

Open:  
Tuesday - Friday  
10 - 4:30  
Saturday: 10 - 12

Closed:  
Sunday & Monday

Vol. I No. 1

# The LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Bulletin



CATLIN HOUSE  
Home of the Historical Society  
232 Monroe Ave., Scranton, Pa.

September - October 1966

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

To the Membership:

With this publication we enthusiastically inaugurate a new activity for the Society.

We hope you will find interesting the notes on programs, exciting new acquisitions, current and coming exhibitions, and noteworthy anniversaries. From time to time there will be special articles on historic subjects by experts, capsule sketches of our speakers, and descriptions of coming trips. In short, this will be a bi-monthly bulletin covering every phase of our activity.

Your President reserves the right to make occasional appearances, especially when something comes along too good to permit someone else to announce. And that includes my gratitude to Professor Bernard J. McGurl for assuming the responsibility of the Bulletin.

Most sincerely,

WILLIAM L. CONNELL, JR.

### CALENDAR

1966-67

ALL MEETINGS ARE FREE  
AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(Unless noted otherwise, the  
programs start at 8:00 p.m.)

Tuesday, September 20	"Early History of Scranton and Vicinity" Mr. Carl Bresser
Tuesday, October 18	"Terror in the Coal Fields" (The Story of the Molly Maguires) Prof. Bernard J. McGurl
Monday, November 28	"Mayor T.V. Powderly" Prof. Frank C. Brown
Tuesday, December 13	"Songs of 100 Years Ago" Vocal Soloists
Tuesday, February 28	"History of Local Drama Groups" Prof. George Winterstein
Monday, March 27	"Restoring Ironworks" Mr. Roland W. Robbins (Archeologist)
Tuesday, April 25	"Coal Boats to Tidewater" Mr. Manville B. Wakefield (Author)
Tuesday, May 23 6:30 p.m.	Annual Dinner "Local Monuments" Mr. Joseph Young (Architect)

### SPEAKERS FOR THE SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER MEETINGS

Mr. Carl Bresser, who will speak on the early history of Scranton and vicinity, on Tuesday, September 20, has made local history his avocation for almost half a century. His home contains many interesting artifacts which he personally obtained by combing through old, abandoned buildings, and through examining excavations. In addition to his archeological bent, Mr. Bresser is an assiduous recorder of data. He now has approximately 10,000 cross reference cards containing historical information.

Our October speaker, Mr. Bernard J. McGurl, is Assistant Professor of English and Director of Drama at the University of Scranton. His speech on the Molly Maguires will be based on extensive research which he has made into a topic which is fraught with contradiction and controversy.

### NEW MEMBERS

All organizations constantly strive to increase their membership; the Lackawanna Historical Society is no exception. Present members are urged to encourage others to join. Please spread the word that membership is open to the general public; this is not a closed corporation. Our executive secretary, Miss Dorothea Mattes, will be happy to supply you with membership applications.

## GRAVITY CARS

Visitors to the Catlin House will be interested in examining two recent additions to our collection of railroad artifacts. Now on display on the first floor are models of the five-ton coal cars which the Delaware and Hudson Company used on its gravity railroad. The models were built about thirty years ago by Mr. Canio Rusamano, 623 Center Street, Dunmore. The authenticity of Mr. Rusamano's work can be verified by comparing the models with the D. & H. official blueprint drawing, which is on display with the cars. We take this opportunity to compliment Mr. Rusamano on his clever craftsmanship, and to thank him for his gift of the models. As a result of his generosity, we are able to visualize an important aspect of a unique method of coal transportation.

## SPECIAL MEETING

The Lackawanna Historical Society will host the annual meeting of the Historical Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania on Saturday, October 15. This group, which is composed of the various historical societies in this part of the State, will begin its day-long sessions at 10:00 A.M. Members of the Lackawanna Historical Society are invited to attend the meeting. Luncheon reservations can be made by telephoning Miss Dorothea Mattes at 344-3841.

## MUSIC HATH CHARMS . . . . .

Standing near the main stairway on the first floor of the Catlin House is a piece of furniture that at first glance looks like an old-fashioned phonograph. When you lift the lid, however, you will discover that it is not a phonograph, but a king-size music box. This fascinating antique was built by the Regina Music Box Company of Rahway, New Jersey, around 1888, and is from the James Archbald home which once stood on

## MUSIC HATH CHARMS . . . . . (Continued)

Monroe Avenue and Ridge Row. It is in perfect working order and plays fifteen-inch perforated zinc discs. Among the musical selections on file are, "The Drinking Song," from Verdi's "La Traviata," "The Last Rose of Summer," "Morning Papers Waltz," by Strauss, and De-Koven's "O Promise Me."

The bell-like tones which doubtlessly regaled visitors to the Archbald home in the Gay Nineties, continue to bring pleasure to the ears of visitors to the Catlin House in the Jet Sixties.

## BUS TRIP

The bus trips which the Historical Society has sponsored to places of historical interest, have proved to be extremely popular. The next trip is tentatively scheduled for October 1, or October 8. As soon as plans are completed, members will be supplied with details relative to the exact date and destination of the trip.

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CATLIN HOUSE

232 MONROE AVENUE

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18510



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