



## Special Edition

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Rick Sedlisky, Editor

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### Scranton - 1904 through 1924

By Dennis S. Martin



**Scranton Board of Trade Journals**

**Photo courtesy of the Lackawanna Historical Society**

The Lackawanna Historical Society has recently received a generous donation from the Scranton Chamber of Commerce of twelve bound volumes of their early Journal. Included is an almost complete set of the Journal of the Scranton Board of Trade (their predecessor organization) from 1904 to 1924. Part of the cataloging of these books to make their contents more available for study was to create an index

for the contents of the individual volumes. We have extracted from that index this story of the city as told by the Board of Trade Journal for this period when Scranton was a major city in the United States.

The index created summarized the articles that were published and the companies that were featured in the Journal. It did not include the everyday working of the Board and its many Bureaus except when it helped tell the story. The original bound volumes are available for study at the Society. As noted, each volume has an electronic index which can be used to find desired information more easily. We have placed the catalog numbers on the individual volumes in this article for convenience in locating items of interest.

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The Scranton Board of Trade was organized in 1867 and incorporated in 1871. Our collection of Journals starts with Volume One, Number One in December 1904. Each issue has extensive advertisements for city industries and businesses which are very interesting in themselves. Graphics and Photographs abound.

In the 1900 Federal Census, Scranton had a population of 102,026 people making it the third largest city in the Commonwealth and the 38<sup>th</sup> largest city in the country. The Lackawanna Steel Company had already moved to the suburbs of Buffalo, NY when the Journal started and the Coal Mine Strike of 1902 was also over. The Scranton Railway Company ran electric streetcars in the city (for a nickel a ride) and the Laurel Line was already connecting Scranton and Wilkes-Barre with electric trains. The population rose to 129,867 in 1910, to 137,783 in 1920 and to 143,433 in 1930, compared to 76,089 in 2010 (and the prediction for a lower number in the 2020 census).

#### **(LHS 2019.81.05)**

The first issue of the Journal started with an introduction to Scranton, its history and growth, its population, and its advantages. The city was looking for “Manufacturers and Home Seekers, especially high-grade mechanics and laborers.” Among the articles was “Home Life of Scranton,” by Col. F. L. [Frederick Lyman] Hitchcock, which told the advantages of living in Scranton. While most articles are uncredited, there are an assortment of articles signed by distinguished residents such as this one. Some articles continued over several issues.

Further issues had articles on “The History of Our Board” and “Cities Ancient and Modern” (by ex-mayor James Moir.) “The City Beautiful,” by Miss Sarah Leona Farley, was the first of many tributes to the beauty of Scranton, some were the winners in Journal high school contests. We also see the beginning of a continuous series of articles on banks, coal, industry and the people who ran such industries. Other topics included municipal reform, the YMCA, various churches, Lackawanna River flooding, art and literature in Scranton, road improvements and public garages.

Also in this first year of publication were full articles with photographs of the Groat Knitting Mill, the Theodore A. White Manufacturing Company, the Lackawanna Knitting Mills, Dime Deposit and Discount Company, Lackawanna Trust and Safe Deposit Company, Scranton Business College, A. B. Warman Lackawanna Laundry Company, and Peck’s new City Directory.

Extensive articles about people over the life of the Journal started this year featuring C. S. Woolworth. “Only a Scrap,” by Cornelius Comegys, Esq., is on the “Early History of Slocum Hollow,” while Hitchcock has an article on expanding businesses in Scranton. This is the first article that looks beyond coal (which may someday run out) to what the city needs to become to continue its prosperity. Healthy living in Scranton and the city as a health resort were being stressed as assets of Scranton. (We note that many cities burned bituminous coal and had serious air quality problems while Scranton, burning anthracite, had much better air and a large supply of pure water with many healthy summer resorts nearby.)

Other articles were on “Literature and Art” (featuring many Scranton writers and artists), a new way to make cribbing, “Good Citizenship,” “New Wireless Telegraphy,” “Polish People of Scranton,” and “The Boys’ Civic Club of Scranton.” All of these were just in the first twelve issues. We will summarize less extensively from here on.

The series of Scranton’s Prominent Men officially started In December 1905 with Henry Belin, Jr. (Scranton Lace Company). Other people featured that year were S. E. Wayland, Hitchcock, and many prominent manufacturers.

Articles on the Scranton daily papers, anthracite culm piles, improving highways, public ownership of utilities, the creation of the Scranton and Binghamton Railway

(Northern Electric Railway), and the Scranton Base Ball Club of 1906 (champions of the New York State League), accompany many photographs of the city of Scranton in various issues this year.

William Mattes had an article on “Traditions and Theories of Scranton.” An article on “The Board of Trade and the Religious Needs of Scranton” pleaded for support of those not of the mainline religions. Hitchcock wrote articles on the Federal Supervision of Life Insurance and a biography of Abraham Lincoln (in three parts). The International Correspondence School was celebrated on its fifteenth anniversary in a large article. “Pennsylvania’s Manufacturing Prosperity” was a long summary article on manufacturing in the state. “Our Inducements to Manufacturers” listed the advantages of locating in the area.

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We do not have the next two-year collection (January 1907 to December 1908) but the October 1923 issue provided a full summary of Scranton’s history in the entire twenty years of the Journal up to then including the missing years. We freely quote selections from that history to fill out this two year’s story. We start with 1907.

From **(LHS 2019.81.13)**

In the January 1907 issue of the Journal we note this entry: “Scranton has had her first epidemic, but it has been effectively checked by the health authorities and is now history.” This refers to the typhoid epidemic which visited the city in the Fall of 1906 and with eleven hundred cases took a toll of more than one hundred deaths. (There is no mention of the later 1918 influenza epidemic in any future issues.) Also mentioned was “the agitation for a municipal system of ash and garbage collection which eventually resulted in the installation of the system that has been in operation since that time.”

“During the Spring and early Summer of the year, a vigorous campaign was carried on by the city administration, under Mayor Dimmick, to secure popular approval at a special election for a Million Dollar bond issue to pave and improve about ninety miles of streets in the city. Great interest was shown in this campaign. Public meetings were held in various parts of the city, and the project was earnestly debated pro and con. In the election, the proposal was rejected by almost a three to one vote, it being evident that the people were unwilling to assume an addition to

the municipal debt in light of the figures which for that time seemed colossal. It took the experience of a great modern war and national expenditures mounting to two billions a month to accustom their imagination to the stride of modern finance.” “The official flag of the city was adopted that year.”

The Poli Theater, built by Mr. S. Z. Poli, at a cost of more than \$300,000, “which has remained in the intervening years one of the city’s principal amusement places,” had its formal and official opening on Labor Day, September 7, 1907, and the occasion was made “a notable event in the amusement history of the city. A detailed description of the property is found in the columns of the Journal for that day.” “On December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1907, a big benefit performance was given in the Poli Theater for the West Mountain Consumptive Sanatorium and more than twelve hundred dollars was raised. The Sanatorium was started in August, 1903. Mr. Poli generously donated the use of the theater for the occasion.”

The 1908 issues started off with the results of the election of Board of Trade officers. F. L. Hitchcock was returned as President. The journal also contained a list of the advertisers at that time. A special committee on the new county road reported on May 18<sup>th</sup> with the reader referred to the Journal for details. Company A of the Engineer’s Battalion was organized and they participated in the Great War with “many of them filling soldiers’ graves today in France.”

The Board of Trade recognized “the beneficence of Dr. Isaiah P. Everhart in presenting to the city the Magnificent Museum of Natural History which bears his name.” The death of Joseph A. Scranton was honored in October. The year ended with discussion of holding an industrial exposition the next year. With that we are back to the next bound set of Journals in our collection.

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### **(LHS 2019.81.06)**

In 1909, title of the journal became the “Board of Trade and Engineering Journal.” The Scranton Engineering Club was organized 1893 and incorporated 1894.

January 1909 starts with a big build-up for the Industrial Exposition in May. Lake Lincoln was planned for Nay Aug Park. There was a need for paved main roads in the county. The April issue was the “Official Programme and Exposition Number” and “Exhibitors at the Exposition” are detailed. It also has articles on (predicting)

“Scranton in 1950” and on the “History of Northern Anthracite Coal Land and Titles in Wyoming and Lackawanna Valleys.”

Other articles during the year included “The Dream of a Greater Scranton,” by Rev. Joseph Odell, “Scaling and Corroding Substances and Their Elimination from Water for Boilers” while “Scranton, A Railroad Center” by Anna Ives is the winner of a Board Essay Contest. July has a short article by a union leader who is also a member of the Board of Trade which describes the ability of labor and management to settle disputes by arbitration mentioning the Anthracite Strike Commission (which had not been otherwise mentioned in the Journal).

There are also articles on the (proposed) Casey Grand Hotel, McClave-Brooks Co. (stoker and grate manufacturers), Dickson Locomotive Works, Scranton Stove Works, Cheeseman Chemical Co., Scranton Lace Curtain Co., Williams Drop Forging, Scranton Iron Works, Spencer Heating Co., Scranton Whetstone and Abrasive Wheel Co., Scranton Bolt and Nut Co., Lackawanna Mills and Button Works, International Correspondence Schools, Blume Wagon Works, and Wilson Sectional Grate Bars. Financial institutions are also mentioned.

November had the obituary of Col. Ezra Ripple and the text of a lecture on “Industrial Safety and the Prevention of Accidents in America.” December was a “Holiday Number” with articles on “The City’s Religious Center” (the West Side), The Scranton Engraving and Electrotype Co., the Ralph E. Weeks Co., Tippecanoe Securities Co., the Scranton Chapter of the Institute of Banking, and an automatic savings coupon machine being tried in Pittsburgh schools. We will skip this level of detail in the summaries below but are in the indices mentioned.

The January 1910 issue had yet another article about mine caves and collapses hurting the image of the city. The Scranton Republican was purchased by the Tribune Company to form the Tribune-Republican. Articles during the year included the “Manufacture and Merits of Steel Rope,” the pending Sixteenth Amendment (allowing a Federal income tax), “The Engineering Profession and The Federation of its Members,” and has a prize-winning essay on “Scranton of the Future” by Catherine Dunning (which predicted what the city would be like in 1928). The Sheridan statue was unveiled during the July 4th celebration and there was a visit by Theodore Roosevelt to the area. A history of internal revenue collections in Scranton provides a history of US income sources to date. An advertisement for the Scranton Lithography Co. has many illustrations of their work. Other articles cover the Industrial Exposition of that year, “Two Splendid

Buildings With Gas Illumination” (the Armory and Town Hall), “Scranton – The Marvel of the East,” the newly built Immanuel Baptist Church, and “Improvements at Hotel Jermyn.”

**(LHS 2019.81.07)**

The 1911 issue mentions a proposed Credit Fund Plan to promote Scranton industries. (This will eventually result in the Scranton Plan.) “Valuable Scranton Assets” overviews businesses in the city. A campaign to reduce first class postage from two cents to one cent is described while another article describes “Company ‘A’ Engineering Battalion, N. G. P.” (National Guard of Pennsylvania). “The Tonnage Tax on Anthracite Coal” is discussed. It would be used to handle mine cave-ins. The “Mine Cave Commission Report” is extensive and continued in later issues. Other articles are on “Gas Lights Replace Electricity on Court House Square,” the proposed Scranton and Binghamton Railroad (later called the Northern Electric), “The Brewing Industry in Northeastern Pennsylvania,” “What the I. C. S. Has Done For Scranton” and the Carbondale Mine Fire. “The History of Scranton – its Past, Present, and Future as Seen Through the Light of its Growth During its Early History,” by W. T. Bassett is followed by Col. Hitchcock’s article on “What Has the Scranton Board of Trade Done for the City of Scranton?” Odell adds an article on “City Government, A Matter of Business.” An article about “Scranton – Some Facts About the Electric City” is a nice overview.

In 1912, there are articles on “A College for Scranton” which makes the case for a college for the city in addition to the Scranton Business College, “Scranton’s Great Automobile Show,” “Modern Telephone Practice,” “The Philosophy of Life From a Hotel Man’s Point of View,” by Milton Roblee (at the Casey), “Practical Suggestions for Scranton” by ex-Senator Blewitt, and a report on the Central Reality Company which has bought the Dickson Locomotive Plant from the American Locomotive Company and is renting it out for manufacturing.

An article features the new Woolworth Building (in NYC) associated with Scranton merchant C. S. Woolworth. It is followed by articles on the founding and growth of the Scranton Engineers’ Club, “Portions of Man, Petrified in Coal, Found in Scranton, Believed to be Millions of Years old,” the sinking of the Titanic, and “Orlando Johnson’s Noble Request,” to fund a Manual Training School. A photo of a bird’s eye view of the city spans the top of two pages. The Scranton Construction Co. has just opened. The June 1913 issue appears next (covered in 2019.81.08). The July issue starts with “The High Cost of Living” on how the increased production of gold raises prices. It follows a page of photos. An

article on “Scranton Educationally Considered” covers all education in the area with photos of the two high schools.

**(LHS 2019.81.08)**

The next bound volume covers 1913 and 1914. The February issue has a lead article on “The Scranton Board of Trade and Matters Political” which urges the Board to not get involved with other matters. Other articles were on “Wise Utilization of Water Resources of Pennsylvania,” “The Moving Picture Theaters of Scranton,” Elmwood Farm and the Lackawanna County Farm Bureau, “A Great Civic Proposition” (the YMCA), an interview with William Wilson, Secretary of Labor, about the interests of capital and labor, “Familiarity Breeds Contempt” (urges people to appreciate Scranton), “Scranton’s Business Future,” and “Advertising Scranton.” Other articles are on international business comparing England, Germany and the US and on a comparison of Germany with the US for progressive business. The Board of Trade Publicity Committee has articles on “A City in its Making,” “Among Ourselves,” “Importance of Small Industries,” and “What has the Board of Trade done for Scranton?”

The January 1914 issue has articles on “Volume of Trade for Twelve Years in Scranton,” “A Greater Scranton,” and “Advertising Scranton.” This ends the three month management of the Journal by the Advertising Committee. Following issues had articles on “Why the Board of Trade?”, “Suggestions for Municipal Progress,” and “The Effective Dustless Ash Receiving and Elevating Device” (for furnaces).

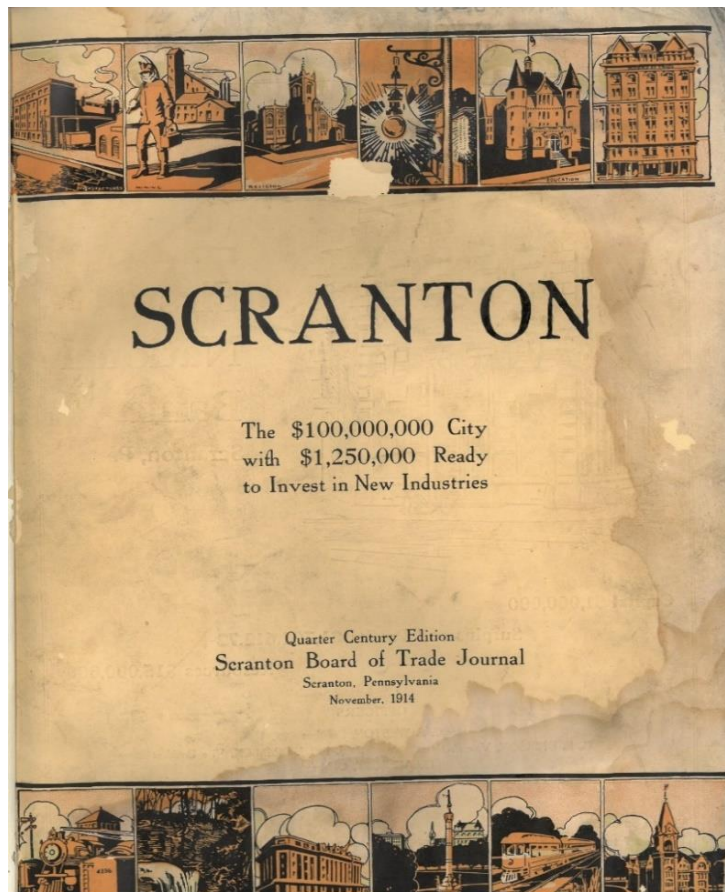
The March issue initiates a multi-year program to invest in Scranton’s future with the article “A Million Dollars for Scranton’s Industries” discussing a proposed fund to improve Scranton with new industries. The next issue further discusses “The Scranton Plan,” the name for the million-dollar initiative mentioned in the previous issue, with the formation of the “Scranton Industrial Development Company.” Further issues followed through on this endeavor. The just started war in Europe is mentioned in a later issue but was “expected to not have an effect on Scranton.” Other articles feature the new home of the Century Club, the type of trolley car useful for Scranton, the Christian Scientist’s “New Greek Edifice” (now the Scranton’s Children’s Library) and an article on coal breakers.

**(LHS 2019.81.09)**

The next bound volume covers parts of 1914, 1915 and 1916. The November 1914 issue is labelled “Quarter Century Edition.” The cover calls Scranton “The \$100,000,000 City with \$1,250,000 Ready to Invest in New Industries.” The lead



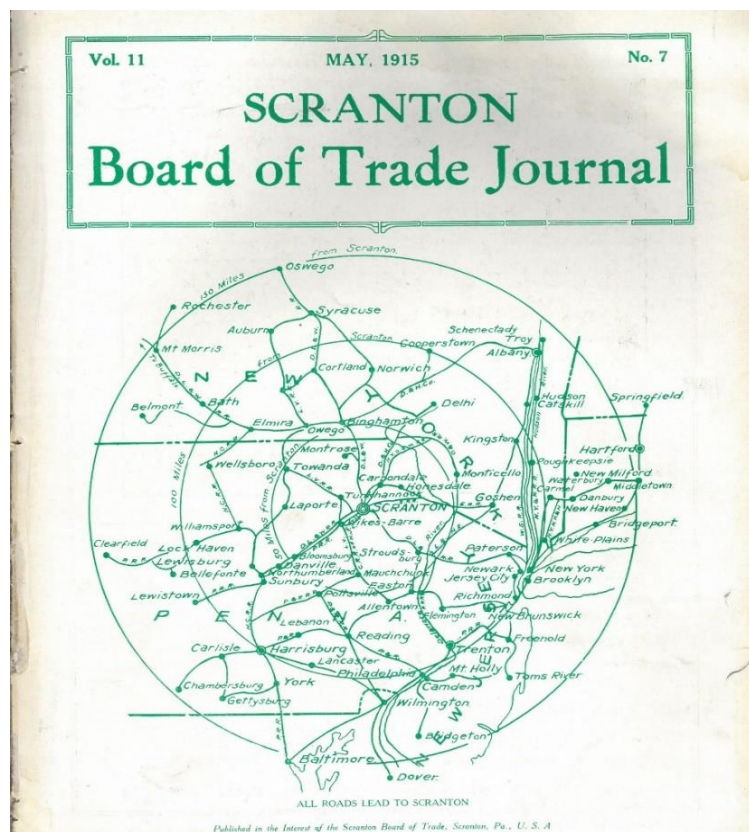
article is “A Quarter Century of the Board of Trade.” Obituaries for William Connell and John Jermyn follow. “Scranton – Present and Future” by Mandel Sener follows as well as articles on members of the Federal Bank of Philadelphia (with photos). Other articles are on “Steinke’s Story of Scranton,” a book by William Steinke, artist for the Times-Tribune and Truth, “The German Shepherd Dog,” William Drop Forging Company, Scranton & Binghamton Co. (Northern Electric), Spencer Heater Co., Paragon Plaster Co., and Scranton Nut and Bolt Co. The December issue has a review of the year, and articles on the Farm Bureau, Scranton’s Per Capita Tax, and “Scranton’s Manhood Factory” (the YMCA).



**Scranton Board of Trade Journal, November 1914**  
***Quarter Century Edition***  
**Photo courtesy of the Lackawanna Historical Society**

The January 1915 issue features a preliminary announcement of “Scranton’s Semi-Centennial Celebration and Founders Week” the following year. A two-page ad by the Associated Railroads of Pennsylvania and New Jersey attacks the Full Crew Laws in those two states. An article discusses optimistic predictions for the economy in spite of the European war. A later article is on the construction of a

Comfort Station on Court House Square. The May issue has a map of the area with railroads on its cover. The lead article is on improvements made to local roads. The June issue leads with “Scranton’s Best Industrial Asset” which is the Scranton Plan. Of particular interest is that the International Correspondence School (ICS) is having financial difficulties. This is followed in other issues by more discussion of the topic. The effects of the European War on the American economy are treated in several articles later that year and a later issue has an article on being prepared for national defense. The issue is addressed of turning the Drinker Turnpike (Scranton to Stroudsburg) and the Abington Boulevard (Scranton to Clarks Summit) into free roads. The Tunkhannock Viaduct (pictured in the Sept. issue) had ceremonies to celebrate its opening.



**Scranton Board of Trade Journal, May 1915**  
***All Roads Lead To Scranton***  
 Photo courtesy of the Lackawanna Historical Society

The January 1916 issue starts with the ICS showing steady profit for five months. A report of the Industrial Company was also printed. A later issue featured [John] “Hayes Produced Good Pavements” about asphalt paving in the city. A nationwide plea by the National Chamber of Commerce requests an enlargement of the

military and planned cooperation between industries supporting it. An article relating that the silk trade is booming and Scranton ranks high in production. Ralph Weeks is new President of the ICS in place of Foster. The story of Oppenheim who bought the Scranton Dry Goods Co. is given. The September issue provides a full description of the Exposition. Another issue features the Semi-Centennial and Industrial Exhibition. The coverage starts with "Historical Sketch of Scranton" by W. A. Wilcox, and continues with the Scranton Directory of 1865-1866,

Biographical Sketches, "Fifty Years of Constructive Action," "The World's Greatest Schools [ICS]," many photos, the late William Connell, the late John Jermyn, William Henry Richmond, the Scranton & Binghamton Railway, E. I. DuPont deNemours & Co. of Penna., the Knots Throwing Co., the Hotel Casey, Scranton's University (three year old branch of the Wharton School of Accounts and Finance), rigid Inspection of "Scranton Coal," the Hotel Jermyn, Scranton's Theatres, and a few of the County Officers. The Semi-Centennial Celebration includes parades, concerts, a midway carnival, athletic events, plays, dances and, of course, the Exposition.

#### **(LHS 2019.81.10)**

In 1917, the article "America First, Industry's Aid" advocates teaching English to our many immigrants. "Great Genius Combined with Great Energy" is a tribute to the late W. W. Scranton. There is an article on a switch to put clocks one hour ahead. Other articles are "The Present and Future of Anthracite Coal," comments on Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare, a report on 'Highway Maintenance' mentioning that 90% of the mileage was covered earth, gravel and shale, and an article on "The Home Garden" with explicit instructions.

The May issue has a color photo of the American flag on its cover with notice of 3,025 volunteers for military service locally. The Board of Trade has committed itself to supporting the war. The July issue describes the Third National Bank, "Scranton's Latest and Most Dignified Banking House." The August 1917 issue leads with an article on the growth of the Maccar Truck Co. An advertisement by the Scranton Railway Company explains why they need to raise their fares from five cents by a penny to keep good workers in a competitive war economy (more one-cent raises are advertised in later issues).

Other articles include "Patriotic Gardens Fostered by Board of Trade," "Scranton's Public Markets" and "Lackawanna County Fair." "Near Scranton's Door is Foundation for Thirty Mile Highway that Would be Word Famed" is a start of a

multi-year campaign to turn the abandoned railbed of the Lackawanna Railroad into a major highway (later named the Lackawanna Trail). The story is continued in many articles until the road is opened in 1922. Another article concerns a fund to provide “clean” recreation facilities for soldiers (no sordid details given) and government orders for local businesses.

Articles in 1918 include Scranton’s low electric rates, getting rid of German names on streets, the biggest truck in Scranton (owned by the Lackawanna Boiler and Grate Co.), “Concrete for Ships and Mine Pillars” and that Marywood can now offer collegiate degrees. It is announced that Worthington Scranton is an official in the War Industries Board in the area. Finally, there is an advertisement from the American Brewers that contests their German sympathies and an article on “No Peace Without Victory.” The Fourth Liberty Loan is well in hand.

**(LHS 2019.81.11)**

This bound booklet starts with the November 1918 issue. It leads with a long article on “What Scranton Has Done to Help Win the World War.” That help includes soldiers as well as the home front. One page is dedicated to all those from Scranton who died fighting (complete to Nov. 27). Other community groups’ contributions are also noted. Col. Hitchcock has an article on “The American Spirit.”

Getting into 1919, there is a copy of a speech by Theodore Roosevelt on “One Flag, One Language for America.” The Journal does print signed articles that it does not necessarily support but which reflect some readers’ opinions. For example, an article titled “Plain Speaking Necessary” attacks anyone disagreeing with the author. More popular are articles on the homecoming parade for returning soldiers, the proposed Lackawanna Trail showing its financial benefits, the Victory Loan going over the top and a story about the Motor Club of Lackawanna County which reviews the road plans in NE Pennsylvania. Included in June is a two-page Rand McNally Auto Trail Map of NE Pennsylvania. Further articles include “Scranton Enjoying Prosperity,” “Scranton Leads Country in Refractories (for industrial furnaces)”, an Aviation meet near Clarks Summit (later that year an issue reported “Scranton Municipal Landing Field Dedicated” [in Schultzville]), and “The Scranton of the Future” (after the coal runs out).

An article on “Americanization Work in the Public Schools of Scranton Pennsylvania” includes a survey of all Scranton workers who do not speak English. The post-war period presents a new set of challenges. Some articles are “To Live, the World Must

Produce More and Talk Less,” “Industrial Unrest (by Bishop Hoban),” “Scranton Citizens Urged to Support National Service Act (about the draft),” and ““Overturn the Dirty, Rotten Government of the United States’ said Trotsky”. A two-page spread (with a two-page photo) celebrated the laying of the first concrete on the Lackawanna Trail is presented. An article on “Information Required of the Owner of Motor Cars and Motor Trucks” details the new requirements for applying for a vehicle license. This follows recently passed state laws including a fee of forty cents per horsepower with a minimum fee of \$10.00. That year finishes with an article on “The Problem of the Foreign Born,” which emphasizes the need to Americanize such people.

In 1920 the Journal discussed the tenth annual Automobile Show in March with an article providing details. Other articles include “Motor Vehicle Shipping Rates,” a drawing of the future Women’s Institute (of the ICS), “The Engineer and His Organization” about the National Association of Stationary Engineers, “The County Court House” stressing its deficiencies and “Anthracite Bridge” about a ship of that name with many parts made in Scranton.

A later article has an article of thanks from the workers for helping end a railroad strike on the Lackawanna Railroad. The July issue lead story is the “Text of Mine Cave Agreement”, which relates to the problem of mine cave-ins. A state report shows the value of local output has increased fifty percent in three years. Other article are on “Board to Investigate Retail Coal Prices,” the Scranton extension school of the University of Pennsylvania, Lackawanna County Industries Set New Record for Production Values,” and S. Fletcher Weyburn, the Membership Secretary, suggested building more memorials in the city and provided a list of possible places to establish them.

### **(LHS 2019.81.12)**

The November 1920 issue starts with the article “Production and Distribution of Anthracite Coal in 1920” followed by “Pennsylvania’s Bituminous Coal Production.” Other articles that the State Constitution Revision Conference is considering a tonnage tax on anthracite to provide funds to prevent or repair mine cave-ins.

In 1921 there was continued a series of articles favoring an ‘open shop’ for laborers, i.e., no forced union membership to work at a job. Other articles are on more animals are being added to the Nay Aug Park Zoo, the Scranton-Lackawanna College is now the best equipped in the state after its new addition, “Radicals Working to Drive Industries Out” citing support for a “Closed Shop” as one of the

evils, “The Cities That Are Growing” cites cities that are not dominated by labor unions and have “open shops,” and “Scranton in 1940” makes suggestions to achieve good results. Later articles concern “Radicals Preaching Un-American Doctrines Here” which points out the attacks of the American Federation of Labor and the Ladies Garment Workers Union while trying to organize the sewing trades in the city, “The Closed Shop and the Closed City” an advertisement by the Manufacturer’s Association of Lackawanna County makes the point that workers should be more interested in what wages will buy instead of the amount of their wages. An article follows on “Governor Signs Mine Cave Bill,”

Of interest is the article “Wages Must Share in Readjustment” which records workers who have taken cuts in pay. It points out more hours at a lower salary are better than higher wages for fewer hours as the economy readjusts after the larger economy caused by the war. Such concerns continue with “Citizen’s Industrial Committee is Organized.” Worthington Scranton is chairman. It was formed in case there was extensive idleness due to the mine cave bill and to consider general industrial up-building. Articles continue with “Return to Better Times is Slow but Final Recovery is Certain,” “Lower Freight Rates must be Preceded by Lower Wage and Operating Costs,” and “1920 Coal Production lower But Values Higher than in 1919.” An opinion piece by Col. Hitchcock questions the patriotism of workers who will not take a pay cut to benefit the economy. December has the article “Jacob H. Rubin, Former Socialist, Tells How Visit to Soviet Russia Thoroughly Cured Him of Bolshevism and Socialism.”

The 1922 issue states that women outnumber men in the city but not the county. Other statistics from the 1920 census are given. An article follows on expansion of the Peoples Savings and Dime Bank Building. “The Dream of a Crippled Boy – Automatic Train Control – Has Come True, Tests Seem to Indicate” is about Patrick J. Clifford of Scranton. The National Chamber of Commerce is against a cash bonus to ex-soldiers, Charles Schwab feels the tariff policy is wrong and state geologists warn against investing in Southwestern Pa. oil wells [this is well after oil was being extracted there]. The city housing shortage starts to be an important issue. There is a recognition of the good work done by foreign born students in Scranton’s evening schools.

The June 1922 issue is a Lackawanna Trail number. This honors the Grand Opening of the road with the governors of both Pennsylvania and New York attending. The history of the road from conception to opening is given. The Board of Trade Home Building Trust is trying to build affordable housing. The

“Millstone from First Steam Grist Mill in Scranton is Placed in Nay Aug Park” by the Lackawanna Historical Society.

The August issue urges that arbitration be used to settle the anthracite miners’ strike. The county Medical Society is campaigning for expanding the West Mountain Sanitarium. The dedication of the East Scranton Bridge connecting South Scranton to East Scranton and the Hill Section is being celebrated.

**(LHS 2019.81.13)**

The November 1922 issue is “The Nineteenth Anniversary Number with Illustrated Supplement.” Articles include “Reminiscences of the Scranton Board of Trade Nineteen Years Ago” (including activities prior to that year), “New Bridge Described in Handsome Booklet” (about the South-to-East Scranton bridge, “Romance of Industry in Lackawanna County,” and “The Coal Situation.” It also includes four pages of photographs, mainly people and buildings. A later article is on “What Are We Going To Do About it?” discussing the problem of public apathy to recent strikes.

The 1923 issue starts with articles on “Scranton Plant to Manufacture Iceless Refrigeration Systems” (Hall Borchert Mfg. Co.), “Review of the Anthracite Industry for the Year 1922,” complications in the Coal Industry, and an article on Public Health. Other articles include “America Asleep – the Menace of Radicalism” and “Industry in Pennsylvania”. Other articles talk about Court House alterations, and group insurance on the Delaware & Hudson RR (which is also celebrating its Centennial).

An article on the future of Scranton discusses creating a new building that would encompass all the organizations working to improve the industrial development of the city which currently are not working well together. A Chamber of Commerce is also mentioned. Following on this, a later issue discusses the new site for the Board of Trade Building at Washington and Mulberry. Another article is on the large investment planned by railroads to improve their services. The article “Maccar Carries City Name Wherever it Goes” talks about the Scranton Auto Truck Company which makes tourist buses used in many big cities.

Another article is “New Telephone Dial System Seems Almost Human.” Another issue has its lead article on “Home Building” and what the Board of Trade is doing in support. The October issue starts with an extensive twenty-year review of the

Journal. Other articles involve planning for the future of the city after coal and improvements in the city heating plant.

The November 1923 issue, Vol. 20, No. 1, was the first under the name “Scranton Chamber of Commerce Journal.” (The Board of Trade became the Chamber of Commerce officially on November 21, 1923.) An article on “Public Opinion vs. The Closed Shop” rated the closed shop as worse than the KKK.” The last issue of the year has a summary of “Industry in Lackawanna County.”

1924 starts with a survey of Current Business. Col. Hitchcock writes “Can War be Outlawed?” pointing out when wars are justifiable. The next issue starts with the campaign to build a new Chamber of Commerce Community Center Building (at Mulberry and Washington) and a rebuttal to Hitchcock’s letter is printed. The article “Keeping America for Americans with Machines” about machines replacing labor is still an issue in America today. The plan for New York to San Francisco air mail is featured as well as articles on “The Health of Our Children” featuring the Community Chest, “The Wallen-Paupack Power Development” discusses a new dam to supply electrical energy, and “Give the Constitution a Chance” warns about the danger of the LaFollette third party. An obituary for Col. Frederick L. Hitchcock, the last charter member of the Board of Trade, finishes the volume.

***Dennis Martin is a resident of Clarks Summit, PA. He taught college-level math and computer science for 37 years at the State University of New York/Brockport, the University of Scranton and at Jackson State University, Alabama.***

***Dennis was a volunteer for five years at Steamtown National Historic Site, where he catalogued artifacts. Dennis and his wife, Sharleen, are volunteers at Abington Community Library where they created scrapbooks of the library’s history from available clippings, and as part of the library’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, conducted oral interviews of long-time volunteers. Dennis was co-chair of the Clarks Summit Centennial in 2011 and with two others, was responsible for the event’s historical aspects. He and two other historians also updated Clarks Summit: A Narrative that was originally written for the borough’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.***

***At LHS, Dennis and Sharleen catalogued much of the society’s collection that was stored in boxes. Sharleen transcribed many of the oral histories for the Women’s Oral History Project of Northeast Pennsylvania, an LHS effort conducted more than 15 years earlier. They were named LHS volunteers of the year in 2010. Dennis and Sharleen continue in their capacities at both LHS and ACL.***