

# The Lackawanna Historical Society BULLETIN

Volume 11, No. 5 November 1978

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM MEETING

Wednesday, November 15, 1978  
8 P.M. Catlin House

Our November meeting will be an ethnic interest program featuring an excellent film entitled "An Island called Ellis" produced by C.V.S. -TV and narrated by screen star Jose Ferrer. It tells the moving story of Ellis Island, the U.S. Immigration Center located in New York harbor which served from 1891 to 1954 as the port of entry for over 20 million Europeans who came to the "land of opportunity" through this famous detention center. Also on the program will be some area residents who will relate their own personal experiences of coming thru this famed center just prior to its closing in 1954. Discussion will follow and refreshments will be served. You are urged to attend this interesting program.

## FORTHCOMING PROGRAMS

Thursday, December 15

Christmas Program with color slides telling the "Story of Christmas Cards, Antique and Modern" produced and narrated by Archy Litweiler, former Principal of #42 Audubon School, Green Ridge. Christmas Music will be presented by the Chamber Singers of Baptist Bible College; the Catlin House will be decorated for the season and lit by candles and holiday refreshments will be served.

January - No Program

Wednesday, February 21, 1979

Catlin House 8 P.M.

William Varner, local Insurance agent C.L.U. will show and narrate vintage films of Scranton - street scenes, parades, trains, Boy Scouts, etc. taken from 1927 to 1945.

Wednesday, March 21

8 P.M. Catlin House

Our Executive Director William P. Lewis will show slides and give a talk on "Henry Drinker, Forgotten Lackawanna County Developer" who lived in Clifton Township and helped to build the "Drinker Turnpike".

Wednesday, April 18

8 P.M. Catlin House

Color slides and a talk on the Endless Mountains scenic area will be given by Gerald Johnson, Wyalusing realtor and treasurer of the Endless Mts. Assoc.

Wednesday, May 9-6:30 P.M.

Catlin House

The Annual dinner meeting will feature a catered roast beef dinner and an illustrated slide lecture on "Furniture of the Victorian Period". Installation of new officers will take place.

## CATLIN HOUSE NEWS

We have had two successful programs already this Fall: the Lackawanna County Centennial Band Concert by the Ringgold Band in September and the showing of delightful films of Phoebe Snow and other D.L. & W. Railroad trains by Thomas Taber, Muncy, Pa. on Oct. 18, a nostalgic trip indeed with 85 present. Although visitors to the Catlin House were not numerous in September; during October we had 246 visitors including seven groups. One visitor who happened on the Catlin House while in the area on business was Mr. Lawrence E. Catlin, Rockford, Illinois, a distant relative of our benefactor George Catlin. November 1 was an anniversary for our Staff: Mrs. Marie Vellela, staff secretary, began her work here Nov. 1, 1973 and William P. Lewis, executive director, began his work Nov. 1976. A recent gift on display is a valuable 1924 Atwater Kent Radio in perfect working order given by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Fellin, Glenburn. Former Governor and Mrs. William W. Scranton have also recently given us a number of period clothes, books, pictures, etc.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 8 P.M.

Mr. Clement Conger, Washington, D.C. Curator for the Reception Rooms of the White House and State Department, will speak at the Student Center Auditorium of the University of Scranton on the topic "Historic and Antique Furnishings at the State Department and White House". The slide lecture is open to the public and should be a very interesting one.

## DIRECTORY OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN

### SCRANTON'S CENTRAL CITY

1. Catlin House 232 Monroe Avenue - Built in 1912 as the residence of George Catlin, wealthy Scranton banker and bequeathed by him to the Lackawanna Historical Society. This three story townhouse was designed by Edward Langley, local architect in English Tudor style and has been opened to the public as a historic house museum since 1942.
2. Scranton Estate - Ridge Row - This imposing three story stone mansion was built 1869-71 by Joseph H. Scranton, one of the founders of our city. It was designed by a New York architect Russell Sturgis in French Second Empire style and was the family home of the Scranton family until 1942 when it was donated to the University of Scranton. It is now a residence for the Jesuit teachers.
3. University of Scranton - Linden Street - Located here are fifteen buildings of orange brick in contemporary style built from 1956 to 1965 including Loyola Hall of Science 1956, Alumni Memorial Library and Student Center 1960, St. Thomas Hall 1962, John J. Long Center Auditorium 1967 and ten Student Residences 1964-64, providing classrooms and housing for 4400 students. The University was chartered as St. Thomas College in 1888.
4. Lackawanna County House of Detention 313 Monroe Ave. Built 1902 as the residence of James L. Crawford, wealthy coal operator, it has served as the House of Detention and Juvenile Court since 1921.
5. Westminster Presbyterian Church-Corner of Madison and Olive St. Built 1902-04 as the First Presbyterian Church of Scranton; it was renamed Westminster Church in 1926 when First and Second Presbyterian Churches merged. Designed

by Lansing C. Holden, New York City Architect, it was built of Indiana limestone in English Gothic style and contains several beautiful Tiffany mosaics and stained glass windows.

6. John Raymond Memorial Universalist Church - corner Madison and Vine St. Built 1906 of grey stone as a copy of Tufts College, Chapel, Boston. It contains several Tiffany windows and a tracker pipe organ.

## JEFFERSON AVENUE

7. Lackawanna Railroad Station - Massive five story former railroad terminal. It was designed by Kenneth Murchison, New York architect in the French Renaissance style and built of stone 1907-08. Opened Nov. 1908 it was the busy D.L. & W. Railroad passenger station and offices until it closed in 1970. It contains a fine marble concourse with terra-cotta murals and is now slated for restoration as a shopping and office complex.
8. Pennsylvania Gas and Water Co. 135 Jefferson Ave. Built 1919-21 by the Scranton Gas and Water Co. Designed in classical style by Davis and Lewis, local architects.
9. Elm Park United Methodist Church - corner Jefferson and Linden St. The largest Protestant church in central city, it was completed in 1893 after two incendiary fires and was designed by Weary and Kramer, Akron, Ohio in Victorian Romanesque style of native stone. The Church was organized in 1842.
10. Jefferson Hall 243 Jefferson Ave. Three story brick structure, built 1907 as the Young Womens Christian Assoc. and the Platt-Woolworth Residence which was added in 1926. It was purchased in 1976 by the University of Scranton for a student residence.
11. O'Hara Hall, 310 Jefferson Ave. A six story stone office building, it was built in 1922-23 as the offices for the Glen Alden Coal Co. and purchased by the University of Scranton in 1968 as a classroom building.
12. Immanuel Baptist Church, corner Jefferson and Mulberry St. Built in 1910 of Ohio red sandstone in Gothic style. The church was organized in 1859.
13. St. John's Lutheran Church, 425 Jefferson Ave. Built 1885-86 as the Second Presbyterian Church. It was designed by James Cleveland Cady of New York City and built of native stone in the Norman- esque style. Sold to the St. John's Lutheran Church in 1927.
14. Catholic Youth Center, corner Jefferson and Vine St. Large four story brick structure containing an auditorium, swimming and bowling facilities, it was built in 1949 on the site of the former John Jermyn family home.
15. St. Nicholas Orthodox Greek Catholic Church, 505 Jefferson Ave. This stone structure was built in 1895 as the residence of Judge Alfred Hand and was sold by his heirs in 1939 to the congregation which completely remodeled it into a church.
16. Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, 520 Jefferson Ave. Built 1907-10 as the residence for Charles S. Woolworth, one of the founders of the F.W. Woolworth 5¢ & 10¢ store chain. It was designed by Lansing C. Holden in French classical style, built of Indiana limestone and has fine woodwork and marble in the interior. It was purchased by the Mercy Hospital from the Woolworth family in 1948.
17. American Red Cross, Jefferson Ave. Built in 1901 as a residence for Fenwick L. Peck, wealthy lumber dealer and designed by Lansing C. Holden in Colonial revival style. It has served as headquarters for the Scranton Chapter, American Red Cross since 1942.
18. Jewish Community Center, 601 Jefferson Ave. Built 1957 as the cultural center for Jewish citizens, it also contains offices for several community service organizations. Fine sculpture on front of Moses and the Ten Commandments.
19. The Century Club, 612 Jefferson Ave. Built in 1914 as a women's cultural and social center, it was designed in Colonial revival style by Edward Langley.
20. Scranton Iron Furnaces, Cedar Ave. Here are the remains of five large stone furnaces built 1840-52 to blast iron from ore using anthracite coal. Built by George W. and Seldon Scranton, founders of our city, it was operated as the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Co. from 1840 until 1901. Restored in 1971 as a Historic State Park.

(Continued next bulletin) William P. Lewis

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