



Outsiders Dine on Scranton Lace: 1958-1959

By Steven Friedman

After years of financial success, the Scranton Lace Company of the Green Ridge Section of Scranton declined after World War II as consumers shifted away from traditional lace curtains. The company's sales began a long, pronounced decline after a concerted effort to revitalize sales by embracing the prevailing styles and synthetic fabrics of the early 1950s. As the company addressed the sales contraction by starting laminating and geodesic dome contracting, outside investors captured a controlling interest of Scranton Lace stock and dominated the board of directors. The new board members offered their own plans to extract profit from the fledgling concern.

One stockholder, Alexander Guterma, used his interest in the firm to gain access to Scranton's balance sheet gem—cash on hand. Guterma pushed the company to diversify its product offerings into aerosol cans, a radio network, movie and television production, rugs, and engine rebuilding machinery. After a year of corporate dominance, Guterma was arrested for violating Securities and Exchange Commission regulations. Further investigation revealed vast financial manipulation of other firms under his control.

For Scranton Lace, renamed Scranton Corporation to reflect the purchases, news of Guterma's arrest brought uncertainty to the firm, which, under direction



The Scranton Lace Company in 1918

from controlling interest shareholders, mortgaged its properties and took on a large amount of debt to fuel its diversification efforts. Shortly after Guterma's arrest, Scranton Corporation declared Chapter X bankruptcy in April 3, 1959. The bankruptcy ended a decade-long attempt at reinventing the old Lace Works.

Alexander Guterma's involvement with Scranton Lace began about October 1957, when the New York industrialist Sol Zweifach introduced a plan to merge the company with Bethlehem Foundry and Machine. Although Guterma was not present at the board meeting, minutes indicate that the plan originated with Guterma and were offered through Zweifach. After exhibiting a balance sheet of the combined firm, Harold Megargel, President of Scranton Lace since 1952, noted that Guterma, (who proposed the transaction) did not own any Bethlehem stock. After discussion, the board voted to table the proposed merger.

After acquiring enough stock, Guterma and his



Guterma, who bankrolled the Scranton Lace Company to keep his companies financially afloat. *Courtesy of The Times-Tribune*

A Letter from the Editor

Dear LHS Members,

Throughout the decades since the settlement and development of the Lackawanna and Susquehanna valleys, many historic events have served as major turning points.

The founding of the Scranton Iron Furnaces established our industrial heritage and provided the opportunity for our area's growth. The influx of immigrants from Eastern, Southern, and Western Europe established our diverse ethnic background. Our communities powered the major cities of the East Coast. Brave men and women from our neighborhoods went off to serve our country during every major military engagement of our history.

Our industrial heritage was a pillar of strength that helped our area boom in the early 20th Century. But with time, the region's economy changed. It's difficult to pin one item as the fulcrum to that shift. But several events in 1959 highlight the change that had been building in preceding years.

The Knox Mine Disaster hastened the end of anthracite mining in the area. The bankruptcy of Scranton Lace, once one of the most prominent of the area's laceworks and silk mills, indicated the impending ending of another key industry in the region's economy.

These two events from 1959 weren't the sole cause of change, but they highlight our transformation between the first half and the second half of the 20th Century.

This issue of the Lackawanna Historical Society Journal remembers two prominent events that mark 50th anniversaries this year. And it's a reminder that we must preserve today's history for the future.

Sincerely,
Brian Clark
Newsletter Editor

About Membership... Membership privileges include unlimited access to the Society library, 10% discount in our bookstore, advance notice and invitations to all Society activities, special members-only programs and the quarterly newsletter. Attached is a membership form you can use to renew your membership or give to a friend or neighbor who is interested in joining. Please return it to: The Lackawanna Historical Society at 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10	NAME _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$35	ADDRESS _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$75	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$150	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Corporate	\$250	TELEPHONE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Corporate	\$500	EMAIL _____

The Lackawanna Historical Society 2008-09

OFFICERS

Donald J. Frederickson, Jr., Esq.	President
Richard Bovard	1st Vice President
William Conlogue	2nd Vice President
Douglas Forrer, CPA	Treasurer
Kathleen Keating	Assistant Treasurer
Arlene Devereaux O'Hara	Secretary

TRUSTEES

Ellie Axford
Laurie Cadden
Joseph F. Cimini, Esq.
Mark Cruciani
Michael Gilmartin
Thomas Horlacher, AIA
Richard Leonori, AIA
Mary Jane Memolo
Dalida O'Malley
Ella S. Rayburn
Elaine Shepard

EMERITUS

Leola Collins
Edward Miller
Paul H. Price Esq.

STAFF

Mary Ann Moran Savakinus	Executive Director
Ann Marie O'Hara	Office Manager
Mary Ann Gavern	Assistant
Brian Clark	Newsletter Editor
James and Gay Clifford	Caretakers

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.

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal is published by the Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510 Tel. (570) 344-3841. Address questions to Mary Ann Moran-Savakinus at mary-ann@lackawannahistory.org.

Members of the Society receive this publication. Membership contributions are \$25 and up for Individuals, \$35 for Families, and \$125 for Organizations. Special Silver and Gold Corporate memberships are available.

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal is printed in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Entire contents copyrighted © 2009 by the Lackawanna Historical Society.

In the Catlin House...

NEW MEMBERS

Family

Anthony & Laura Amcherani, Clarks Summit
 Tony and Olivia Bernardi, Clarks Summit
 Gary and Chris DiBileo, Scranton
 Robert McCracken and Mary Krenson, Clarks Summit
 Lee and Fran Samuels, Moscow



Individual

John G. Andrejack, Scranton
 Margaret Bisignani-Moyle, Scranton
 Irene Cavanaugh, Dunmore
 Chester Cipilewski, Olyphant
 Chrissy Grunza, Dickson City
 Mary Ann Grunza, Dickson City
 Thomas H Kennedy, (NEIU) Archbald
 Warren W. Maxson, Dunmore
 Louise O'Hara, Scranton
 Diane K. Philbin, Waverly
 Rev. Edward R. Scott, Dunmore
 Rev. Glenn White, Clarks Green

Sustaining

Vincent G. O'Bell, Executive Vice President
 Old Forge Bank, Old Forge

*At its February Meeting the
 LHS Trustees elected the
 2009-10 Officers:*

Donald J. Frederickson, Jr.,
 President
 Richard Bovard,
 1st Vice President
 William Conlogue,
 2nd Vice President
 Arlene Devereaux O'Hara,
 Secretary
 Douglas Forrer,
 Treasurer
 Kathleen Keating,
 Assistant Treasurer



Society Trustees Meeting, February 18, 2009

Seated (l-r) Executive Director Mary Ann Moran Savakinus, Secretary Arlene Devereaux O'Hara, President Donald Frederickson, Jr., Assistant Treasurer Kathleen Keating, 2nd Vice President William Conlogue. Standing (l-r) Joe Cimini, Richard Leonori, Laurie Cadden, Ellie Axford, Dalida O'Malley, Michael Gilmartin, and Tom Horlocher

Martin Family Updates LHS Website

Thanks to LHS volunteers Dennis, Sharleen, and Scott Martin the Society's website has been much improved. The revised site at www.lackawannahistory.org includes a wonderful virtual tour of the Catlin House, a volunteer feature page, and an updated calendar of events. As work continues, the site will also have a searchable index of all the LHS Newsletters to assist researchers on the web. Thanks to the Martins and to John and Jenn Ochman for their great work in enhancing our site.

FUND FOR THE FUTURE

ENGINEER

JAMES AND GLORIA ROSS, ROSS FAMILY FOUNDATION

SILK THROWER

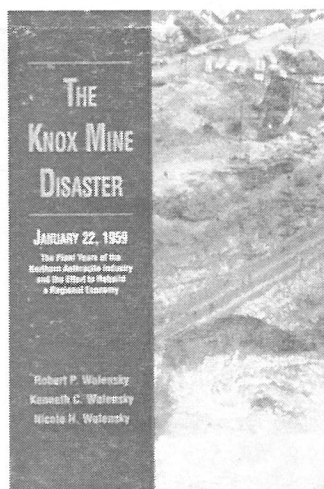
MARY JANE MEMOLO

IN THE BOOKSTORE



Fifty years ago, the Knox Mine Disaster killed 12 mine workers in Port Griffith, near Pittston, and altered the lives of countless others. The impact reached up and down the Susquehanna and Lackawanna valleys when the age of widespread coal mining in our region slipped into history. This month, the Lackawanna Historical Society looks back at the Knox Mine Disaster with two books.

Robert P. Wolensky, Kenneth C. Wolensky, and Nicole H. Wolensky (descendants of Nicholas Wolensky, who worked for more than 20 years at the Harry E. Coal Company breaker in Swoyersville) worked together to detail the Knox Disaster's impact on a region and on the individuals most affected when the Susquehanna River poured into the mine on January 22, 1959.



The Knox Mine Disaster: January 22, 1959: The Final Years of the Northern Anthracite Industry and the Effort to Rebuild a Regional Economy

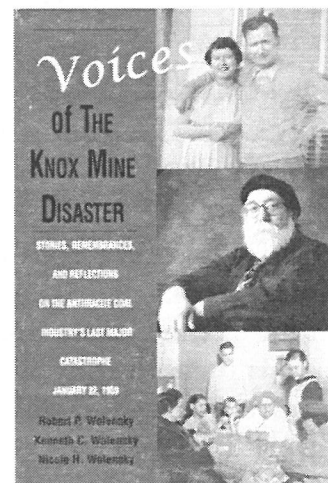
By Robert P. Wolensky, Kenneth C. Wolensky, Nicole H. Wolensky
\$14.30 LHS members. \$15.90 for non-members

The Knox Mine Disaster covers the initial breach of the Susquehanna River before detailing the clean-up, investigation of the causes, and the long-term effects on the area's industry and economy. Its focus is the larger causes and effects of the events of January 22, 1959. The book includes interviews and transcripts from the investigations as well as photographs, sketches and cross sections of the mine and river, and tables.

Voices of the Knox Mine Disaster: Stories, Remembrances, and Reflections on the Anthracite Coal Industry's Last Major Catastrophe January 22, 1959

By Robert P. Wolensky, Kenneth C. Wolensky, and Nicole H. Wolensky
\$14.30 LHS members. \$15.90 for non-members

Featuring oral history, interviews, letters, pictures, and poetry, *Voices* summarizes the Knox Mine Disaster before delving into the stories of the individual people involved with or affected by the collapse of the mine. The book tells the stories of escapes and rescues. It includes stories about the families of the 12 killed in the disaster and the impact on their children. *Voices* preserves the stories of the Knox Mine Disaster as experienced by the miners and their families.



News and Notes at the LHS



Museum Assessment Program

In January, the Society began a self-study of its organization for the Museum Assessment Program (MAP), a program administered by the American Association of Museum. The program is designed to help museums achieve excellence.

In addition to the self study, the MAP provides a peer review to help us identify current and future challenges and subsequently improve our operations and programming at all levels.

Our 2nd Vice President William Conlogue is overseeing the process with committee members Dalida O'Malley, Mary Jane Memolo, Joseph Cimini, Michael Gilmartin, Richard Leonori, and Kathleen Munley.

Each committee member will conduct an activity with the LHS staff, trustees, volunteers, members, as well as selected community representatives to determine how we measure in several areas including financial management, mission focus, community awareness, and membership development.

The Lackawanna Historical Society is grateful to for this opportunity to examine our institution to determine what we do well and where we need improvement. This project also will give us valuable input about how we can better serve our community and promote the value of local historical societies statewide.

Docent Training Program

On March 25, the Society kicked off its Docent Training Program. This five-week course trains volunteers to guide tours of the Catlin House. Docents-in-Training include: Juliana Piccini, Trisha Kennedy, Donna Adler, Jenn Mahalidge, Bob Booth, Dennis Martin, Chrissy Grunza, and Mar-nie Azzarelli

Thanks to everyone assisting in this program including Dorflinger Glass expert Kurt Reed, Anthracite Heritage Museum Director Chester Kulesa, Anthracite Heritage Museum Curator Richard Stanislaus, local railroad historian Tom Kennedy, LHS Trustee and Scranton architect Richard Leonori, and LHS volunteer Bridget Conlogue. For more information on the program contact Mary Ann Moran Savakinus.

Rocky Glen Documentary in progress

LHS member Bob Savakinus is creating a DVD documentary on Rocky Glen Park with filmmaker Shannon Keith. He has been contacted by more than 75 local residents who want to share their memories of the park. Many have been extremely helpful by providing photographs and footage of the park in the 1930s through the 1980s. Bob hopes to complete his project by late summer and will provide an update on his project to document the park's 101-year history at a lecture at the Catlin House at 2 p.m. on May 31. If you have a story or material to share, please contact Bob at 570-885-1384.

Take a Ride on the Rails with the LHS!

The LHS plans an overnight trip to Strasburg on June 1-2. On this trip you will dine at one of the region's smorgasbords, ride a train in Strasburg, sample some wine at a tasting, meet the ghosts of Lancaster on a candlelight walking tour, sleep in a real renovated railroad car at The Red Caboose Motel, and enjoy a special stop in Mount Joy for dinner in the Catacombs of Bube's Brewery. Please call the Catlin House at 344-3841 to register or for more information.

Society Schedules Historic House Tour in the Hill for June 21

On June 21, the Society will bring back the very popular *Historic House Tour in the Hill*. This year the tour, which will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., will include several wonderful sites in the city's Hill Section—including a return visit to the Colonnade at 401 Jefferson Avenue. In 2007, the Colonnade represented our work in-progress building. Now this return visit will give participants an opportunity to see



The Colonnade, 401 Jefferson Avenue. In 2007, this property was our work-in-progress. Don't miss the 2009 tour to see the finished product.

the finished product. Some of the other confirmed properties include 830 Taylor Avenue, the home of Allie Duffy and Gerard Butala; 241 Arthur Avenue, the home of Kathleen Simrell; and 745 North Irving Avenue, the home of Lori Zepponi. More sites will be added as they are confirmed. In addition to the sites, the Society will provide a lunch sale at its headquarters, the Catlin House, and the Colonnade will offer a traditional afternoon tea for purchase throughout the day.

This year, a pre-tour cocktail party will be held Friday, June 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Colonnade. The party will include wine, beer, and soda. Mixed drinks are available at a cash bar. Join us for this sneak peak at one of the Hill's premiere sites.

Tickets for the tour are \$25 in advance or \$35 the day of the tour.

Tickets for the cocktail party are \$45

Combination tickets for the cocktail party and the tour can be purchased for \$60. Call 344-3841 for details.

MEMORIALS

In memory of Mark Boock
Jack Hiddlestone, Clarks Summit

LHS Member Mark Boock, who documented and preserved the history of the Scranton Fire Department, died February 21 while photographing a fire at 432 Cherry Street in Scranton's South Side. Mark published two books about the Department's history: *The Pictorial History of the Scranton Fire Department* in 1988 and *Where Duty Calls, There You Will Find Us—Firefighting in Scranton, PA* in 1996.

In memory of Alan Sweeney

The Browning Family, Archbald
Sandra A. Browning, Lewes, Delaware
Joan Caffrey, Scranton
Ann Cappellini, Jessup
Paula Rochon Mackarey, Scranton
Mary Ann Marshall, Moosic

Nancy McDonald, Dunmore
Dr. Catherine Richmond-Cullen, Scranton
Jean M. Shields, Scranton
George Strasburger, Scranton
Jean A. Swift and Ralph H. Rapoza, Kailua- Kona, Hawaii
Paul Wanas, Accentuate Catering, Scranton

Continued from page 1

associates named themselves to the Scranton Lace board of directors on February 26, 1958, and offered an aggressive diversification program. First, the company would settle outstanding litigation with Southwest International Company, a company Scranton failed to purchase on account of Sol Zweifach's disapproval. Second, the board created the Scranton Factors Corporation which would loan \$400,000 to one of Guterma's associated companies—the Bon Ami Corporation. In exchange for the loan, Scranton would receive \$200,000 in television advertising on 70 TV stations and an aerosol can filling contract with projected sales of \$2,000,000 per year. Third, Scranton acquired the Eicor division of F.L. Jacobs (another Guterma dominated firm) in exchange for Scranton Lace stock. Eicor, based in Illinois, produced replacement parts for military equipment.

On the surface, the proposal seemed to fit the needs of Scranton Lace. With sales off nearly 50 percent since 1949, the aerosol contract would fill the gap of lost revenue and bring new jobs to the Scranton plant. Further research revealed that Scranton planned to purchase the Bon Ami Corporation and transfer its soap powder production facility to Scranton. If the previous transaction yielded profitable returns, Scranton would merge with F.L. Jacobs. Scranton Lace began its investment into the aerosol can division and spent roughly \$200,000 on a fully equipped filling line capable of producing 40,000 units per shift. Large Freon and butane storage tanks were installed on the Albright Avenue side of the plant.

In the same month, Guterma proposed the purchase of Symphonic Electronics, a manufacturer of television equipment. In May 1958, Guterma rescinded the offer to purchase Scranton Lace, replacing it with a joint-loan agreement between Scranton Lace and F.L. Jacobs to purchase the firm and share its profits. To fund the diversification moves, Scranton mortgaged its properties and subsidiaries, significantly in-



creasing the debt burden and interest rate (from nearly 3 1/2 percent annual through a Penn Mutual loan, to 1/27th of 1 percent per day). In addition to the Symphonic loan, Scranton agreed to acquire Hal Roach Studios of Culver City, California, from Hal Roach Jr. in exchange for stock.

Hal Roach Studios, the film production company that brought *The Little Rascals*, Harold Lloyd, Laurel and Hardy, and other memorable characters to the silver screen during the first half of the century was in dire financial condition. Roach Jr. believed the Scranton investment would inject working capital into his failing company. Hal Roach Studios' major assets included a production studio and the rights to several hit television shows including *My Little Margie*. During Scranton Lace's ownership, the studio produced one film, *Go Johnny Go!*, which starred Alan Freed as a disc jockey looking for the next big rock n' roll star.

As Scranton Lace shifted from textile manufacturer to a mini conglomerate, the board of directors changed the name of the company to Scranton Corporation to reflect its broader product offerings. This period produced changes to the board itself. From 1950 to 1958, prominent local businessmen and lawyers left the company including N.G. Robertson, Jr. (former President of Scranton Lace); Frank Hemelright;

Continued on next page

continued from page 7

C.W. Belin; W.E. Perry; R.E. Davis; Sol Zweifach (the first outsider on the board); and A. Blair Platt. These exits allowed the board to change significantly and allowed unfamiliar faces to take hold.

In May 1958, Guterma continued his expansion program by selling the Chemical and Rubber Corporation of America and Storm-Vulcan divisions of F.L. Jacobs to Scranton, which continued the pattern of shifting undesirable subsidiaries of his other companies to cash rich Scranton. To complete Scranton Corporation's entertainment division, Hal Roach Studios acquired the Mutual Broadcasting System (MBS) from Dr. Armand Hammer in September 1958. Prior to Scranton ownership, MBS had several owners and had little success competing with the new field of television. After the MBS purchase, the radio network accumulated losses for Scranton and ate away at the company's dwindling cash position.

During the height of the seemingly manic purchase of companies, Scranton Corporation sponsored the "Miss Scranton Lace" pageant at the Masonic Temple in downtown Scranton on August 24, 1958. Billed as a beauty contest/talent search event, contestants dazzled onlookers by displaying themselves in bathing suits and formal eveningwear. The chosen winner, Dorothy Ann Kurilla of Jessup, won a trip to California for a screen test at Hal Roach Studios. The event illustrated the peak of Scranton's fortunes and a clear attempt to advertise its new lines of products.

In the public's eye, Scranton's expansion into disparate fields of business appeared successful and a comforting assurance that a manufacturer in the region would expand employment and prosperity during a punishing period of decline in both textile and mining operations. *The Scranton Times* summed up public opinion toward the program and noted "The public hopes that the Scranton Corp.'s expansion will result

in stabilized and increased employment at the local plant, long an important factor in our industrial family." (*Scranton Times*, 9/12/58)



In October 1958, the company began to wind down operations at the recently purchased Chemical and Rubber Corporation. In contrast to earlier board meetings, the firm rejected merger proposals from such divergent companies as Strato Missiles and Midway Broadcasting. Worse, the President of Scranton

Corporation since 1952, H.J. Megargel, left the Company. Guterma, on the other hand, enjoyed the comforts of a Greenwich, Connecticut, mansion, two Dual Ghia sports cars, and an empire of firms across the country held precariously together with stock and borrowed funds.

On December 5, 1958, Guterma's empire crumbled as the Securities and Exchange Commission suspended trading of F.L. Jacobs, a firm in which he was Chairman of the Board. Thus the value of Guterma's main instrument of funding, the stock of F.L. Jacobs, plummeted as investors cashed out. In need of cash and unable to borrow from legitimate sources, Guterma looked South, to the Dominican Republic.

In late December 1958, Guterma and Roach Jr. allegedly met with Otto Vega, an associate of Generalissimo Trujillo, in the Dominican Republic to discuss funding. Guterma

and Roach agreed to disseminate positive propaganda authored by the Dominican Republic in exchange for \$750,000 cash. After the deal surfaced in the media, Guterma and Roach were charged as being foreign agents. A later investigation could not discover proof of the transfer.



Megargel, President of the Scranton Corporation from 1952-1958.

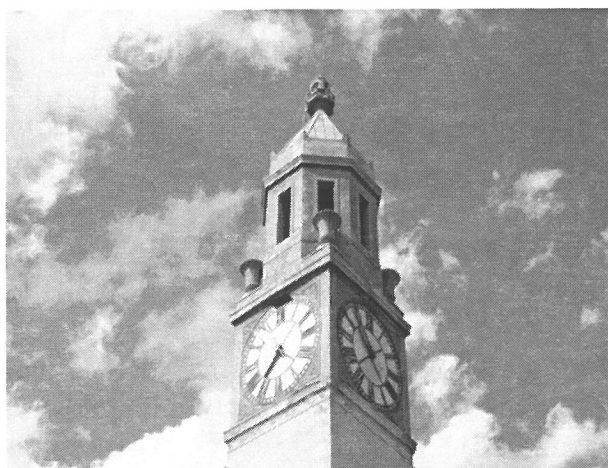
On February 16, 1959, Guterma resigned from Scranton Corporation's board of directors after the S.E.C. officially charged him for failing to file audited financial reports. Hal Roach Jr. replaced Guterma and purchased his interest in the firm.

With the absence of Guterma, Scranton's dreams of operating a \$2,000,000 aerosol can division remained unfulfilled and untouched. In addition to the declining or stagnant sales of lace and shower curtains, its far-flung acquisitions were losing money.

Outside investors, mainly a group of New York individuals led by Robert Rittmaster, formed a shareholder protection committee to investigate the financial activities of the company. After the Roach/Guterma propaganda scandal hit, Roach Jr. resigned from the board and Rittmaster took charge. After a short period of control, they were unable to rescue the company from an avalanche of mounting debt and lawsuits.

Scranton Corporation declared Chapter X bankruptcy on April 3, 1959 and accused Guterma of dissipating its cash and mortgaging all of its assets. President J.D. Johnson noted that "it is apparent that all of the foregoing funds, whether on hand or raised through secured borrowing, were devoted by Guterma for the acquisition of subsidiaries or may have been diverted by Guterma to his own benefit or that of his associates...."

After Guterma's arrest and conviction in 1960, the trustees of Scranton Corporation dismantled his empire, selling off Hal Roach Studios, Craftspun Yarns, and Eicor. The corporation liquidated the smaller divisions. In



1964, Harry Weinberg took over the company, which now consisted of Scranton Lace and Storm Vulcan. He rebuilt its financial strength through strategic investments in real estate, agricultural companies, transportation lines, and shipping concerns.

Although the Scranton Lace Company closed its doors in 2002, the importance of the firm to local history is immense. The financial manipulation of the 1950s and subsequent bankruptcy reflected the harsh realities of conservative firms with cash-rich balance sheets unprepared to protect themselves from corporate raiders looking to exploit their investments for profit. Currently, with the help of fellow University of Scranton's graduate students, serious research is being conducted to reveal the rise and fall of this industrial giant in Northeast Pennsylvania.

Any information relating to this period of Scranton Lace history can be sent to Steven Friedman at friedmans2@scranton.edu





Community Calendars

Taylor Historical Society Programs

April 21 *Ghost of the Titanic*

May 19 *Saving Artifacts*

June 16 *Small Towns*

All programs start at 6:45 p.m. and are held at the Taylor Library.

Call 562-1225 or 562-1234 for details.

Carbondale

The 135th anniversary of the opening of the Carbondale Public Library will be commemorated with a dinner at the Ben-Mar on Friday, May 8. Call 282-4281 for details.

On October 9, the **Carbondale Historical Society** will host a commemorative program/reception to mark the 180th anniversary of the opening of the D&H Gravity Railroad. Call 282-0385 for details.

Second Annual Forest Hill Cemetery Historical Tour, an Azzarelli Family Historical Production, featuring the **Taylorville Historical Troupe**. June 7 at 2 p.m.

1840 Jefferson Avenue in Dunmore
Admission is free

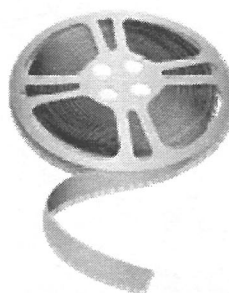
Call 346-6179 or e-mail 1877@comcast.net for more information.

Rain date: June 14 at 2 p.m.

Representatives from the **Dunmore Historical Society** are available to provide a presentation on the Pennsylvania Coal Company Gravity Railroad. Their next local presentation will be for the Genealogical Research Society of Northeast Pennsylvania on June 18 at 7 p.m. For more information e-mail trailtrekker@msn.com

The Lackawanna Historical Society runs announcements and upcoming events for organizations with similar purposes to preserve and promote the history of Northeastern Pennsylvania. To include your events in a future edition, e-mail information to maryann@lackawannahistory.org

The Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum



will screen two documentary films on Sunday, April 26 at 1 p.m. The films include Marc Brodzik's *Hard Coal* and Chris Perkel and Georgie Roland's *The Town That Was*. The films will be shown at the Anthracite Heritage Museum in McDade Park.

Dr. J. Philip Mosley, professor of English and Comparative Literature at Penn State Worthington Scranton, will introduce each movie and provide an opportunity for discussion.

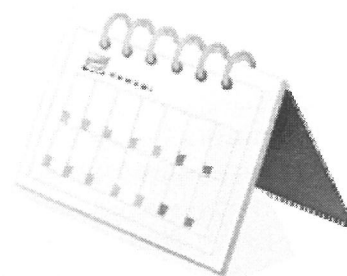
This event is free and open to the public.

The Anthracite Heritage Garden Program with Len and Gerry Janus will be held on Saturday, May 16 at 10 a.m. Call 963-4804 for details.

The Anthracite Heritage Conference will be held to promote a continuation of scholarly interest in the anthracite region of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Presenters will discuss various areas of research being pursued and the possibilities for further regional studies. Each speaker will provide examples of the range of resource materials and illustrate the value of an interdisciplinary approach to the region's history. The conference is scheduled for Saturday, May 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 22 Bald Mountain Road Scranton PA

The conference is \$25 general attendance, \$20 Anthracite Heritage Museum associates, \$15 students.

To register, please call the Anthracite Heritage Museum at 963-4804.



VOLUNTEER AND STAFF CORNER

Welcome back, Mary Ann Gavern

This year, the Society is delighted to welcome back Mary Ann Gavern to our staff as Assistant. Mary Ann first joined the Society in 1991 as a receptionist. In 1997, she worked as the Assistant to the Director and also worked with her late husband Jim as the Caretaker of the Catlin House for more than ten years before retiring. She decided to return on a part-time basis late in 2008 and has been most helpful in assisting with general office duties and library research.

Farewell to Assistant Lauren Propst

In January, the Society bid farewell to staff member Lauren Propst who worked at the Catlin House to assist in programming and office work since last summer. Lauren has moved to the Philadelphia area where she is working as Publicity Coordinator for the Library Company. We wish her much success in her new position.



New volunteer indexes digital pics

Welcome to new volunteer Pat Fairall Chikap. Pat joined us late last year and has been a tremendous help in setting up the database to browse the Society's scanned files of its photography collection.

Welcome to new Catlin Caretakers

In February, the Society filled a much-needed position of Caretakers at the Catlin House. Jim and Gay Clifford were contracted to maintain the Catlin House through cleaning and general repairs. The Cliffords have been volunteers for the LHS since 2004 and have assisted in various programs and in guiding group tours. Jim is a retired plumber and Gay once owned her own house cleaning business so the experience they bring in caring for our home is most appreciated.

Society welcomes new volunteer

The Lackawanna Historical Society is happy to welcome Sarah Kelly to its ranks of volunteers. She was born in Scranton, but raised on the West Coast before returning. Sarah has a three-year-old son and one adopted son, who is five. History is in her blood. She is the granddaughter of the late architect Thomas Potter whose specialty was historic preservation. Sarah writes that she is happy to be a part of The Lackawanna Historical Society.

Thanks to membership volunteers

Welcome to Chrissy Grunza, who recently signed up to volunteer for the LHS. Chrissy worked with the Society's Membership Committee including chair Ellie Axford, Michele McDade, Suzanne Harper, Angi Goodall Johnston, Barbara Barrett, Jan Brown, Joanie Bonzcek, and Clementine Fasbender to prepare this year's membership renewal notices. Chrissy's help was instrumental to get the notices mailed recently.

2009 Membership Renewals Are Due Now.

Remember to complete and return your renewal form.

For more information call the LHS at 344-3841.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- SUN. APR. 5** ***CALL ME KATE.*** BOOK SIGNING WITH MOLLIE ROE
2 P.M., CATLIN HOUSE
- SAT. APR. 18** ***ANNUAL CIVIL WAR BALL***
7 P.M., CENTURY CLUB. REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- SUN. APR. 19** ***DANCE DEMONSTRATION AND TEA***
1 P.M., SCRANTON CULTURAL CENTER. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
- SUN. MAY 17** ***MARTHA CAPWELL FOX PRESENTS SILK WEAVER FOR THE WORLD***
2 P.M., CATLIN HOUSE. SPONSORED BY SCRANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
- SUN. MAY 31** ***LECTURE & UPDATE: ROCKY GLEN DOCUMENTARY BY BOB SAVAKINUS***
2 P.M., CATLIN HOUSE. SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS.
- MON. JUNE 1** ***TAKE A RIDE ON THE RAILS WITH THE LHS***
OVERNIGHT TRIP TO STRASBURG. SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS.
- SAT. JUNE 13** ***SUMMER DOWNTOWN WALKING TOURS BEGIN***
EVERY SATURDAY AT 11 A.M. FROM LACKAWANNA COLLEGE
- FRI. JUNE 19** ***PRE-TOUR COCKTAIL PARTY FOR HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR IN THE HILL***
6:30 P.M., THE COLONNADE. SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS.
- SUN. JUNE 21** ***HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR IN THE HILL***
11 A.M., SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS.
- WED. AUG. 26** ***LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER. DETAILS TBA***
WITH GUEST SPEAKER BURTON FOLSOM, AUTHOR OF *URBAN CAPITALISTS*

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
232 MONROE AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA 18510

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT #56 SCRANTON, PA
--