

Rocky Glen Park subject of Lunch Lecture Series

Robert Savakinus will present a talk entitled "Remembering Rocky Glen Park" at the Dorflinger-Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary on Friday, March 9, at 11 a.m., as part of the Sanctuary's Lectures and Lunch series. The presentation will be held in the Blough Building on the Sanctuary grounds. A lunch will follow. There is no charge for the lecture, but there is a fee for the lunch (members of the Sanctuary \$10; non-members \$12). Reservations are necessary. Please call 570-253-1185 or email suydam@ptd.net. Space is limited.

Rocky Glen Park served as a recreational escape for coal miners, railroad-ers, mill workers and their families for more than 100 years. Beginning with Arthur Frothingham's purchase of a 40-acre lake surrounded by 225 acres of land in 1885 and ending when the New Rocky Glen Park closed in 1987, millions of visitors enjoyed the park in its variations. From the earliest years, skating, swimming and boating were the main attractions. But, in 1904, rides were added to make it a true amusement park.

By the 1920s over 200,000 people traveled annually to the park using the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valley's Laurel Line electric streetcar. Ethnic festivals were held with Polish, Welsh, Irish

and Italian days drawing as many as 20,000 people a day. Major attractions were added after the Sterling family became part owners in the 1930s and 1940s including the famous Swiss Cottage, the Fun House and the Dance Hall.

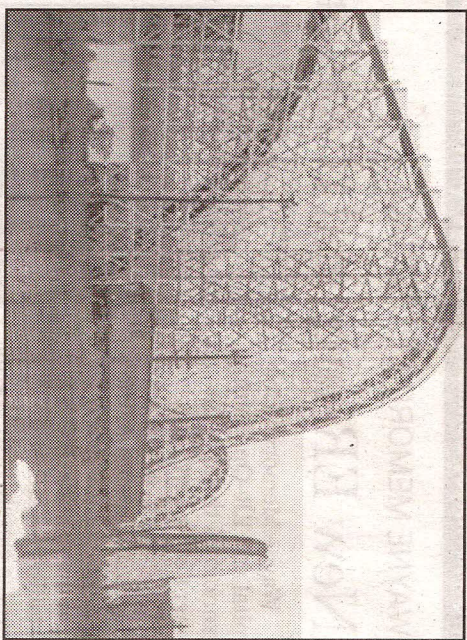
The park thrived under the management of Ben Sterling who took full ownership in 1951. The Million Dollar Roller Coaster—built at a cost of \$100,000 in 1945—was considered "ahead of its time" and "Best in the East." Over one million people rode the massive coaster in its first three years of operation. It had a peak height of 96 feet and ride length of 4,700 feet. It was dismantled in

1957. Through the 1950s and 1960s, the park drew such top entertainment acts as Guy Lombardo, Jimmy Durante, Harry James, Chuck Connors, The Lone Ranger and Frank Sinatra. The Sterlings sold the park in the 1970s and it became "Ghost Town in the Glen" with a western town theme complete with gun fights and can-can dancers.

Despite renovations in the 1980s that featured 33 rides and a return to the traditional family amusement park, the "New Rocky Glen Park" struggled with stricter state laws for park safety and competition from mega-parks like Great Adventure and Hershey Park. Rocky Glen closed for good in 1987.

Robert Savakinus is co-owner of Pippin Pictures, and a producer of the video documentary "Rocky Glen Park." This film premiered in 2009, to an audience of more than 800 people at Steamtown National Historic Site. His presentation at the Sanctuary will discuss the park's history and include a show-and-tell of photographs and artifacts from his collection. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own souvenirs and memories of Rocky Glen Park to share.

Bob is actively involved in several civic and cultural groups in Lack-

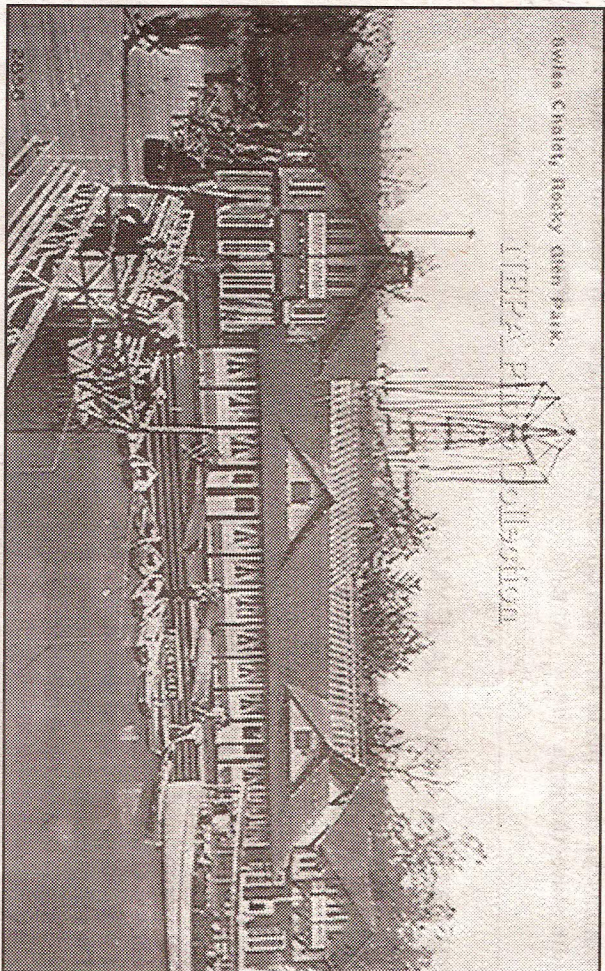


'The Million Dollar Roller Coaster' will be one of the topics discussed at a talk entitled "Remembering Rocky Glen Park" at the Dorflinger-Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary on Friday, March 9, at 11 a.m., as part of the Sanctuary's Lectures and Lunch series.

County Intermediate Unit #18.

The Dorflinger-Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary is a 600-acre property with hiking and nature trails. It is home to the Dorflinger Glass Museum and the Wildflower Music Festival. The second lecture in the series will take place on Friday, March 9 when Robert Savakinus will speak on "Remembering Rocky Glen Park." Additional information is available at: www.dorflinger.org.

The Dorflinger-Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary is located on Long Ridge Road and Elizabeth Street in White Mills. At the blinking light adjacent to the Pennsylvania Historic Marker in White Mills, turn and go up the steep hill (Elizabeth Street) for 6/10 of a mile to the stop sign at a second blinking light. Continue on for 1/10 of a mile to the entrance of the Sanctuary on your right.



'The Swiss Chalet' will be discussed at a talk entitled "Remembering Rocky Glen Park" at the Dorflinger-Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary on Friday, March 9, at 11 a.m., as part of the Sanctuary's Lectures and Lunch series.