

# The Lackawanna Historical Society BULLETIN

Vol. 8, No. 1

Winter - 1974

## IMPORTANT MEETING NOTICE

On Wednesday evening, March 27th, at eight o'clock, the Society will hold its fifth meeting of the 1973-74 season. Speakers for the program will be Dr. John L. Earl, society vice-president, and Dr. Michael DeMichele, Professor of History at the University of Scranton, who will discuss the topic: "Ethnic Experience in Lackawanna County." Dr. Earl will talk about the region's background and Dr. DeMichele will explain the development of the highly successful Ethnic Studies program at the University. A forty minute film, representing a composite of many hours of audio-visual tapes on the region's ethnic background, will be shown. Light refreshments will follow.

This notice will serve as a reminder of the forthcoming March meeting, in lieu of the postal cards normally sent. Please try to attend.

Wednesday, March 27th

8 P.M.

## BOARD INCREASES DUES

Upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Board of Trustees approved several changes regarding membership categories and dues at its meeting on January 16, 1974. A letter of explanation was recently mailed to all members of the historical society, with the exception of Life Members, by the Reverend William P. Lewis, president.

In order to streamline office procedure, the Board endorsed the concept of an annual billing during the month of January. To implement this concept immediately, society members were mailed notices in which their dues payable were prorated to December 31, 1974.

The following categories of membership with their respective rates have become effective:

Active (individual or family) . . \$10.00  
Contributing . . . . . 20.00  
Sustaining . . . . . 30.00 or more

A special Student Membership category was also established to encourage high school and college students to become actively involved in the society's programs at \$3.00 per year.

The new rates represent the first increases since 1965-66. The Life Membership category has been abolished, although this will not affect current life members.

Although the Board of Trustees was reluctant to raise dues in a time of inflationary prices, the response of the membership has been very encouraging. To date, more than half of those who received notices last month have responded generously. Several individuals have increased their contributions by moving up into the Contributing and Sustaining membership categories.

The total number of recorded memberships presently stands at 370, representing a twenty-three percent increase since April 30, 1973. Since the new rates have gone into effect, three members have resigned from the society. During the same period, there have been six new memberships.

## NEW MEMBERS

Gloria Caputo  
Sean F. Creegan  
Ernest W. Davis  
Thomas P. Dempsey  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Duggan  
Joan L. Holmes  
Thomas J. Loven  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Loven  
Daniel Noone  
Paula J. Paoloni  
Royals Historical Society  
(University of Scranton)  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Spillane  
Stephen Tomar

## BI-CENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE

Several weeks ago, Reverend Lewis requested Dr. Feller to act as the society's coordinator in working with area groups who are planning activities in conjunction with the forthcoming celebration of the nation's 200th birthday. A short time thereafter, the Reverend Dexter Hanley, President of the University of Scranton, appointed Dr. Feller to serve in a similar capacity for the university.

On Tuesday, March 5th, the Executive Director attended a meeting of the Mayor's Flag Committee at the Castle Restaurant, at which representatives of

various regional organizations began initial discussions as to the roles which both the City of Scranton and Lackawanna County might play during the bi-centennial year.

Dr. Feller believes that the county historical society should play a major role during this planning period, and he invites any interested members of the society to contact him. The society should plan to organize a special Bi-centennial Committee in the near future, in order to have within the organization a proper vehicle for thrashing out suggestions and for working with other area organizations.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance by the By-Laws of the society, the annual election of officers will be held at the regular monthly meeting on April 23rd. Officers include the President; first, second and third Vice-Presidents; Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer; and Corporation Secretary. At the same time, those members of the Board of Trustees whose three-year terms will expire this spring and who desire reelection will be proposed for new terms. Vacancies existing on the Board at the time of the April meeting will also be filled by election. Any member desiring additional information regarding the election should contact Reverend Lewis, president, or Atty. Philip Mattes, chairman of the Election Committee.

The newly elected officers of the society will be installed at the annual dinner meeting in May.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS

Thanks to Mrs. Paul Uhl for her recent loan of Parianware exhibited at the Catlin House between November 20 and January 26.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mattes are reported doing well after their recent illnesses.

Volunteer help is still needed for the cataloguing of books in the society's refurbished library.

Special thanks to an anonymous donor for the gift of four chairs to be used in the library, as well as for the gift of a rug.

Copies of the books and pamphlets on local history, listed in the Fall 1973 Bulletin are still available.

Congratulations to Mary Bagias who conducted a membership drive of her own and is responsible for a dozen new members. Miss Bagias will serve as hostess at the March 27th meeting.

## PORTRAIT OF J. W. RAUGHT

A small portrait of John Willard Raught (1857-1931) was recently donated to the Lackawanna Historical Society by Mrs. Frank J. O'Hora of Hamilton, N. Y., and Mrs. Paul A. Delp of Lansdale, Pa., great nieces of the area artist.

Originally the property of Mrs. Anna M. Swartz, mother of Mrs. O'Hora and a former Dunmore resident who died on January 29, 1974, at the age of eighty-five, the painting was deposited with the society several months ago. The Raught portrait was based on a photograph and painted during the artist's lifetime by Corwin Knapp Linson.

Many years ago, Mrs. Swartz and her sister, Mrs. W. V. Mathews (mother of Mrs. Delp), donated a beautiful oil painting of a coal breaker done by Raught. The painting has hung for some time in what was formerly George Catlin's library to the right of the entrance at the society's headquarters.

The Linson portrait of Raught presently hangs in the secretary's office, where it joins two other original works of art by Raught that have been framed recently. One is a very early seascape (probably the Maine coast) that was "rediscovered" during the renovation of the library; the other, a charcoal drawing of a breaker.

The Board and members of the society extend their deep appreciation to both Mrs. O'Hora and Mrs. Delp for making this important donation possible.

## GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT (II)

As reported in the Fall 1973 issue of the Bulletin, several members of the Laurel Garden Club and the regional 4-H Club planted dozens of floral varieties on the grounds of the Catlin House, as part of a beautification project conceived by Mrs. Caroline Feldman.

In response to Mrs. Feldman's request for the establishment of memorials to underwrite the cost of purchasing evergreens for the museum property, two memorials have been arranged. Additional funds are needed, however, and Mrs. Feldman asks that any member wishing to make a contribution in memory of a relative or friend please contact either Dr. Feller or herself. It is hoped that the planting of the evergreens can be completed in the spring months.

## NEW STORAGE FOR FASHIONS COLLECTION

Several weeks ago, Merv Ort designed and constructed new storage facilities for the Fashions Committee in a small room formerly used by the D.A.R., adjacent to the Fashions Room on the second floor. This storage area will provide Mrs. James K. Peck's committee with twice as much space as they formerly had. At the same time, relocation of articles of apparel in the new facility will free much needed storage space in other parts of the Catlin House.

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 56  
Scranton, Pa.

I hereby present my application for \_\_\_\_\_ membership in the Lackawanna Historical Society and enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment of dues for one year.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: Individual and Family, \$10.00 per year  
Contributing, \$20.00 per year      Sustaining, \$30.00 or more per year

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, Pa. 18510  
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
CATLIN HOUSE  
232 MONROE AVENUE  
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18510

MRS. T. ARCHER MORGAN  
717 MONROE AVE.  
SCRANTON, PA. 18510