

The Lackawanna Historical Society BULLETIN

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February 1979

FEBRUARY PROGRAM MEETING

Wednesday, February 21, 1979

8 P.M. Catlin House

Mr. William Varner, local insurance agent, will show and narrate a series of silent films taken in Scranton and northeastern Pennsylvania from 1928 to 1937. They show scenes of downtown Scranton, parades, trolley cars, a Boy Scout jamboree, etc. They will bring delightful memories back to those who lived here during those days and will certainly entertain those who want to know what Scranton was like in that era. Mr. Varner is a Scranton native, a graduate of Lehigh University, a past president of the Scranton Lions Club and resides in Clarks Summit. You are invited to attend this interesting program. As usual, refreshments will be served.

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMS

Wednesday, March 21 - Catlin House 8 P.M.

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 - Catlin House 8 P.M.

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

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

The Annual Meeting will feature a catered roast beef dinner, an illustrated slide lecture on "Furniture of the Victorian Period" and the installation of new officers.

CATLIN HOUSE NEWS

New Exhibit - "Wish You Were Here" - At the turn of the century picture postcards were widely used for corresponding with and sending

greetings to friends and relatives. Collectors later saved these cards and mounted them in albums. We have a number of these colorful cards showing scenes of Scranton and vicinity which reflect an earlier generations pride in this region.

Staff - Mrs. Marie Vellela, secretary at the Catlin House for the past five years, left our staff in January. We are now looking for a new hostess - secretary.

Visitors - Visitors in November numbered 244; December - 195 and January - 74. These figures include people who come to see our house-museum as well as a number of researchers who come to use our valuable historical files.

DIRECTORY OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN SCRANTON'S CENTRAL CITY

(Continued from Nov. 1978 Bulletin)

20. Mercy Hospital - 746 Jefferson Avenue. Built in 1909 as the Dr. Reed Burns Hospital; it was taken over by the Sisters of Mercy in 1917 who have since managed it very efficiently and currently are engaged in a massive expansion program on both sides of Jefferson Avenue.

ADAMS AVENUE

21. Scranton Iron Furnaces, Cedar Avenue. 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, they were operated as the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Co. from 1840 to 1901. Restored in 1971 as a Historic State Park.

22. Hotel Casey - corner of Lackawanna and Adams Avenues. This ten story brick hotel was built 1910-11 by Andrew J. and Patrick J. Casey and designed by Charles R. Weatherhogg, N.Y. architect. It stands on the site of the residence of Hon. George W. Scranton. Nearby at 128 Adams Avenue is the Casey Garage a four story brick parking facility opened in July 1926.

23. Bell Telephone Building 121 Adams Avenue Built 1916. Five story cream brick building designed by John T. Windram, Phila. in simple classical style. The fifth floor was added in 1934 by Davis and Lewis. First telephones in Scranton were installed in 1878.
24. Scranton Life Building - corner of Spruce and Adams. This eight story office building was erected in 1916 as the headquarters of the Scranton Life Insurance Co. Designed by Edward Langley, city architect, it is a brick building faced with white glazed terracotta tiles in Gothic style.
25. County Administration Building - corner of Spruce and Adams. This six story brick structure faced with white tiles was built 1922-23 as the Stohr and Fister Furniture Store and was designed by Davis and Lewis, local architects. It was purchased by Lackawanna County in 1971 and remodded into an office building.
26. Lackawanna County Court House - The county was created in 1878 as the 67th and last county in Pennsylvania. The Court House was built 1881-84 of West Mountain stone and was designed by Isaac G. Perry, Ithica, N.Y. in Victorian chateau style. It was renovated in 1896 and again in 1976 and the addition on Linden Street side was built 1963-64.
27. Scranton Electric Building 507 Linden St. An eight story office building with a carved stone front and ornate copper and tile roof, it was built in 1896 by the Scranton Board of Trade and sold to the Scranton Electric Co. in 1926. A large electric sign on the roof has been a landmark for years - it read "Scranton, the Electric City".
28. Adams Apartments 4210 Adams Avenue. Eight story modern apartment buildings for senior citizens. Built 1967 by the Scranton Housing Authority, they incorporated the former Hotel Nash 1900 and Hotel Holland 1901.
29. Technical High School 721 Adams - Four story stone school building, it was built in 1905; Gilbert N. Edson was the architect. Adjacent is the William T. Smith Manual Training School given as a memorial by Mrs. W. T. Smith. It was built in 1904 in brick colonial style; Edward Langley, architect.

30. Watres Armory 901 Adams Avenue. This mammoth drillshed and offices was built 1900-01 by the 13th Regiment National Guard. Designed by Lansing C. Holden, it is built of brick in castle fortress style 160 by 316 feet and cost \$210,000. It was named for Lt. Col. Lewis A. Watres who was largely responsible for its construction.
31. Holy Family Roman Catholic Church - corner of Gibson and North Washington Avenue. Brick church built in 1925 by a Slovak congregation which was organized in 1895 on Capouse Avenue.
32. Bethel A.M.E. Church 714 N. Washington Avenue - Brick church in English Gothic style, built in 1912. The congregation was organized in 1871 as the first of Scranton's two Black churches.
33. Cooper's Sea Food House 703 N. Washington Avenue. Built of cement blocks in 1902 as the Erie Railroad passenger depot. It was used as a station until 1938 and Cooper's popular restaurant has been in it since 1953.
34. Central High School - corner of Vine and N. Washington. Built in 1895 on the site of the first high school in Scranton, it was opened September 1896 as the Scranton High School. It is a four story stone structure with Gothic details and an ornate grill work over the entrance arch. It was designed by Little and O'Connor of New York City.
35. Scranton Public Library - Albright Memorial Bld. Begun in 1891 and opened in May 1893, this Indiana limestone building was designed by Green and Wicks, Buffalo, N.Y. firm, in French chateau style copied after the Cluny Museum, Paris. Built at a cost of \$125,000, it was the most beautiful and costly building in Scranton at that time. It was given as a memorial by the family of Joseph J. Albright whose home formerly stood there. Noted for its fine stone carvings and stained glass window inserts.
36. First Church of Christ Scientist - 520 Vine Street. Built in 1913 of stone in Greek Temple style; Snyder and Ward, architects. The Church was organized in 1890.
37. Scranton School District Administration Building - 425 N. Washington Avenue. Erected 1910-11 of stone in English Gothic style, as Adm. headquarters for Scranton's Public Schools.
38. Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral 420 N. Washington Avenue. This grand building was erected 1927-30 of grey Indiana limestone as the combined effort of all of the Masonic lodges of Scranton. Designed by Raymond Hood of New York City in Gothic style with Moorish details, its total cost was \$2,224,000. It was dedicated May 18, 1930 and contains a 1800 seat auditorium a large banquet hall and numerous meeting rooms. Formerly the site of the Thomas Dickson mansion.
39. American Legion Building - Koch Conley Post #121 - 415 N. Washington Avenue. Built 1937 in Georgian brick style; David Jones, architect.
40. Former Elks Club - 406 N. Washington - Erected 1914 by the B.P.O.E. No. 123; it has been the Keystone Rehabilitation Center since 1964 when the new Elks Club was built on Moosic Street hill. John Howley, architect.
41. The Scranton Club - corner of Washington and Mulberry. This three story brick structure was built 1906 and was designed by Edward Langley in simple classical style. It houses a men's social club which was organized in 1895.
42. Scranton's City Hall - corner Mulberry and N. Washington. Scranton was incorporated as a City in 1866 but its offices were housed in various locations until this fine structure was built 1888-93. Designed by local architect Edwin L. Walter, it was built in Victorian Gothic style of native stone and contains a number of interesting stained glass windows. It was opened in March 1893; currently it is undergoing a complete interior renovation.
43. Scranton Chamber of Commerce - Mulberry and N. Washington. Four story limestone faced office building. Built 1924-26 at a cost of just over \$800,000 it was designed by Edward Langley.

(Continued in next Bulletin)

William P. Lewis
Executive Director

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