ON THE LAZY BENCH

Penn Brad Oil Museum *strives to preserve the history of the Bradford Oil Field and the unique culture that developed along with it. The Museum also honors the people and their families whose lives contributed to making Bradford the "**Highgrade Oil Metropolis of the World.**"*

A Quarterly Newsletter — Vol. 7 – No. 1 – Winter 2021

Willard "Bill" Cline – Bradford's Own Legendary Oilman

by Fran Bottone, Museum Manager, with Tom Miller, Museum President

We are sorry to say that the Bradford community and the local oil industry have recently lost a treasure of a man, Willard 'Bill' Cline, who died at the age of 95 on December 29th of 2020.

For those who may not have known Bill, he was the true definition of an old-fashioned gentleman. Bill was the senior statesman of the Bradford Oil Field and was always willing to help out when a fellow oilman had a tough problem.

As a young man, Bill would actually ride his bicycle from Bradford all the way to Rixford on a regular basis to pump wells.

World War II came along and Bill enlisted in the United States Navy right out of high school, serving as Boatswain 1st class on a destroyer in the Pacific Theater until his honorable discharge at war's end. After returning home, Bill founded Cline Oil and served as president for over 60 years.

Bill & Don Miller

Bill was always a passionate advocate for the small oil producer, locally and statewide, even traveling to Washington DC. He served on numerous local and state oil boards and associations, including acting as president of the Bradford District Pennsylvania Oil Producers Association, as a director of Pennsylvania Oil, Gas and Minerals Association and as an active board member of Pennsylvania Independent Petroleum Producers for over 40 years. Bill and his wife Joyce have always provided unwavering support and generosity to the Penn Brad Oil Museum and Joyce currently serves as treasurer.

We could easily fill this newsletter with Bill's lifetime achievements and contributions and still might run out of room, but a major highlight in 2014 was Bill being presented with the prestigious "Colonel Edwin L. Drake Legendary Oilman Award" by the Petroleum History Institute.

Joyce, Bill & GT Thompson

*** ***Story continued on page 2***

PENN BRAD OIL MUSEUM

901 South Avenue - Bradford, PA 16701
Email: pennbrad.oilmuseum@yahoo.com
Web: penn-bradoilmuseum.org
Phone: 814-362-1955

Open: Tuesday to Friday
9 AM to 4 PM
Saturday
9 AM to 2 PM

Admission Cost:
Adults - $5.00
Seniors - $4.50
Children (under 12) - FREE
Active Military / Family - FREE

PENN BRAD OIL MUSEUM BRADFORD, PENNSYLVANIA 1971

Bill Cline continued

Bill's good friend Congressman Glen "GT" Thompson was in attendance and spoke at the event. Rumor had it that Bill strongly disliked wearing a tie, but he did put one on for this occasion (at least for part of it).

In 2012, Bill and Joyce were the recipients of the Pennsylvania Independent Oil Producers (PIPP) Sucker Rod Award for their service to the small, independent oil and gas producers of Pennsylvania.

Bill's company owns the locally famous "Cline Number One", Bradford's oldest oil well, located in the McDonald's drive-through. The well was drilled in the early 1870's.

We will close this tribute with a short story about Bill that should make everyone smile. Not that long ago, during winter time, he was checking one of his wells along the flood control walls on the Tuna Creek.He took a misstep and slid down the steep embankment into the icy waters. Bill decided that he preferred to walk down the creek (quite a ways) to Mill Street where he could get out, saying that he would rather do that than see an article in the newspaper reporting that an old man fell in the creek and needed help getting out.

We will all surely miss seeing Bill around town in his work blues, always with a friendly hello and a ready smile.

Bill & Don Miller

Thank you, Bill, for your service to your country, your city and your industry. And finally, thank you for your kindness and for sharing such a wonderful life.

Memorials to Willard M. Cline, placed into the Rig Replacement Fund as of 2/5/21:

Michael & Rose Aimonetti / Dr. William & Janet Baas / Sylvia J Bachman / Dean M. Bauer / The Belardia Family / Greg & Jane Bell / Cathy Platko & Bob Kelly Families / Bradford American Legion Post 108 / Bradford City Fire Department / Kevin & Sheryl Carls / Richard & Ann Cavallero / Isabelle G. Champlin / Charles & Lori Charnisky / Willard & Brenda Cline / Melissa G Colligan / Guy & Linda Conklin / Michael & Jeanne Coyne / Patrick D. Crants / Frederick W. Fesenmyer / Dean & Linda Fox / William & Carol Fromme / Bruce Galati / David P. Geitner / Susan Gibson Gould / Christopher & Virginia Hauser / Gary & Dana Haven / Beth Hilzinger / Timothy & Iva Housler / Mila K. Howard / Howard Drilling, Inc. / J.A. Luciano Sons, LLC / Robert M Jarrett / Ann & Ken Kane / Connie & Norm King / William & Terri Leven, Jr. / Bella Capelli, Jody Magnetti / Dr. David & Carol McDougall / Bradford Pipe Supply, Inc. / Madeline Miles / Michael & Deborah Miller / Thomas & Patricia Miller / Jerry & Harrijane Moore / Roger & Mary Pais / Karen A. Peterson / Paulette Phillips / L. Michael Price / Clare Pusateri / Scott & Mary Ann Quinn / David & Mary Rathfon / Barbara A. Reid / Nancy Reynolds / Michael & Beth Ann Rhoades / Judy & Chip Saf / John & Jeanie Satterwhite / Brett & Jeannine Schoenecker / Donna Sedelmyer / Susan Shonts / Karen & Thomas Siverd / James Slocum

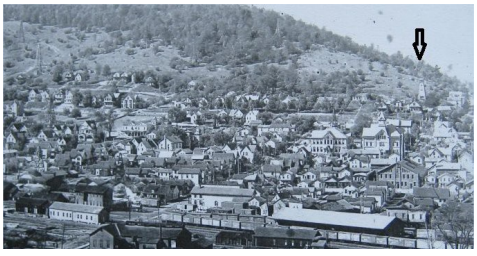
******list continued on page 7***

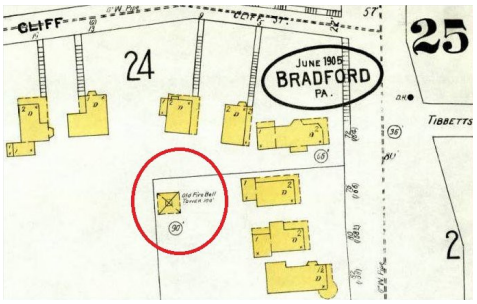
Was Bradford's Old-Time Fire Warning Bell Tower a Thinly Disguised Standard Drilling Rig?

by Fran Bottone, Museum Manager

This story is about Bradford's original fire warning system (with a twist). There's not a large amount of information on this unique structure and system, but between my own research, and with contributions from local historians Dave Rathfon and Mike Fuoco (Bradford Landmark Society), here is what we know and what I think.

This tower was put into use around 1885 and was a tall tapered affair that had closed-in sides, an open top for several feet, a large bell, and a small roof to protect the bell and the observers. It also looks like it had windows on different levels and it just happened to be located at a very good vantage point high above Cliff Street on Quintuple Hill. This point of the hill overlooked what was Bradford's earliest and most developed district, but virtually all of the town could be observed from this spot high on the hill.





Sanborn map courtesy of Dave Rathfon

They say this bell could be heard as far away as Redrock in one direction and Songbird in another. It was made of brass, very large, and very heavy. Some estimate in the thousands of pounds. Different sources have this structure listed as anywhere from 70 to 100 feet tall. More on that in a minute.

The way this system worked in the early days was, an observer manned the tower, presumably a fireman, and if he saw smoke in one of Bradford's six separate wards, he would ring the bell once for each number of the ward, thereby alerting and mobilizing volunteers in their respective neighborhoods that there was a fire nearby, seven bells for a general alarm. A call to arms, so to speak, to fight this unpredictable enemy.

You also have to remember that back in those days everything was made of wood, from the houses and commercial buildings, to fences, sidewalks and even oil derricks and wooden tanks filled with highly flammable crude oil, right in residential neighborhoods. It was important to attack these conflagrations quickly before they spread. Early fire fighting equipment left a lot to be desired as well.

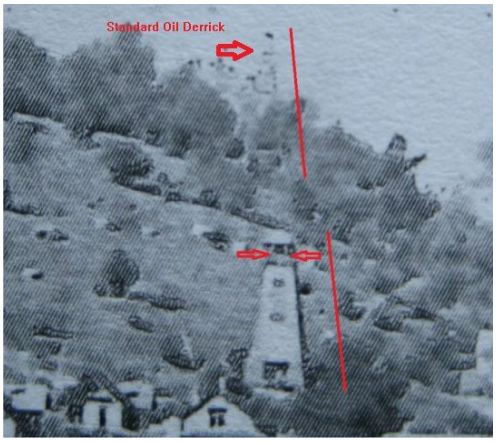
My personal theory on this tower is that it started life as one of the many standard oil drilling rigs on the hill, and was closed in and a bell mounted. When you look at the early photos of it adjacent to houses on the hill that was once South Mechanic Street, it very much resembles one of the many derricks in size and shape.

Now there are other sources that spec this tower up to 30 feet taller than a standard oil derrick at 100 feet. I cannot rule this out, but it was in the right place at the right time and certainly seems that a repurposed oil derrick would make a handy and convenient fire observation tower, especially with a few modifications. If it walks like a duck...?

***Story continued on page 4

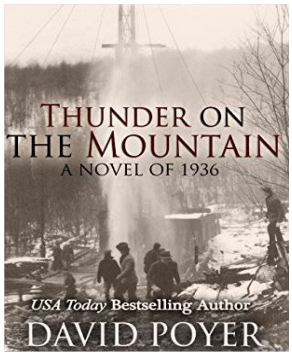
Disguised Drilling Rig cont.

Take a look at the photos that accompaniy this article and draw your own conclusions. When compared directly with a nearby standard rig, it looks almost exactly the same height. It does look slightly wider at the top than a standard rig, but if you look closely at the photo with the red arrows, you can see the braces the usual width apart near the top and behind the siding.



This bell warning system was allegedly moved into downtown Bradford near City Hall in later years and made taller (100 ft) with steel construction, but that is a story for another day. I'm holding fast that Bradford's prolific early oil development also contributed to the safety of all of Bradford's residents in the form of this early fire warning tower. At minimum, it is very likely that the rig builders of the day were also the ones who built this structure.

Book Review



Thunder on the Mountain by David Poyer Northampton House 1999

This gritty story is set in 1936 in fictional Petroleum City, where Thunder Oil Company's beleaguered president calls in the Pinkertons to stop his workers trying to unionize after a refinery fire. It features young W. T. Halvorson, a driller sympathetic to the worker's harsh lives. Loaded with realistic scenes of poverty and despair, with commie agitators and corrupt police, violent injustice and an unrelentingly brutal winter, it is a powerful reminder of the grimness of the Depression Era.

But it is a treat for Bradfordians to read and try to decode; for example, Thunder Oil is similar to Bradford's Kendall Refining Co., and Bryner Torpedo must be based on Pringle Powder Company, run by John Bryner of Bradford.

Born in nearby Dubois, PA, the author has used his knowledge of the oil industry well.

Red Halvorson also appears in three other Poyer novels of the Hemlock County series. They are all available in our museum's Kinley Library, and for sale in our gift shop.

We know, you've seen this photo before, but we forgot to say **THANK YOU** in the last newsletter to the gifters of this fabulous sign!

We appreciate the Penn York Oil & Gas Affiliates of Desk and Derrick Club for purchasing this sign for the museum.

It's a beautiful HELLO to our visitors!

Fireside Pumper's Breakfast

The first Fireside Pumper's breakfast of 2021 is tentatively scheduled for May 12 at Togi's Banquet Room, dependent on the Covid situation at the time. Guest speaker will be Kelly Lounsberry, "Oil & Gas and the Growth of Bolivar, NY." 7:30 am breakfast buffet. 412-422 E. Main St, Bradford, PA.

Ryder Scott Property at Knapp Creek

by Thomas A. Miller, Museum Board President

The early days of the Bradford Oil Field spawned a number of oil industry-related businesses that either moved or extended their reach into other oil fields. With the advent of waterflooding, which had its birthplace in the Bradford Field, technologies were developed to efficiently implement this method of secondary recovery. Some of these companies are still in existence.

One such entity is Ryder Scott. A brief history of the company appears on Ryder-Scott's website:

Ryder Scott Company Petroleum Consultants was founded in Bradford, PA, in 1937 by Harry M. Ryder, an engineer, and partner David Scott Jr.

Ryder Scott Company Petroleum Engineers began operations in Bradford, PA, in 1937.

Formerly an oil producer in the early to mid 1930s, the later venture was the first engineering firm and research laboratory in the world devoted to solving waterflood problems. Harry M. Ryder and David Scott Jr. formed the partnership after being asked for technical assistance by producers who had noticed the success of Ryder Scott-engineered waterfloods in the Bradford field.

The firm originated several techniques. Donald T. May, the first employee, pioneered chip-coring analysis to provide accurate petrophysical data from a single plug of sand. Ryder, an electrical engineer, developed selective shooting. That well-completing technique focused on selecting correctly sized and placed nitroglycerin shots to perforate and stimulate the producing formation.

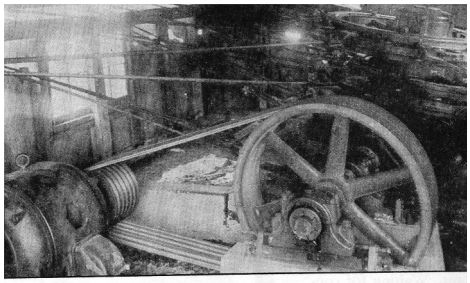
The firm continued to implement the best techniques under total engineering control to slow the production decline in the Bradford area during the 1940s. Ryder Scott used selective plugging in water intakes. The firm recommended improvements in core acquisition, logging, completing practices, injection waters and pressures, well spacing, and oilfield equipment.

With the Bradford area's inevitable decline in the 1950s, Ryder Scott moved to Wichita Falls, TX, to design successful secondary recovery projects. In the late 1960s, Ryder Scott acquired Robert W. Harrison & Co., moved to Houston and transitioned from waterflood design to evaluation engineering.

Today, Ryder Scott Petroleum Consultants bears little resemblance to the core-analysis laboratory of the 1930s. However, the firm still retains the principles of its founders – that oil and gas projects be evaluated and engineered to the highest professional and ethical standards.

The Oil & Gas Journal, a prominent publication of the petroleum industry, in its November, 1936 issue had an article by Harry M. Ryder that dealt mainly with a particular producing property operated by Ryder Scott. The property was located near Knapp Creek, NY, on and around the intersection of Nichols Run and Chipmunk Road, mainly to the north and west of the intersection.

In the article, Mr. Ryder describes the engineering of the operations on this 500 acre property. One feature of the operation was that with the exception of mobile equipment, the property was entirely electrically powered.



Modern cut-geared power, with V-belt drive, used on a lease near Bradford

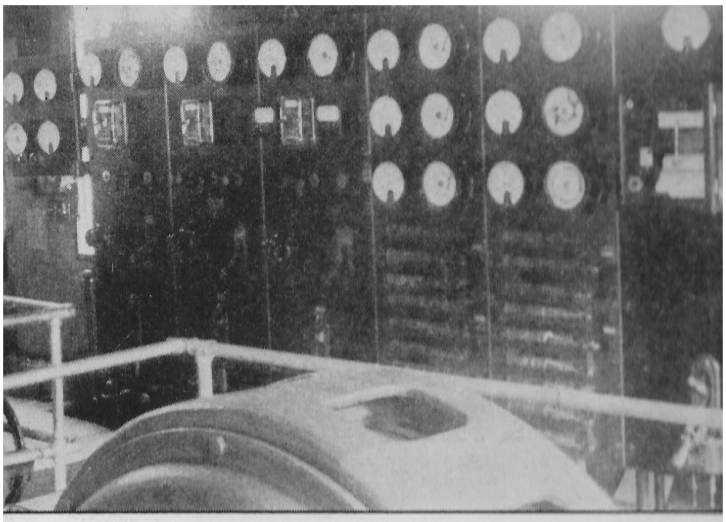
Electrical energy was generated by a sizable power plant on the property. The plant contained three generator units. One unit was powered by a gas engine that consumed associated gas produced by the property. The other two were diesel units. One unit was kept in standby mode. Fuel for the diesel units was delivered to a large tank that sat beside Nichols Run Rd. I remember this tank still being in place.

The pressure plant for the waterflood was located in the same building as the power plant. This, in addition to having an on-site source of power with redundancy, contributed to efficiency and reliability of operations. Any disruption of continuous operation could be seriously

***Story continued on page 6

Ryder Scott continued

detrimental to a waterflood and result in serious loss of recovery and consequent profitability.



Instrument board of the Ryder-Scott generating station

All wells were pumped by electrically powered central powers. All drilling was with company-owned electrically powered rigs. There were more rigs than drilling crews so that when a well was finished the drilling crew could transfer to another rig that was already set up.

I grew up in Knapp Creek and have been a member of Knapp Creek Volunteer Fire Dept. for about 45 years. Several years ago in a conversation with long-time secretary-treasurer Alvin Palmer (now deceased), I learned that the original siren used by the fire company which was founded in 1946 had originally been on the Ryder Scott toolhouse and was used to signal employees for lunch times and, I assume, shift changes. I remember the siren and that it was scrapped. If I had only known of its historical significance, I could have saved it as an artifact for the museum.

A fellow fireman and long-time friend, Franklin Grimes II, is the grandson of Ryder-Scott employee Archie Grimes. Archie's brother Roy was also an employee, as was Frank's maternal grandfather Harry St.Clair. Both Archie and Roy lived in company houses. Today Frank resides in the very same house that his grandfather did. Harry on the other hand, lived in the upper Chipmunk valley and walked to work every day.

Several years ago, Frank's son Alex, along with his father, led Mike Fuoco and me on a memorable excursion to view the concrete foundation of the Ryder Scott electric power and water pressure plant.

According to Frank, all of the houses on the northwest corner of the intersection of Nichols Run were company houses. Behind each house was a two-room bunkhouse. They were all served by a common sewer system. The toolhouse was located behind the northernmost house.

This is just one example of the fascinating historical accounts that Penn Brad Oil Museum strives to preserve.

I am indebted to the Oil & Gas Journal for permission to use information and the two photographs from its article, as well as to Mike Wysatta of Ryder-Scott Co. for the company history. And last but not least, thanks to Frank and Alex Grimes.

Annual Membership Drive

The forms for the 2021 Membership Drive will be mailed in March. The money donated by the Friends of Penn Brad Oil Museum is used for the ordinary expenses of operating the museum, including the salary of the Museum Manager. Funds raised through museum-sponsored fund-raisers are used for additions and improvements above normal operating costs. The Board of Directors appreciates all of our faithful supporters.

If you are not already on the "Friend of Penn Brad Oil Museum" list and would like to start supporting the museum through membership, send your name and address to Penn Brad Oil Museum, PO Box 163, Bradford, PA 16701-0163, or email the information to PennBradOilMuseum@yahoo.com. We'd love to have your support!

GoFundMe Update

The GoFundMe page for the Rig Replacement Fund had some good traffic early on, but we still have a long way to go to reach our goal. Donations to the Rig Fund can be made by going to gofundme.com. In the Search bar on the Main page, type in Penn Brad Oil Museum and the link to the fundraiser will pop up. Donations can also be sent directly to the museum.

Board Of Directors

The Penn Brad Oil Museum Board of Directors is as follows:

Thomas Miller, President
Fred Fesenmyer, Vice President
Susan Gould, Secretary
Joyce Cline, Treasurer
Isabelle Champlin, Corresponding Secretary

Meredith Fesenmyer
Jim Frick
Matt Kropf
Chip McCracken
Marsha McCracken
William Pantuso
Stanley Pecora
Paul Phillips
Steve Pratt
Sherri Schulze
Dale Smith


Photo by Tom Huntoon

Memorial Gifts

In Memory Of: Given By:

Hon. James Euken.....Michael & Martha Nenno
Scott Stevenson, Jr.....American Refining Group
Willard M. Cline.....American Refining Group

Willard Cline Memorials

continued from Page 2

/ Dale & Cindy Smith / Ray & Linda Stiglitz / Ronald A. Stuck / Alan & Mary Swanson / Diane, Lori, Dave & Sue Szewczyk / Edward & Mary Jo Szewczyk / William & Debra Taylor / The Zega "Kids" / Evelyn A. Tyler / Patricia Warfield.

Remember or Honor a Loved One with a Gift to the Penn Brad Oil Museum

Memorials received after February 5 will appear in the next newsletter.
Memorials are available by calling 814-368-6824, or by mailing the coupon below to: Penn Brad Oil Museum, P.O. Box 163, Bradford, PA 16701. A notice from the Museum will be sent to the recipient.
Penn Brad Oil Museum is a 501(c)(3) entity and all donations are tax deductible.

Clip and Mail Coupon

(*PLEASE CHOOSE **IN MEMORY OF** OR **IN HONOR OF***) **Memorial/Honoring Gifts** (***PLEASE PRINT***)

IN MEMORY OF

SEND CARD TO

STREET

CITY/STATE/ZIP

IN HONOR OF

FROM

STREET

CITY/STATE/ZIP

2020 Penn Brad Oil Museum End of Year Summary

by Tom Miller, Museum Board President

2020 was a year like no other. We began with the loss of our museum manager, Sam Slocum, to cancer. Sam was responsible for a great many accomplishments of the museum. A search committee for a new manager was organized and 3 candidates were interviewed. Our new manager, Fran Bottone, was hired and with his dedication and expertise has already abundantly proven that he was the best choice for the job.

As soon as that hurdle was overcome, we were hit by the Covid pandemic restrictions and all promotional and fundraising events, with the exception of the clay shoot, had to be cancelled.

The museum suffered a significant loss when the standard derrick became unsafe and had to be dismantled. A long-range plan to replace the rig was drawn up and approved by the board of directors.

In spite of all this, the museum did enjoy a successful year regarding patronage and gift shop sales.

Thanks to the heroic efforts of our treasurer along with management of the museum's finances, bylaws were updated, a successful membership drive was completed and a rig replacement fund, including a GoFundMe page, were instituted.

Two new issues of the museum newsletter were published and several low-cost but significant improvements to the museum were accomplished.

All of the above was thanks to the voluntary efforts and dedication of those involved.

Unfortunately, the year ended with the loss of our own Legendary Oilman, Willard (Bill) Cline, who was a great friend and supporter of the museum since its inception. His generosity, perseverance, wisdom and knowledge were a great asset to the museum and the oil industry. He will be sorely missed.

Visit our Facebook page for more articles, photos, and updates. User name: Penn Brad Oil Museum.

PO Box 163
Bradford, PA 16701