

FIRST FALL PROGRAM

Wednesday, September 22, 1982 — Catlin House - 8 P.M.

The first fall program meeting of the Lackawanna Historical Society will be held at the Catlin House on Wednesday evening, September 22 at 8 o'clock and will feature a chamber music concert presented by a versatile young ensemble from Philadelphia who call themselves "The Chestnut Brass". The program will be co-sponsored by the Penn State University - Dunmore campus. The five member chamber virtuoso group, who will perform on antique and modern brass instruments, will present a varied program of classical, baroque, jazz and show tunes. The five highly trained musicians claim they can play almost anything, almost anywhere. The quintet is composed of Bruce Barrie, Mark Huxsoll, George Barnett, Robert Gale and Jay Krush who perform on two trumpets, a french horn, trombone and tuba. The program promises to be an exciting and thoroughly enjoyable evening of music followed by a social hour and refreshments. We hope to see you on Wednesday evening, September 22.

1982-83 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Wednesday, October 20 — Slide illustrated lecture entitled "The Italian Experience in America" given by Dr. Michael DeMichele, professor of history at the University of Scranton. Another in our ethnic awareness series.

Wednesday, November 17 — Lecture on the "History of the Polish in Lackawanna County" given by Theodore L. Zawistowski, editor of "Straz" weekly publication of the Polish National Union of America and a professor at Penn State University, Dunmore campus.

Wednesday, December 8 — Christmas choral program and films of old Scranton and Wilkes Barre streetcars, presented by Edward Miller, Pittston, trolley buff.

Wednesday, February 23 — Lecture and slides on the Life and Work of the late Col. Louis A. Watres, once Lt. Governor of Pennsylvania and prominent Scranton businessman and publisher; presented by William P. Lewis, executive director of the Society.

Wednesday, March 23 — Lecture on "The History of Entertainment in Scranton" given by Ms. Nancy McDonald, social studies teacher at West Scranton High School and author of the book "If you can Play Scranton..."

Wednesday, April 13 — Lecture on "The History of the Ukrainians in Lackawanna County" given by Rev. Nestor Koval, pastor of St. Michaels Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Scranton. Also included will be Ukrainian dancers in native dress.

Wednesday, May 11 — Annual Dinner meeting and Installation of Officers. Slide illustrated lecture on "The Delaware Indians of Pennsylvania" given by Dr. Eugene C. Cook, associate professor of Anthropology at the Community College of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania.

CATLIN HOUSE NEWS

The Summer months have been a busy season here at the Catlin House; visitors totaled 494 in May, 153 in June, 307 in July and 152 in August. This number included 21 groups who came for tours as well as numerous researchers who came to use our library and archives for family history and local lore research. Among the visitors were several from overseas; Madrid, Spain, Chester, England and Cardiff, Wales. Also among the groups were: The Daughters of American Revolution, West Side, Honesdale, Dalton, and Whittier School groups, Girl and Boy Scouts, University of Scranton history classes and Elderhostel groups, Mental Health and Jewish Home residents, the American Institute of Architects and a Singers Guild reception. Our annual dinner meeting in May was a decided success with 78 present and Dr. Larry Tise, new director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission as speaker.

We are having a new gas fired heating system and insulating installed in our custodians' apartment. Members of the Junior League borrowed several period gowns for a social at the Tripp House in June.

We now have a total of 440 members. We note with regret and sadness the passing of a number of long-time and faithful members of the Society. They were: Mrs. J. Elmer Williams, honorary Trustee, Mr. Alfred E. Breen, Trustee; Mrs. Caroline Foley Feldman, Mrs. Frances Acker Platt, Mrs. Irene Schriever Smith, Miss Ilse Wehrum, Mrs. Chloe Francis, Mrs. Kenneth Dolph and Col. Frederick A. Birmingham.

Our Board of Trustees will meet on Wednesday, September 15 at 4 P.M. with Dr. John L. Earl, president, in charge.

Announcement — The Scranton Anthracite Museum, McDade Park is sponsoring a two-day symposium October 1 and 2 on "Ethnicity and Labor in the Anthracite Region". Nine scholars will present the results of recent research on regional history. This will be an interesting and valuable symposium; reservations are necessary and may be made by calling the Museum 961-4804.

A HISTORY OF THE GREEN RIDGE SECTION OF SCRANTON

Green Ridge, probably the loveliest and finest residential section of the City of Scranton, has an interesting history which has never been adequately told. It is that section of the City which is bounded by the Lackawanna River on the west and Dunmore Borough on the east and extends from Larch Street on the south to the Throop Borough line on the north. It remained an area of farms and forests until a comparatively late date while central city and the adjacent sections of Hyde Park and Providence were rapidly growing and building up. The name "Green-Ridge" was appropriately chosen to designate a green forested ridge located in the midst of the Lackawanna Valley.

The first settler in this section was Joshua Griffin who located here in 1815 and cleared a farm out of the surrounding wilderness. His house stood on the site now occupied by the Roosevelt Theatre. His clearing was connected with the outside world in 1821-26 when the Philadelphia and Great Bend Turnpike was constructed across the valley. The route of this early thoroughfare came from Dunmore via what is now Electric Street and went on to Providence via East Market Street. Another early road which ran from Slocum Hollow to Blakely crossed at what is now Green Ridge Corners, but was long known as "Griffin's Corners". A few houses and a one room schoolhouse were built along East Market Street and there was a covered bridge where that street crosses the Lackawanna River but as has been stated, the area remained a farming and forested area until after the American Civil War.

Hon. George Sanderson was the founder and developer of the Green Ridge section. He was a native of Boston, and had been an attorney at Towanda and a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature before he located in Scranton in 1855. He first purchased the old Hitchcock farm and divided it into lots, developing what is now the Hill section of Central City. He also organized one of the first banks in the city. An early entrepreneur, he next purchased the old Whaling farm in 1865 and proceeded to have it surveyed into wide streets and ample building lots for a new residential section he called "Green Ridge". He was one of the organizers of the Scranton and Providence Passenger Railroad Company in 1866 which built a horse car line through Green Ridge to encourage new residents to build here. To further encourage new home builders, he erected in 1865 a grand Victorian residence for his family on a wide new street which was named Sanderson Avenue in his honor. His home still stands and is now the Green Ridge Nursing Home. He resided there until his death in 1886.

The area proved such a delightful location, that soon new residents were attracted and new homes were rapidly built in every quarter. Among early prominent Scranton citizens who located here were Francis Pauli, Elisha Phinney, J. A. Robertson, Charles D. Breck, Dr. J. R. Fordham, John L. Hull, J. G. Sanderson, J. R. Wint and many others.

The new area grew so rapidly that before long there was a need for churches and schools for the residents. The first church services were union ones held in the old D. & H. Depot on East Market Street. The Episcopalians were the first to organize a church which they did in 1868, building a frame chapel on Monsey

Avenue in 1871. The next to be organized was the Green Ridge Presbyterian Church founded in 1875. They built a stone octagonal Church at Green Ridge and Monsey Avenue in 1875 and worshipped there until 1893 when they built a much larger stone edifice at the corner of Green Ridge and Wyoming Avenue. The Presbyterians sold their first church to the Episcopalians who used it until they built the present beautiful Gothic stone "Church of the Good Shepherd" on North Washington Avenue in 1912. The third congregation to be established was the Asbury Methodist, organized in 1876; they met in a frame chapel on Delaware Street until they built their present large church which was dedicated in 1893. They were followed by the Primitive Methodists who organized in 1890 and built a church on East Market Street in 1883 which was enlarged in 1898 and 1930. The Green Ridge Baptist Church was founded in 1892 and worshipped in a frame church on Monsey Avenue until it was burned and replaced by the present stone Gothic church in 1932. St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church was founded in 1887 and worshipped many years in their parochial school until the present fine brick church was erected in 1951. Later churches to be constituted in the Green Ridge area include the Suburban now Providence Presbyterian in 1904, the Green Ridge Pentecostal Assembly of God in 1914, the Green Ridge Missionary Alliance Church, the Seventh Day Adventist Church and St. Clare's Roman Catholic Church in 1954.

The first public school was built about 1870 on the corner of Dickson Avenue and Electric Street. It was a two story brick building called the "Breaker" School and was used until Robert Morris No. 27 School was built in 1897. Longfellow No. 28 on Wyoming Avenue and Emerson School No. 34 on Albright Avenue were opened in 1891. Later Cooper School No. 39 was built on Boulevard Avenue. Now all Green Ridge Schools have been consolidated into No. 27 at Green Ridge corners. Green Ridge citizens early established a library and built a fine brick building at the corner of Green Ridge and Wyoming Avenue in 1908; this is now a branch of the Scranton Public Library.

The Green Ridge section was naturally all underlaid with the finest of anthracite coal as was the entire Lackawanna Valley. The first to open mines here was the Delaware and Hudson Railroad Company which extended its lines here and built the Von Storch Breaker in 1859 on the Green Ridge Flats. The same company later opened two other mines here and built the Manville Breaker on Glen Street and the Dickson Breaker on Mylert Avenue. These mines were operated for many years and gave employment to many of the areas men before the coal mines began to close in the 1950's.

The first trading center in Green Ridge was located at the Corners of Green Ridge Street and Dickson Avenue near the D. & H. Railroad Roundhouse and Station. Several stores and a hotel once did a flourishing business here. About 1900 the business center was transferred to Green Ridge corners where it still remains. Here the Green Ridge Bank opened in 1910, the Howard M. Snowden Funeral Home in 1907 and the Roosevelt Theatre in 1925.

The Green Ridge section was also formerly the location of a number of prosperous business and manufacturing firms among them: The Peck Lumber Co. and the D. & H. Railroad Car Shops along East Market Street; The Eureka Specialty Printing Co. on lower Electric Street; the Scranton Glass Co. which made bottles; Scranton Pump Works which manufactured mining pumps, the Green Ridge Iron Works and Scranton Forging Co., Spencer Heating Co. and Paragon Plaster Co. all located along Green Ridge Street and the great Scranton Lace Company factory which made lace curtains and tablecloths which were sent all over the world. Unfortunately most of these companies are no longer in business. The large stone Lackawanna County Jail built 1885-86 is also located in Green Ridge.

As the area grew, it was expanded with several residential developments among them the Richmond, Woodlawn and Arlington Heights additions. In more recent years Park Gardens, an apartment complex of 166 units was built by the Scranton Housing Authority in 1952. Many large and beautiful homes were built in Green Ridge which was the home of many of Scranton's most prominent citizens, among them were: former Mayors J. Benjamin Dimmick and Howard Snowden, Attorneys F. L. Hitchcock, E. B. Sturges, J. Gardner Sanderson; and Frank P. Benjamin; bankers William H. Peck and Michael Bosak, contractors Conroad Schroeder and James Sweeney, architect Edward H. Davis, publisher E. J. Lynett,

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CATLIN HOUSE

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coal operator Thomas E. Jones, and members of the Brooks, Hendricks, Hemelright Gilpin, Quackenbush and many other families. Still today Green Ridge is home for many of Scranton's doctors, lawyers and prominent businessmen.

Several well known nursing homes are located here as well. The Welsh Women's Home was located at 1646 Capouse Avenue for many years before it closed in 1970. The Craigs Boarding Home at 1760 N. Washington Avenue opened in 1974 and has 28 residents; the Ellen Memorial Nursing Home which was founded in 1962 by Mrs. Margaret Zabady has 35 patients and the Green Ridge Nursing Home which was opened in 1961 by Mrs. Helen McCrone now houses 65 senior citizens.

This brief historical survey of one of Scranton's finest residential sections is presented for the purpose of preserving some of its interesting history and with the hope that others will continue the story.

William P. Lewis

Executive Director

Lackawanna Historical Society