

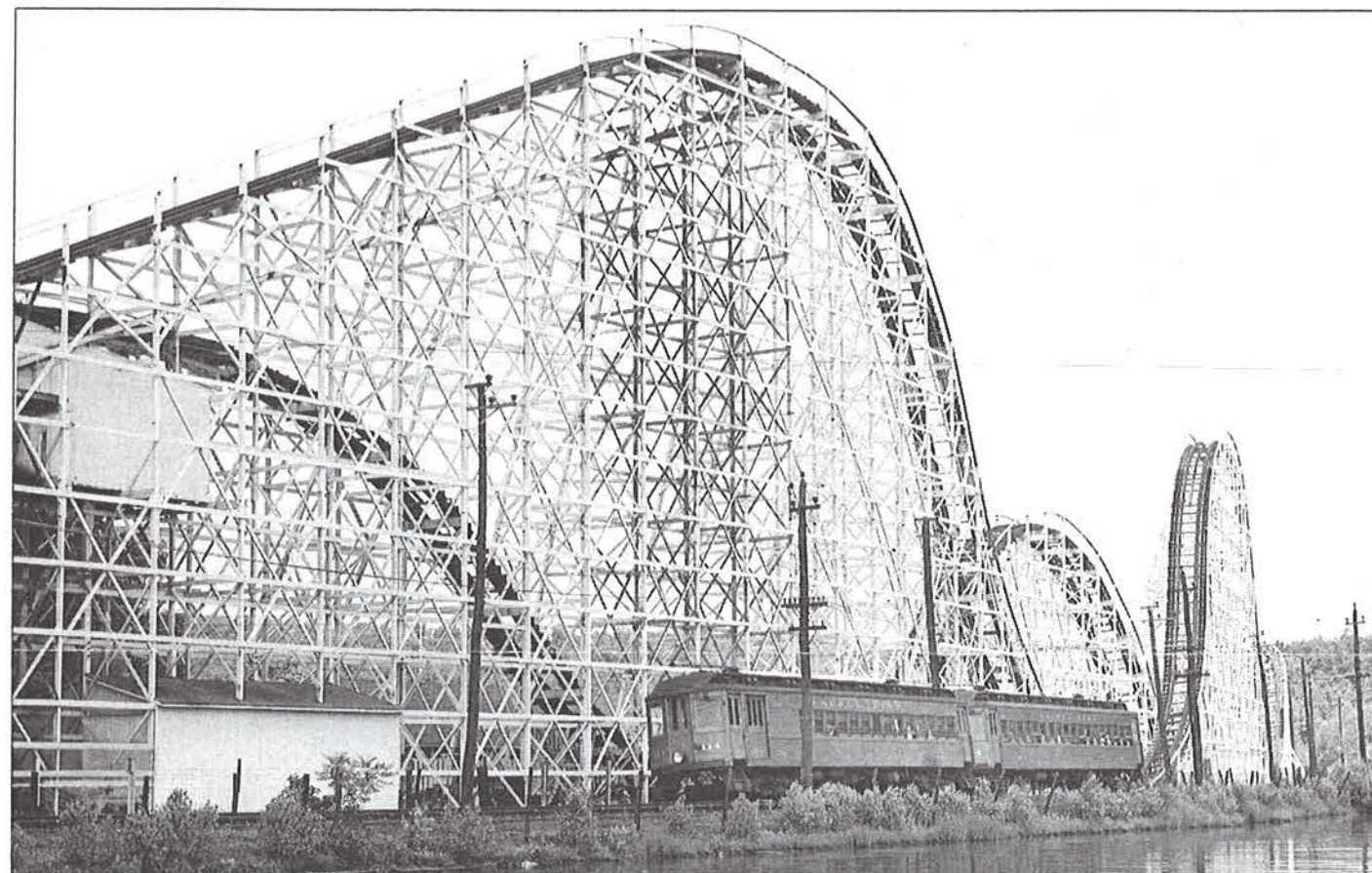
PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- OCT. 11 Annual Dinner**
Memories of Rocky Glen by Ed Kerber II of WWDLWICK radio
Lackawanna County Visitors Center 7 p.m.
Reservations: \$30
- 13 What's It Worth Arts and Antiques Appraisal Show**
Scranton High School 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Entrance Fee: \$4
- 24 Century Club Open House**
4 p.m. (call 342-0204 for additional information)
- NOV. 4 Members-Only Tour of the Fuller Estate Trophy House**
Catlin House 2 p.m.
Registration Fee: \$10
- 18 Private Railroad Cars of the Anthracite Region**
lecture by Alan Sweeney
Catlin House 2 p.m.

Other exciting events this Fall are the "Welcome Home Big Band Dinner Dance" with the Russ Morgan Orchestra on Sunday, Sept. 30th (call 655-4909 for information) and the Anthracite Heritage Museum's "Are You A Daughter of Molly Maguire?" on Oct. 26th & 27th, and Nov. 2nd & 3rd (call 963-4804 for information).

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
232 MONROE AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA 18510

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
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SCRANTON, PA



Million Dollar Roller Coaster at Rocky Glen

PHOTO BY ED MILLER

View of Rocky Glen Park in Moosic on Friday, July 4, 1947

Annual Dinner scheduled for October 11th

Do you remember the *Million Dollar Roller Coaster*, *The Spirit fence*,
Shootouts at Ghost Town or *Mighty Lightning*?

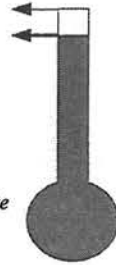
If you do, you are among the thousands of area residents who enjoyed a day at Rocky Glen with your family and friends. During this year's Historical Society Annual Dinner the smells of cotton candy and sounds of a Wurlitzer Organ will return to the area (if only for a brief time).

Historical Society member Edward C. Kerber II will present "Memories of Rocky Glen" - the History of the Rocky Glen Amusement Park from its founding in the early 1900's to today.

You are invited to share your photographs and stories with Ed by calling him at WWDL/WICK radio at 344-1221 or at his home at 587-4932.

And make sure you join us for the annual dinner on October 11, 2001 at the Lackawanna County Visitor's Center. Invitations are in the mail!

\$300,000
\$280,000



campaign update

We're Raising the Roof Update

The end of our capital campaign is in sight! To date we have raised \$280,000 of our \$300,000 goal! We are just \$4,699 short of \$30,000 membership goal so keep your donations coming! Your generous support is greatly appreciated.

Work on the roof began on August 29, 2001!

Please note that the September program on Stickley Furniture has been postponed until Spring due to ongoing construction at the Catlin House.

Memorials & Honors

In Memory of William Varner
From Marie Smith

In Memory of Harold Joseph
From Leola Collins

In Memory of Mary Wolever
From Leola Collins

In Honor of Ann Flanagan
From Marie Smith

In Honor of Mrs. Willard Allen
From Leola Collins

Memorial and Honor Contributions can be made to the Lackawanna Historical Society Memorial Fund.

About Membership...

The Lackawanna Historical Society currently has 601 members. If you know anyone who is interested in the Society, please invite them to join. Membership privileges include unlimited access to the Society library, 10% discount in our bookstore, advance notice and invitations to all Society activities, special members-only programs and the quarterly newsletter.

Attached is a membership form you can use to renew your membership or give to a friend or neighbor who is interested in joining. Please return it to the Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10	NAME _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$22	
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$30	ADDRESS _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$75	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$150	
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Corporate	\$250	TELEPHONE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Corporate	\$500	

The Lackawanna Historical Society 2001-02

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The Lackawanna Historical Society is a 501(C) (3) non-profit organization which is dedicated to keeping vital the history of Lackawanna County. It is supported in part by the Catlin Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and membership dues.

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal is published by the Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510 Tel. (570) 344-3841.

Members of the Society receive this publication. Membership contributions are \$22 and up for individuals, \$30 for Families, and \$125 for organizations. Special Silver and Gold Corporate memberships are available.

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal is printed in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Entire contents copyrighted © 2001 by the Lackawanna Historical Society. Questions or comments can be addressed in writing directly to the Society.

Happenings at the Catlin House

...EVENTS - PROJECTS - NEW MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS...

What's It Worth? Scheduled for October

On October 13th, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Society and Scranton Tomorrow will co-sponsor the Arts and Antiques Appraisal Show, *What's It Worth?* at the new Scranton High School off Providence Road. As members may recall, this is the third year for this event which originated as part of Heritage Week. Due to scheduling conflicts, Heritage Week will not take place this year but the Society and Scranton Tomorrow agreed to continue the appraisal show. So be sure to mark your calendar and bring your treasures, heirlooms, and mysteries to the show on October 11th to learn *What its Worth!* Remember there is a limit of two items per person and an entrance fee of \$4.

Projects Continue at the Catlin House

The Society staff and volunteers have had a very busy summer giving tours, conducting research and organizing the many collections at the Catlin House. Thanks to assistance from summer volunteers, Sudakshina Chattopadhyay (Sue), Dorothy Rossi, Sandra Ludwig, and Jackie Harris work has continued on two exciting projects. Sue, Dorothy, and Sandra assisted with the Library Project by labeling newly catalogued books and updating shelving. The Library Project is near completion and now LHS titles can be searched on the internet using the Scranton Public Library's web site: www.albright.org. Special thanks to Donna Adler and the staff at the Scranton Public Library for their expertise and fine work on this project.

Sue and Jackie continued the Photo Digitization Project scanning over 100 images and updating the photo database. With assistance from Mary Eldridge, the scanned images will be combined with the database to create a computerized catalogue and visual search of the LHS photo collection.

This summer, the Society staff has also continued its Educational Garden Project made possible through the Northeast Pennsylvania Urban Forestry Program funded by the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area, supported by PA DPCR Bureau of Forestry and directed by the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania. Additions have been made to the gardens and by October, botanical markers will identify all plantings on the site.

New Members



Students

James King Scranton
 Daniel King Scranton

Individuals

Beverly Dormagen Simi Valley, CA
 Ellen Lodwick Silver Spring, MD
 Linda Malinoski Dunmore
 Peter Miller Archbald

Family

James J. Powell, III Esq. Scranton

Reminder:

Membership renewals were due in February. To date 480 members have renewed... Have you??!!

Volunteer Corner

Meet Sue, a new LHS volunteer:

My name is Sudakshina Chattopadhyay. I am a sixth grader at the Abington Heights Middle School. At this point of time in my life I am currently involved in swimming, karate, piano, and violin. I had started all this when I was six. However, there is one thing that I have not mentioned yet, but you probably assumed. I am a volunteer here with the Lackawanna Historical Society. Now that it is the summer time I come every Wednesday to help from 10:30 am - 2:30 pm. There is always something fun and exciting to do here! Until now, I never really understood how important history was to our society. You will always feel a warm homey feeling at the Catlin House. I do hope that you have enjoyed reading this little selection. *Who knows, maybe I'll see you here one day!*

The Society also welcomes new volunteers Dorothy Rossi, a retired librarian from Peckville, Sandra Ludwig, a writer for the *Times Leader*, and local high school student Jackie Harris to the Catlin House.

Thanks also to Society volunteers Betty Nebesky and Helen Obidinski for their help with mailings.

Scranton's Century Club Marks 90th Anniversary

The Century Club of Scranton will mark its ninetieth anniversary on October 26th with a dinner celebration. The club, which was founded in 1911, traces its beginnings to the Ladies' Reading Club of 1886, the Women's Club of 1909, and the Tuesday Art Club and the City Improvement Association, both of 1911. These groups merged to form the Century Club and focused on a mission to promote the cultural, educational, civic, and charitable needs of the women of the Scranton area.

Through an endowment by William W. Scranton in 1913, the group established their home at 612 Jefferson Avenue, then the Merrill property. Within the year, the Merrill property was razed and NY architects Blackwood and Nelson constructed the present Colonial Revival-style Century Club headquarters.

The first floor includes a large foyer, club office, a reception room, and an auditorium. Meetings are generally held in one of two meeting rooms on the second floor where there is also a



sunroom, woman's lounge, and large kitchen facility. The third floor is used primarily for custodial space. Many well known guests have appeared at the Century Club including Carl Sandburg, Robert Frost and Hal Holbrook.

To learn more about the Century Club, members of the Lackawanna Historical Society are invited to an Open House at the Club headquarters on October 24.



Annual Windsor Chair Raffle

Don't forget to send in your raffle ticket returns for the handmade Duckloe Windsor Chair. This beautiful addition to any home is on display now at the Catlin House. Don't hesitate to stop by to see it and to purchase extra tickets to support Roof

Restoration Project. The winning ticket will be pulled at this year's Annual Open House scheduled for December 7th, at 7 p.m.

The Society will also host its annual Members-Only Holiday Gathering on Thursday, December 6th, at 7 p.m. Be sure to save the date and plan to join us for this favorite festive time at the Catlin House.



In addition * . . .

BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS DAY

Buy a ticket from the Lackawanna Historical Society for \$5.00 and you can shop at Boscov's all day on Tuesday, October 16th with a 20% discount on purchases (restrictions listed on the ticket) and free refreshments. Ticket Holders are eligible for door prizes, including shopping sprees and merchandise items. The Historical Society keeps the ticket money.

Stop in the LHS Office, or send a check to buy tickets for friends and neighbors. The Lackawanna Historical Society thanks you!

* *In addition* is a fitfully recurring feature with information on additional fund raising opportunities.

The Story of Rocky Glen

... where good times were had by all

The original conception of Rocky Glen Park is attributed to Arthur Frothingham (see page 4), who purchased the land in Moosic for \$15 from a Philadelphia tax sale.

Although, the exact year of organization is not known and is sometimes estimated to be the early 1900's, we find the following information from a bronze plaque on the Swiss Cottage dated 1886:

*On this stone
Arthur Frothingham conceived
the idea of bringing enjoyment
and laughter to the people of
Lackawanna
and Wyoming Valleys.*

Around 1900, Frothingham hired Pittsburgh native Fredrick Ingersoll to design the park. A visionary and schemer on all accounts, he then implemented an elaborate plan to establish a Laurel Line station at the park. At this time, railroads could gain land rights to private land for new tracks practically anywhere at no cost. One of the few exceptions was cemeteries. So Frothingham paid a local coroner \$200 for the body of a man who died in a Moosic train accident and buried the body at Rocky Glen. In order to officially establish his cemetery he interred a second body on the property. He then sold a parcel of his property to the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valley Railroad for \$25,000 for construction of the Laurel Line, requesting that they also build a station there.

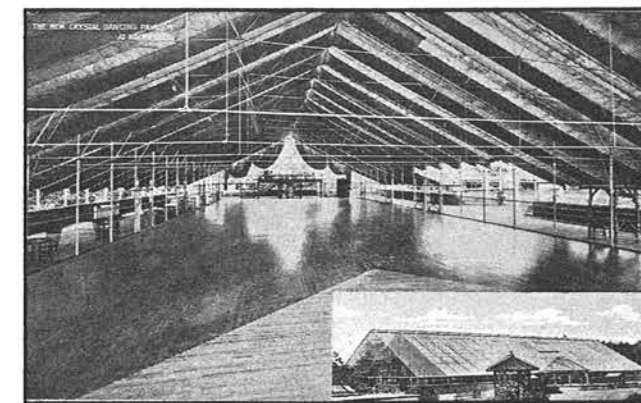
Frothingham contracted

E. S. Williams to build a dam to make Glen Lake. But when he failed to pay for this, Williams received half of the property through a sheriff's sale.

In 1919, A.J. Duffy, John Nallan, and Joseph Jennings purchased the park from

Frothingham and Williams. One year later, when Mr. Duffy reneged on a loan from the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valley Railroad, the company received an interest in the park. The railroad sold their half to Ben Sterling who operated a penny arcade at the Laurel Line Station. Due to a disagreement with the operational philosophy of the park, a fence was constructed through the middle of the park. This feud continued with a split park for fifteen years. In 1950, the Allan and Jennings interest sold the park to a third party, who then turned around and sold it to the Sterlings. Surviving a rocky number of years, Rocky Glen now had one owner.

The park flourished under the ownership of Ben and Mae Sterling. They had a real knack for attracting people to the park. Under



NEW CRYSTAL DANCING PAVILION AT ROCKY GLEN

their management, several new rides were added including the 3000 foot *Million Dollar Roller Coaster* (it actually cost \$100,000) plus other popular rides like the *Dodgem*, the *Caterpillar* and the *Whip*. The Sterlings also built the dance hall and brought in big name entertainers

and popular performers of the time. In 1970, the Sterlings sold Rocky Glen to National Recreation Services for \$500,000. National Recreation converted the park to give it a western theme and renamed it *Ghost Town in the Glen*. The project cost an additional \$500,000. Faced with more debt than they could handle, about \$90,000, National Recreation sold



VIEW OF GLEN LAKE

Arthur Frothingham: Scranton's P.T. Barnum

Arthur Frothingham, founder of Rocky Glen Amusement Park, was one of Scranton's most energetic and creative citizens. He earned millions of dollars from investing in local coal lands and city property and was a leading spirit in some of Scranton's greatest enterprises. Born in West Pittston in 1852, Frothingham was educated in New York and worked as a civil engineer and architect. He was married to Laura Fitz Randolph of Hamilton, NY and is credited with giving Scranton its first real theater, the Frothingham, later known as the Lyceum, at 213-15 Wyoming Avenue.

The Frothingham Theater was built in 1894 and stood as one of the city's more unusual buildings topped with twin minarets. The Wyoming Avenue entrance led through a shop-filled arcade to the rear courtyard where the theater was located. The interior was an imitation of Spain's Alhambra Palace and was lavishly furnished. In April, 1894, on the day Minstrel King Lew Dockstader was to appear, the arcade portion of the building was destroyed by fire. Always the ultimate promoter, Frothingham saw to it that the show went on. He arranged a parade, led by Dockstader, of the minstrels in costume playing banjos and tambourines, from the railroad station to the undamaged theater.

In a 1938 Scrantonian article, "Court Soft Pedaled Arthur's Trombone," Frothingham's eccentric showmanship is demonstrated. Before building his theater, Frothingham operated an arcade on Wyoming Avenue as the Frothingham Arcade. It opened to the public on December 19, 1889. The Scrantonian story recounts the details of an injunction issued that same year to restrain Frothingham from playing his trombone. The injunction was requested by Joseph Curt, manager of the Westminster Hotel, located next to Frothingham's Arcade, who charged that the instrument was a nuisance to his guests. You see, Frothingham's trombone was usually played at 7 a.m., by connections to a large electric pipe organ

located on the third floor of his arcade with a tone so powerful that according to a letter published by E.L. Thompson, "it could be plainly heard in Blakely, seven miles North of Scranton," and it sounded "like running a scale on a steam organ."

The injunction was granted and Frothingham, accompanied by his seven-foot giant, Jim Gilbert, was served with papers at his arcade. The following morning Frothingham placed a notice in the newspaper stating that, "Notice is hereby given that if any person or persons are caught tampering with the trombone on the Arcade on New Year's night, they will be handled roughly by James Gilbert, the Giant. By order of Arthur Frothingham."

The case of Curt vs. Frothingham came to hearing before Judge Gunster on January 20, 1890. Frothingham explained the necessity of his trombone by stating that he needed it to call his employees to work. He said that with so many whistles being blown around the city, he had to have a gong of his own to prevent any confusion. The court handed down its decision on February 10, 1890

that if the Frothingham wished to use his trombone, he must do so at such times and in such a manner that the noise will not be a nuisance to others. Frothingham later stated that he viewed the court's ruling as a victory because he was allowed to blow his trombone under certain conditions.

In addition to the theater and Rocky Glen Park, Frothingham presided over three water companies and two railroads. But in 1897, he suffered a financial set back and had to sell the theater. It was renamed the Lyceum and continued to operate until it was destroyed by fire in 1916.

Arthur Frothingham died at Mt. Dora, Florida on October 22, 1929 at the age 77.



The Frothingham Arcade on Wyoming Avenue

The Story of Rocky Glen... Continued from page 3

the park to R.G. Management of New Jersey in 1979.

The following year the name of the park was changed back to Rocky Glen. In 1983, Wilkes Barre resident Marvin Roth leased the park and operated it until it closed for good at the end of the season in 1987. This was a sad day for "kids of all ages" in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The loss of Rocky Glen, where memories, laughter and good times were had by all, was now gone. On August 24, 1988 all of the amusement facilities were auc-

tioned. This put the final closure on a recreation spot that endured a rocky history but gave local residents and visitors alike a great collection of lasting memories.

This story was compiled using information found in the LHS files, specifically the July 19, 1998 article, "Ghosts in the Glen" from the Times Leader and notes made by Alan Sweeney for a special private printing for the Anthracite postcard Club of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

**PROUD TO BE A PART
OF NEPA'S HISTORY!!**

*Goodtime
Oldies* **WICK**

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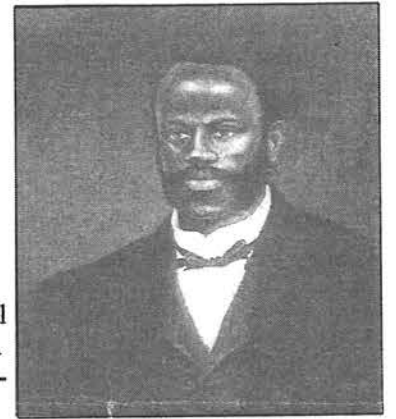
*The Lackawanna Historical Society
thanks WWDL/WICK radio for their
assistance in presenting
The History of Rocky Glen
at this year's Annual Dinner!*

**New Marker
Commemorates
Pennsylvania native
Jonathan Jasper
Wright**

Congratulations to the Center for Anti-Slavery Studies on the dedication of the new State Historical Marker in Springville, PA commemorating The Honorable Jonathon Jasper Wright (1840-1885).

Judge Wright served as Associate Justice of South Carolina Supreme Court from 1870 through 1877. To further commemorate his life, the Center for Anti-Slavery Studies has produced a limited edition print of a painting of Judge Wright by artist Larry Francis Leppy. The first thirty which include the artist's proof can be purchased for \$350 and the remaining seventy prints are available for \$150 each.

To make a purchase or for additional information, please contact the Center for Anti-Slavery at (570)278-6835 or write to: the Center for Anti Slavery Studies 75 Church Street Montrose, PA 18801



Jonathan Jasper Wright
by artist Larry Francis Leppy

**HOTEL CASEY TIME CAPSULE TO BE
OPENED IN OCTOBER**

*The Casey Family and The Hilton Hotel and
Conference Center extend an invitation to all LHS
members to attend the
official opening
of the Time Capsule from the Hotel Casey
on Thursday, October 4, at 11 a.m.
at the former Hotel Casey site at Lackawanna
Avenue and Adams Avenue.
Don't miss this historic event!*