

# PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- JUNE 8** Tour Eve Celebration for Historic House Tour in the Hill  
Tickets \$40 (includes tour ticket) Call 963-7616 for Tickets  
Catlin House 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- 9** Historic House Tour in the Hill  
Tickets \$20 in advance. \$23 on day of event. Call 963-7616 for Tickets.  
Begins at the Catlin House 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 15** Genealogical Fair  
Tickets \$25 (Box Lunch Available, Add'l \$5.75) Call Catlin House to register.  
Wallenpaupack Area North Intermediate School 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Summer Court House Square Walking Tours**  
Every Saturday at 11 AM at Columbus Monument beginning on June 15th
- 22** Members- Only Tour of Lackawanna College  
2 p.m. RSVP to 344-3841
- AUG 3** Once in a Lifetime Train Ride  
Tickets \$35 Call 344-3841 for reservations.
- SEPT 6-8** Summer Sojourn to Shelburne  
See Page 7 for Details

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
232 MONROE AVENUE  
SCRANTON, PA 18510

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ORGANIZATION  
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*Scranton Central High School on Vine Street in Scranton.*

## **MEMBERS-ONLY EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR SUMMER**

### Lackawanna College Tour

The Lackawanna Historical Society will be hosting a members-only tour of the former Scranton Central High School on Saturday, June 22 at 2 p.m.

The former Scranton Central High School is an historic beauty, located on Vine Street across from the Scranton Public Library. It is an amazing piece of Scranton architecture that now houses Lackawanna College.

Please RSVP to 344-3841 to reserve your spot for this exciting look into Scranton's colorful architectural past.

### Once in a Lifetime Train Ride

Make your reservation now for the Lackawanna Historical Society's *Once in a Life Time Ride* on the "Black Diamond" Private Varnish #353, the Lehigh Valley Railroad's luxury business car, departing Steamtown National Historic Site at 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 3, 2002.

Riders are limited to 30 people for each trip. Fifteen guests will ride to Moscow one way in car # 353 and be treated to refreshments with Pullman porter service. On the return trip to Scranton, guests will switch places to allow the other fifteen riders their turn on the private car to finish this enjoyable trip. Registration fee of \$35 is due by July 3, 2002.

**HISTORIC HOMES TOUR IN THE HILL**

Don't miss the Lackawanna Neighbors Historic Homes Tour in the Hill on June 9th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The tour will include six private residences located in Scranton's hill section in addition to the Catlin House, the Century Club, and the Estate. Covenant Presbyterian Church will also be open for tours between 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Advance tickets can be purchased by calling 963-7616 or you can buy tickets on the day of the event at the Catlin House.



*New Members*

**Individual**

Pete Axford Scranton  
 James Dolan Sayre  
 Matthew Flynn Scranton  
 Marty Gilgallon Archbald  
 Marie Hannon Scranton  
 Elizabeth Kennedy Archbald  
 Michael Knies Dunmore  
 Frances Kovaleski Jessup  
 Robin Lynn Factoryville  
 Beverly Merkel Jessup  
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 John Reddington Moosic  
 Linda Scott Clarks Summit  
 Charles Somers Scranton  
 Katie Sunday Clarks Summit  
 Dr. James Theehy Mountain Top  
 Vincent P. Wojnar Moscow

**Student**

L.J. Gallagher Scranton  
 Jackie Harris Scranton  
 Michael Shotto Olyphant  
 Paul Shotto Olyphant

**Family**

Marci and Ken Bomansky Dunmore  
 Linda Bennington Scranton  
 Vince and Renee Brunetti Scranton  
 John Creegan Scranton  
 Paul Donovan Scranton  
 Mr. and Mrs. Larry Durkin Dunmore  
 Debra Ann Fiorini & Family Scranton

**Sustaining**

Dave and Ann Hawk Dunmore

**About Membership...**

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**

Student \$10 NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 Individual \$22  
 Family \$30 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contributing \$75  
 Sustaining \$150  
 Silver Corporate \$250 TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gold Corporate \$500

*The Lackawanna  
 Historical Society 2002-03*

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 Marian Yevics Receptionist  
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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 © 2002 by the Lackawanna Historical Society. Questions or comments can be addressed in writing directly to the Society.

*Summer Sojourn to Shelburne Scheduled for September*

On September 6-8, 2002, the Lackawanna Historical Society will sponsor a Weekend Getaway to Shelburne, VT. This weekend trip promises to be exciting and full of history and fun.

Saturday will be spent at what has been called one of America's great combined repositories of American arts, architecture, and artifacts: the historic Shelburne Museum. Here you will find one of the finest collections of folk arts, decorative arts, and Americana. There are thirty-seven historic structures including a covered bridge, the 220-foot steamboat *Ticonderoga*, and an operational vintage carousel.

We will also stop at the Norman Rockwell Museum to see many fine examples of Rockwell's works on display in his VT hometown.

All breakfasts and Friday night dinner at the very classy Inn at Shelburne Farms, transportation, lodging (double occupancy), and entrance to the Shelburne Museum and Norman Rockwell Museum are included in the \$280 fee. To reserve your spot, please send in the attached form with a \$100 per person deposit by July 1st. The balance is due by August 1st, when you will receive additional information on the trip and the complete schedule for the weekend. If you would like more information, please stop by or call the Catlin House.

*The Itinerary*

The Society's weekend will include:

Friday: Depart LHS at 8 AM  
 Lunch at Bennington Station  
 Visit the Norman Rockwell Museum  
 Check-in at the Shelburne Travelodge  
 Dinner at the Inn at Shelburne Farms

Saturday: Breakfast at hotel  
 Shelburne Museum  
 Lunch at the Museum  
 Dinner in town

Sunday: Breakfast at hotel  
 Lunch at Lillians in Saratoga  
 (Followed by a short walking/driving tour before departing for home.)  
 Arrive back at LHS at 8 PM.

This will be a very historical and entertaining adventure. We hope you plan to join us!

Please use the reservation form below.

**REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

WEEKEND GETAWAY: \$280 PER PERSON

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL DUE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*A \$100 DEPOSIT IS DUE BY JULY 1, 2002 TO HOLD RESERVATION. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: THE LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. SPACE IS LIMITED TO 24 PEOPLE.

## HERITAGE EXPRESS RIDES AGAIN



The fifth running of the Heritage Express took place on April 25 and 26 from Carbondale to Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton. Fourth grade students from Lackawanna Trail, Blue Ridge, Waverly, Bancroft, Forest City, Fell Township, and Carbondale boarded the Heritage Express train for a day-long education experience through the Lackawanna Valley. Each class was introduced to the program by a Steamtown ranger who visited their school before the excursion and distributed curriculum guides from local museums that teachers could use for follow up activities after the trip. This year's excursion welcomed two special guests, Mr. Bernie O'Brien, former Delaware and Hudson Engineer with more than 50 years experience, and Mr. Flood, retired Erie Railroad Engineer. Both men captivated the students as they shared some of their favorite railroad stories. Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make this event a success and special thanks to the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority for its continued support of this project.

### Educational Programs at the Catlin House

In the last few years, the Lackawanna Historical Society has taken an active lead in educational programming. Two very exciting programs are worth mentioning. The Museums as a Classroom program continued this year, after great success in 2001. The program, which is offered to local teachers through the Northeast Educational Intermediate Unit #19, gives participants an opportunity to learn about Lackawanna Valley historical sites and the resources available for enhancing classroom instruction. This spring, 22 teachers visited the Catlin House, Steamtown National Historic Site, the Lackawanna County Trolley Museum, the Anthracite Heritage Museum, and the Everhart Museum. In addition the Society conducted a downtown walking tour to familiarize the group with some of Scranton's architectural treasures. The program will be offered again this summer with 40 participants.

A second program that the Society has initiated at the Catlin House is Student Curators at Work. This project was created as a way for the Society to participate in the Scranton School District's Best Program which is an after-school program that gives students an opportunity interact and learn about some of the city's cultural institutions. Eight students from Northeast Scranton Intermediate have been meeting at the Catlin House every Tuesday and Thursday after school to plan an exhibit on the strike of 1902. The students toured the Anthracite Museum and the Catlin House and attended short lectures by local museum professionals to learn more about the Anthracite Industry and Exhibit Design before they began to plan their exhibit. The exhibit is scheduled to open at the William Nealon Federal Building in downtown Scranton on May 23rd. Participating students are Nathan Stebbins, Dylan Cawley, Lauren Mursch, Carolyn Horlacher, Renae Fisher, Krista Somers, Charles Fisher, and Nick Miller.

## Folk Art Lecture Series

The Lackawanna Historical Society's Early American Culture and Folk Art Lecture Series was completed on May 5th with the final lecture focusing on the theme of Patriotism. Twenty-two people attended the series to listen to Josephine Dunn, Ph.D. speak on folk art and its relation to American society. Dr. Dunn's illustrated lectures used local and nation works of art to discuss the themes of patriotism, education of women, mourning, rituals, portraiture, and landscapes. In April, she guided the participants in a hands-on workshop to create thernom paintings, which are currently on display at the Catlin House. We are grateful to Dr. Dunn for sharing her time and knowledge for this series and to the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Pennsylvania Partner in the Arts, and the Scranton Area Foundation for sponsoring this popular program.

This Summer, the Lackawanna Historical Society will join forces with Steamtown National Historical Site by providing tours of the Catlin House to Steamtown short excursion passengers. This will give Steamtown an opportunity to provide their visitors with a more complete story of how Scranton's industrialists lived at the turn-of-the-century.

## LHS Volunteer Discovers Treasure in her Back Yard

*Yellowwood student and LHS volunteer Kristen Fratzola has been working at the Catlin House since February. Recently while assisting staff in a small research project, Kristen discovered a postcard of Luna Park in Jack Hiddlestone's "Wish You Were Here...A Picture Postcard History of Lackawanna County, Pa" She was intrigued because she had never heard of it before and it was located not far from her house. Kristen decided to investigate this new discovery using the Catlin House resources, talking to her grandfather, and interviewing Jack Hiddlestone. This is her story:*

When I first asked my grandfather about Luna Park, he told me that he remembered a little bit. He said that there used to be an entrance that ran over to the park from the back of the CMC parking lot, where the helicopter's landing is located. He remembered walking there with his grandfather all the way from Tripp's Park and that it was only a nickel to get in. This interview sparked an even stronger interest so I asked the staff if I could learn more from the LHS records.

After reading a copy of "Scranton Luna Park" by Jack Hiddlestone, I learned that the Luna Park opened on May 28, 1906 at the cost of \$3,000,000. It was created by Fredrick Ingersoll of Pittsburgh. The 20 acre park was located across Roaring Brook from the old Nay Aug Zoo. There were two entrances, one at Nay Aug across a foot bridge over Roaring Brook and the DL&W tracks, the other on the opposite side of the park just beyond the Laurel Line tunnel. The admission fee was ten cents for adults and a nickel for children.

The park was operated as a family resort where women and children could walk around feeling as

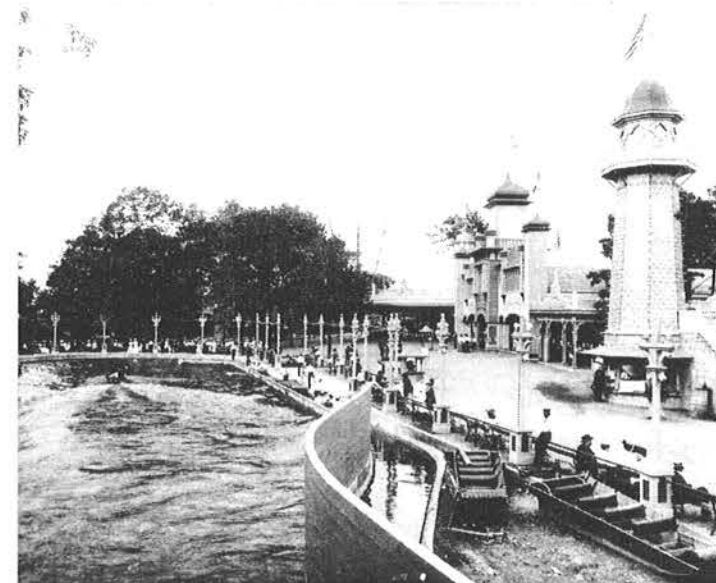
protected as they would in their own homes. There were also many other Luna Parks around the country including Cleveland, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pa; and Coney Island, New York.

There were 30 different attractions in the park including picnicking areas, a dance hall, restaurants, and the lake. Some of the rides included:

- \* The Scenic Railway, one of the largest constructed, running over 1/2 mile through the prettiest section of Luna.
- \* The Aerial Swings, a steel framed tower that swung large boat shaped cars out over a 45 degree angle, also known as the "circle swing."
- \* The Merry-Go-Round, which was said to be one of the largest of its time, built at the reported cost of \$10,000.
- \* Blarney Castle, where startling things were found with endless dark passages, gusts of winds, flip-flop floors and other odd wonders.
- \* The Dance Hall, which held up to 3,000 people at a time. The dance floor was 60 x 140 feet. Underneath the pavilion could also be found the fish pond, a knife rack, cane rack, and other attractions.
- \* Finally, the most popular ride of them all was Shoot-the-Chute. The tower of this marvelous ride was 85 feet high and inclined into a pool 350 feet long. The fully concreted lagoon was 90 feet wide and 300 feet long. Each boat would be drawn up one chute of the ramp to the top, which then turned around plunging the rider into the lagoon like an arrow.

On Wednesday morning on Aug. 23, 1916, at 3:00 a.m. Luna Park caught fire. How the fire was started was unknown but some stockholders said that it was possible a spark from either an Erie or a Lackawanna engine, which runs nearby, ignited the once lovely park. The flames quickly spread from the Dance Hall, across the wooden bridge to the coaster station and then to the Chutes. It was 6 a.m. before the fire was considered under control.

The insurance to the park had ran out several months prior to the fire and was never restored. However, owners of the park were able to rebuild a temporary dance floor and the roller coaster station within weeks hoping to catch some end of the season business. A few weeks later Mr. Victor Graybill, the park manager, tried to bring back crowds by advertising a free admission day. But little did the customers know that they still had to pay an



## Treasure (continued from page 3)

initial entrance fee of 10 cents. Hundreds of people paid but once in the park, they broke into rage and rioting ensued. The damage was beyond repair and Scranton's Luna Park never reopened.

In 1917 the park equipment was auctioned off and the city of Scranton took over ownership. Today, almost 86 years later, Interstate 81 runs through the center of the old park. The only remains left of Luna Park today, as we know from Jack Hiddlestone, are the corner of the lagoon, the concrete subway from the Laurel Line station, and even the take off point at each end of the long gone bridge from Nay Aug.

After learning its history, I decided to explore the actual site myself. Since my grandfather told me that it was behind the CMC parking lot, I began there. Not realizing where I was going, I found myself walking on trails behind the old Nay Aug Zoo. After climbing down slopes of rocks I finally found something. There were several foundations, one was a stone wall that seemed to run in a circle ("Was this the lagoon?" I wondered), some sort of concrete structure that resembled part of a bridge (I thought this was the old foot bridge), and lastly an old tunnel (possibly the old subway that ran into Luna). After seeing all of this, I decided to return with a camera and take some pictures. The next day at the Catlin House, I tried to figure out what it was that I had found. After about two hours of looking, I realized that it was not Luna Park that I had found, but an old Toll House and Toll Bridge or so it seemed.

I was sure I would never find this on my own, so I looked in a 1918 map of the area. It turns out I was on the wrong side of the tunnel! Still quite confused, I called

Jack Hiddlestone to find out more about the location. Jack was able to give me more precise directions and I was off on my expedition again.



That day, after school, I drove to the other side of the tunnels. Walking along the tracks that I had identified from the maps, I knew I was in the right area. I just wasn't looking hard enough. At this point, it hit me. I'd been looking on my right side, so I turned to my left. Within the next 10 minutes I had found the old lagoon and foot bridge! It was hard to believe that once, on this very same spot, had been one of the city's most popular parks.

I am glad I had the opportunity to discover this hidden treasure, virtually in my own backyard, and I hope to continue to learn more about my neighborhood as I continue my work at the Catlin House.

## COLLECTIONS CREW FORMED AT THE CATLIN HOUSE

Thanks to the leadership of Society Trustee and Collections Chair, Ella Rayburn, a group of new volunteers have come together to work with the Society's collections.

In February Ella, an experienced curator and Chief of Cultural Resources at Steamtown National Historic Site, invited Society members who were interested in learning more about collections management to join her at the Catlin House for four Saturday training sessions to learn the Society's cataloguing system. Ten people signed up for this training opportunity including Donna Adler, Eleanor Nuttal, Diane Esposito, Roy Whitman, Daniela DeGregorio, Bridget Conlogue, Bob

McDonough, Sandra Ludwig, Nina Humphrey, and Maria Augelli. Nick Petula later joined the group with a specific interest in organizing the Society's newspapers.

Once training was completed, some of the group decided to continue to offer their time by assisting with artifact cataloguing. Roy, Diane, and Eleanor have made great progress in cataloguing new donations while Bob has been busy transcribing a Civil War manuscript. Bridget has focused on the historic clothing collection and Daniela is assisting with cataloguing activities. We are grateful to all of these volunteers for their continued service.



## New in the Bookstore

**Coming Soon...**In June the Society will be adding a new item to its gift shop. Shelf Sitters depicting the Catlin House will be on sale beginning

June 1st. Don't miss these one of a kind replicas of the Catlin House. They will make the perfect addition to anyone's local history collection.

**Postcard Book Reprint...**The Society is pleased to announce that the *Wish You Were Here...* picture postcard book has been reprinted and is available for purchase at several locations including Tudor Book Store, Steamtown National Historic Site, and of course the Catlin House. The book, which was originally published in 1997, covers the entire county and includes more than 300 postcard views of county towns from Archbald to Wimmers.



## Scranton Architectural Heritage Association

### Bus Trip to Vanderbilt & FDR Mansions

Hyde Park, NY

Saturday, June 22, 2002

Cost: \$59 (lunch is included\*)

7:30 a.m.	Bus leaves Southside Shopping Center Washington Avenue	2:00 p.m.	Tour of F.D.R. House After the tour, participants can visit the FDR Library or explore the grounds on their own.
10:30	Tour of Vanderbilt Mansion	5:00 p.m.	Bus departs Hyde Park
Noon	*Lunch Beekman Arms Traphagen Restaurant	7:30 p.m.	Arrive in Scranton

For reservations or more information call 347-5687 or 876-4356

## LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY WEB SITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

We are happy to announce that the Society's official web site will soon be up and running thanks to assistance from the Scranton Public Library. To visit it as it develops go to [www.lackawannahistory.org](http://www.lackawannahistory.org) and please let us know what you think.

## Volunteer Corner

The Society welcomes new volunteers Carolyn Horlacher, Debra Ann Fiorini and CeAnn Leondi to the Catlin House. Carolyn, the daughter of Trustee Tom Horlacher and student at Scranton Northeast Intermediate, has been busy scanning images for the Photo Digitization Project and has also joined the Scranton School District's Best Program, *Student Curator at Work*.

Debra and her mother CeAnn joined the Catlin House in April and will be assisting the Society in a variety of activities. Debra Ann is a Scranton native who earned degrees in English, Journalism, and History from the University of Scranton and an MA in Literature from California State University. Debra Ann is a writer, university communication specialist, and adjunct English faculty member. CeAnn is a Scranton native who holds degrees in Nursing and Interior Design. Both women joined the Catlin House volunteers because of their interest in local history and great appreciation for their home city, Scranton.

Debra Ann and CeAnn joined fellow volunteers, Alan Sweeney, Barbara Smallcomb, Rita and Maurice MacNamara, and staff members Jim and Mary Ann Gavern on Saturday, May 4 for the annual *Clean Up Day at the Catlin House*. Thanks to everyone for their hard work and dedication to keeping the Catlin House beautiful.

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Dyer, Kenneth  
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Moran, Mary Ann  
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Yevics, Marian  
Zlobl, Mary Caviston

Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you all for your generous contributions to our Roof Restoration Project to keep the Cattin House water tight.



To date, we are shy \$24,000.00 of the \$332,000.00 total cost of the restoration. We will make this up by fundraising and additional contributions.

We are indebted to our architectural consultant, John Bowie and contractors Jerry Ganz, Inc. for putting together the high quality craftsmen who worked on the project. And we are also grateful to the volunteer fundraisers, especially our chairman John O'Hara, for an outstanding job!

As we move forward, I will keep you informed of our continued restoration work and efforts to preserve our home for future generations. Once again, Thank you all!

Alan Sweeney

President

### LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ROOF RESTORATION DONORS TO DATE

*Thank you for your support.*

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