



© 2005 Times News

[Back to previous page](#)

Saylor Kilns society to produce film

By AL RECKER
Press writer

The Saylor Cement Kilns Preservation Society isn't going Hollywood. But the organization is about to embark on producing a documentary film.

The movie will be provided to possible benefactors to introduce them to the need for and the importance of preserving the historical kilns, which were in operation during the dawn of the Portland cement industry.

The volunteer members of the kilns preservation committee will have a well-known Allentown figure play the role of David Saylor, who was founder of the Saylor cement kilns process. Dennis Miller, who also portrays one of Allentown's greatest historical figures, Gen. Harry C. Trexler, will play the part of Saylor.

According to Ron Oakes, a Kilns Preservation Society director, the film is expected to be made over the next several weeks.

The film will be between 10 minutes and a half-hour in length.

Oakes said it will be distributed to foundations, large corporations and others as the fund-raising project gets underway.

Formed last year when Lehigh County threatened to demolish the historic kilns, some of which had been restored years before that, the society was organized to fund restoration of the structures.

The directors and officers have large plans, not only to have the unimproved kilns restored and capped, but also, perhaps, to build a museum and a memorial to the people who have worked in the cement industry over the years.

At the Coplay Community Days celebration in late August, the society will have a display where the sale of souvenir tiles portraying the kilns will take place, and where a new fund-

raising sale item, a hand-painted spoon depicting the kilns, will also be available.

State Rep. Julie Harhart has reported obtaining for the society a \$5,000 grant, which will be forthcoming.

Oakes said the paperwork has been submitted for a 501(c)(3) non-profit designation to Harrisburg. Once the society receives approval for the non-profit designation, which Oakes said will take six months, fund raising can begin on a major scale.
