

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Wednesday, November 12, 1980 - Catlin House 8 P.M.

The November program of the Historical Society will be held at the Catlin House on Wednesday, November 12 at 8 p.m. and will be co-sponsored by the Architectural Heritage Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The program will feature a slide presentation entitled "The Three R's of Historic Preservation - Restore, Recycle and Rehabilitate" narrated by John Cognetti and Thomas Horlacher, both members of A.H.A.

They will discuss the before and after preservation efforts which have been made in the Boston, Mass. area and then spotlight the local preservation efforts in Scranton including the problems which are involved and the future potential that exists in our city. They will also discuss the recent restoration efforts at the Catlin House and the planned restoration of the Tripp House. A discussion period and social hour will follow. We hope to see you for this interesting presentation.

DECEMBER PROGRAM

Wednesday, December 10 - An antique lantern slide show will be given by William P. Lewis, our executive director, from a collection of vintage glass slides of northeastern Pennsylvania, New York and Philadelphia, made in 1901. Christmas music will be rendered by the Baptist Bible College Ensemble, the house will be decorated for the season and holiday refreshments will be served by candlelight.

CATLIN HOUSE NEWS

During the months of September and October we have had a steady flow of visitors and researchers come thru the Catlin House; in Sept. we had 295 visitors and five groups come; in October 247 more and seven groups came in. Our first two fall programs were most interesting and well attended. The Philharmonic Women's League held a delightful luncheon meeting in the house in September and more recently they sponsored a Musical with tenor soloist Paul Spencer-Adkins which was very well attended. Among other groups who have toured the premises were two Chamber of Commerce visiting groups, Baptist Bible College students, the Singers Guild Board, the D.A.R. and Girls Scout troops. June Wech is our friendly hostess and Marie and Jim McLane are our efficient live-in custodians.

The Executive Director has given historic talks to area organizations including the Philharmonic Women's League, the Waverly Comm-Unity Club, the Wyoming County Historical Society and the North Main Avenue Baptist Church. He also had the privilege of attending the recent fall symposium of the Victorian Society in America at Wilmington, Delaware.

DIRECTORY OF SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS

IN

SCRANTON'S CENTRAL CITY

(Continued from Vol. 12, No. 2 April 1970 Bulletin)



THE WYOMING HOUSE

65. SCRANTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL 1000 Wyoming Avenue. Four story brick and stone building in Gothic style built in 1921 as the Women's Institute of Domestic Arts and Science by the International Correspondance Schools. Purchased by the Scranton Prep School in 1962, used as classrooms since.

66. HADDON CRAFTSMEN, INC. Wyoming Ave. and Ash St. Four story brick industrial building 460 feet long by 167 wide built in 1910 as the printery for the International Correspondance Schools. Now the publishing house for INTEXT.

67. PENN WAREHOUSE - NW corner of Penn Ave. and Vine Street. Large brick industrial building with a clock tower built in 1882 as the Machine Shop of the Dickson Manufacturing Co. where steam locomotives and mining machinery was made. Later used by the Allis-Chalmers Co. the Quackenbush Warehouse and the Sta-Cor Corp.

68. SCRANTON STATE GENERAL HOSPITAL - Mulberry St. and Franklin Ave. Large six story brick hospital facility with 175 beds built in 1939-41. First organized and opened in 1871 as the Lackawanna Hospital, Scranton's first medical center. Became a state hospital in 1901.

69. HOLIDAY INN - SE corner of Mulberry St. and Franklin Ave. - a two story motel and restaurant with 146 rooms which was opened in August 1963.

70. ST. MARY'S CENTER 320 Mifflin Ave. A large brick convention and banquet center built by St. Mary's Church in 1972.

71. ST. MARY'S GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH - NE corner of Linden St. and Mifflin Ave. A large brick church and twin towers, fine stained glass windows and gold mosaic work and rectory nearby. Built 1914 and dedicated July 4, 1915; John Howley, architect. The Parish was organized in 1891.

72. FORUM APARTMENTS - SW corner of Linden St. and Penn Ave. - A nine story apartment building with adjoining parking garage and office complex. Opened in 1978 it contains 80 apartments and 8 office suites for doctors.

73. G.A.R. MEMORIAL HALL - NE corner of penn Ave. and Linden St. Three story pressed brick building with a corner turret erected in 1886 by Victor Koch as a hotel and Masonic Hall. It was purchased in 1901 by the Grand Army of the Republic Post as a meeting hall for the Civil War veterans fraternity. The last Civil War soldier in Scranton died in 1943; since then the building has been owned and managed by the Sons of Union Veterans.

74. NORTHEASTERN BANK OF PENNSYLVANIA - NW corner of Penn Ave. and Spruce St. A four story concrete contemporary style structure completed as a Banking facility in 1975.

75. THE SCRANTON TIMES - SW corner of Penn Ave. and Spruce St. A four story white terra-cotta tile building which houses Scranton's afternoon daily newspaper, which was founded in 1870. The building was erected 1924-26 with Davis and Lewis as architects.

76. SAMTERS BUILDING - NW corner of Penn Ave. and Lackawanna Ave. A five story brick building erected 1923-25 as a popular men's clothing store by Samter Brothers, a firm founded in 1872. This downtown store was closed in May 1978.

77. SCRANTON STATE OFFICE BUILDING - A new four story brick office building designed in contemporary style by Bellante, Clauss, Miller and Nolan. It was built by the Scranton-Lackawanna Health and Welfare Authority and opened in 1976. Located on Lackawanna Ave. in the former wholesale block.

GREYHOUND BUS TERMINAL - 23 Lackawanna Avenue. A small one story bus terminal which was opened June 13, 1974.

79. JERSY CENTRAL FREIGHT STATION - 601 West Lackawanna Avenue A two story brick railway depot with a turret tower and sloping slate roof built in 1893 in French Chateau style. It served as the freight station of the Central Railroad of New Jersey from 1893 until 1970 and has since been used by the Abdalla Wholesale Fruit Co.

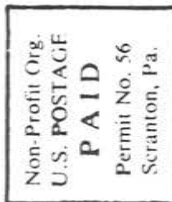
LACKAWANNA AVENUE

Lackawanna Avenue in Scranton was first laid out when the original town plot was made in 1850 by Joel Amsden, the civil engineer for the Scrantons and Platt firm which had founded the iron furnaces in 1840 and thus begun the city. Lackawanna and Wyoming Avenues were originally planned when most of the area was still a hemlock forest and they were designed to be 60 feet wide from curb to curb. They were intended to be the main business thoroughfares and named for the two local valleys. The "Wyoming House" a large three story brick hotel was one of the first buildings erected on the street. It opened for business in 1852 and stood on the corner of Lackawanna and Wyoming Avenues on the site now occupied by Oppenheims department store. Other brick business buildings were soon built along either side of the Avenue and before long it became the principal business street in the growing city.

Significant structures located along Lackawanna Avenue through the years have been the Hotel Casey, the Riviera Theatre, the Scranton National Bank, the Bosak Bank, Woolworths and Kresge's variety stores, the Scranton Dry Goods store, the former First National Bank, Samters Brothers store, the Lackawanna Valley House and the Scranton House, busy hotels and a great number of clothing and furniture stores. Further east were located the D.L.&W. Freight Station, the Railroad Y.M.C.A., the Delaware and Hudson Railroad station and the wholesale produce block.

Lackawanna Avenue was for over a century one of the busiest streets in the city but with changing times, many of these firms have either moved or gone out of business and many of the structures have been razed by the Scranton Redevelopment Authority. Business activity has declined measurably along this once thriving avenue as it has suffered the fate of many of the downtown areas of America's cities. However the Architectural Heritage Association is now trying to create an awareness of the rich variety of architectural styles in the buildings still standing along this street. They are trying to work with the City to revitalize the downtown sector and preserve for the future this treasure from our prosperous past.

Researched and written by: William P. Lewis, Executive Director



LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CATLIN HOUSE

232 MONROE AVENUE

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18510