Scranton
Dennis Ruddy	Stroudsburg
Thomas Sagan	Dunmore
Sheldon Spear, Ph.D.	Shavertown

Family

Lynne Thomas Armour	Sommerset, NJ
Binder-Cohen	Waverly
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Bray	Clarks Summit
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Garvey	Scranton
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond J. Gavlak	Wayne, NJ
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Kryzanowski	Dunmore
Mr. and Mrs. Robert McGregor	Dunmore
Helen Norton	Clarks Summit
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Pesavento	Scranton

Contributing

Welles F. Megargel	Lake Ariel
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Hotel Casey continued...

hotel manager. Casey would hold the post for the next 40 years.

An unfortunate milestone was reached in 1928, when A.J. Casey passed away. He had lived to watch his hotel blossom into the largest in Pennsylvania, outside Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. His name was known across the nation.

Throughout the twenties, business at the Casey soared and the brothers even considered the construction of a new \$2,000,000 hotel across Adams Avenue from the Casey. Although the new hotel never materialized, the Casey Parkway would eventually fill part of the site. In 1925, the Casey parkway, a garage capable

of holding 500 guests' cars was completed on Adams Avenue. Embellishing the facade of this early parking garage were terra-cotta medallions depicting various modes of transportation. Ironically, guests rarely saw this building, as the hotel provided valet service.

With the repeal of prohibition came the return

of the bar and frequent dances. Evidence of the sociological revolution that had taken place in the preceding decade was apparent in the new bar--women could now be found there, "spending idle moments renewing friendships."

To be continued in the next issue

FOR SALE

Wish you were here... A Picture Postcard History of Lackawanna County, PA
by Jack Hiddlestone
Maryellen Calemno
\$22.95

Scranton Luna Park
by Jack Hiddlestone
\$11.50

Canadensis
by Aileen Freeman
\$14.95

A.H. Winton
by Aileen Freeman
\$14.95

Whites Crossing
by Donald J. Rowland
\$20.00

Cold and Gold, A History of Stegmaier Brewing Company, Wilkes Barre, PA
by Robert A. Janosov
\$9.00

Other items for sale...

Anthracite Traction Video
by Edward Miller
\$39.95

Frogs in the Beer Pail Polka
by Stanky and
the Coal Miners
tapes: \$10.00
CDs: \$14.00

LHS notecards
single: \$.75
10 pack : \$7.00

HAPPENINGS AT THE CATLIN HOUSE



LHS Guest Speaker William Withuhn at the Smithsonian

Annual Dinner

The Society's annual dinner was held on May 21 at the Lackawanna Station. Guest Speaker, William Withuhn spoke to an audience of 106 members about the Beginnings of the Delaware and Hudson Canal and Railroad Company. In addition, the Society highlighted the Five Railroads of Scranton with displays from its collection and from Steamtown. Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped with planning to make the evening memorable for all who attended.

COURTHOUSE SQUARE WALKING TOURS PLANNED FOR SUMMER

The Lackawanna Historical Society will be offering historic walking tours of Court House Square this summer highlighting Scranton's rich history through a look at the buildings around the square. Tours will be given every Saturday from June through August at 11 am for a \$2 fee and will include the history of the many monuments that decorate the square and represent the diverse ethnic make-up of the region. Registration for the tour will be at the Columbus Monument, corner of Spruce Street and Washington Avenue, every Saturday at 10:45 am. For additional information, call the Society.

Wish you were here...

A Picture Postcard History of Lackawanna County, Pa.

The new book by Jack Hiddlestone and former Society Director, Maryellen Calemno is now available and sales of the 244 page publication including many never before published local images has been outstanding. Be sure to stop by the Catlin House to purchase your copy as you will not want to miss the opportunity to own this wonderful collection of local views.

If you cannot get to the Society, the book is also available for sale at several local shops including B. Dalton Bookstore at the Steamtown Mall and the Tudor Bookstore in Dalton or we will be happy to send you a copy upon request. Cost of the book is \$22.95 plus tax. Call the Society for any additional information.



Pictured left to right: Scranton Postmaster Timothy Primerano, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry reenactor Robert Mischak, and Society President Alan Sweeney.

Remember the Maine

In February, at the Spanish American War commemorative programs held at the Maine Memorial at Nay Aug Park and at Hyland Hall, University of Scranton, the Spanish American War Centennial Committee of the Lackawanna Historical Society announced that they had adopted the memorial and begun a plan to restore it at a cost of \$2400. The committee has raised \$238 so far and hopes to add to this restoration fund with your help. Please send your donations to the Maine Memorial Fund at the Society.

agement threatened to close two of the city's major theatres, the Lyceum and the Academy, the Caseys stepped in to rescue them. Within a few years, the theatres had recovered to such a degree that the Caseys were able to sell the Academy to the Reis Theatre Circuit for a considerable profit.

A. J. organized the Liberty Savings and Discount Bank of Carbondale, and later became president of the Merchants and Mechanics Bank of Scranton. When the latter institution merged with the First National Bank of Scranton, A. J. became a director of this new bank. He was the director of three local hospitals and the Scranton Thrift and Loan Association, president of the Scranton Planning Commission, and a founder of the Abington Hills Country Club.

P. J. served as president of the Liberty Bank. With his brother he served as director at the First National Bank and also served as director at the Scranton Lackawanna Trust Co. he supported the Scranton Firemen's Association and the Scranton Community Welfare Association. Both he and A. J. were members of the Knights of Columbus and the Scranton Elks Lodge No. 123. The Caseys were also members of the Community Chest. And, together, these brothers conspired in the first years of this century to build a truly grand hotel for Scranton.

As owners of such a large liquor wholesaler, the Caseys dealt with many visiting businessmen. For years, they had listened to customers complain of how painstaking an ordeal it was to find lodging in Scranton. Of course, the boom-town that was Scranton, Pennsylvania was not without its good hotels. But by the turn of the century, the small 30 to 40 room inns that dotted the skyline were no longer able to meet the

demand. Indeed, the overflow from Scranton's insufficient hostels was sometimes relegated to rooms as far north as Carbondale or as far south as Wilkes Barre. It was clear to the brothers that Scranton desperately needed a suitable hotel. And so in about 1905, according to P. J.'s son Al, one Casey said to the other "Why not build the hotel ourselves?"

Goaded perhaps by the construction of the Lackawanna Railroad's magnificent Station which began in 1903, the brothers began planning their solution to Scranton's accommodation crisis in 1907. They planned not simply another 40 room affair, but a major



edifice that, with the railroad station, would serve as a glorious gateway to one of the country's fastest growing metropolises.

Early in the planning stages, the Casey brothers consulted with friend and

former Scrantonian Hughie Keenan, who in 1908 had opened a hotel in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Keenan's hotel, the "Anthony" was located on the corner of Berry and Harrison Streets in Fort Wayne. It was built at a cost of \$500,000 and housed some 263 guest rooms. The Anthony was designed by prominent Fort Wayne architect Charles R. Weatherhogg, who had done several hotels across the country.

Heralded when new as "something special," the Anthony would stand until 1974, when, after having been used for "fire training exercises," it was imploded. Keenan would open another

hotel in Fort Wayne named appropriately the Keenan Hotel in 1923. The Keenan would follow the Anthony into oblivion on October 20, 1974.

To the Caseys, Keenan's hotel seemed a model of what they sought to create in Scranton. At the behest of Mr. Keenan, the Scranton liquor

tycoons hired architect Weatherhogg for the job.

By the summer of 1909, the plans were in place. While Weatherhogg would design the hotel, construction would be supervised by Scranton architect Charles

B. Krieg. The principle contractor was the Carlucci Stone Co. and when completed the hotel would essentially be a scaled-up version of the Anthony.

Almost certainly, the Caseys expected Scranton to rejoice at the announcement of their great plans. One can only imagine their reaction when many Scrantonians scoffed at such an idealistic vision. The hotel proposed by the Caseys would more than quadruple the capacity of most existing inns. Some foresaw the Casey project as ridiculously overscaled, and doomed to failure. Others doubted that the building would be completed at all. One newspaper editorial asserted that the plan was simply "too elaborate for a city of this size." Unshaken the Irish immigrants forged ahead according to schedule.

At first, the Caseys thought of building their hotel at Wyoming Avenue and Spruce Street, then looked at a site further up Spruce Street at Adams Avenue, but finally decided on former George W. Scranton estate at Lackawanna and Adams Avenues, within a block of the new railroad station. Among those present at the groundbreaking on August 26, 1909 were supervisor Kreig, builder Frank Carlucci, and the Reverend E.J. Melley. The corner stone which reads simply "1910" was set at the base of the third story on the building's southeast corner on March 28, 1910 and opening day was set for Saturday January 21, 1911.

When the momentous occasion arrived, the city of Scranton seemed barely to contain its excitement over the grand opening of what was now referred to as "the perfect hotel." A "sneak-peek" of the hotels fabulous interior was given on the 19th to hundreds of curious spectators. Later that evening the brothers hosted the hotel's first dinner in the private dining rooms. This maiden guest list included only the Casey families and

some close friends. Saturday's grand opening celebration was to be far less exclusive.

At 6:00 PM, the doors of the Hotel Casey were officially thrown open to the public-- and the keys were discarded. The ceremonies were summed aptly in Monday's *Scranton Tribune*: "Perhaps never before has any public function in this city been as brilliant as the opening of the Hotel Casey." Able to accommodate 1000 people at one seating, the hotel's capacity was enormous. Every last seat was booked in advance. It was estimated that 10,000 people toured the grand hotel that evening.

The combined forces of the two Caseys, hotel manager Milton Roblee, and architect Weatherhogg saw to it that the entire crowd left the hotel in awe of its unending grandeur. Roblee, whose previous duties included positions at the Woodruff Hotel in Watertown, NY, the Asquain in White Mountain, NH and at the Cadillac, Imperial, Belleclaire, and Bartoldi hotels in New York City, made headlines while at the Belleclaire when he ordered Maxim Gorky to find lodging elsewhere after it was revealed that the Russian writer had booked his room with a woman who was not his wife.

Guests entered the hotel from either Adams or Lackawanna Avenues into the main lobby, a two-tiered atrium complete with Italian marble columns and octagonal cathedral glass skylight. The main floor consisted of one of the hotel's three main dining rooms, the men's cafe/grille room, and the kitchen facility. Along the Lackawanna Avenue facade was the Tudor-styled "Baronial Palm Court," decorated with leaded glass windows, Japanese leather, singing canaries, and, of course, potted palms. Here, on a normal day, one could listen to the gentle strains of Lt. Kessler's

Royal Hungarian Quartet. Perpendicular to the Palm Court, along the hotel's westernmost end was the "Italian Cafe Cianfenelli," a "quiet spot for lovers of privacy." This Florentine period room was capped with high Gothic arches, and a stained glass skylight. The Gentlemen's Cafe/Grille was located at the southeast corner of the hotel and its straight, brass-railed bar was an excellent spot for "little lunch while talking business or having a few idle moments in which to renew old friendships." Certainly the most impressive space on the first floor, aside from the lobby, was the main dining room, "a dream of beauty in the French Renaissance." Here, a gold ceiling was supported by 24 massive frescoed columns.

The mezzanine level was accessed via either of two passenger elevators or the Grand Staircase. It included a Ladies Parlor, complete with grand piano, a writing room, and the gallery, which overlooked the lobby on four sides. Towards Lackawanna Avenue was a balcony above the main entrance. The main banquet room was located on the Center Street side. This 80 by 46 foot hall could seat 500 guests and was used for large dinners, conventions and most often for dances. The great vaulted ceiling was supported by ornate columns with Scamozzi capitals, each with its own scone. On the easternmost end of the room was a balcony for musicians and on the opposite wall the words, "Begone dull care, I prithee, Begone from me." The second floor also housed several suites and private dining rooms.

The hotel basement included a billiards room, which was discontinued within the first year of operation, the barber shop, and the hotel's main power plant, which came equipped with four coal stokers to shovel 20 tons of coal into the boilers each day. The tenth floor, behind the cor-

nice, was home to the hotel's staff. Staff accommodations included a library and lounge, with separate quarters for men and women.

The building's exterior featured strong square lines accented on the lower floors with Indiana Limestone. The upper levels were composed of deep red brick walls. At the ninth floor, the stone of the first and second floor was repeated, garnished with scroll, acanthus, and lion's head motifs. The ninth floor also featured eight sets of the hotel's initials. The top of the building featured a huge copper box cornice.

Each room not only had its own hand-made pin cushion, but also a telephone. Wide hallways were carpeted with Royal Axminster. No three of the 250 rooms were wall-papered alike. The local firm of Stoerh, Fister and Jennings furnished the hotel for the sum of \$70,000. Without a doubt, the hotel was worthy of the name suggested by Weatherhogg, "Casey Grande." The Casey brothers, not wanting to be ostentatious, opted instead for the more straight-forward "Hotel Casey," a decision which was illuminated at night by four electric signs.

The Casey coat-of-arms, a shield with chevron and three figure heads, and the official hotel motto, "Per Varios Casus, (translated "Through Many Vicissitudes") decorated the vestibules as well as curtains, towels, sheets, etc. All told, the Hotel Casey cost nearly \$900,000 to build, nearly double its slightly smaller predecessor in Fort Wayne.

Reaction to the hotel was phenomenal. Newspapers called it "magnificent," and "splendid." The general consensus of Scrantonians was in the words of the *Tribune*, that "they had never seen so perfect a hotel in any city in the country." It would stand "forever," they said, as a monument to the public spirit of A.J. and P.J. Casey. The Caseys had succeeded in creating a suit-

able counterpart to the nearby railroad station, and the portal to the city of Scranton was complete.

Apparently, the traveling public agreed wholeheartedly that the Casey was indeed "the perfect hotel." The first guest to sign in was Mr. W.E. Dobson, an official of the Lackawanna Railroad. By 1916, only five years after opening, it became necessary to add 100 rooms to the building. Fortunately, Weatherhogg had provided for this addition. The building formed an "L" shape above the second floor and in 1916, the "L" was simply made into a "U" with the completion of a wing above the ballroom along Center Street.

In 1917, manager Roblee whom the newspapers had called, "the right man in the right place [who] is in harmony with the other perfect features of this perfect hotel," left to join the staff of the Hotel Rochester in Rochester, NY. he was replaced by John J. Schafer, who remained until 1925.

In 1919, the baronial Palm Room was replaced with a cafeteria. And with the ratification of the 18th (Prohibition) amendment, the Cafe/Grille was replaced with a drug store. (Prohibition also put a stop to the Casey Brothers' liquor business.) Still the bar's abolition did not mean that the Casey would run dry. In fact, the Casey may have been a prime attraction to those who flocked to the wet streets of Scranton. John Beck writes in his history of Scranton that throughout the twenties, "hordes of ne'er-do-wells" would flock to the Hotel Casey in search of booze and gambling -- among other things. How great a bastion of lawlessness the Casey actually was remains an obscure point. It is clear however that the great dances which had become almost a nightly attraction in the teens were restricted to Saturdays only in the twenties.

In 1925, Eugene D. Casey replaced Schafer as

see *Hotel Casey*, next page