

Programs & Events

JANUARY 26

Book Signing
for recently published coffee table book, *Stories from the Mines.*
by Tom Curra and Greg Matkosky
2 pm at the Catlin House

FEBRUARY 16

A Reading and Book Signing
by Lucia Dailey from her novel, *Mine Seed*
2 pm at the Catlin House

Elections of Officers Postponed

Due to inclement weather and poor attendance at the Society's Members-Only Holiday Open-House, election of officers was postponed last month. Elections will be held at the next Trustee meeting on January 29th at 5 pm at the Catlin House. All active members are invited to participate.

The 2003 slate includes:

OFFICERS

Alan Sweeney, President
Richard Bovard, 1st Vice President
Eileen Pocius, 2nd Vice President
Douglas Forrer, Treasurer
Mark Cruciani, Assistant Treasurer
Arlene Devereaux O'Hara, Secretary

CLASS OF 2005

Ellie Axford
Donald Frederickson, Esq.
Thomas Horlacher
Kathleen Keating
Eileen Pocius
Paul Price, Esq.

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
232 MONROE AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA 18510

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
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SCRANTON, PA



Carpenter School, No. 6 after Greenfield Historical Society renovations, 2002. Inset, before renovations, 1996.

Greenfield Township Historical Society Lays Groundwork for Museum

It was only six years ago when Clara Gardner, Frank Gardner, and Joseph Slebodnik decided it was time to take the history of Greenfield Township into their own hands. After a few coffee table discussions, they held their first public meeting, and much to their surprise, twenty devout Greenfield Township folks showed up to support the Society's cause: the preservation of Greenfield Township's past, present, and future.

The first settler of Greenfield Township, according to Mrs. Gardner, was Isaac Finch of Orange Co., NY in 1809. Settlers Elijah Hobbs and Joseph

Sackett from Vermont followed suit a year later, and the township was officially founded in 1816. It covered a distance that spanned from Crystal Lake to Providence, Scranton and by 1820, Greenfield's population reached 703. Slowly the settlement grew—the first tavern was built that year, as well as the first school.

In the ensuing years, three churches were built, five schoolhouses, two post offices, and a town store. Lawyers, farmers, Justices of Peace, and blacksmiths all took up residency in Greenfield, and according to "The History of the Lackawanna Valley," by Dr. H.

...A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

The New Year is now upon us and the Catlin House looks great. I cannot believe 2003 is here so soon but am pleased to report to you, our members, about the many accomplishments we have achieved in 2002.

The Centennial Celebration of the Anthracite Coal Strike of 1902 was a major event. In September, we hosted the largest annual meeting in our history. More than 200 members turned out to hear Edmund and Sylvia Morris, our guest speakers, discuss Theodore Roosevelt and his involvement in settling the Great Strike. We also worked with the Anthracite Heritage Museum, Luzerne County Historical Society, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, and other local partners to plan a scholarly conference on the Strike including the October 25th dedication of a state historical marker commemorating the Commission hearings at the Lackawanna County Courthouse. Another exciting project was the production of local playwright Jack McDonough's "A Fire Down Below" the story of the strike which sold out the two weekends it was presented at Courtroom Number 3. We were pleased to participate in these great events.

My next point of excitement was the successful fundraising and restoration we accomplished to save the Catlin House. Many special programs were held in 2002 to help in this effort including the "Last Dinner on the Titanic" and the annual "Taste of History." Our members also helped by fulfilling their pledges to the Roof Campaign. Thanks to your support the exterior work has been completed and paid in full. May the roof last another ninety years!

I am also happy to report a rise in membership to over the six hundred mark. I attribute this to the diligent work of our membership committee on a job well down. Its with the support by our members that we can accomplish our mission to foster the history of Lackawanna Country for future generations. I join my fellow trustees in thanking all of our members for the great support we have received in 2002 and look forward to continued growth in 2003.

Happy New Year,
Alan Sweeney, President

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

Form with checkboxes for membership types (Student, Individual, Family, Contributing, Sustaining, Silver Corporate, Gold Corporate) and fields for NAME, ADDRESS, and TELEPHONE.

The Lackawanna Historical Society 2002-03

- OFFICERS: Alan Sweeney (President), Richard Bovard (1st Vice President), Eileen Pocius (2nd Vice President), Douglas Forrer (Treasurer), Mark Cruciani (Assistant Treasurer), Arlene Devereaux O'Hara (Secretary)

- TRUSTEES: Ellie Axford, Richard Bovard, Joseph F. Cimini, Esq., Mark Cruciani, Josephine Dunn, Ph.D., Robert Farrell, Esq., Douglas Forrer, CPA, Donald Frederickson, Esq., Thomas Horlacher, AIA, Kathleen Keating, Richard Leonori, AIA, Barbara Mears, Arlene Devereaux O'Hara, Eileen Pocius, Paul H. Price, Esq., Ella S. Rayburn, Paula Rochon, Alan Sweeney

- EMERITUS: George Broadbent, Leola Collins, Joseph Levy, Edward Miller, William Pentecost

- STAFF: Mary Ann Moran (Executive Director), Mary Ann Gavern (Museum Assistant), Marian Yevics (Receptionist), James Gavern (Caretaker), Mary Ann C. Krisa (Newsletter)

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.

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Marker Dedication

On Friday October 25, at 2 pm, the Lackawanna Historical Society in partnership with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission dedicated a state historical marker on courthouse square (Adams Ave. side). The program consisted of welcoming remarks by LHS/President Alan Sweeney, Invocation, Most Rev. James Timlin D. D., National Anthem sung by Bea Ferguson Murphy, pledge to the flag, by the

Best Students from Scranton School District, and remarks by Charles McCollester, President Pennsylvania Labor Society, Edward Yankovik, District President State of Pennsylvania United Mine Workers Union, Bill George, President Pennsylvania AFL/CIO, Danny Kane, representing the National UMWA, John Cosgrove, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, Joseph Corcoran, Lackawanna

County Commissioner, Raymond Hayes, Deputy Mayor of Scranton, Andy Rielly, representing Congressman Paul Kanjorski, Ken Wolensky, representing the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

The marker was unveiled by John Cosgrove, County Commissioner Randy Castellani and Msg. Joseph Quinn. Rich Pauling of His-

tory Alive sang a song about coal and the benediction was offered by Father Jack O'Malley, Labor Chaplin, Pennsylvania AFL/CIO.

There were over two hundred people in attendance, and the program ended at 3 pm.



Congratulations are in order for Ella Rayburn, winner of this year's Windsor Chair raffle as well as Ann Marie O'Hara, winner of the LHS Holiday Basket.

Continued from page 8

If you have a couple of hours, take a ride down to the Historical Society and read this Civil War journal and feel the pain of one Veteran who tells the story of having to throw 25 horses off a ship in a storm to keep the ship from sinking and how 30 years later the look in the eyes of the horses still haunted him. This and more can be found in this journal. Yes, much of it is boring and dull, but much of it is also enlightening. The journal is there for your appreciation and if nothing else you can read of John Clune from Ireland who lay four days on the field and lost a leg and how 30 years later he considered it his "Badge of Honor" in a Great Cause.



New Members

Individual

- Peter Bonacuse, Kathleen Graff, Daniela DiGregorio, Thomas Jurchak, Santana Lonergan, Ann E Marancik, Jane Martin, Joseph H. May, Minnie Mead, Maureen McGuighan, Barbara D. Noto, Nancy Post, Marguerite Takach, Karen Tickner, Thomas D. Yeager, David Zorko

- Scranton, Waverly, Dunmore, Clarks Summit, Scranton, Dupont, Clarks Summit, Old Forge, Scranton, Scranton, Moscow, Scranton, Greenfield Twp, Scranton, Moscow, Factoryville

Family

- Mr. and Mrs. David Bone (Mechanicsburg), Carol Farley Farrell (Susquehanna), Fred Griffin (Dunmore), Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Groncki (Scranton), Dr. and Mrs. Paul C. Ingrascz (Scranton), Dale E. Keklock (Archbald), Mr. and Mrs. Roger Matthews (Nicholson), Mr. and Mrs. James Michaels (Clarks Summit), Dr. and Mrs. Chs. T. Newton (Clarks Summit), Mr. and Mrs. Rbt. A. Pearson (Scranton), Rose Ellen Stuckart (Scranton), W. Bruce Van Deusen (Waverly)

Student

- William C. Best (West Pittston), Bernie Soika (Moscow)

Reminder! Membership renewals are now due for 2003.

Journal of G.A.R. Post #187 Continued from Page 6

pleted. Vacation and work caused some delays but persistence paid off and soon the job was finished.

If you should read the journal, one of the first things you notice is that the age of men when they enlisted in the Union Army was somewhat older than the average age for the Army as a whole. Considering the 100 personal sketches; four listed no date of birth. The others averaged 24.7 years of age on enlistment. There were 16 who listed their age in the teens, one in the fifties, four in the forties, 14 in the thirties, and the rest in their twenties.

The youngest was William B. Chase who was born in 1850. Mr. Chase entered the Union Army in Wisconsin in 1864. As he states in his personal sketch:

"I was not quite Fourteen years of age when I enlisted am now among the youngest Veterans of the War. My discharge shows me two years older, as my age was a barrier to entering the service."

While the majority of the gentlemen in the journal were born in or near Carbondale, many were born out of state and 21 were born out of the country. Five listed no place of birth, Carbondale had 14 and other Pennsylvanians numbered 33. Some were from as close as Clifford, Greenfield and Scott townships while others were from as far away as Columbia County. The men born in other states came mainly from New York (18), New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, Connecticut and Wisconsin contributed one or more to the cause. Those foreign born were from Ireland (10), Germany (6), England (2), and one each from Scotland, Wales, and Canada.

Another interesting fact is the first names of the men which are no longer or little used today. Names such as Laurice, Darius, Seloh, Minor, Alva, Issacher, Lucius, Enos, Silas, and Ebenizar. I can not recall ever meeting a Laurice, Seloh, or Ebenizar.

While the personal war sketches make up the heart of the journal, a good many of the pages are filled with Resolutions on the death of a member. These resolutions are unique in that they let us see how these men felt years after the War about their comrades, God and the Hereafter. The following is a resolution on the death of Lucius Marshall:

Resolved, that the cause of our assembly here this afternoon is one of peculiar and tender sadness on account of our comrade Lucius Marshall who was mustered out by the 'Captain of our Salvation' on Monday morning February 20, 1888.

Comrades everything in nature is governed by inflexible Laws, the seasons come and go in their exact order, everything in season except death.

'Leaves have their time to Fall,
and flowers to wither at the Northwind's breath,
and stars to set; -- but all, thou hast all seasons for thine own, O Death!
Thus seemingly out of season our comrade is mysteriously cut down and another vacant file is made, with no recruit to fill it from our ranks, passing away like the snow under a spring sun. Comrade Marshall was one of our most efficient members, and by virtue of being a good soldier and of long service. He was a good and kind comrade, served three years in Battery M, 2nd

PA. Heavy Artillery, P.V.V. and was a faithful member of our Post since its organization. It is fitting that we drape our charter and badges for the next thirty days, and give publicity to our feelings by publishing this in our local press, thus extending to his widow and children our sincere sympathy, trusting that the everlasting arms may be underneath and around them in this severe affliction, and may he who said 'Peace be still' calm the buffeting minds of this life so that out of this Trial may come the sunshine of immortal Hope."

It is hard to believe such a resolution could be written today on the death of a veteran. It shows the respect they had for their comrade, the real belief in the Almighty, and the knowledge that after death they would one day meet their comrades again the "Hope of Salvation."

Bruce Catton, the Civil War Historian writing on the Centennial of the Civil War about the Army of the Potomac to which most of these men belonged, said 40 years ago, they believed in themselves, their God "and they had enough of the old-fashioned religion to believe without any question that when they passed over they would simply be rejoining men and ways of living which they had known long ago." This sentiment comes through very strongly in the journal pages.

The journal was written over 100 years ago by men telling stories of what happened to them 40 years earlier in what many believed was the most significant event of their lives.

Greenfield Historical Society Continued from Page 1

Hollister, "Although the population is (was) not large, there is (was) a greater amount of real hospitality, happiness and health among them than in many of the older and larger townships."



19th century stove that serves as both a relic and a great source of heat during the winter months.

The first project the Greenfield Township Historical Society took on was making visible that same hospitality, happiness, and health that Dr. Hollister spoke of. In just a year, the Society raised \$6,000 to move Carpenter School, No. 6, a one room schoolhouse that was in use until 1917, from Sickler's Pond to the Greenfield Township Municipal Building.

On June 25, 1997, members of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Telephone Company, the Bell Atlantic Telephone Company, PP&L, workers from Greenfield Township, and Andy Burr of Honesdale PA, the man who engineered the move, spent seven hours escorting the schoolhouse on its 7.6 mile destination.

The school, which is now

complete in its renovations, is visited by local tourists, historians, and organizations alike. Stepping through the front door of the school, the twenty first century disappears, and the nineteenth century takes over. Photographs, desks, books, bookshelves, and lamps from the period all rest peacefully within the one room.

"The school functions as a museum in itself," Mr. Slebodnik said.

But now that this museum is complete, the Society believes that it is time to put up a true museum, one established solely for the heritage of Greenfield Township. And with the amount of donations received over the past six years, there simply isn't any storage space left.

"We've had so much given to us, that its defeating its purpose," Mrs. Gardner said.

So, as of this January, the Greenfield Historical Society is launching a campaign to raise \$50,000 within the next two years.

The one room museum, which will have several permanent display cases will also be host to rotating exhibits. Included within is also an attic with extensive storage room for the vastly growing collection of Greenfield Township memorabilia.

Without this museum, the Society fears, what is known of Greenfield Township may eventually slip away.

"People throw away history all of the time," Mr. Gardner said. "And if they don't have

somewhere to put it, they're going to keep throwing it away."

New members are always welcome, and the society meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m., in the Greenfield Township Municipal Building, Route 106, Finch Hill.

People interested in supporting the Society can purchase parts of the museum, such as the foundation, a stained glass window, or various other museum items. They may also make a cash donation to the Society. All contributors will be recognized permanently.

Other future fundraisers for the museum include a golf tournament, spaghetti dinner, as well as various craft and bake sales. These events, the society believes, will help bring a sense of the vast history Greenfield Township has to present.



View facing towards the teacher's desk.

The Carpenter School, No. 6, is open the last Sunday of each month, weather permitting, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more information about museum plans, or to arrange a tour of the school, contact Clara Gardner at 570.282.2768: 423 Hickory Ridge Road, Greenfield Township, PA 18407.



Actress Angela Bonacci (seated center) plays the mother in Louisa May Alcott's novel "Little Women."

Actress and Abington Heights student Angela Bonacci researched the life of a local residential mother.

"The difficulty in working on this project was the research on the civil war," Ms. Bonacci said.

"It was funny, it was emotionally sickening, it was a human defining experience."

Ms. Bonacci, who has worked with Nancy in Arts Live says that she plans to go on to acting in the future.

Acting, for her, has become not merely a hobby, but rather a way of life—a life of love.

"At my age, when you are the most vulnerable time in your life, I have found the path that I have to go on," she said.



Standing, L to R: Tracy Kaminsky, Kim Kaminsky, Keith Hubbard, Nancy Hasty, Sarah Blazonis, John Klobusicky. Front row: Tessa Srebro.

The Artist in Residence program was funded by N.E.I.U. #19 to assist the Lackawanna Historical Society in developing educational programs to encourage local schools to integrate the arts in their classroom instruction. On December 18, 2002, several local students presented History Comes Alive at the Catlin House.

History: ALIVE and WELL at the Catlin House.



Sisters Kim Kaminsky and Tracy Kaminsky with teacher/mentor Christina Boyer.

Keith Hubbard, a senior at Valley View High School, explored and acted out the life of a Judge. As one of his courtly duties, Judge Hubbard was head of the Poor Board, an experience that he found to be quite interesting. "The Poor Board was really fun to do," Mr. Hubbard said. "I read old newspapers of actual Poor Board accounts, and

then acted them out." Mr. Hubbard pointed out that not all of the Judge's decisions made too much sense. "There were things like, 'Yeah we'll help you out, but you have to put your daughter in an orphanage,'" Mr. Hubbard laughed. Mr. Hubbard who has attended Arts Alive for three years, says he is certain acting will be a part of his future.

mother via email and telephone, about life in the forties. Her grandmother, a Mid Valley native, was considered a "city girl," while her grandfather, a Scott Township resident, went under the "country bumpkin" label.

The Lackawanna Historical Society congratulates all the students for their outstanding Performances with special thanks to Nancy Hasty for her time, energy, and love.



Actress Mindy Balducci

Actress Mindy Balducci of Lakeland Junior Senior High School decided to act out the life of her Grandmother—who currently resides in Florida. In order to prepare for the show, Mindy had a series of conversations with her Grand-



By: Michael Bufalino

It is the custom at 2 am for many patrons of bars and similar establishments to find a place that serves good food and especially good coffee. The Scranton area is no exception to this custom. Today some of the most popular locations for a plate of French fries and a strong cup of coffee are Denny's and Perkins on the Scranton Carbondale Highway. In the decades before the establishment of the two restaurants there were a large number of eateries that remained open into the early hours of the morning. One of these establishments still in operation to this day is

After Hours in Scranton...

the Glider Diner.

The Glider opened its doors in 1945. The diner's first proprietors were Chappy LeStrange and Gene Cosgrove Sr. Although there is not an actual plane in the restaurant itself, the



Glider took its name from wooden packing crates that were used to ship a small glider plane from Tobyhanna to Scranton. One of the Glider Diner's signature specialties is French-fries served with gravy.

Another location, familiar to crowds at three in the morning, and still welcomes crowds to this

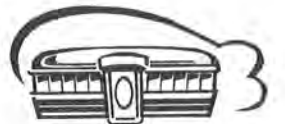
day is Chick's Diner, located on Moosic Street in Scranton. Chick's opened in the late 1940s and has been popular for over 50 years. A few restaurants, the doors of which always stayed open late, are no longer in existence.

Some of these establishments were located in downtown Scranton and were easily accessible from the bars and cocktail lounges in the center of the city. One of these late night restaurants was Jim Eagan's, located next to the site of the former Preno's Restaurant where the

Hilton Hotel is currently under construction. Another location for 1 after hour crowds was Tony Harding's, located near Jim Eagan's restaurant on Lackawanna Avenue.

Although I myself do not remember Tony Harding's, or Jim Eagan's, I am told that they were once the place to go for twenty and thirty-somethings in the area.

From examining information about restaurants in Scranton, it seems that the practice of getting a quick cup of coffee and something to eat in the early hours of the morning was as popular in decades past as it is now.



Coney Island, located on the corner of Lackawanna and Mattes, (later Cedar Ave.) served many a late night hot dogs and hamburgers. The restaurant is still in operation today.

EVENING SUGGESTIONS.	
CHINESE TREAT--Gomino Chinese Shredded Chicken	..
Chop Suey-Steamed Rice-Crispy Noodles.....	50¢
SEA FOOD LOVER'S TREAT--Two Dozen Steamed Clams-	..
Drain Butter-Saltines.....	50¢
COCOANUT WAFFLE with First Prize Bacon-	..
Maple Syrup or Honey.....	40¢
STUFFED TOMATO w. Tuna Fish Salad-Crispy Potato	..
Chips-Queen Olives-Rolls and Butter.....	40¢
FRESH ASP/RAGUS TIPS-Sliced Hard Boiled Egg-	..
Potato Salad-Sliced Tomatoes-Rolls-Butter.....	45¢

Section of a menu from the "Twin Grill," a late night diner formerly located on Washington Ave. Other menu items included a "Peach Parfait," as well as a sardine sandwich.

Everything's Coming Up Roses



The Lackawanna Historical Society was recently notified that the Scranton Chamber of Commerce has given them a Pride and Progress award for their outstanding garden. Many thanks to all who have helped along the way! The Society has also received 1st place for its tree at this year's Festival of Trees for the non-profit organization category.

The Journal of G.A.R. Post #187

"I lay wounded between the two fires at the 2nd Battle of Bull Run. On the evening of the 29th of Aug., I was shot in the knee by a minie ball which shattered the bone to the thigh causing me to fall forward on my gun. Two comrades carried me to the rear and then had to retreat. I was lain down and in a few minutes a halt was called. While lying here between the two fires, the shells bursting on all sides, I received a gunshot wound in the other knee. After the firing ceased, I tied my canteen strap around my wounded limb, covered it with my blanket and for four days lay upon the field in the hand of the Rebels, with no nourishment but water for which I was very thankful. At the close of the fourth day, I was picked up under a flag of truce, and taken to an old stone house. I remained here two days longer, then my limb was amputated and I was conveyed, on an ambulance once over a rough road, to Fairfax Seminary, which was Twenty-Seven miles distant. As it was a very warm day, my limb had begun to mortify before we arrived."

So reads the personal War Sketch of John Clune. This sketch is but one of one hundred that may be found in a G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) Journal of Personal War Sketches from the William H. Davies Post #187 of Carbondale.

Hi, my name is Bob McDonough and in February 2002 I agreed to transcribe the journal which sits on a table on

the second floor of the Historical Society. The years have taken their toll and some of the writing has begun to fade and the binding of the book is coming apart. In a effort to save the journal, Mary Ann Moran, LHS director, and Ella Rayburn, volunteer curator, wanted someone to transcribe the journal so it could be entered into a computer. A print out could then be displayed and the journal properly stored under glass and thereby save the original for some time. Visitors could read the print out of the journal and appreciate its historical significance. I knew it would take some time but the opportunity to read the entire journal and enjoy its contents helped deflect any of the difficulties I encountered.

The Volume was designed to contain the records of War Service 1861 – 65 of the living and deceased members of G.A.R. Post #187. It was to be certified by Post Historian Margaret E. Murphy. The Volume contains Personal War Sketches, Supplementary Sketches, Resolutions on the deaths of members and records of Burial. The Volume was Respectfully dedicated to the Last Surviving member and comrade of Post #187 G.A.R.

It was presented to and accepted by the Post on the 21st day of January 1891. The presentation reads:

"Whereas, Seven of our Fellow Citizens appreciating the services of the comrades of Wm. H. Davies Post, during the late Civil War, and being desirous of commemorating the War History written by the men who were actually engaged in Battle for the perpetuation of our Union, and who

know what they are writing about; men who did the marching, the shooting, the fighting and the entrenching and who carried on the War in all its phases of Land and Sea for \$13 a month; have presented a memorial Record to the Post."

The Wm H. Davies G. A.R. Post #187 was named for William H. Davies who was born in Carbondale on March 2, 1841. He entered the service August 11, 1862 at Pittston, PA as a corporal. He belonged to battery M, Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, 112th Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteers. Corporal Davies was wounded in the assault on Petersburg, VA. He died at David's Island, N.Y. Harbor on September 9, 1864. The cause of death was listed as disease. The Post was organized in his name on July 10, 1880.

While transcribing the journal a few things became apparent. First, the writing while faded on many pages was actually good in the majority of the book. One needed time to acclimate one's self to the writing but once acclimated, the writing wasn't bad. Second, the weather would decide the pace of transcription. There is no heat on the 2nd floor of the Historical Society, some days in February the hat and coat never came off. During the summer the 90 degree heat and no ventilation made transcribing a slow process. Yet I enjoyed the reading so much, it wasn't long before a good portion of the journal was com-

Artist in Residence Breathes Life Into Local History

Interview with Nancy Hasty
By Mary Ann C. Krisa

Q: Did you always know that you were going to be an actress?

No. I wanted to be a teacher. I was very shy. And then when I was a junior in high school a teacher asked me to be in "Our Town," and I fell in love with it.

Q: What happened from there?

I majored in theatre at the University of West Florida, and then I moved to New York City. I didn't know anyone. I was waiting tables and acting in off-Broadway plays.

Q: Since you've both written plays as well as acted in them, what do you consider yourself? Actress or writer?
I see myself as a writer. I get my acting feeling from kids.

Q: What is the hardest job you have when working with kids?
The biggest job I have in

the room is to make it safe. High school is the most brutal time. If you screw up in high school it will follow you until graduation. The first kid who gets up and tries is the most courageous. Getting the kids' trust is the hardest thing.

Q: How does it feel for you when you step on to the stage?

You feel like it is the only time that makes sense. We're so rarely in the present moment. Even if you are afraid, at least you know you're alive. You never know what's going to hap-

pen, and that's also invigorating. I have to make the stage my own place.

Q: How do you prepare for the stage?

Before the play, I listen to music, sometimes I cry, and by the end I feel like laughing. I get in my car and drive around. If you're stressed out you can yell and scream as much as you want.



Nancy Hasty, Writer/Actress/Teacher

Q: What do you hope to bring to Scranton?

I want kids to bring local history to life. I'm just a creative person. I teach theatre and how to be there for the other actors. You have to listen.

Q: What do you consider your biggest accomplishment to date?

The fact that plans are being made for my play "Bobbi Boland" to be done in a major production. It's the biggest production that I have had so far, and it has a world renown director directing.

"EVERYTHING IN LIFE IS CONTAGIOUS."
-Nancy Hasty

life highlights:

- ♦ according to Nancy herself... Moving to New York after college.
- ♦ Off Broadway production of my play "Florida Girls."
- ♦ Theatre Week magazine nominated "Florida Girls" for an Off Broadway prize.
- ♦ My play "The Director" was produced in Los Angeles.
- ♦ My play "Bobbi Boland" was produced off Broadway.
- ♦ Plans are in process to produce "The Director" in London.

Q: Do you plan on staying in this area?

I intend to live in both New York and Clarkes Summit. I'll spend the weeks ends in New York and be in Clarkes Summit during the week. This place keeps me sane.

Q: What are you doing with your students at the Lackawanna Historical Society?

I have students from all over the area, grades nine through twelve. They're re-