



HISTORY BYTES

A Lackawanna Historical Society Publication

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November – December 2020

Rick Sedlisky, Editor

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



THE KEHOE BROTHERS THROW A BAKE

For 35 years, 1926-1961, the Kehoe brothers, John and Thomas, of Pittston, hosted the legendary Old Timers' Clambake at the Kehoe Estate in Harding, Pennsylvania. It was a grand, all-day affair with over 2,000 attendees enjoying Irish bagpipers and story tellers, marching bands, music, and unlimited food and drink: clam chowder, hot dogs, hamburgers, Sheporaitis draft birch beer, Stegmaier draft beer, freshly picked sweet corn from the Kehoe farmlands, and 100,000 steamed clams-yes, 100,000!

The idea for the clambake was to gather together the kids and young men the Kehoe brothers labored with in the anthracite coal mines of their youth, beginning at age 7 as breaker boys, then door tenders, mule drivers, laborers and miners. These boyhood pals were the nucleus of the affair, enlarged by their many buddies of gamecock fighters-the ancient order of bird men which had underground leaders in practically every county in this section of the state. The brothers swelled the list with some employees of their numerous enterprises, governors, U.S. Senators and Representatives, Pennsylvania government elected office holders and cabinet members, local political and business leaders, with a scattering of the socially ambitious filling out the ranks.

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District Attorney Carlon O'Malley and Judge Michael Eagen pay their respects



Political peace reigned as Mayor James T. Hanlon of Scranton had a chat with Republican leaders Kehoe and Governor John S. Fine.

It was the largest clambake held in Pennsylvania, and always on the Saturday following Labor Day. It launched the fall political campaign season. The clambake was by invitation only, required an RSVP, upon which invitees were then sent a clam-shaped ID tag, the wearing of which was essential to remaining on the Kehoe property---and if not worn, you were politely escorted off the grounds by the Pennsylvania State Police!

The day began mid-morning with a parade along the length of Pittston's Main Street by the Philadelphia Ulster Pipe Band, a Kehoe classic import. The pipers, in dress kilts, were cheered by hundreds upon hundreds lining the street, and most cordially greeted and welcomed by Tom Kehoe, waiting for the group in front of the Kehoe Building, at 49 South Main Street.



Combined operations is evident as Tom Kehoe greets the piper band in front of the Kehoe Building in Pittston.

From the city, the pipers first had a Pittston City and then Pennsylvania State Police escort to Harding, where they marched and piped into the estate to the delight of John and Thomas Kehoe, waiting for them on the semi-circular patio of the home. The brothers "held court", and each guest got his greeting with a command to go forth and get his fill of food and drink. All were fortified when they crowded around for the afternoon's entertainment.



The pipers from Philadelphia, a Kehoe importation, strut their stuff as they march through the grounds playing Irish airs to give a lilt to the festivities.

When the grounds of the vast estate were black with guests-strictly men only, and in full suits--- the entertainment program began. Tom Hennigan, a Kehoe brothers' close friend and Secretary of the Pittston City School Board, was Master of Ceremonies. Con McCole, a former Mayor of Wilkes-Barre, warmed-up the crowd with stories and tales. The Irish bagpipers, German band, fiddlers, Kunkle's One-Man Band, and Irish dancers spelled one another all afternoon.



The old timers enjoy Con McCole's Irish stories.

The Kehoe brothers masterminded the day, aided by a battery of clerks. Coordination and staging were the responsibility of my father, Ed Fitzsimmons, Secretary-Treasurer of the Kehoe-Berge Coal Company and other Kehoe enterprises. The coal company's mines were closed for the day, and miners received triple-time pay for manning the food, drink and clam stations.

The food and drink were inexhaustible. First served was homemade clam chowder, prepared by Chef Frank Castner, Pittston City Fire Chief. Then came Gutheinz wieners, hamburgers, Kehoe Farms' sweet corn, Pittston's own Sheporaitis draft birch beer and Stegmaier beer. Kegs of both flowed like the waters of Ireland's River Shannon, which never runs dry. AND then there were than 100,000 steamed clams (As kids, my brothers and I were clam-runner boys, bringing endless buckets of clams from Thomas C. Thomas Company's 53 ft. refrigerated tractor-trailer to the clam steamers. We were cheap laborers and loved every exciting minute of the special day).

A gigantic bar, an immense food counter, and a huge clam pavilion were set up and arranged for high speed thru traffic. The food and refreshments were dished out with amazing efficiency.



The oasis for all was the busy bar where beer flowed like the waters of Ireland's River Shannon, which never runs dry.

John and Thomas Kehoe enjoyed every minute of the day. Gradually, around 5 P.M., the crowd of 2,000+ thinned out, the program and the day's musical entertainment died away, and before long the estate grounds were left to the strident, shrill crowing and strutting of the Kehoe brothers' hundreds of fighting gamecocks, including a special breed, the "Kehoe Grey Muff" rooster, an international champion. The genial host brothers and their guests enjoyed a day which would be envied by all the Kings of Ireland.

---Richard Fitzsimmons, Ph.D.

The author, a native of Scranton, resides in Falls. For 41 years he was a member of the faculty at The Pennsylvania State University. He is a former Wyoming County Commissioner, and presently is a Supervisor of Exeter Township, Wyoming County.

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Lackawanna Past Times Zoom Meetings Bi-Monthly Presentations, Fridays at 2 pm

Next up is **19th Century Baseball** with Mark J. Riccetti, Jr., Director of Operations and Programs at Luzerne County Historical Society, on Friday, October 16 at 2 pm. Email LHS to receive Zoom link. A list of recent presentations is on Page 9. Zoom programs are available at <https://www.youtube.com/user/lackawannahistory/videos>.

LHS 2020 Membership Information

About Membership: Membership privileges include unlimited access to the Society library, 10% discount in our bookstore, advance notice, special discounts and invitations to all Society activities, members-only programs, the quarterly newsletter and the bi-monthly e-newsletter.

Attached is a membership form you can use to renew your membership or give to a friend who is interested in joining. Please return it to:

The Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Ave., Scranton, PA 18510.

Lackawanna Historical Society Membership Form

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|-----------------|
| // Student | \$10 | Name _____ |
| // Individual | \$35 | |
| // Family | \$45 | Address _____ |
| // Contributing | \$75 | _____ |
| // Sustaining | \$150 | |
| // Silver Corporate | \$250 | Telephone _____ |
| // Gold Corporate | \$500 | Email _____ |

Following is a link to complete for membership payment if you chose to use it.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSep8tRxXJUut7McTh4g4StczVjC4HRJAXMDE-ztxEDCzLncvA/viewform>

2020 Scranton After Dark is SOLD OUT but don't miss Valley Quest: "Scranton Safari"

Sponsored by Toyota, Valley Quest, an app-based competitive scavenger hunt, kicked off when online reservations opened on September 26. From October 10 through October 30, players take part in a "Scranton Safari" around downtown to locate interesting and sometimes hidden architectural details that represent animals and other whimsical creatures. Registration is \$10. Participants who complete the adventure and have the most correct answers will be entered in a drawing to win a "Basket of Family Fun" that includes a variety of prizes for all to enjoy. For additional information, please visit www.lackawannahistory.org/ScavengerHunt.html

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Dine Lackawanna

Numerous restaurants support LHS through participation in Dine Lackawanna. Please continue to support the chefs and staffs through requests for delivery or purchases of gift cards, and be sure to call ahead for any changes in business hours or practices.

Abingtons

Clarks Summit

Camelot The Nyx
Formosa State Street Grill

Chinchilla

Armetta's

Upvalley

Carbondale

Kol at Hotel Anthracite

Jermyn

JW's Pub

Eynon

Pasquale's
Tiffany's

Simpson

Frank's Place

Mid Valley

Dickson City

NOSH
Texas Roundhouse

Jessup

Café Colarusso

Scranton

Ale Mary's
AV Scranton
Back Yard Ale House
Cafe Classico
Carmen's
La Cucina
Mansour's

Market Street Grill
Pizza by Pappas
Posh at the Scranton Club
Sidel's
Stirna's
Trax

Downvalley

Moosic

Marzoni's

Old Forge

Dooley's

Dunmore/North Pocono

Dunmore

3 Jacks Burgers

Moscow

Van Brunt Grill

Springbrook

Olde Brook Inn

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Genealogy Forum

Genealogists are invited to join us to share ideas, research tips, and local resources.

Wednesday, October 14, 1 pm: Tom Price, A Review of Local Cemetery Records

Wednesday, November 4, 1pm: John Fielding of the Anthracite Heritage Museum discusses museum genealogical resources.

To register, please email lackawannahistory@gmail.com or call 570-344-3841.

Ghostly Gallery Links

Please visit: <http://www.lackawannahistory.org/aghostlygallery.html>

Recent Lackawanna Past Times Presentations

"A Scarcity of Caskets: The 1918 Spanish Flu in Scranton" with Sarah Piccini
"Italian Festivals in Lackawanna County" with Stephanie Longo
"Scranton's Downtown Architecture" with Mary Ann Moran Savakinus
"From Suffragists to Senators: 100 Years of Women's Suffrage" with Sarah Piccini
"A Visit from General Winfield Scott" portrayed by John Hart
"Louisa May Alcott" portrayed by Jenn Ochman
"Electric Cars in the Electric City" with George Gula
"Sylvester Poli: Builder of Palaces" with Stephanie Longo
"Weddings Through History" with Maureen Hart
"Dirty Little Secrets: Mary Ann and Sarah Tell All"
"A Ride Along the Laurel Line" with George Gula
"General Dan Sickles" portrayed by John W. Griffiths
"A Return to Rocky Glen" with Bob Savakinus
"The Daughters of the American Revolution" with Kathy Zinskie
"Working on the Railroad" with Tom Myles
"Local Fire Companies" with Joseph M. Klapatch
"Dunmore Cemetery Tour" with Julie Esty, founder, Dearly Departed Players
"Women Veterans" with Janice Gavern

In The Mines The Daily Diaries of Thomas J. Goblick Anthracite Coal Mine Motorman

By Carl Orechovsky

Thomas J. Goblick worked in the mines as a motorman. A motorman operates an electric or battery-powered mine motorcar to haul trips (trains) of cars, loaded with timber, rails, explosives and other supplies, into a mine.

Mr. Goblick lived in the Austin Heights section of Old Forge. A friend was removing items from Mr. Goblick's house and came upon his work diaries that cover six years, extending from 1938 to 1944. The owner of the house didn't want the diaries.

As one who documents Old Forge history, I accepted the diaries that are smaller sized, spiral bound notebooks. After enlarging the notebooks through scanning, they were re-typed. The correct spellings of names included in the entries can now be confirmed by descendants of the miners who live in Austin Heights.

The enlargements were assembled into standard sized notebooks. The originals and standard sized notebooks were subsequently donated to the Old Forge Historical Society. Most entries pertain to Old Forge and I have permission to share the contents.

Diaries are presented in three-month segments beginning with January 1938 when Mr. Goblick worked at the The Pittston Coal Co., Baxters No 2 Shaft, followed by his time with The Volpe Coal Co, Sibley Colliery, beginning in March 1938. Mr. Goblick's entries offer insight into his experiences working underground.

April 1939

The Volpe Coal Co, Sibley Colliery, Old Forge, 1939: Jermyn Section

April 1. Colliery Idle.

April 2. Sunday.

April 3. Cool 7 hours worked

April 4. Cool 7 hours worked

April 5. Warm 7 hours worked

April 6. 7 hours worked

April 7 - 8. Colliery idle

April 9. Easter Sunday.

April 10. Easter Monday Colliery Idle.

April 11. Broken part on motor.

April 15. Pay Day 7 hours worked

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April 16. HOLE BUSTED INTO JERMYN MINE! (Breached the barrier between Sibley and Jermyn)
April 17. Explored Jermyn mine.
April 18. Moved No. 29 shaker.
April 19. Sammers and Angelo in mines.
April 20. Car in face No. 11 place.
April 21. First day of Spring
April 22. "62 cars of coal ". BIG RUN!
April 23. Sunday
April 24 - 26. 7 hours worked
April 27. 59 cars of coal. BIG RUN!
April 28. Hand burned 7 pm. 5 ½ hours worked
April 29. Stayed home hand sore.
April 30. N.Y. World's Fair opens.

May 1939

The Volpe Coal Co, Sibley Colliery, Old Forge, 1939: Jermyn Section.

May 1. Done early. Paul finished. 7 hours worked
May 2. Done early. Went to Marmo's. 7 hours worked
May 3. Very cold day. 7 hours worked
May 4. 7 hours worked
May 5. Went to the O. F. Games. 7 hours worked
May 6. Feed line broken on the slope
May 7. Sunday. Took Nelly to hall. Polka Dots.
May 8. Done at 10:30. 7 hours worked
May 9. Heavy rain. 7 hours worked
May 10. Mayes motor broke down 11:30. (Mayes is another motorman). 7 hours worked
May 11. 7 hours worked
May 12. 10 PM waiting for No8. M. & Cab. (????)
May 13. Pay Day. Paid Metgi \$1.30. 7 hours worked
May 14. Sunday.
May 15. Done Early. 7 hours worked

May 16. Sonny OK. Was to Dr, Salamon for Medicine for myself. 7 hours worked
May 17. Done early.
May 18 - 19. Colliery Idle
May 20. Colliery Idle. Rain.
May 21. Sunday. Rain all day.
May 22. Rain. 7 hours worked
May 23 - 24. 7 hours worked
May 25 – 27. Colliery Idle.
May 28. Sunday.
May 29. Colliery Idle. Pay Day.
May 30. Colliery Idle. Decoration Day.
May 31. Tough day. 7 hours worked

Notes

Decoration Day- Mr. Goblick notes that May 30 was Decoration Day. Today it's called Memorial Day.

June 1939

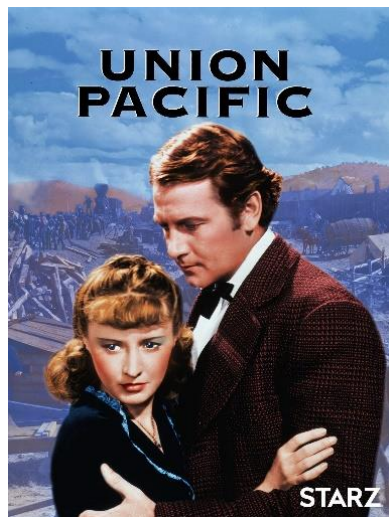
The Volpe Coal Co, Sibley Colliery, Old Forge, 1939: Jermyn Section.

June 1. Victor (Pickles) fired! 7 hours worked
June 2. 7 hours worked
June 3. Colliery Idle.
June 4. Sunday.
June 5. Cars off. Tough night. 10 hours worked
June 6. 7 ½ hours worked
June 7. 7 hours worked
June 8. Bad Cold in head. 7 hours worked
June 9. Warm Night. 7 hours worked
June 10. Mayes motor broke down. 7 hours worked
June 11. Sunday. Went to movies, saw "Union Pacific".
June 12. Took Nelly to movies. 7 hours worked
June 13. 7 hours worked
June 14. Pay Day. 7 hours worked
June 15 – 17. 7 hours worked

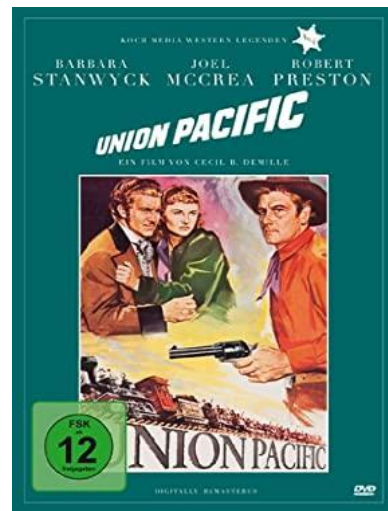
June 18. Sunday. Union Meeting. \$50.00 loan.
June 19. Little rain. 7 hours worked
June 20. 7 hours worked
June 21. Squeeze. New medicine from Dr. Sal. 7 hours worked
June 22. Installed air fan. Shaker broke. 7 hours worked
June 23. 7 worked
June 24. Road broke done at 11:45. 7 hours worked
June 25. Sunday.
June 26. Squeeze in Sibley. 5 hours worked
June 27. Ran motor on Charlie's road. 7 hours worked
June 28. Colliery Idle. Painting Helen's porch.
June 29. Pay Day. 7 hours worked
June 30. Colliery Idle.

Notes

June 11 Went to Movies, Saw "Union Pacific"- The film is a 1939 American Western drama directed by Cecil B. DeMille, starring Barbara Stanwyck and Joel McCrea. Union Pacific is based on the 1936 novel, *Trouble Shooter*, written by Western fiction author, Ernest Haycox. The storyline is about the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad across the American West, resulting in the nation's first transcontinental railroad.



Starz



Amazon.UK

Mining and Other Terms

Shaker- A mechanized metal conveyor that moves coal in a “jerky” back and forth movement. It is used to move coal from the ground up and into mine cars or the gangway. In the upcoming winter season, the No. 9 Mine at Lansford will use an air compressor powered conveyor (modern version of a shaker) to load a 7-ton side dump mine car. Please visit <https://no9minemuseum.wixsite.com/museum>

Squeeze- A squeeze, weight or pinching was settling of the strata over a worked out area, resulting in lowering of the roof. A squeeze also pertains to the ribs (side walls) which can push out into the gangway or chamber with explosive force.



Sibley No. 3 Colliery West Side Group 2
Image courtesy of Carl Orechovsky

Carl Orechovsky, in addition to being treasurer of the Old Forge Historical Society, scans information for the Society’s archives and conducted video interviews for the “Old Forge, Our Town Project”.

During the winter season, Mr. Orechovsky works with the No. 9 Coal Mine Tour in Lansford, PA as a track man.

1918 Pandemic vs Covid-19

Comparison of Epidemics in Scranton and Across the US Stories of How We Managed Our Lives

By Michael A. Kashmer

The Spanish flu of 1918 is sometimes called the “forgotten pandemic”. It infected a third of the world’s population and killed more than 50 million people, but it was not the number one news story of its day. Its timing at the end of World War I, “the war to end all wars”, meant that reporting on the pandemic took a back-seat to WWI news. An epidemic occurring over a wide geographical area (worldwide) is known as a pandemic.

The 1918 Spanish influenza and our recent COVID-19 share many similarities, but they diverge on one key point. And that is the age distribution of fatalities. For COVID-19 it was the elderly who were the hardest hit, by far. For the Spanish flu, the young working age population was the most severely affected.

The so-called Spanish flu of 1918 and 1919, when compared to COVID-19, shows that the new virus strain caused far fewer deaths. As of this writing, the USA approaches nearly 200,000 deaths from COVID-19, an astonishing loss of American lives. And the number grows daily. This is out of a population of 330 million nationwide.

Back in January 1919 through December 1920, when the globe hosted 1.8 billion people, the Spanish flu infected about 500 million people and claimed the lives of about 50 million worldwide including 675,000 people in the US.

The 1918 virus moved from birds to humans. Our recent COVID-19 experience shows definite human to human transmission via respiratory droplets. During both pandemics, mandated or recommended basic precautions include: (1) wearing protective masks and washing hands often with soap and hot water; (2) avoiding close conduct with sick individuals and social distancing; and (3) not touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands and practicing good respiratory hygiene.

Social preferences played a vital role. People tended to live in close quarters and the value of better hygiene was sometimes lost on immigrants enmeshed in the daily grind to earn a living.

At the same time large numbers soldiers traveled to and from distant training camps and easily transported the virus with them. Malnutrition was common in the cities and in the trenches. This is another factor that helped spread the disease from poor family to poor family.

Reflecting the norms of the time, remember this was the early 1900’s, and men, mostly, were accustomed to “spitting” their chew tobacco juice and any extra liquids or solids

they put into their mouths. That could be beer, liquor, food, etc. The spitter would relieve his swelling cheek-full in the gutter or on the sidewalk.

If the “spitter” was still in his natural habitat, the saloon, there were a number of handy “spittoons”, a wonderfully accurate description of the brass receptacles, lined up along the base in front of the bar. Down there, spittoons were usually accompanied by a brass rail that patrons could place one foot on while imbibing their favorite drink and loudly preaching to their acquaintances. This steady position allowed a more solid footing to stand upright and resemble a gentleman. The spittoon itself needed help to appear anchored in place. The device was flat bottomed, weighted and had a lip along the wide top to discourage tipping and spilling. Certain more upscale establishments called their spittoons “cuspidors”, a Portuguese term. High-end establishments that employed cuspidors called the contents by a fancier name -- expectorant. These brass objects will fetch a pretty penny at antique sellers nowadays.

With the Spanish flu and especially COVID-19, older adults were more at risk to develop serious symptoms. However, the Spanish flu heavily impacted children under the age of five and adults aged 20 to 40.

Actually, a 25-year old was more likely to die from the Spanish flu than a 74 year-old. It may have been true that older adults at that time had a preexisting immunity to the pathogen. There is some chance that those who survived the Russian flu (1889-1890) pandemic, were afforded some protection. On the other hand, young people tend to have strong immune responses and this may have produced excess fluid in the lungs making breathing even more difficult.

This was a time before vaccines when there was no effective way to thwart the disease and no antibiotics to treat the bacterial infections that often developed in tandem with the flu. The combination of this virulent strain of flu and the lack of medications made the Spanish flu the most virulent and therefore serious threat to the world’s health in recent history.

In 1918, Philadelphia officials downplayed the significance of the first cases in the city. Neither the city fathers nor the ordinary citizens would admit that there was a virus about to decimate their city. If physical distancing measures had been implemented quickly, much suffering could have been avoided.

Mass gatherings continued and schools remained open. The city finally implemented physical distancing and other measures about two weeks after the first cases appeared.

The death rate in Philadelphia was second highest in the state with Pittsburgh coming in first and Scranton third. The initial wave of the flu arrived in Philadelphia aboard a British cargo ship that berthed at the city’s Navy Yard. The Navy Yard was relatively close to the most populated areas of town. Within days 600 sailors were infected.

This pandemic made its way throughout Pennsylvania and beyond with help from the many train routes and rail companies that crisscrossed the Keystone State. These train

routes connected major cities, factory towns and carried soldiers bound for battle in Europe. The troops boarded military transports at a number of East Coast ports and made the nearly two week voyage eastbound in very close quarters.

The transports were converted passenger vessels that could accommodate the greatest number of military personnel as well as most, if not all, of their cargo.

Meanwhile, there was rampant denial of a deadly epidemic in this country. Not unlike our current COVID-19, the local authorities started and stopped policies that, if continued and expanded under a national policy, could have saved lives.

For example, Philadelphia had decided earlier that year that there should be a large, patriotic parade which would show the nation how important this city was to the war effort. On Sept. 28, 1918, more than 200,000 people crowded downtown streets to see the rousing procession of marching bands, troops, floats, schoolgirls marching arm in arm, war widows, etc.

In 2020 COVID-19 fears in Scranton led to the cancellation of the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade which had been stepping off along downtown streets for 59 years. I checked Facebook to take one current social media source of how Scrantonians reacted to the cancellation news.

Most parade supporters understood the serious possibility of spreading the virus along festive streets and in crowded bars and restaurants. The majority agreed with the organizers of the parade to cancel the annual event until next year.

However, there were some people who made the same ill-advised comments that we hear through the media from all parts of our country. "The virus is not as bad as the flu", "the media is exaggerating the threat" and "it will be over soon", among others.

Some things change and some remain the same. It would be great if history didn't have to keep repeating itself. We would be saving a great deal of time, effort, money and the lives of our citizenry, young and old.

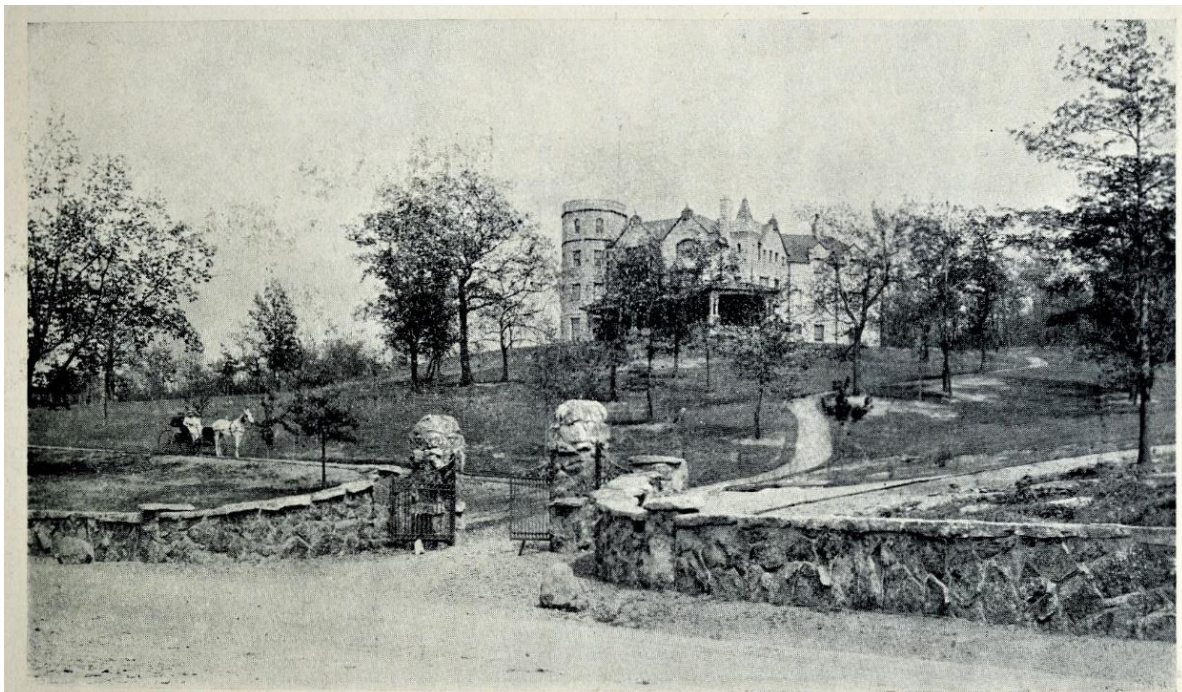
There was a time in America when foreign solutions to our problems were discounted and considered un-American. What could the British, Italians, Japanese or South Koreans possibly know about COVID-19 that would help us. At the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries, we Americans felt more advanced and superior to the Old World countries. Look how big and broad our economy was in quality and quantity –we made everything from buttons to battleships. Who had a greater "can do" attitude than the USA? We are not only the best civilization now, but the best country ever!

In a global economy we have an opportunity to tap into fresh resources to solve problems. This includes acceptance of new ideas and ways of learning. Trusting new economic information and medical skill sets from people we are not used to hearing from takes time and effort. If we don't listen to them now, how can we expect them to listen to us later on?

Michael A. Kashmer is from Scranton and currently resides in Bergen County, NJ. He has worked in broadcast and cable TV for nearly thirty years in areas of distribution, finance and programming. His experience includes network start-ups and foreign language programs. A special interest is digital broadband and fiber. Mike can be reached at mikekashmer@aol.com

Pen-Y-Bryn

In the July – August issue of History Bytes, author Sandra Skies Ludwig told the story of the Pen-Y-Bryn mansion, home of the Watres family, that was located above Scranton's downtown on Elmhurst Boulevard. LHS member, John J. Revak was kind enough to provide a photo of the legendary homestead.



Residence of Colonel L. A. Watres, Elmhurst Boulevard.

Built by Peter Stipp

From the photo collection of LHS Member, John J. Revak
aka "God of Photographic History"

Dunmore Cemetery Tour 2020

The Drive Through Edition



Dickson Mausoleum, Dunmore Cemetery
Photo courtesy of Julie Esty

The Dunmore Cemetery Tour will take place on October 4 beginning at 2pm. Because of necessary social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's tour will be slightly different. Instead of walking to the resting places of the departed, visitors will be part of a long, drive through "funeral procession".

Upon arrival at the cemetery, attendees will receive a program/tour route map and "Fast Facts" about some of the notables laid to rest at Dunmore. As the procession/tour winds through the cemetery, members of the Dearly Departed Players will be present to provide assistance along the way. When the tour is completed, using the program/tour route map as a guide, visitors can return at their leisure to take the tour by either walking or driving. As of this writing, visitors will enter from Quincy Ave., proceed past Dunmore High School and on to the cemetery entrance on Warren St.

Organizers initially considered cancelling this year's tour, but thought otherwise. Cancellation of the tour would mean one less source of food for the Feed-A-Friend program. The tour assists the program by collecting non-perishable food items at the cemetery gate for those in need.

Businesses and organizations assisting this year's tour include Space Time Meade & Cider Works, Carlucci-Golden-DeSantis Funeral Home, Lackawanna Historical Society, Miller Bean Funeral Home, Steven's Wreaths Galore and Much More, Jerry's For All Seasons, as well as P S Advertising Specialty Co. Tour organizers are grateful to the

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Dunmore Cemetery staff and board of directors, the Borough of Dunmore Police Department and the Dunmore Mayor's Office for their assistance and cooperation.

For tour updates, including street entrance information, please visit the Dunmore Cemetery Tour Facebook page at <http://tiny.cc/nanwsz>



Dearly Departed Players members Karl Barbee and Julie Esty
Photo courtesy of the Dearly Departed Players

Ed. Note: The Dickson Mausoleum is the resting place of industrialist Thomas Dickson (1824 – 1884). Dickson was president of the Dickson Manufacturing Co., a producer of steam engines, boilers and locomotives. He was also President of the Delaware & Hudson Railroad until his passing in 1884. The borough of Dickson City, PA, was named after him.

Nicholson Depot Update

The Nicholson Heritage Association announced on their website that work continues on preservation and development of the former DL&W Railroad station into a tourism center. The association recently received a grant from the Endless Mountains Heritage Region and continue the goal of raising \$50,000 for the project. To see progress on the interior of the station, go to <https://youtu.be/iZwRxCRxjA0>. Exterior work progress can be seen at <https://youtu.be/YkrMDL35HMI>.

For additional information on the Nicholson Heritage Association and the station project, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/nicholsonheritage/>

Person of Interest



Lizabeth Scott Scranton's Film Noir Femme Fatale

By Rick Sedlisky

Alan Rhode, a film historian, said about Lizabeth Scott, "She was someone you would see in a nightclub through a haze of cigarette smoke, with a voice made husky by a couple of highballs and an unfiltered Pall Mall."

In her February 6, 2015 obituary, the New York Times summed it up best. "*She had the goods*: the luminous eyes and moist lips that belied a heart of stone, the slinky figure, the sculptured cheekbones, the cascading hair and husky voice suitable for torch songs or seductive close-ups.

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"She was born Emma Matzo on September 22, 1922 to John and Mary (Pennock) Matzo and was the oldest of six children. The family lived in the Pine Brook section of Scranton where her father owned and operated the Matzo Market grocery store.

Emma attended Marywood Seminary, a Catholic girls' school, but subsequently transferred to Scranton Central High where she appeared in several plays. After graduation, she worked during the summer with the Mae Drummond Players at a stock theatre in nearby Newfoundland, PA. That summer, she also worked at the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, VA before returning to Scranton in the autumn to study at Marywood College (now Marywood University). She left the school after six months.



hollywoodmemorabilia.com

Although her parents were opposed to an acting career, Emma's father helped her financially and in 1939, the 17-year-old moved to New York City to study at the Alviene School of Drama. During this time, after reading *Mary of Scotland*, Maxwell Anderson's play about Mary, Queen of Scots and Elizabeth I, Emma created her professional name, Elizabeth Scott. She later dropped the 'E' and became Lizabeth.

Scott's first professional engagement was with the national touring company of the hit Broadway comedy, *Hellzapoppin*. Following the tour, she worked as a model for *Harper's Bazaar* magazine, reportedly making \$25 an hour. In 1942, she gained the attention of producer, Michael Myerberg, and became the understudy for Tallulah Bankhead in the original Broadway production of *The Skin of Our Teeth*.

She never got to fill in for Bankhead (Tallulah never missed a performance, perhaps for fear of being upstaged by understudy Scott). She played the lead role in Boston when she replaced Mariam Hopkins who had become ill. Rather than pursue Hollywood interests at the time, Scott instead chose to further her stage career.

In 1944, while working at *Harper's Bazaar*, a four-page spread in the magazine caught the eye of Hollywood producer, Hal Willis. By this time, Willis had parted company with Warner Bros. and had his own production company associated with Paramount Pictures. Willis was successful in signing Scott with Paramount where she appeared in more than 20 films between 1945 and 1957.

Her first film was *You Came Along* (1945) in which she played opposite Robert Cummings. Her first film noir appearance came the following year in *The Strange Love of Martha Ivers* along with Barbara Stanwyck, Van Heflin and Kirk Douglas in his screen debut. The film depicted corruption and murder among members of the upper class.

Humphrey Bogart was Scott's leading man in the 1947 film, *Dead Reckoning*. In her femme fatale character, Scott attempts to foil the character's (played by Bogart) investigation into the mysterious death of his Army buddy.

Scott's filmography shows that her leading men were the Hollywood A-list. Her filmography includes, but is not limited to, *Desert Fury* (1947, Burt Lancaster, Wendell Corey, Mary Astor, John Hodiak), *I Walk Alone* (1947, Burt Lancaster and Kirk Douglas), *Pitfall* (1948, Dick Powell), *Easy Living* (1949, Victor Mature, Lucille Ball, Lloyd Nolan), *Too Late For Tears* (1949, Dan Duryea), *Dark City* (1950, Charlton Heston), *The Racket* (1951; Robert Mitchum, Robert Ryan), *Stolen Face* (1952, Paul Henreid), and *Bad For Each Other* (1953, Charlton Heston).



Promotion posters distributed to movie theatres



Scott with (l to r) Burt Lancaster, Humphry Bogart

As film noir began to fade, Scott was ready for a change. The change came in 1953 when she starred with Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis in the screwball comedy, *Scared Stiff*. In a 1996 interview with documentary filmmaker, Carole Langer, Scott said, "I'd done so many heavy things that it was such a pleasure when this was offered me. I thought, God, I'd like to shed my past and have some fun with these guys."



Scared Stiff promo photo

Despite the fact that she enjoyed working on lighter films, her true love was always steeped in the grittiness of film noir.

When asked why film noir had become so popular, Scott said: "The films that I had seen growing up were always, 'Boy meets girl, boy ends up marrying girl, and together, 'they go off into the sunset' - and suddenly in the 1940s, psychology was taking a grasp on society in America. That's when 'they' got into these psychological, emotional things that people feel. That was the feeling of film noir. ... It was a new realm, something very exciting, because you were coming closer and closer to reality."



Promo shot for *Pitfall*

Like many Hollywood celebrities, Scott was not immune from scandal. A 1954 article in *Confidential Magazine* alleged that Scott associated with Hollywood's lesbian community. It was a period of time when association with LGBT people was not just scandalous, it was a threat to one's career and the successes that came with it.

Confidential was headed by Howard Rushmore who was notorious for his support of blacklisting Hollywood actors during the 1950s. He despised Scott for her open criticism of the Hollywood blacklist and wrote false stories about her having affairs with other women in an attempt to smear her career.

Scott sued the magazine for libel seeking \$2.5 million in damages, alleging that it portrayed the actress in a vicious, slanderous and indecent manner. Although the 1957 trial did not end with a verdict, Scott's career suffered serious damage.

Regardless, Scott continued to diversify her career. She co-starred with Elvis Presley as a publicity woman in the 1957 musical, *Loving You*, and in 1958, she released an album of torch songs, entitled, *Lizabeth*.



Album cover
Wikipedia

Scott was not allowed to sing in any of her more than 20 films even when it called for her character to sing as in *I Walk Alone* where she played a nightclub singer. Her voice was dubbed even though, unlike many actresses, she really could sing.

In the article, *Lizabeth Scott Likes New Singing Career*, written by Marie Torre in May 1958, Scott said, "I was a frustrated singer for years. After I made my first Paramount picture in 1946, I asked the men at the studio if I could sing in one of my movies. They said, 'hush you're an actress.' So I lived with the frustration, envious of all the singers I used to see." She added, "The days I spent recording that first album were the most exquisitely beautiful days of my life."

Unfortunately, it was her only album. The below link has Scott performing *He's A Man* in a live 1958 appearance on *The Big Record*, a television show hosted by singer Patti Page that presented many of that era's singers.

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2015/feb/06/lizabeth-scott>

In the latter 1950s and into the 1960s Lizabeth Scott appeared on a number of television programs, although her first TV appearance was in 1949 on *Family Theatre*. Shows in which she appeared include *Lux Video Theatre* (1953), *The Eddie Cantor Comedy Theater* and *Studio 57* (both in 1955), *ITV Television Playhouse* and *20th*

Century-Fox Hour (both in 1956), *Adventures In Paradise* (1960), *Burke's Law* (1963) and *The Third Man* (1965).

Her final screen appearance was in the 1972 British comedy thriller, *Pulp*, with co-stars Michael Caine and Mickey Rooney. Shot on the island of Malta, Scott plays "Princess" Betty Cippola, a social climber who becomes associated with Mickey King (Michael Caine), a writer of sleazy pulp novels who is hired by retired actor, Preston Gilbert (Mickey Rooney), to ghostwrite his biography until his murder got in the way.

Her decision to diversify her career led to changes in her personal interests. During this period, Scott attended the University of Southern California. From the 1970s until her passing, she was involved in real estate development, as well as volunteer work for various charities, including Project HOPE and the Ancient Arts Council of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.



Poster ad for *Pulp*

She did voiceovers for commercials and was a regular at health clubs. Scott studied literature, philosophy and languages. In a 1970s interview from her Hollywood Hills home she said, "I simply decided there was more to life than just making films. "And, I proceeded to explore all of life's other facets. None of us is ever too young or too old or too smart to learn or to create."

Lizabeth Scott passed away from congestive heart failure on January 31, 2015 at the age of 92 in Los Angeles where she was cremated. A number of her films can be found in their entirety on *YouTube*.



Image from Gramho.com

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