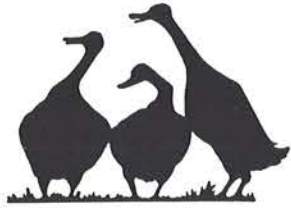


History is Forever

Give a GIFT
MEMBERSHIP to
someone you know
this
Holiday Season!



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Nov. 29, 1992 2 P.M. - The Battle of Wyoming

Slide lecture by Gerald Leeson

Dec. 13, 1992 2P.M. - Annual Holiday Program

Instrumental Performance by Maude Thomas, Betty Moore, and Connie Weiss.

November 14-22 has been proclaimed as
Pennsylvania Archeology Week.

THE LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
at the GEORGE H. CATLIN MEMORIAL
MONROE AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA 18510

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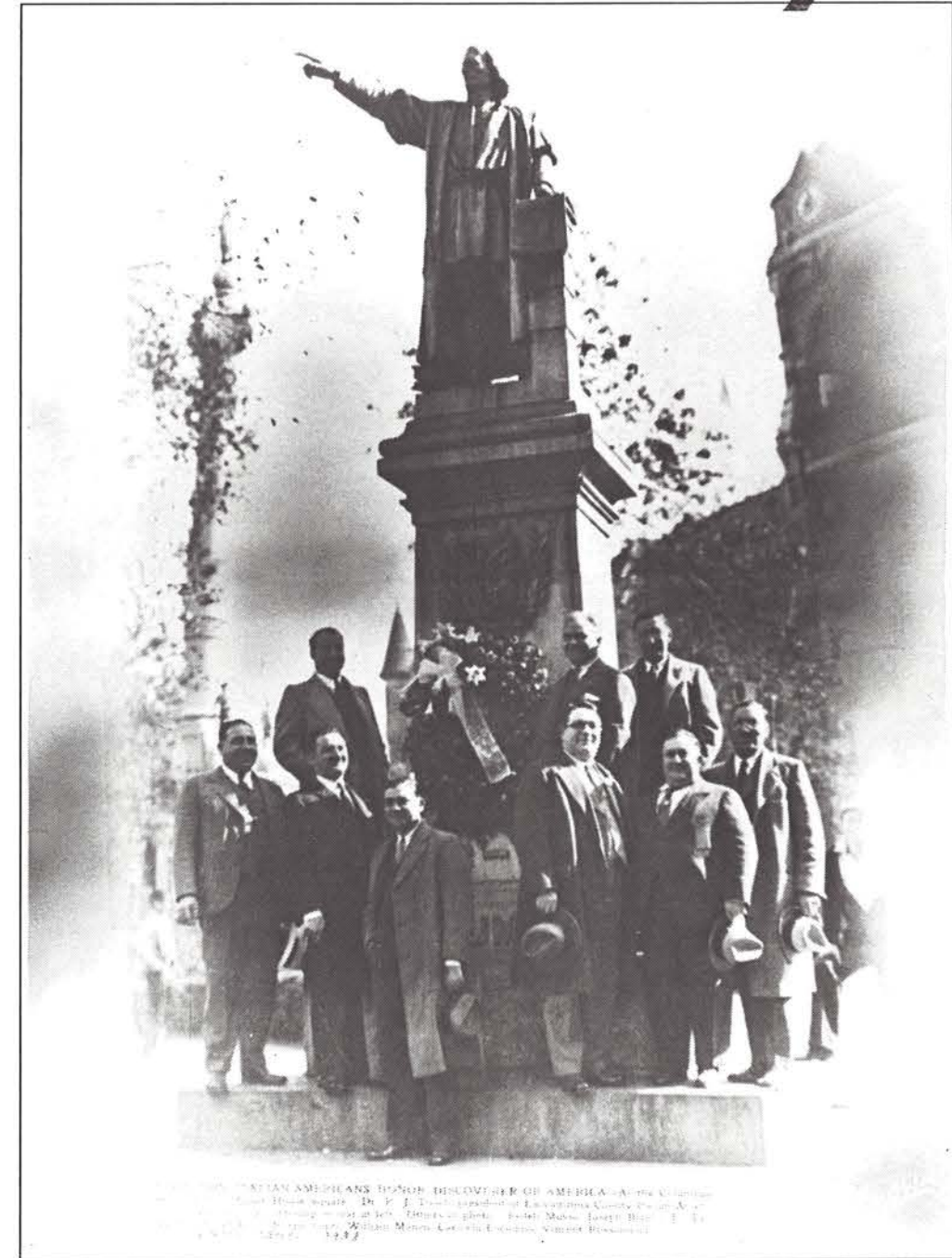
The LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL

Founded 1886

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Fall 1992



CHRISTIAN ANSCHUTZ, DISCOVERER OF AMERICA...
...at the...
...1932

1933 Columbus Day Celebration

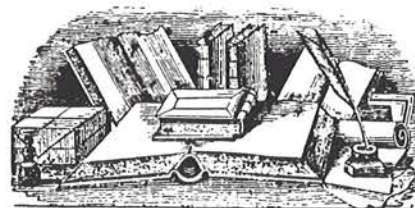
On October 12, 1933, a group of Scranton Italian-Americans, gathered at the Courthouse Square to honor the Discovery of America. The cover photo, donated by Joseph F. Cimini, Esq., shows these men presenting a floral wreath at the Columbus monument. Included in the photo are: Dr. R. J. Touch, Fedeli Musso, Joseph Bianca, Jr., Leo Terrery, G. Di Blasi, Joseph Lepri, William Manzo, Carmelo Cacioppo, Vincent Russoniello. The article below from the Scranton Times describes this Columbus Day opening ceremony and the other events planned for the celebration.

Italian-Americans Here Honor Memory Of Columbus With Special Ceremony

-From the Scranton Times, October 12, 1933.

Placing of floral wreaths at the monuments of Columbus and Washington on the courthouse square this morning by a committee of prominent Italian-Americans marked the first ceremony in local observance of Columbus Day today. Leo P. Terrery spoke at the Columbus monument and in a fine address extolled the man who discovered America 441 years ago today. Joseph Lepri, Jessup, was the speaker at the Washington monument.

This evening at 7 o'clock more than 300 Italian-Americans will attend a banquet in Hotel Casey. Dr. R. J. Touch, president of the Lackawanna Italian-American Society will preside. Joseph Lepri will act as toastmaster. The speakers will be John Daquino, who will deliver his address in English and Dr. Emil De Antonio, who will speak in Italian. An elaborate program of entertainment has been arranged. Following the dinner, dancing will be enjoyed.



IN MEMORIAM

Francis C. M. Bosak
1909 - 1992

Margaret Briggs
1898 - 1992



The Lackawanna Historical Society was saddened by the recent deaths of Margaret Briggs, Trustee Emeritus, and Francis Bosak, past Trustee of the Board.

Both dedicated members of the Society for many years, their presence, enthusiasm and generosity will be deeply missed.

Advanced Reminder

Within the next few weeks notices will be sent out to remind you that January 1, marks the beginning of a new membership year at the Lackawanna Historical Society. At that time, we ask that you continue your support of the Society by sending in your membership dues. However, if you know of an individual who is not a member perhaps you would like to encourage them to join at this time. Members joining this fall will be considered 1993 members thus making their dues payable on Jan. 1, 1994.

If you would like to give a membership as a gift please call the Society at 344-3841. It is through your kind support that the Society continues to exist. Thank you.

C A T A G O R I E S

Student	\$10	Contributing	\$50
Individual	\$20	Sustaining	\$100
Family	\$25	Organizational	\$150

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal, is published for the benefit of the Members of the Lackawanna Historical Society. It is produced by the staff. Any inquiries should be addressed to the Director of the Society.

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Administrative Assistant
Mary Ann Gavern
Museum Receptionist
Jack & Nancy Hiddlestone
Caretakers

GRANTS RECEIVED

The Lackawanna Historical Society recently received a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for General Operations in the amount of \$4,810. A \$2,000 grant was also awarded to the Society by the Lackawanna Regional Cultural Council for educational programming.

HISTORIC GARDEN PROJECT PROPOSED

Last April, the Society was approached by members of the Master Gardener Program of Lackawanna County and Penn State University, to donate their time in planning an historic grounds and garden renovation project for the Catlin House property.

Under the direction of Bill Pensick, the Master Gardener Program is an educational opportunity for individuals who desire further training in advanced gardening. To complete the coursework and receive the certification of "Master Gardener," individuals must donate 50 hours of volunteer service to a community garden project.

The project intent for the Catlin House is to treat the exterior space surrounding the house as historic space, planting species which would have been common at the turn of the century through the early 1900's, when the Catlin House was built. In addition, plants and trees would be marked and the grounds and gardens would be used for educational programming.

Master Gardeners who initiated the project were Wayne Lucas, a landscape architect, who has been working this summer on the landscape design; Len and Gerry Janus, herb farmers and natural food store proprietors who have been historically researching the property and local plantings; and Bill Pensick, Director of the Master Gardener Program of Lackawanna County.

Following the Janus's lecture last April on "Yesterday's Gardens," where they spoke about turn of the century gardening with respect to this project, they raised \$125 towards the project by donating and auctioning plants from their farm.

The Master Gardeners are currently at work inside on the project, designing and working on a plan for implementation in the Spring of 1993. The project has gained considerable enthusiasm among gardeners in the area and many individuals have joined in the project. If you are interested in a true hands on experience please contact the Society.

Raising Our Sites, Women's History In Pennsylvania

The Lackawanna Historical Society is one of fourteen historic sites and museums participating in a state wide Women's History Project initiated by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council to incorporate women's history into public educational programming. The Humanities Council was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to begin this project initiative.

The project evolved when historians and museum professionals advising the Humanities Council commented on the absence or lack of women's history at historical sites and museums. The Council agreed that for the public to gain an appreciation of the full range of American life, improvements must be made in the presentation of women's history.

The first phase of the project consisted of a day long conference in Harrisburg where historic sites and museum staff, board members, and local scholars met to discuss the project. Attending the conference with the Executive Director from the Lackawanna Historical Society were Susan Poulson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History at the University of Scranton, and Sharon Cardamone, LHS volunteer coordinator for Women's Oral History Project.

Following the conference, project consultants were assigned to each of the participating sites to review collections and resources, and make recommendations for future programming.

The fourteen participating sites were chosen for the pilot project based on their interest in the topic, expertise, and diverse geographical locations and subject matter. The sites reach a combined audience of over 400,000 adults each year.

The Historical Society met this summer with Humanities Council project consultant Thomas Dublin, Ph.D., from the State University of New York at Binghamton to review the Society's collections.

Dr. Dublin made recommendations to assist the Society in developing a work plan for the next three years. This work plan will specify how we will link this project to our overall mission and programmatic agenda. It will also specify the ways in which we will strengthen exhibits, programming, and publications with regard to the Women's History Project.

With Dr. Dublin's recommendation, the Society needs to continue work which began in 1991 on a Women's Oral History Project. To this date, we have approximately 65 interviews with women throughout the area. That is close to 100 hours of very interesting, sometimes humorous, and occasionally emotional recordings. Before we can continue further on the project we must transcribe these tapes. If you are interested in giving several hours a week to this project we would greatly appreciate it and would be able to move on to the next phase of the project. Please call the Society.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Gary Archibald	Frank Culkin	Karen Karboski	Carol Norton
Jaqueline L. Bachar	Patricia Dunleavy	Joan Kerr-Roba	Michael Novrocki
Leda Baldassari	Ethel Epaul	Paul G. Lenakos	Dr. & Mrs. James O'Conner
Dr. & Mrs. George Banks	Hank Evanish	William McCaffery	Mrs. William Oliver
Richard Beccalloni	Edward Forget	Mary Kay Ritter Maldonato	Patricia Patterson
Mr. & Mrs. G. M. Beh	Douglas Forrer	Josephine Mishuk	Miss Cecilia Philbin
Philip Bergan	Heidi Gambo	Greg Moran	Maria Montoro Quinn
Patricia Donohoe Boniewicz	Mr. & Mrs. T. J. Gaughan	Mrs. Barbara Morris	Ralph W. Raisbeck
William E. Boniewicz	Mr. & Mrs. James Gavern	Mary Claire Morris	Mr. & Mrs. David Ross
Jane Bouselli	Robert Harris	Frank Mroczka Esq.	James Ruane
John Bravo	Louise Hoban	Att. Joseph Murphy	James A. Scanlon
Norman Carter	V. Jean Johnson	James B. Nicholas	William Shaw
Edward Casey	Mrs. Helen Jones	James Noone	Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Stewart
Roger D. Catlin	James D. Jordan Esq.	Donald Northup	Thomas Wells

Memorial Donations Received

In Memory of Francis C. M. Bosak by:

Winifred W. Bell	Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Miller
Mary Bosak	Miss Ethel Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Bosak	Roy D. & Vee A Pauli
Mrs. Althea Brundage	Regina B. Petrauskas
Joseph Cimini, Esq. & Family	Kate & Leonard Peyser
Lois & Jane Dakin	Dr. & Mrs. Oscar Piczon
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Dietzer	Rosalie Prizzi
Mr. & Mrs. David Drapeau	Dr. & Mrs. Sidney Propper
Mabel R. Eynon	Miss Marie Schiever Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Byrne Falke	Shao Wong
Donald J. Fendrick, Esq.	Edna Boyce
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Fusaro	Megan Robertson
Florence Gillespie	c/o Smith Barney Research
Mr. & Mrs. John Hiddlestone	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rowland & Fam.
David & Siegrun Kane	Capt. & Mrs. Randall L. Tofi

In Memory of David Etter by:

Mr. & Mrs. John Hiddlestone
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Slavich

In Memory of Margaret Briggs by:

Miss Florence Gillespie
Mrs. John Mears
Miss Marie Schriever Smith

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Moffat:

Mrs. James Compton

In Memory of Marion Isaacs by:

Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Monick

Minooka Celebrates 200 Years

This year, Scranton's Minooka section celebrates its bicentennial of existence. Incorporated in 1792 as Lackawanna Township, Minooka extended as far as Tunkhannock Township and included such places as Old Forge, Taylor and Moosic, which are separate

communities today. The name of Minooka has never clearly been traced to its origin, but the most popular explanation is that Minooka is an Indian name. According to tradition, an English Captain named Carr, who owned and operated a mine in the vicinity of Minooka had

a niece who was friendly with an Indian maiden named Minooka. Captain Carr's niece convinced him and the early settlers to name the community after her friend. The name itself is probably a corruption of the Indian words Mino (good) and aki (earth). Other names that were

once used for Minooka are Needham's Patch, Davis' Patch, Coary Hollow, and Carr's Patch.



A Season of Superstition: Autumnal Traditions & Customs Revealed

Halloween is the one day of the year when children are expected to act mischievously. Today it is common tradition for people to dress in costume and go from door to door asking for treats. Many people have Halloween parties with festive games and stories around a bonfire. Sometimes they play devilish pranks on one another which create an atmosphere of fright as there is much focus on witches and goblins. Houses are decorated with black cats, ghosts and skeletons and there is a strong emphasis placed on superstitions. These traditions can be traced to several different influences from the past including Roman Mythology, Druidic beliefs, and early Irish customs.

November 1 was the date that the Romans celebrated the Feast of Pomona. This feast honored the goddess of fruits and seeds. The celebration marked the time when the summer storage could be opened for use in the winter. It was appropriate then to use nuts and apples. This focus on apples and nuts included some interesting charms and superstitions which usually took place on the night before the feast. Today, it is still customary to bob for apples at a Halloween party but during the feast of Pomona, apples and nuts were often used as a way to predict the future. For example, a girl who wanted to choose between suitors could use three nuts placed in a line on a grate over a fire. These nuts would symbolize the girl and her two suitors. If one of the nuts representing a suitor popped up and exploded or

burned out quickly, the girl would know that his love would not last! If one of the nuts burned quietly, then the girl could be assured that he is the one to marry!

The Druids also celebrated on the first of November with a great Autumn Festival. They believed that on the eve of this festival Saman, the Lord of the Dead, called together all the wicked souls that had died within the last year to condemn them to occupy the bodies of animals. The Druids thought that if a priest would give gifts and perform incantations, then Saman might be swayed to lessen his sentences. Many of the Druids' celebrations during this time

of year were marked by the lighting of bonfires, a custom that still exists today in many rural areas. Since the Druids placed great attention on death during this time of year, they often practiced a death prediction ritual at the bonfire. Everyone present at the fire would throw white stones into the fire. If anyone could not find their stone on the following day, then it was a sure sign that he would die within the year. This occupation with death created a great fear among the superstitious and it was not uncommon for a person's enemy to steal a stone to increase the fear and superstitions.

Connections can be found between these early Roman and Druidic practices and the traditions followed in Ireland. October 31 in Ireland is celebrated as Oidhche

Shamhna or the Vigil of Saman. On this night peasants assemble with sticks and clubs and go from house to house collecting money and food in preparation for the feast the following day. As they go, they repeat verses in honor of the solemnity, demanding people to prepare for the festival in honor of St. Colum and desiring them to lay aside the fatted calf and bring forth the black sheep. In Ireland, the first day of November is Lamasool, sometimes pronounced Lamswool. On Lamasool, the Irish pay tribute to the angel presiding over fruits, seeds, and nuts. They celebrate with a special feast which includes the drink, lamswool and a dish called callcannon.



Perhaps you may want to try out some traditional games or test out some old charms. Here are some suggestions.

Games :

1. *Snap-dragon.* Put some raisins in a broad shallow basin, pour brandy over this and light. Each person is then invited to try to snatch a "brand from the burning" or the raisin. This game is more effective if played with the lights out. This game was often used as a judge of personality. If someone refused to try, then that was a sign of timidity. If anyone tried but failed, it meant that while that person might be timid, he was persevering. A rash person is said to be one who would fly right in and pull out a plum, regardless of the flames. Someone who will get the prize but is likely to get burned in the process is viewed as cautious.

Halloween Charms:

1. *Roast nuts in a fire, name each one for a person present. The future is told through the behavior of the nuts. If a nut burns quietly, the person will have an even and uneventful life. A nut that pops right out of the fire signifies travel for the future. If a nut stays in the grate but explodes, the person will find excitement at home. A nut that burns up quickly means that the owner will not get his wish.*

2. *An apple can be used by a girl who must choose between suitors if she saves two seeds from an apple that she eats. She should name each seed for one of her suitors and stick one to each eyelid. The one that stays on her face the longest is the man who is best to marry.*

Recipes:

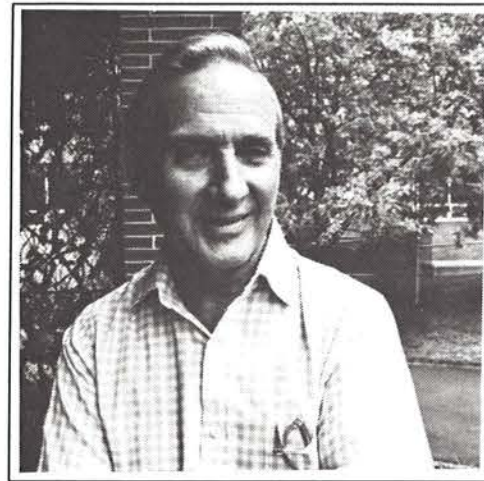
1. *Lamswool - Bruised roasted apples mixed with ale, sometimes milk.*
2. *Callcannon - mashed potatoes, parsnips, and chopped onions. Sometimes different items are added to predict the future. For example, if you found a ring in your dish, you would be married within the year!*

Highlights of Summer

On May 29, 1992, the Lackawanna Historical Society hosted its annual dinner at the historic Lackawanna Station Hotel. Following the cocktail hour, held in the beautifully restored lobby of the hotel, the dinner and program were held in the ballroom.

The highlight of the evening was a presentation by Jack Hiddlestone on post card collecting. Mr. Hiddlestone shared with us postcard views of every town, borough, and city in the County and more from his personal collection. His program was thoroughly enjoyed and well received by all. Our very special thanks to Jack Hiddlestone.

To the staff, Mary Ann Moran and Mary Ann Gavern, as well as all of the volunteers who worked so hard to pull things together, many thanks for a job well done!!



Jack Hiddlestone



Group of Board of Trustees present at 1992 Annual Dinner. Seated l. to r. L. Collins, M. Calemmo, Exec. Director, B. Mears, K. Keating, M. C. Sheils. Standing l. to r. C. Kumpas, J. Cimini, W. Henkelman, E. Miller, N. Brauer, M. McNulty, M. Smith



In July, member Frank Mrozcka displayed his Civil War collection in conjunction with the Hedgeville Blues/Stonewall Brigade reenactment group which camped out all day at the Catlin House. Above, l. to r. Frank Mrozcka with members of the reenactment group, Conrad Kowalick, John Thomas, and Chuck Mercer. At right, reenactors perform nineteenth century songs. Dan Kowanick and Roger Redmond at piano.

..... Volunteer Corner

Thank you to summer volunteers, Heidi Gambo and Bill Kenny both from Dunmore, Pennsylvania, for the work that they completed in these past few months. Heidi joined us in June and helped in organizing storage areas and library materials. Bill assisted the staff in many projects including a cross reference of local histories, photograph inventory, and map repair and re-organizing. Their help was greatly appreciated and we wish them the best of luck as they continue their col-

lege studies this fall. The Historical Society welcomes two new student volunteers from the University of Scranton, Douglas Forrer and Laura White. Douglas, a freshman Business major with a strong interest in history, has experience with historical societies as he volunteered at his hometown historical society on Long Island, N.Y. He has been busy helping us work on an inventory of the third floor storage area.

Laura is a sophomore English major who has been assisting us by

researching the many genealogy requests that we get each week. She has also started to compile an index of recent births and death announcements from the current newspapers. Special thanks to volunteers that helped out at this year's Lackawanna Arts Festival. Richard Stanislaus, Heidi Gambo, Jeth Mill and Judith Donaldson who donated their time staffing the Lackawanna Historical Society's booth at the festival.

Attention:
The Lackawanna Historical Society needs volunteers. If you are interested in helping us catalog photographs, giving tours, or conducting genealogical research, then contact us for details. These are just a few of the areas where we can use your assistance. Please call or stop by to find out how you can help.

thank you.



A Classic Figure for a Woman

In the 1892 Scranton Republican Almanac the classic figure for a woman is described as follows:

To meet the requirements of a classic figure a lady should be 5 feet 4 3/4 inches tall, 32 inches bust measure, 24 inches waist, 9 inches from arm-pit to waist, long arms and neck. A queenly woman, however, should be 5 feet 5 inches tall, 31 inches about the bust, 26 1/2 about the waist, 35 over the hips, 11 1/2 inches around the ball of the arm, and 6 1/2 inches around the wrist. Her hands and feet should not be too small.

VOLUNTEER FOCUS

Judy Donaldson, a school teacher for many years in the Scranton school system, has been a devoted volunteer at the Catlin House since July of 1991. Within the past year she has donated close to 300 hours of her time to the Historical Society. Working several hours each week, Judy has diligently compiled an inventory of the Historical Society's scrap book collection. She has also been responsible in helping with subject tracings which are necessary tools in a research library.

Judy's varied talents and interests led her to assist in many special events of the Historical Society. She helped with last year's Holiday open house, she manned the LHS booth at the Lackawanna Arts festival, and also assisted with tours during the University of Scranton's Alumni Weekend. Most re-



cently, Judy was an instrumental member of the planning committee for the Ice Cream Social in August.

It is with regret that the Society says good-bye to Judy as she takes on new responsibilities at this time. We thank her for the many reliable hours that she dedicated to the Society.

50 YEARS at the CATLIN HOUSE

Eighty years ago, in 1912, Architect Edward Langley, completed the residence at 232 Monroe Avenue for prominent financier George Henry Catlin and wife Helen.

The home of George and Helen was said to be one of the finest built in the city of Scranton. At approximately \$50,000, the Tudor style home boasted many modern amenities including four full bathrooms, two half baths, electricity, and a heating and cooling system.

Mr. Catlin possessed a great interest in history and was one of the first life members when the Society was first organized as the Lackawanna Institute of History and Science in 1886. Throughout his lifetime in Scranton, he often made donations of many different items to the Society. The most generous gift given to the Lackawanna Historical Society was that of the Catlin residence at 232 Monroe Avenue. When Mr. Catlin died in 1935, he bequeathed his home and contents to the Society. Following Mrs. Catlin's death in 1942, the new headquarters of the Society became the Catlin House.

Prior to 1942 when the Society took possession of the building, the organization was operating from the Everhart Museum. At various times before that, operations and collections were in places such as the Scranton Public Library, Greenridge Branch Library and County Courthouse.

For the past 50 years it has been a wonderful home for the Lackawanna Historical Society. We look positively to the future and many more years at this location.

In photo at right, do you remember any of these people?



Friends gather this summer for an Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social with croquet on the lawn and musical entertainment on the porch in celebration of the 50th year the Society has been at the Catlin House.



First meeting of the Board of Trustees in June, 1942 at Society's new headquarters The Catlin House.

ABOUT COLLECTIONS...

Throughout the year we receive donations of many different forms which we in turn, choose to add to our permanent collection. In this issue, we would like to tell you about some of our new acquisitions.



Rose Fiorani Collection

This summer, the Historical Society received a significant collection of photographs, newspaper clippings, certificates and awards from Mrs. Rosemary Gallagher, daughter of the late Rose Fiorani.

Mrs. Fiorani and her husband Angelo founded the Italian Radio Station WPTS in 1953. As one of the first woman broadcasters in the early history of radio, Mrs. Fiorani made significant contributions to this area.

The pieces in this collection focus on Mrs. Fiorani's involvement in a number of different organizations during her life, including the Scranton Philharmonic, Mother Cabrini Shrine Committee, and the Scranton Sewer Authority. Many photos focus on her early career at WPTS.

The Balsh Institute for Ethnic Studies in Philadelphia also has a large Fiorani Collection. The photo to the left shows Rose and Angelo Fiorani at the station.

An interesting artifact added to the collection last January was a *harness making bench* originally belonging to Charles Ginader of West Scranton. The bench was donated by Hayden Jenkins, a nephew of Mr. Ginaders through marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins lived at one time over Ginader's hardware store at 240 North Main Ave.

Charles Ginader began his career as a harness maker at Housers's hardware store on North Main Avenue before he began his own hardware business. The bench donated to us was used for many years by Charles Ginader when he was a harness maker.

Through the years the bench was stored at the Jenkins' home in Glennburn before coming to the Catlin House. This artifact is currently on display as part of our third floor exhibit.



The Historical Society was recently visited by Mr. Charles Henwood, grandson of R. J. Bauer who was the founder and conductor of Bauer's Band. The photo above in addition to seven others of the band was donated in August by Mr. Henwood. Bauer, a noted musician at the time, originally formed the band in 1877. The band gained an immediate following throughout the region and often played at many of the area's major events and parades. Bauer's Band was considered the official band for the city of Scranton. R.J. Bauer led the band as well as an orchestra for forty-two years until his death in 1919.