

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- SEPT. 10/11 **Avondale Commemorative Events**  
*Details: TBA*
- SEPT. 17 **Gateway to the Clouds**  
Book Signing by authors Alan and Judy Sweeney  
Tudor Book Store, Clarks Summit, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- SEPT. 21 **Annual Dinner**  
Lecture by Sears Homes expert Rosemary Thornton  
Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel, Details TBA
- OCT. 5 **Our Town, Scranton**  
Lecture by Alan Sweeney as part of Scranton Public Library's *Scranton Reads* Project  
Catlin House, 7:00 p.m. (*For other Scranton Reads activities, contact the Scranton Public Library*)
- OCT. 16/23 **Dunmore Cemetery Walking Tours**  
History comes alive as LHS Past Players interpret the lives of some of our local founders  
Dunmore Cemetery, 2:00 p.m. (*see page 3*)
- OCT. 30 **A History of Scranton**  
Lecture by Cheryl Kashuba, Guest Curator for University of Scranton Exhibit  
*A History of Scranton Selections from the Collection of the Lackawanna Historical Society\**  
Brennan Hall, Room 509, 1:00 p.m. (*see page 4*)  
*A History of Scranton Selections from the Collection of the Lackawanna Historical Society\**  
Exhibit Opening and Public Reception  
Hope Horn Gallery, Hyland Hall 4th Floor, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (*see page 4*)  
*\*Exhibit runs to December 16th. Additional related events will be announced in next newsletter.*

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
232 MONROE AVENUE  
SCRANTON, PA 18510

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
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SCRANTON, PA

## Remembering the Pisa Hotel

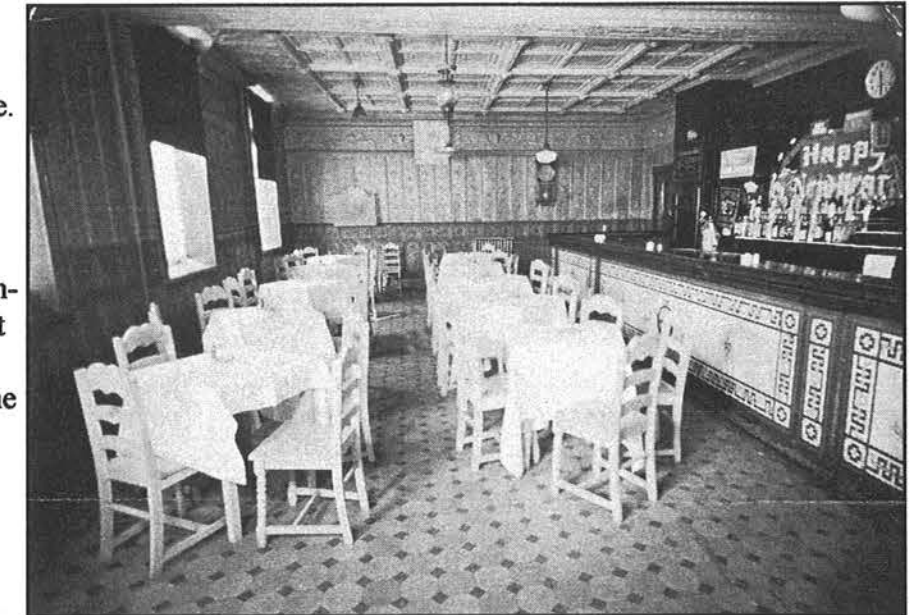
By Cheryl A. Kashuba

Scranton is rich in landmarks that attest to the spirit and dedication of the hard-working immigrants who made a life here. Sadly, one of them met the wrecking ball recently. The Pisa Hotel, a proud three-story building of native West Mountain stone, once sat at the intersection of Fairview Avenue, Robinson Avenue, and Longorgan Place in Scranton's West Side. I sat down with retired University of Scranton professor Dr. Frank Cimini to record some of his memories of the family business and its surrounding neighborhood.

His story starts like so many others: in the Old Country. Frank Cimini's parents both came from Italy. His mother Maria was raised in Rome and remembers Buffalo Bill's 1902 visit to that ancient city. Frank's father Joseph came from a town outside of Rome. Once here, he worked with Maria's brother. Joseph and Maria married on July 4, 1906.

The Cimini's bought the Hotel Pisa in the 1920s and ran it until about 1937, but the hotel dates to 1908 when Italian immigrant Domenick Bartecchi left Jessup, where he had run a saloon and grocery store while working as a miner. The Pisa was constructed by Frank Carlucci's company, and, according to Hitchcock's *History of Scranton*, the Bartecchi family lived in the building, and "part of it was fitted up as a store." Bartecchi's son Ferdinand, one of several children, became a well-known doctor and eventually took over the hotel.

When the Cimini's took over, the neighborhood was a thriving business and residential community. A popular spot among couples, the Pisa featured a three-piece band on Wednesday and Saturday nights, primarily jazz. "It was a nice place to



*Hotel Pisa Interior. Photo courtesy of the estate of Albert J. Cimini.*

dance," Dr. Cimini says. "I enjoyed very much being a part of it." He recalls his entire Central High School graduating class celebrating there in 1934. Typical of the craftsmanship of the day, the hotel's interior featured a tin ceiling, tile floors, and a bar of cherry wood that Joseph Cimini polished nightly with a mixture of his own concoction. "It had raw eggs in it," Dr. Cimini explains, "and my father would rub it all over the wood and leave it overnight. In the morning, he would clean it off. That wood was always beautiful." A room behind the bar featured a mural of the Nicholson Bridge by local artist Benny Smith.

The family-run hotel offered the Cimini's homemade wine. Grapes came in from California by train, starting in late August and running through October. Arriving at the Wholesale Block on Lackawanna Avenue, the grapes came in wooden boxes of 20 or 25 pounds.

**New Members**



**Student**

**Gale Y. Morris**                      **Scranton**  
**Cory Thomas**                      **Taylor**

**Individual**

**Richard Albert**                      **Scranton**  
**Donna Ayers-Snelson**              **Mountain Top**  
**Linda Judge Cornell**              **Texas**  
**Delores Henley**                      **Scranton**  
**Barbara Lewis**                      **North Dakota**  
**Ellen Loughney**                      **New Jersey**  
**Thomas O'Connor**                  **Scranton**  
**Mary E. Perrault**                      **Jermyn**  
**Eileen Reagan**                      **Scranton**  
**Karen Sparks**                      **Archbald**  
**Shirley Thomas**                      **Scranton**  
**Cynthia Zukowski**                  **Clarks Summit**

**Family**

**Lee & Peggy Benjamin**              **Moscow**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Michael Flanagan**      **Montana**  
**William & Shannon Lesniak**      **Scranton**  
**Romayne & Anthony Lynott**      **Scranton**  
**Robert Scheller**                      **Scranton**

**Memorial Contributions**

For John O'Hara                      For Jeanne Kane Hennemuth  
 From Muriel Devereaux              From Mr. and Mrs. John Hart

A contribution has also been received from Mrs. John O'Hara in honor of Richard MacGregor

**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 at 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510

**LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Student              \$10    NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 Individual          \$25  
 Family                \$35    ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contributing        \$75  
 Sustaining          \$150  
 Silver Corporate \$250    TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gold Corporate    \$500

**The Lackawanna Historical Society 2005-06**

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 Mary Ann Gavern                      Museum Assistant  
 Marian Yevis                      Receptionist  
 Dwane and Meredith Reese          Caretakers  
 Cheryl Kashuba                      Editor

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 \$25 and up for individuals, \$35 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 © 2005 by the Lackawanna Historical Society. Questions or comments can be addressed in writing directly to the Society.

**THIS DAY IN HISTORY**

**1892**

**5 July** Miss Louise Bates makes a balloon ascent and a parachute descent  
**27 July** 104 degrees in the shade  
**15 Aug.** Foundation stone laid for Columbus statue on courthouse square

**1893**

**8 Sept.** Scranton Choral Union wins the \$5000 prize at the International Welsh Eisteddfod at the Chicago World's Fair

**1894**

**30 July** New depot of D&H Railroad opens on Lackawanna Avenue  
**6 Aug.** Deed for Nay Aug Park transferred to the city

**1896**

**8 July** Conrad Schroeder awarded contract for additional story to courthouse, \$61,457  
**6 Sept.** Frothingham Theater sold by sheriff and bought by judgement creditors

**1898**

**6 Sept.** Cornerstone of St. Luke's parish house laid with impressive ceremony  
**8 Sept.** B.M. Winton exhibits his horseless carriage

**1900**

**3 July** Breaker Boys at Number 5 colliery of the Pennsylvania Coal Company go out on strike  
**4 Aug.** Merchants and Mechanics bank and adjoining store on Lackawanna Avenue wrecked by gas explosion; 21 people injured  
**17 Sept.** Great strike of anthracite miners begins  
**27 Sept.** Plans drawn for swimming pool at Nay Aug Park

**1901**

**7 Sept.** Union Pres. Mitchell addresses a great meeting of miners in Throop  
**15 Sept.** Memorial services held for President McKinley in nearly every church in Scranton

**1902**

**1 Aug.** John Mitchell addresses an audience of 10,000 miners at the Round Woods  
**11 Aug.** Miss Clara Peck becomes the first woman member of the Lackawanna Bar  
**27 Aug.** Death of Leroy Wheeler, who for many years was curator of the Historical Society  
**19 Sept.** Dedication of the new Jewish Temple on Madison Avenue

**1903**

**6 Aug.** Builder Conrad Schroeder found dead as the result of an accidental shooting

**1904**

**24 Aug.** L.A. Watres announces his retirement as colonel of the 13th Regiment

**1905**

**2 July** St. Ann's Monastery in the Round Woods dedicated  
**8 Aug.** Thirty employees at Rocky Glen arrested and charged with violating Sunday laws

**1906**

**4 Aug.** Twelve Southside speakeasies raided

**1907**

**26 July** 3,500 silk mill workers out on strike  
**7 Aug.** 5,532 silk mill workers on strike

**1908**

**3 July** \$40,000 spent annually for beer in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties  
**26 July** Consecration of St. Ann's church and blessing of Parish Hall by Bishop Hoban

**1909**

**1 July** Lackawanna Iron and Coal Co. dissolved as a corporation  
**5 July** Lake Lincoln dedicated  
**16 Aug.** Contract to erect Hotel Casey awarded to Carlucci Stone Compnay  
**29 Aug.** Mine cave in, W. Scranton, damaged No. 16 school and upwards of 20 residences; damages estimated at \$100,000

**1910**

**4 July** Sheridan monument unveiled at Court House square  
**16 Aug.** Scranton population 129,867

**1919**

**12 Sept.** Funeral of John Mitchell held from St. Peter's Cathedral, buried in Cathedral Cemetery with thousands attending; all mines idle

**1995**

**July** Steamtown National Historic Site opens



**Happy 10th Birthday Steamtown !!!**







### Windsor Chair Raffle

The Society is once again offering its members a chance to win a handcrafted Windsor Rocking Chair. Winners will be announced at the December 2nd Holiday Open House. 2nd prize is an 1886 Morgan Silver Dollar (donated by last year's winner Bob Savakinas), 3rd prize is a Magnovox DVD Player, and 4th Prize is a gift certificate for Patzel's Restaurant (donated by Pat Atkins). Each LHS member will be receiving a ticket in the mail soon. Please contact us if you would like to purchase additional tickets.

## Andersonville Remembered

by Alan Sweeney

December 7, 2005 marks the 100th anniversary of the unveiling of the monument at Andersonville, Georgia, dedicated to the Civil War soldiers from Pennsylvania who died at the Andersonville prison camp. A rededication ceremony is planned for this date.

Ezra Hoyt Ripple, former mayor of Scranton, spent two months confined in the prison. His memories recall his experience in the infamous prison. Civil War artist James E. Taylor made illustrations on glass slides that were then used by Ezra Ripple at public lectures where he would tell the story of his imprisonment.

In 1996, Mark Sneel edited Ezra H. Ripple's memoirs as the book *Dancing Along the Deadline*, which is available through the Society's book store. Call 570-344-3841 for purchasing information.

To learn more about the monument rededication, check out [www.paatandersonville.com](http://www.paatandersonville.com).

## Historic Tours Continue

Walking tours of Downtown Scranton and of Courthouse Square meet on alternating Saturdays this Summer. Courthouse Square tours meet at the Columbus Monument, corner of Washington Avenue and Spruce Street. Downtown Walking tours meet outside Lackawanna College on Vine Street, across from the Albright Memorial Library. A \$2.00 donation is requested.

### Courthouse Square tour dates:

Aug 13 and 27 and September 17 at 11:00 a.m.

### Downtown Walking tour dates:

Aug 6 and 20 at 10:00 a.m.

September 10 at 11:00 a.m.

Continued from page 6

of daily life for so many in our valley. Walking through, I recalled my mother's tales of blowing whistles alerting the community to a cave-in, the women and children running to find out just how bad the news would be. I thought of my grandfather, a man who died of black lung just as my mother, the middle of five children, was about to graduate 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

I had toured the mine the previous week, and so decided to sit out this part of the day's events, having yet to recover my sense of equilibrium after that moving experience.

Then it was back to the Trolley Museum for our parting gifts, information packets, and Ambassador passes.

For several days afterward, I couldn't walk the streets of downtown Scranton without thinking of the marked dichotomy of the glorious architecture above and the black hell below. "This," I thought, "is Scranton." It's the vision of some and the toil of others, it's the building stones and the anthracite, it's the successful achievements and the disastrous cave-ins. Scranton is the land-marks left to us by previous generations, but even more, it's the lived experience of many different peoples. Their presence greeted me with every step I took that day. But more than that, it's woven into the very fabric of this special valley we call home.

## Ambassadors Sought

*Don't miss this opportunity to experience our heritage as a point of pride!*

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley 2005 Ambassadors Program is underway. With stops at Steamtown National Historic Site, Nay Aug Park, the Scranton Cultural Center, and others, the Program offers an immersion in local history and culture, and an opportunity to be a spokesperson for our local treasures. The Program offers both full and half-day sessions:

FULL DAY	HALF DAY
August 17	July 26
September 21	September 27

To register, please call the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority at 570-963-6730.

## Dunmore Cemetery Tour Evolves

By Julie Esty

Each October, the Dunmore Cemetery is awash in reds, golds, and browns — the beautiful colors of Autumn which give the cemetery a life it does not have at any other time of year.

Each October for the past eight years, area residents have assembled at the gates of the Cemetery to attend the annual Lackawanna Historical Society *Dunmore Cemetery Tour*.

Early in the *Cemetery Tour's* history, LHS Director Mary Ann Moran had the idea to place a costumed person at each stop on the tour, telling the tale of the deceased person. While a few costumed stops were incorporated, the 2004 tour finally saw Ms. Moran's idea become a reality. Last year, the cemetery was not only alive with the colors of autumn, but for a small moment in time, some residents of the Dunmore Cemetery were alive once more to tell their tales from the past. Visitors to the tour were treated to stories from Mary Myers Peck, Ruth Tripp Slocum, Pierce B. Finley, and many more.

These historic figures were brought to life by LHS volunteers Margo, Dominick, and Marnie Azzarelli; Nelson, Christopher, and Jackie Wood; Bridget Conlogue; Christine and Jack Schaefer; Joanne, Matt, and Mary Bogdanovicz; John and Jenn Ochman; and Bill, Julie, and Megan Esty. Last year's tour was a huge success,

With a new line-up of folks from Scranton's past, the 2005 tour promises to be a true event! Joining visitors this year will be some of the veterans from the 2004 tour and the *Women of Scranton* production. The addition of new tour cast members Joan Glowinski, John Moran, Doug Forrer, Steve Dreater, Warren Maxson, and Don Jenkins enables us to honor the public request to add more stops to the existing tour and to add a second tour. The 2004 tour had thirteen stops, spotlighting seventeen people. The upcoming tour will have seventeen stops and highlight twenty nine individuals.

One very special stop will tell an interesting tale from the early 1870s. The tour will also cover a good number of years, spanning from the late 1700s

## LHS Bids Fond Farewell

This summer the Society bid farewell to our dedicated caretaker, Jim Gavern and to two outstanding volunteers.

Dorothy Rossi began volunteering at the Catlin House in 2001. As a retired librarian she brought much knowledge and talent to her work in organizing the Society's library. This May, Dorothy left Lackawanna County to relocate to Swarthmore, near Philadelphia, to be closer to her family.

Yellowwood student volunteer Stephanie Lehan began working at the Society in September, 2004 as part of her requirements to complete her High School career. She graduated in June.

In July, Society Caretaker, Jim Gavern retired after seven years of service and loving care of the Catlin House. Jim has promised that we will still see him at the Annual Holiday Open House, where he's known for serenading our guests with some favorite holiday tunes.

We bid a heartfelt farewell to these true friends and know that they will be missed greatly.

to the 1940s.

A look back over the past eight years reveals a significant evolution. What began as a walking tour led by Mary Ann Moran has grown to a full-scale production complete with costumed interpreters. John Pesavanto, local monument expert, enlightened visitors to many interesting aspects of cemetery memorials and crypts. Passing years saw the addition of the Civil War Lady, the 18th Century Woman, and the Mill Worker. The tour evolved slowly but has come to be something more than any of those involved over the years ever thought it could be.

The 2005 tour promises to be more than a walk on a beautiful autumn afternoon: it promises to be a walk through history. Join cemetery residents as they come alive once more. Mark your calendars for October 16th and 23rd at 2 p.m.



## IN THE BOOKSTORE



### Local Authors Contribute to *Images of America* Series

Arcadia Publishing's *Images of America* series showcases the life of communities across the United States. Using archival photographs, each title in the series presents distinctive stories from the past that shape the character of the community today. Several local authors have been hard at work on their own contributions to this wonderful series.

**Stephanie Longo**

#### *Italians of Northeastern Pennsylvania*

Arcadia Publishing, 2004

\$19.99

Italian Americans are proud contributors to the rich and varied life of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Photographs follow the journey from the Old World into a new life. Businesses such as the Galati family barbershop in Carbondale, and Trovato Brothers Meat Market in West Scranton,; Amedeo Obici, co-founder of Planter's Peanuts and Chocolate Company in Wilkes-Barre; Gino Merli, and Scranton's Columbus Monument are shown. Construction of St. Lucy's parish in West Scranton, and the old St. Francis Cabrini School, visited by Mother Cabrini herself, are documented. This book offers a glimpse into the public life and private celebrations of the second-largest ethnic group in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties.

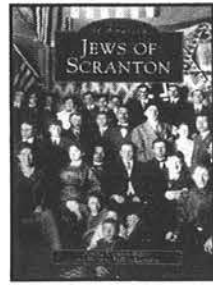


**Arnene Cumsky Weiss  
and Darlene Miller-Lanning**  
*The Jews of Scranton*

Arcadia Publishing, 2005

\$19.99

This book is a celebration of 150 years of Jewish life in Scranton and surrounding communities, where Orthodox, Conservative, and Reformed congregations have always demonstrated a commitment to their faith and to their community. Images depict the dedication of the Madison Avenue Temple, Rabbi Lewis at the Linden Street Shul in 1904, and Temple Israel of Dunmore, among others. Scranton boxer Manny Gelb is remembered, as are businessmen Jonas Long, Samuel Samter, and M.L. Hoden. Doctors and soldiers, schools and community organizations, civic events, and family life all are documented through photographs courtesy of many individuals and organizations. Visits from Eleanor Roosevelt and Elie Wiesel are featured, as is *Life* magazine's 1955 cover photograph of Tobi Fink blessing the Shabbas candles. The book truly is a celebration of life.



**Cheryl A. Kashuba, Darlene Miller-Lanning,  
and Alan Sweeney**

#### *Scranton*

Arcadia Publishing, Due out Fall 2005

Price: TBA

From its early days as a fledgling iron-forge, through its industrial heyday as a railroad and mining center, Scranton was really three cities. What began as a small settlement in the wilderness became, after the advent of the Iron Furnaces, a planned nineteenth century town, with carefully-laid-out streets lined with shops, the Wyoming and Forest Hotels, the First Presbyterian Church, and Public School Number One.

The rich and diverse details of Scranton's history are documented using more than 200 photographs from the Historical Society's collection. Photographs of the Lackawanna Iron Furnaces, combined with drawings of long-departed buildings, depict Scranton in the mid to late nineteenth century.

Traces of that old city remain in the layout of streets and in downtown buildings dated from the 1880s and 1890s. With the rise in railroading and mining, however, that old city soon gave way to a progressive, modern one, complete with sky scrapers, modern schools and hospitals, parks and hotels, a thriving theater district, and the first viable all-electric trolley system in the country.

Carefully-selected images document the growth of a vibrant and progressive city. Photos of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad passenger station, the Scranton Bicycle Club, and familiar downtown buildings are accompanied by rarer images of the Lackawanna Iron Furnaces, and Joel Amsden's map of Scranton, dated 1857. From lace and silk to libraries and churches, the photographs in this book show the life and work of a vibrant and thriving community.



*Upcoming: A number of special events will take place to coincide with the publication of Scranton., including a book signing at the Catlin House and a show featuring images and artifacts at the Hope Horn Gallery. Check the October newsletter for details.*

Reviewed by Cheryl A. Kashuba

### Sears Home Expert Rose Thornton To Appear at Annual Dinner

The Lackawanna Historical Society is excited to announce that nationally-known Sears Home expert Rose Thornton will be the guest of honor at the annual dinner on September 21st.

From 1908 to 1940, Sears, Roebuck and Company sold more than 100,000 homes in 447 different styles. Many of them can be found in Scranton.

Ms. Thornton has traveled throughout the Midwest, researching, documenting, and lecturing on Sears homes. Her lecture and slide presentation includes rare pictures from the old *Sears Modern Home* catalog, as well as contemporary photos of Sears homes.

Expect to hear a brief history of Richard Sears and Alvah Roebuck, an explanation of why Sears started selling homes, and plenty of information on how to identify Sears homes.

Ms. Thornton is the author of *Houses that Sears Built*, now in its third printing. Typically, she lectures to standing-room-only crowds.

Invitations to the dinner will be mailed soon.

### Society Enjoys a Busy Season



Thanks to everyone who assisted with the May 15th Synagogue Tour, especially Carol Rubel, Tova Weiss, Richard Leonori, and Rabbis Mendelsohn and

Benny Rapoport. Over sixty people attended the event. Special thanks to presenter Albert Barry. Congratulations to Co-chairs Ellie Axford and Elaine Shepard for the extremely successful June 19th Historic House Tour in the Hill. Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time and joined us for the day. Pictured are Mary Ann Moran, Ellie Axford, Alan Sweeney, Elaine Shepard, Eileen Pocius, Michael Gilmartin, and Joan Tate.



The LHS is pleased to join forces with the Olyphant Coal Miners' Memorial Association to raise funds to erect a monument to honor Olyphant Miners. LHS members are invited to make a donation by sending contributions directly to the Society. Call 344-3841 for additional details.

### Praise for

#### *Under the Abington Moon*

The Past Players brought history to life once again in a new production that debuted on June 25 and 26. Both performances played to sold-out crowds. LHS Member T.C. Connolly offered words of praise in a letter to the Society's Director. (shown at right in box)

**Production Notes:** Thanks to Anne Lewis, who conceived the project and acted as historical consultant. Special thanks to Kathy Keating for starting the ball rolling. Thanks to Eleanore Ginader and her committee, who kept things running smoothly, and to Maria Wilson and the Waverly Community House for their willingness to oversee the project. Thanks also to the First Baptist Church of Abington for their time and

Dear Mary Ann,

Just a few lines to salute the Past Players - again.

*Under the Abington Moon* was great - kudos to Nancy and Cindy Hasty - again.

I burst with pride watching those actors and actresses perform - they're remarkable. Each and every one brings a special something to their roles. Please extend my appreciation of their talents to them on my behalf. All their hard work certainly pays off, and our Historical Society is lucky to have them.

Sincerely,  
Miss T.C. Connolly

interest.

As always, much thanks to Nancy Hasty and Cindy Hasty, and thanks to the cast of Moon. Bravo!

The Past Players impress us with their talent, energy, and commitment. Each project has been a great success, and indeed their place among Historical Society volunteers has grown beyond what any of us first imagined. As new projects come up and old projects expand, the LHS wishes to take special care in making the most of their efforts. For that reason, the Society has decided to postpone the performances of *Under the Lackawanna Moon* that were

originally scheduled for August. More information will be forthcoming as we work out a schedule that will best accommodate the Players and their audiences. We look forward to more of their fine work!

## Becoming an LHVA Ambassador

By Cheryl A. Kashuba

I became tourist for a day when I gathered with fellow would-be ambassadors at the Trolley Museum on Wednesday, June 29 for the Lackawanna Heritage Valley's Ambassador Program. In its fourth year, the program encourages its participants to view their heritage as a point of pride.

We were greeted by enthusiastic LHVA Chief Operating Officer Jesse Ergot, Executive Director Natalie Solfanelli, Dan Perry, Colleen Carter, and Margo Tomlinson. Steamtown's Tim O'Malley and Bill Nalevanko joined us for the day. As we munched our muffins and sipped our morning brew, the group spoke of their philosophy and purpose: to promote, preserve and interpret the land, the industry, and the people of the Lackawanna Valley.

I had visited each of the sites on our tour before, some many times, but I approached the day with eager eyes. Always eager for the insider's perspective, I was enthusiastic.

After a quick look around the Trolley Museum, we crossed the parking lot to Steamtown National Historic Site, where, for the first time, I saw the shops -- the back room where restoration and maintenance takes place. Huge machinery, men in grease-stained work clothes, the distant sound of a train on the tracks: the sights and smells of Steamtown provide a glimpse into heavy industry as it once was.

We left the noise of the shops for the style and grace of the Trolley. The ride took us over Roaring Brook, through the Crown Avenue Tunnel, along the Stafford Meadow Brook, and on up to the base of Montage Mountain. Along the way, Dan Perry briefed us on the history. The trolley car itself comes from Philadelphia, but it traverses the old Laurel Line tracks. Restored wicker seats, period advertisements, open windows: it was easy to imagine myself making the daily commute through a landscape of natural beauty.

We left the vintage car to board the air-conditioned mini bus that would carry us to our next destination: lunch at the Lackawanna Historical Society. We arrived to an al fresco setting of tables dressed in white linens, with lavender bows and brilliant orange day lilies, typical LHS hospitality. We

chatted over delicious sandwiches from Heavenly Ham. Then it was back on the bus and up the hill to the Everhart Museum, where the cool interior walls and the locally-famous bird collection took me back to my childhood. Upstairs, I had a chance to make a quick pass through an exhibition of paintings by Arthur Byron Phillips before it was time for a stop at the gorge. Standing on new decking high above the magnificent waterfall, I once again felt the special pull of that landscape and the layers of time held in the very rocks themselves.

It's a short drive from this sylvan spot into the heart of downtown Scranton, and there we met Mary Ann Moran for a shortened version of the LHS tour of Court House Square. As we recalled the Great Anthracite Strike, I had one of those rare flashes where you feel yourself part of time. In my daily life, I don't always stop to acknowledge it, but the people who made history here in Courtroom number 2 -- President Theodore Roosevelt, John Mitchell, and the leaders of capital -- left a tangible presence. For a few moments, I was conscious of walking in their footsteps.

Next it was on to the Masonic Temple, where I had my first-ever behind the scenes peek at the grand ballroom, the library, and two of the Masonic meeting rooms. Raymond Hood knew what he was doing when he designed this vast structure. Medieval arches grace rooms and corridors, Masonic symbols adorn walls and furniture, and the whole experience transports you to a medieval fantasy world.

We couldn't linger here, though. The bus was waiting to take us across town to the Anthracite Museum. There, reality hits hard. Black Anthracite, photos of breaker boys, girls in the lace works; tales of missing fingers and limbs; an Eastern European headdress and a German family bible. Millions of people left home and culture to work long hours at grueling jobs. A reproduction living quarters, a tavern, and a church altar and pews offer a glimpse into home and community life. A huge photo of the multiple funerals that followed the Knox cave in, the white caskets for the children, is a moving reminder of the danger that was a part

Continued on page 8





## Gateway to the Clouds

By Alan Sweeney  
Tribute Books, 2005  
\$20.00

The Lackawanna Historical Society is proud to announce that the book Gateway to the Clouds, a story of a Shortline Railroad, the Scranton, Dunmore, Moosic Lakes Railroad, will be received

from the printer by the 15th of July. Judy and Alan Sweeney have authored this short history of the railroad and Moosic Lake from 1902 to 1924. The book is filled with rare photographs and postcards. If anyone remembers riding the streetcars to Moosic Lake, this book will be of interest, or if you are a railroad enthusiast, the book deals with a steam railroad started as a narrow gauge to standard gauge and then electrification. All proceeds from the sale of this book will go to the Lackawanna Historical Society's General Operating Fund. The book retails for \$20.00 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling. If you would like to order a copy, please call the Society of office at 344-3841, or stop in and pick up a copy.

### The Lackawanna Historical Society Fund For the Future

*We continue to receive contributions toward this fund drive and are pleased to recognize Anne Gershey for her recent donation in the Breaker Boy/Girl category.*

#### 2005 BOOK FAIR SCHEDULED

The Society has scheduled the 2005 Local Authors' Fair For Sunday, November 13th in cooperation with the Luzerne County Historical Society. All local authors are invited to participate. For information on how to register, interested authors should contact the Society at 344-3841

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They were bought by the ton and trucked to customers like the Cimini's. "Nick Sparacino did a lot of hauling of grapes," Dr. Cimini says. "He was a big man, always had a stogie. I was little, and I was always fascinated by the big Mac truck that he had." The Sparacino business still exists today as a moving company.

Frank Cimini enjoyed watching the great care his family put into the wine-making process. First, they would mash the grapes and then put them into a wine press. A ton of grapes made three barrels of wine, with 55 gallons to the barrel. The barrels had to be clean and kept free of air so that the wine didn't turn to vinegar.

Prohibition didn't deter the family from running its business. The 1931 Scranton Directory lists a place of residence at the Fairview address, but no business. Still, the hotel continued to offer dancing and refreshments to its regular customers.

The locals were primarily Italians, but Fairview was home to families of immigrants from Syria, who offered bundles of clothing and other items for sale. Mrs. G.W. Brown, who had taken over her husband's trucking business when he died, lived next door to the Cimini's, and she ran her trucking company from that site too. "Mrs. Brown was a fine

lady," Dr. Cimini says. The Peters family were good neighbors, too, and "everyone got along."

There were butcher shops, a garage, and along 9<sup>th</sup> Street just off Lackawanna Avenue, was Calamatta Importing Company, run by a family of Greek immigrants. Arvonio's specialized in cookies and, in the summertime, lemon ice, and there was Cabbo Jewelers.

Over time, the neighborhood changed and the businesses began to disappear. The Cimini family bought a restaurant up on Main Avenue called the Druid, later giving it that family's name. Frank and his brothers Chester and Albert stayed behind to run the Pisa for a time, but they leased it and then eventually sold it.

Two years ago, the old Hotel was up for sale. Frank and his son Joe went in to have a look, but the place was unrecognizable. The beautiful bar that Frank's father had so lovingly cared for was gone, as was the tin ceiling and the mural. Now a flop house, the building was in sad shape "I had to get out of there," Dr. Cimini says. "It disgusted me."

The Cimini's don't know what became of the bar or the tin ceiling, but Frank Cimini knows that the Hotel Pisa once saw better, happier times. "I had a lot of good memories there," he says.