

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. 11 – No. 1 – Winter 2025

Museum President Tom Miller Retires

by Isabelle Champlin & Patty Lehosky

Tom Miller, the Penn Brad Oil Museum's president for 10 years, decided to retire from the position effective December 31, 2024.



Tom running the Buffalo Engine in the old standard rig

ago when the original museum building and rig were still there." Both he and his wife Pat were early volunteer guides.

Tom is a fourth-generation oil producer, working family-owned oil properties in the local Pennsylvania and New York State oil fields. He is a passionate collector of oilfield machinery, pump jacks and especially gas engines. He is known for his vast and detailed knowledge of local petroleum production, his expertise with running and restoring old engines, and his dedication to preserving the history of the Bradford Oil Field.



Tom heating a drilling bit at the forge

Tom remembers watching the Bradford Oil Centennial parade in 1971 and probably toured the museum at that time, but can't put a finger on just when he started attending Fireside Pumpers meetings and volunteering. "It was a good many years

The Penn Brad Oil Museum recognizes Tom's many years of commitment and loyalty, before and during his role as president. We are grateful that he has agreed to continue helping at the museum in various roles, one of the first being to assist the museum manager in creating a self-guided tour.



Hard at work, improving museum grounds. -Photo by Fran Bottone



Sharing his knowledge at last year's Ice Cream Social -Photo by Angela Nuzzo

PENN BRAD OIL MUSEUM

901 South Avenue - Bradford, PA 16701
Email: pennbrad.oilmuseum@yahoo.com
Website: penn-bradoilmuseum.org

Phone: 814-362-1955



Open:

Thurs. & Friday
9 AM to 4 PM

Saturday
9 AM to 2 PM

Admission Cost

Adults - \$6.00

Seniors - \$5.00

Children (under 12) - Free
Active Military / Family - Free

Samuel Gamble Bayne - Part 2

by Susan Gould

The following is the continuing story of Samuel Gamble Bayne, finding him seeing the improvement of the oil activity in the Titusville/Oil City area and traveling to the Orient, to see more of the world and inspecting the oil production in Japan, Burma, and India.

In the early days in the oil fields, it was a gamble where to drill a well. One big problem was the divining rod fakirs. At that time when there were no educated engineers, guessing, superstition, and divining rods were greatly used. Jonathan Watson believed firmly in the use of the Hazel Rod, and in an area where there was such a large amount of oil, the rod often got credit.

There weren't many regulations in the early oil industry and losses from fires and explosions were great. Also, there came a production surplus from all of the drilling. Then came a man from Iowa, a schoolteacher, who built wooden tanks to store the oil, and in the process made a fortune. After that came steel containers. But with the surplus, the price of oil went from \$5 per barrel to \$.69. Many men gave up, but not Sam. All he had (half a million dollars) was wiped out, but he found an old farmer who gave him \$800 for his holdings. He said he was the only man who had \$800 and was debt free.

In Titusville, Sam met a man named John D. Archibald, who understood that the storage and transportation of oil was inefficient and costly. Sam was happy when, in about 1865, pipelines were introduced, the first being in Pithole.

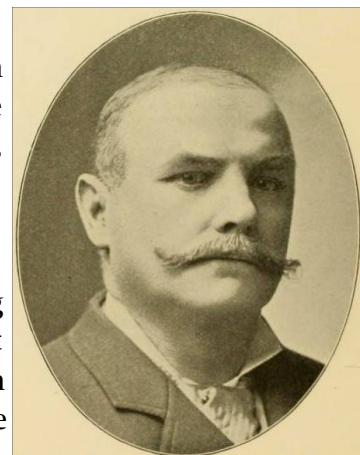
Sam talks about the Standard Oil Company, formed in 1870, and was extremely impressed with its founder, John D. Rockefeller, whom he called "the benefactor of the human race." And with oil at \$2.50 per barrel, in the 1870s the petroleum industry began to recover. The central chapters of this book deal with Sam's year-long trip to the Orient, visiting Japan, China, Burma, and India, countries which had fledgling oil production. The oil producers of Titusville and Oil City generally believed that petroleum was only found in the Western World, but always in Sam's mind was the question, "Why not Japan, China, India?" So, he decided to

find out.

He started his odyssey in Japan. The trip to the Asian coast was tranquil, but before they reached the land, a typhoon overtook the ship, rolling and tossing the vessel, coming to rest in a rice field. Not long after his arrival, Sam was invited to meet the Mikado (Emperor) who, during their conversation, asked, "You say that you know how to get this oil that burns, out of the ground? You will then go and look at our well, and tell if you can show us a better way to drill". And so, Sam went out to inspect a drilling site, near Fujijama, on a horse provided by the Imperial stables, not in a chair (rickshaw) as he would have preferred. There he found a rig, constructed primarily of bamboo, operated by coolies, producing a "bucket" per day. Later, he sold a drilling outfit to the Mikado, which served to help the first Japanese wells produce more paying quantities. Of course, the Emperor wanted Sam to stay and help run the industry, but Sam refused, saying that he was "too busy". The interpreter was aghast, since when Mikado made an offer, it was more of a command. Sam explained, "With a free hand, I can make more money in a month in the United States than His Imperial Highness would feel he could afford to pay me in a year."

Leaving Japan, Sam continued to China, where he visited the Mandarin and his forty daughters, but he did not discuss any oil production there, so he went on to Cochin China, now a part of Vietnam, and to India. There, he received his second offer to manage petroleum production, which had recently been discovered in the Kingdom of Oudh. The Governor of Oudh offered him a large salary to stay and develop the petroleum industry, and though he was greatly tempted, he again refused. **Bradford was waiting.**

The third and final part of this story will cover Sam's time in Bradford and end in New York City.



Meet Our New President

by Isabelle Champlin, Corresponding Secretary

Brenda Fish has been unanimously elected the new president of the board of directors of the Penn Brad Oil Museum. She began her career with American Refining Group in 2011 after more than a decade of experience in the oil and gas industry. She transitioned to a sales-focused role in 2014 and won ARG's "Salesperson of the Year Award" in 2017. Her passion lies in collaborating with customers and producers to deliver tailored solutions, ensuring that customers receive the best products and services in the industry.



Beyond her professional role, she actively contributes to many community and industry organizations, such as Our Legacy Fund, the Energy Leadership Network, the Women's Energy Network, and the American Association of Drilling Engineers.

When she is not working, she enjoys outdoor activities, camping with friends, traveling, and spending time with her family as a proud mother of three and grandmother of six.

Annual Membership Drive

The forms for the 2025 membership Drive will be mailed in March. The money donated by the Friends of Penn Brad Oil Museum is used for the everyday expenses of operating the museum, including the salary of the Museum Manager. The Board appreciates all of our faithful supporters.

Refining Process Display Donated

by Isabelle Champlin

A metal rack, 30" wide x 20" tall, displaying the steps in a "Typical Refining Process with Pennsylvania Crude Oil", complete with 20 sample bottles, has been donated to the museum.



It is designed to be hung on a wall or stood on a tabletop with an extendable support on the back. Patented in 1933 by the Pennsylvania Grade Crude Oil Association, it has been given by Peter Digel, whose grandfather, John P. "Dick" Digel was once president of the association.

The Pennsylvania Grade Crude Oil Association label is on the lower right corner of the refinery diagram. Developed to market products made with '100% Pure Pennsylvania Oil', it gradually fell out of use as small refineries closed down or changed their formulae.



The American Refining Group refinery here in Bradford, PA, is the only remaining source in the world for bright stock made of 100% Pure Pennsylvania Oil. Bright stock is a high viscosity base oil used where lubrication is needed at high temperatures or under heavy stress and load situations, such as marine diesel engine oil.

Fireside Pumpers Talk in November

by Isabelle Champlin, Corresponding Secretary

At the Fireside Pumpers meeting in November, Francie Long, manager of the oil museum, spoke about “Oil Field Priest: Father Coonan of Bradford”. When Bradford rapidly changed from a small lumber town of 400 people to a boom town of 44,000 after oil was discovered, circuit preachers came once a month to give mass to the many Catholic workers.



Father Coonan, a 32-year-old priest from Ireland was among them. In poor health from consumption, he rode horses for exercise and rapidly became well known and very popular. An early wooden church quickly became too small and Father Coonan began organizing for a larger and more substantial brick one, St. Bernard’s of Clairvaux. Protestants and Jews and nonreligious contributed to the fundraising as well as the parishioners. The renovations of this church continue to this day. “Oil built the church and kept it going.”

Father Coonan himself died at the age of 71 and his funeral in 1915 was marked by major streets closed to traffic and many merchants closing up their stores.



The long funeral procession down Bradford’s Main Street in 1915, with many members of the Knights of Columbus

Fireside Pumpers Breakfast

The Fireside Pumpers of the Penn Brad Oil Museum meet each 3rd Monday of the month for a breakfast meeting with a guest speaker, at the Derrick City Diner, 563 Derrick Road, Bradford. Attendees order off the menu beginning at 8am and the program starts at 8:30. The meetings are open to the public as an educational outreach and fundraising effort by the museum. If you or your business would like to sponsor a breakfast, please complete the form on our website or call the Treasurer at 814-368-6824. Sponsorship profits go toward museum improvements.

April 21, 2025

Rustin Lippincott

The Allegheny National Forest Visitor's Bureau: History & Future Plans

May 19, 2025

Ron Orris

Blaisdell Legacy (book)

June 16, 2025

Rod Johnson

Search & Rescue Bloodhounds

July 21, 2025

Bart Barton

New Displays & Programs at McKean County Historical Society

August 18, 2025

Rowan Crisp

The Lumber Heritage Region

September 15, 2025

Brenda Fish

From Well to Market (ARG)

October 20, 2025

Bill Robertson

Pennsylvania Strange (book)

November 17, 2025

Francie Long

PBOM - The Year in Review

Penn Brad Oil Museum

Seasonal Open House

Saturday May 3, 2025 11am to 2pm

Old-Fashioned



Ice Cream Social

~Enjoy a Sloppy Joe  & Make Your Own Sundae

~Tour the Standard Rig, Vintage Engines & Displays

~Watch Local Historical Movies &

Enjoy Fresh Popcorn



~Visit the Gift Shop for a Tshirt, Sweatshirt or Hat

~**FREE ADMISSION!**

****Donations Greatly Appreciated****

Penn Brad Oil Museum 901 South Ave (219 South) Bradford, PA

814-362-1955

Penn-BradOilMuseum.org

*****Opening Day for the Museum is April 3**

*****Derrick Day is Set for July 12**

*****Watch for Future Event Updates on Our Facebook Page**

The Many Uses for Oil

Many visitors to the Penn Brad Oil Museum are astonished to learn that petroleum is not only used for gasoline and lubricants, but also used to make cloth, wax, glue, cosmetics, plastics, and paint.

CLOTH FROM OIL?

Nylon, polyester, acrylic and polyolefin make up 98% of all synthetic fiber production. All four come from petrochemicals which are derived from oil. All four were invented in WWII to replace silk (such as nylon) or hemp (such as dacron) which were not usually grown in Europe and the USA.

POLYESTER (polyethylene terephthalate) is the most commonly used fiber for clothes. World production of polyester uses 70 million barrels of oil every year.

SPANDEX, by far the most popular stretch fabric in America, is made from ethylene, also a product of hydrocarbon fracking. So is **LYCRA**.



Compared to natural fibers like wool, cotton or silk, synthetics are more stain resistant, more water-proof, and more durable, but they are also more flammable, more static inducing, less insulating, and less biodegradable.

WAX FROM OIL?

PARAFFIN is wax derived from the refining of crude petroleum.

Eighty-five to 90% of global wax consumption derives from petroleum waxes, although demand for vegetable waxes such as soy wax has been increasing. Unlike soy wax, paraffin has no estrogen hormones. It is creamy white, odorless, and can be refined to a purity useful in medical and culinary applications.

Paraffin wax is not only used for candle-making but to make crayons, and for a smooth protective coating on many products. Wax paper is degradable, inexpensive and useful in a microwave oven, since it will not melt like polyethylene plastic cling wraps such as Saran.

Compared to beeswax, paraffin is much cheaper. Compared to lanolin wax from shorn sheep's wool, it is less sticky and is, again, less expensive.



This popular car wax is a blend of soft carnauba palm plant wax and denser paraffin wax.

GLUE FROM OIL?

PVA GLUE (polyvinyl acetate) is also called school glue, Elmer's Glue, or white glue, and if yellow colored, it is known as carpenter's glue.

It comes from ethylene, a pro-

duct of hydrocarbon fracking, and from acetic acid. These ingredients are also used in chewing gum.

Invented in 1912, PVA GLUE is non-toxic for your skin, does not give off dangerous fumes (especially compared to epoxy glues) and does not smell terrible (like animal bone and hide glues). It dries quickly and bonds well. It is Ph neutral. It is inexpensive to buy. It is food-safe if a child eats some, but is basically indigestible.



COSMETICS AND MEDICINES FROM OIL?

PETROLATUM, also known as petroleum jelly, is the main ingredient in many 'tried-and-true' skin care products. Because it is chemically similar to proteins in our skin, it is a safe and effective healing and protecting agent, according to the Mayo Clinic. Petrolatum is also processed for use in hundreds of other products, such as lipsticks, perfumes, soaps, shampoos, antihistamines, aspirin, and many more.



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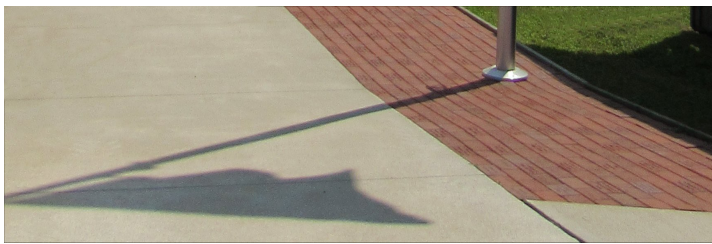
Board Of Directors

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

- Brenda Fish, President
- Fred Fesenmyer, Vice President
- Patty Lehosky, Recording Secretary
- Joyce Cline, Treasurer
- Isabelle Champlin, Corresponding Secretary
- Jeff Brewer
- Susan Gould
- Matt Kropf
- Chip McCracken
- Marsha McCracken
- William Pantuso
- Stanley Pecora
- Sherri Schulze
- Dale Smith



Engraved personalized paving bricks can be purchased to place around the April Lang Memorial Flag Pole in front of the museum. The bricks can be used to honor people who have been involved in the oil industry or be used as a memorial to a deceased person. Bricks can also be purchased personally to show your support for the museum.



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

Memorials received after February 14 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. If ordering a brick, please call the number for more details or print out the order form available on our website. A notice 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**

Memorial/Honoring Gifts	Check one: In Memory of _____	Name _____
	To Honor _____	
Amount Enclosed \$ _____		Send acknowledgment to:
Donor's name _____		Name _____
Donor's address _____		Address _____

PLASTICS FROM PETROLEUM?

Most plastics are derived from oil refining and natural gas processing and are utilized in an amazing diversity of products. Five main types of plastic are polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polypropylene, polyamide, polycarbonate, and low-density polyethylene. Each has special qualities and uses.



For example, PET is clear, strong, lightweight and non-toxic and is used extensively for carbonated bev-

erage/water bottles. Unlike other plastics, it is completely recyclable, but unfortunately, often is not recycled.

The sheer quantity and variety of disposable plastics (bags, bottles, sandwich wraps, etc.) thrown into the environment is polluting. The recycling rate in the USA is only about 31% for PET products such as rope, carpeting, clothing, containers and protective packaging. The recycling rate in the USA is only 12% for plastic bags.

PAINT FROM PETROLEUM?

Invented in the 1930s, **ACRYLIC PAINTS** are a petroleum-based polymer, a plastic. They are thinned and removed with water instead of with toxic and flammable solvents. They dry quickly

and the colors only slowly fade.

Compared to many traditional pigments, like lead white or cadmium red, they are far less poisonous to prepare and utilize.

LATEX house paints are extremely weatherproof. Many brands of artist's paints are acrylics, such as these.



The preceding information will be part of the self-guided tour being created for the museum.

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