

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

Closed:  
 Sunday & Monday

VOL. 2, NO. 1

# The LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Bulletin

September - October 1967



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

### OCTOBER PROGRAM.....

The first meeting of the 1967-68 series of the Lackawanna Historical Society will take place on Monday evening, October 23. The principal speaker will be Dr. John L. Earl, associate professor of history at the University of Scranton, who will discuss his travels through the Soviet Union. In company with a number of other American historians, Dr. Earl toured eight of the fifteen republics of the Soviet Union from July 5 to August 17, 1967 and was able to see many aspects of the Russian continent which are not open for the inspection of the average tourist. The purpose of the tour, which was arranged through the Office of Academic Liaison of Treasure Tours International, Montreal, Canada, with the assistance of the historical societies of several republics of the Soviet Union, was to advance the knowledge of Russia by extensive overland travel into historically significant areas. The tour included a series of fireside discussions with regional Soviet historians in many cities and towns of Soviet Europe and Asia.

Dr. Earl, a native of Philadelphia, has been a member of the University of Scranton faculty since 1964. While an instructor with the United States Peace Corps, he served on the teaching staffs of several South American universities. Dr. Earl resides at 305 Brighton Drive, Clarks Green, with his wife, Pauline, and their three children.

CALENDAR	
1967 - 1968	
ALL MEETINGS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC	
Monday October 23 8:15 p.m.	"Russia: Summer of 1967"  Dr. John L. Earl
Wednesday November 29 8:15 p.m.	"The Roaring Twenties Through the Eyes of F. Scott Fitzgerald" Prof. Matthew R. O'Rourke
Monday December 18 8:15 p.m.	"Musical Comedy Through the Years"  Vocal Soloists
Wednesday February 28 8:15 p.m.	"Ukulele Ramblings"  Mr. Anthony Kovaleski
Wednesday March 27 8:15 p.m.	<i>Mark Twain's America</i> Film  (To be selected)
Thursday April 25 8:15 p.m.	"Passport to Adventure" Mr. Philip Geary (Internationally-known lecturer)
Monday May 27 6:30 p.m.	<i>Dr Earl</i> Annual Dinner "Scranton in Photographs" Mr. Robert Mattes

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES.....

Mr. William L. Connell, Jr., president of the Lackawanna Historical Society, has announced that the Board of Trustees will meet at 4:00 p.m., on the following dates:

October 25  
 December 20  
 February 21  
 April 17  
 June ~~19~~ 26

Committee chairmen appointments for the 1967-68 terms are:

Budget and Finance: Rev. William P. Lewis  
 Building and Maintenance: Mr. Daniel W. Williams  
 House and Reception: Miss Margaret Briggs  
 Membership: Mrs. T. Archer Morgan  
 Exhibits: Mr. James Hines  
 Bulletin: Mr. Bernard J. McGurl  
 Publicity: Mr. Robert Mattes  
 Program: Mr. Bernard J. McGurl  
 Arts Council Delegate: Miss Dorothea Mattes.  
 (Alternates: Mr. Connell, Mr. McGurl)

### ARTS COUNCIL MEETING.....

On August 30, a meeting of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts was held at the Waverly Club. Part of the activities included a tour of the Everhart Museum and the Catlin House, conducted by Mrs. Bernard Shair, president of the Advisory Board of the Museum Association. The nineteen-member State Council group includes Mr. William L. Connell, Jr., and Mrs. Andrew J. Sordoni of Wilkes-Barre.



## HOUSE NOTES.....

A room on the second floor of Catlin House which had not previously been available for exhibits will now be added to those which are presently used for the display of historical items. The addition of this room will make possible the exhibit of our ever-growing collection of costumes.

The Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the gift of a colonial settee from the Daughters of the American Republic. The settee, which may be seen in the first floor hallway, was recently reupholstered in rose-colored material.

The Building Committee has arranged to have the exterior of Catlin House painted. It is expected that this project will be completed before the end of September.

New shelving has been constructed in the basement to hold the heavy, bound volumes of The Scranton Times. These volumes, which up to the present time had to be kept on the floor, cover the period from 1917 to 1938, and are of inestimable value to researchers, as are the volumes of the Scranton Tribune. The Tribune volumes, which cover the period from the Civil War to 1914, are shelved on the third floor.

## INTERESTING MONUMENT.....

Parades on Memorial Day are very commonplace throughout America, but the parade that took place in Scranton on May 30, 1924, was unique. Thousands of anthracite coal miners marched in that parade, and they represented every mine union local in the entire hard coal district. The miners marched to the 200 block of Adams Avenue to the dedication, on Courthouse Square, of the monument erected in honor of John Mitchell,

who had worked so tirelessly for the cause of labor during his tenure as president of the United Mine Workers of America. Although he was not a native of this area, Mr. Mitchell spent a lot of time in Scranton, especially during the strikes of 1900 and 1902. On one occasion he expressed the desire to be buried in Scranton, and when he died in 1919 in Mt. Vernon, N. Y., his body was taken to Scranton and it now lies in the Cathedral Cemetery in West Scranton.

The mine workers revered the memory of the man who had done so much for them and in a region-wide campaign they collected \$75,000 to pay for the monument which now stands in Scranton, perhaps the only monument in America which honors a labor leader. It was designed by Peter B. Sheridan, a Hazleton architect who had worked as a slate picker in his youth. The sculptor was Charles Keck of New York City. Made of Vermont marble, the monument weighs 180 tons. A life-size statue of Mr. Mitchell occupies the center niche. A semi-circular bench runs on both sides of the center section. The monument also contains two interesting bas-reliefs; one, in the niche, shows miners at work; the other, on the rear of the center section, shows a miner at home with his family. Quotations from Mr. Mitchell's speeches are carved in the two sides of the center section.

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