

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. 12 – No. 3 – Summer 2026

Derrick Day 2026

by Angela Nuzzo, Editor

We had a successful although leaned down version of our Derrick Day celebration in July. We were short a few of our usual vendors and demonstrators, but we made due and filled in the gaps quite well. There seemed to be a good flow of visitors during the event and many of those were families with children (which is always nice to see.)



Our Board members and volunteers kept everything moving along smoothly. Isabelle Champlin, Rekha Gajanan, Denise Piechnik, and Julie Stacy, were in the pumper's house demonstrating their basket weaving and candle making skills. Joyce Cline manned the raffle ticket station. Brenda Fish and Patty Lehosky were kept busy at the hot dog table, which was set up this year to compensate for our food vendor dropping out. I think everyone really enjoyed the free hot dogs! Tom Miller shared his knowledge with visitors in the tool house. And Francie Long greeted each guest with a smile.



The music of Miss Hoshi's Trio floated through the museum from the back porch while the bum-choog-choog-choog of the Half-Breed engine echoed down the valley. Caricature artist Eric Jones was drawing



constantly and usually had a few people in line waiting for their turn. Thanks to generous donors, we had a table overflowing with 25 raffle items. It was a beautiful summer day! We thank everyone who helped make our annual event a success.



See Page 5 for more Derrick Day photos

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



Fireside Pumpers Meetings for June, July, & August

by Isabelle Champlin & Patty Lehosky

In June, “**Ghost Towns of McKean County**” was presented by **Scott Morgan**, administrator of the Mount Jewett Historical Society. The talk was sponsored by Dresser Pipeline Solutions and MSL Oil & Gas Corporation.



Inspired by reading Thomas Taber’s “Sawmills Among the Derricks” which described a ghost town near his own residence, Scott gave a detailed overview of his search for other ones. His history of several of the abandoned sawmill towns of our county were illuminated with Power Point slides of old historic photographs that showed railroad tracks, bridges and trestles, sawmills with tall smokestacks, log ponds and barns and machine shops. Lumber companies owned vast acreage, constructing their own railroads and building their own towns which typically lasted only until all the trees had been removed, about five years.

Temporary towns like Granere (near Lantz Corners, the modern crossroad community of Rts 219 and 6) were booming with two-story boarding houses and long rows of lease houses connected by

board sidewalks, company stores with post offices, and usually schools and churches and banks. The town even had a few gas streetlights.

Now heavily overgrown woodlands, these ghost towns’ wooden buildings are long gone, but the RR corridors and grades, the stone foundations and cellars can be located and carefully explored. The slides showed that the log pond at Granere’s mill is now a swampy area with dangerous pungies, the sharp upright beaver-gnawed stumps often hidden in the underbrush. Granere was abandoned in 1903 when the company dismantled the mill, the buildings and the rails and moved operations to cut down another unlogged locality.



Former town of Granere

Smaller logging and hunting camps like Ruthie’s Camp near Guffey were also discussed. Audience participation was high, with many mentioning their own discoveries of ghost towns, as well as pointing out the huge chemical plants and hemlock bark tanneries that were once common in our woodlands.

In July, **Chief Brett Butler** and **Deputy Chief Jeff Kloss** of the City of Bradford Fire Department spoke about **the impact to their emergency medical responses**

since our local hospital (Bradford Regional Medical Center) officially closed in June.



They related that all 911 calls go to the City Fire Dept., and they typically receive about 3000 calls annually. They have 20 full-time personnel, with five people on duty 24/7, in three rotating shifts, with everyone on call all the time. They have four ambulances that need to be kept always operational.

Bradford hospital once served two-thirds of the population of McKean County. The challenge now is to transport patients to other area hospitals and then return to Bradford quickly. Olean, New York is the closest (25 minutes away) but is the busiest. Kane PA is farther away (40 minutes) but is less crowded. The Coudersport PA hospital is too far: 2 ½ hours roundtrip would be a minimum.

Helicopter transport to large urban hospitals like Buffalo, NY, or Erie, PA, will continue and will still be used mainly for cases that require a trauma surgeon. Always expensive, helicopter transport will probably not be affordable for a trip to an ER in Olean or Kane.

In response to the question of

whether patients can choose which hospital they are taken to, they pointed out that some situations override any options, such as imminent birthing or severe breathing issues. Transporting to the closest facility is standard procedure and if the patient insists on a particular hospital, then paperwork must be signed, especially for insurance reasons.

Questions were asked about the Community Connect service which began last month (June 2026) for households and businesses to voluntarily upload information critical to rescue personnel such as number of residents or pets or employees, or medical information such as special needs or mobility problems. The fire department highly recommended this resource <https://www.communityconnect.io/faq/pa-cityofbradford> which has the same data security that banks use. They also pointed out that home door-bell cameras have proved helpful.

Asked if there are times when all 4 ambulances are being used, they said this was very rare in the past. When additional ambulances are needed to cover calls, the City Fire Department reaches out to surrounding areas in New York and Pennsylvania. While another ambulance would be great, they currently have no room for housing an additional ambulance. Their old fire station buildings are too small to accommodate larger modern ambulances. The City of Bradford has property earmarked near Hanley Park on Kennedy Street for future construction of a new fire station with an estimated cost of \$5 million.

They pointed out that our

situation is not totally terrible. While Olean Hospital is 25 minutes away, this is comparable to transport times in the traffic of much bigger urban centers. Also modern ambulances are now better equipped and EMT training and capabilities have been enhanced. They also pointed out that the fire department offers first aid training for citizens; for information, contact them at 814-368-3141.

We thank E&M Engineers and Surveyors, PC for sponsoring this month's program. They have been serving clients since 1946.



In August, "**Fuels and Crude**" was given by **Jeff Brewer**, manager of operations at Bradford's American Refining Group, which also hosted this month's meeting. He began his Power Point presentation by explaining that he would only be describing the wholesale side of the issue because ARG did no retail selling of gasoline or motor oil.

Beginning with a map of fuel terminals in a 200-mile radius from ARG, the nearest one is the United Refining Company in Warren, PA, which is seven times more fuel-prolific and designed to produce gasoline and diesel fuels. The ARG refinery was built 126 years ago to create lubricants and waxes and it makes gasoline only

as a byproduct. (Sixty percent of ARG products aren't gasoline but rather solvents, mineral spirits and diesel and while ARG does end up with some diesel, it is used mainly as a solvent rather than as a fuel.) The type of locally available gas and oil products helps to set prices.

Basic economics is that a refiner needs to sell all that they make and also prevent any rival refiner from competing. The transportation costs for anyone trucking gasoline here from Buffalo, NY, Youngstown, OH, Altoona, or Pittsburgh, helps to set our local prices.

World events set prices too. A graphic 'Gasoline and Diesel Inventory History' showed that diesel fuel is now far below typical amounts. Because diesel exports to Europe bring much greater prices because of the Iran war, much more is flowing to Europe. Their scarcity here has increased prices. While diesel was once a cheaper fuel back when trains were the primary users, it has also become generally more expensive now that more machines, including family cars, are capable of using it.

WTI crude prices impact pricing. West Texas Intermediate is the benchmark standard for light (low density) and sweet (low sulphur) type of crude. Modern refineries in Texas can now refine any type of crude from anywhere in the world, including heavy sour crude from the Middle East, which is more expensive to work with, requiring more exotic materials and more upkeep maintenance, but which is cheaper to purchase on the world market.

August Pumper Continued on pg 4

Info About Our Final Four Speakers

by Patty Lehosky

August 19, 2026: Jeff Brewer, VP Operations and a PBOM board member, presented to us on "Why the High Price of Gasoline". Jeff's Power Point and talk were very informative. He spoke in terms the laymen audience could understand. Jeff is a chemical engineer with over 30 years of experience in refinery and chemical plant operations, the past nearly seven years being at ARG. He is a native of Missouri. A detailed article appears in this newsletter.

September 16, 2026: Dr. Matt Kropf of the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, will speak on "Plugging Abandoned Wells". Matt is also a PBOM board member. He is the Director of UPB's Energy Institute, Director of the Engineering and Technology and Energy Programs, Associate Professor of Engineering Technology, and Chair, Division of Physical and Computational Sciences. He is responsible for working with the different sectors of the energy industry to develop partnerships, such as internships for energy students. Matt also works with the Division of Continuing Education and Regional Development at UPB, as well as facilities management, to make the campus more energy efficient. He is originally from Canton, OH.

October 21, 2026: Unfilled. Suggestions welcome.

November 18, 2026: Museum Manager Francie Long will present to us "The Year 2026 in Review".

August Pumper continued from pg 3

Taxes, especially state taxes, impact prices. A chart showed that California's were highest (70.9¢/gallon), Alaska's were lowest (9.0¢), and the average was 33.5¢. Pennsylvania's is high at 57¢.

Questions from the audience ranged from synthetic oils, jet fuels, the Canadian tar sands, and ethanol-free gasoline, to Indian reservation gas prices, the recent refinery platform fire, and the frequent local train activity that halts road traffic near the refinery. To the latter question, Jeff pointed out the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Railroad's timetable is entirely controlled by them, and the refinery will continue to depend on rail transportation for 60% of its crude oil deliveries. He also dispelled the rumor that ARG employees receive free gasoline.

It is the retailers who dictate fuel prices. State and federal legislators determine the state and federal taxes. Our local American Indian reservation gas prices are cheaper because they aren't required to collect these taxes.

For additional information, he recommended the EIA website for the latest statistics from the U.S. Energy Information Administration <https://www.eia.gov/petroleum/>

Fireside Pumpers Breakfast

The Fireside Pumpers of the Penn Brad Oil Museum meet each 3rd Wednesday of the month, April to November, for a breakfast meeting with a guest speaker, at Mama Jane's Eatery, 31 Bolivar Drive in Bradford. The public is welcome as an educational outreach and fund-raising effort by the Museum. Donations are appreciated. Attendees order off the menu, at their cost, beginning at 8am, and the program starts at 8:30. 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. Contact Patty Lehosky, our program scheduler, with suggestions for future programs. She can be reached by text or phone call at 814-657-4101 or by email at picketpin@comcast.net.

September 16, 2026

Matt Kropf

Plugging Abandoned Wells

October 21, 2026

Unfilled. Suggestions welcome.

November 18, 2026

Francie Long

Museum Year in Review



PBOM display at Mckean County Fair



**PENN BRAD OIL MUSEUM PRESENTS
THE FOURTH ANNUAL
DAN PALMER MEMORIAL
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**TWO PERSON
GOLF SCRAMBLE**
PRICE: \$120 PER TEAM
\$2000 PRIZE POOL
(BASED ON 40 TEAMS)

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
10 AM SHOTGUN START**
PRESENTED BY MAIN SPONSORS:
AMERICAN REFINING GROUP
Dallas-Morris
CALL PINE ACRES PRO SHOP TO REGISTER AT (814) 362-2005

PENN BRAD OIL MUSEUM

**4th Annual
DAN PALMER GOLF SCRAMBLE**

Saturday, September 26 - 10am Shotgun Start
Pine Acres Golf & RV Resort
West Warren Road, Bradford PA

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

___ Event Sponsor**	\$2,000
___ Hole Sponsor	\$100
___ Cart Sponsor	\$50

(Sponsor signage on carts and at clubhouse)
**includes 4 complimentary registrations

PAYMENT METHOD

___ Check enclosed made payable to Penn Brad Oil Museum
(mail to PO Box 163, Bradford PA 16701)
___ Credit Card (please call Joyce at 814.368.6824)

CONTACT INFORMATION

(Business) Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Sponsorship tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law (501(c)3)
Penn Brad Oil Museum PO Box 163 Bradford PA 16701



Penn Brad Oil Museum

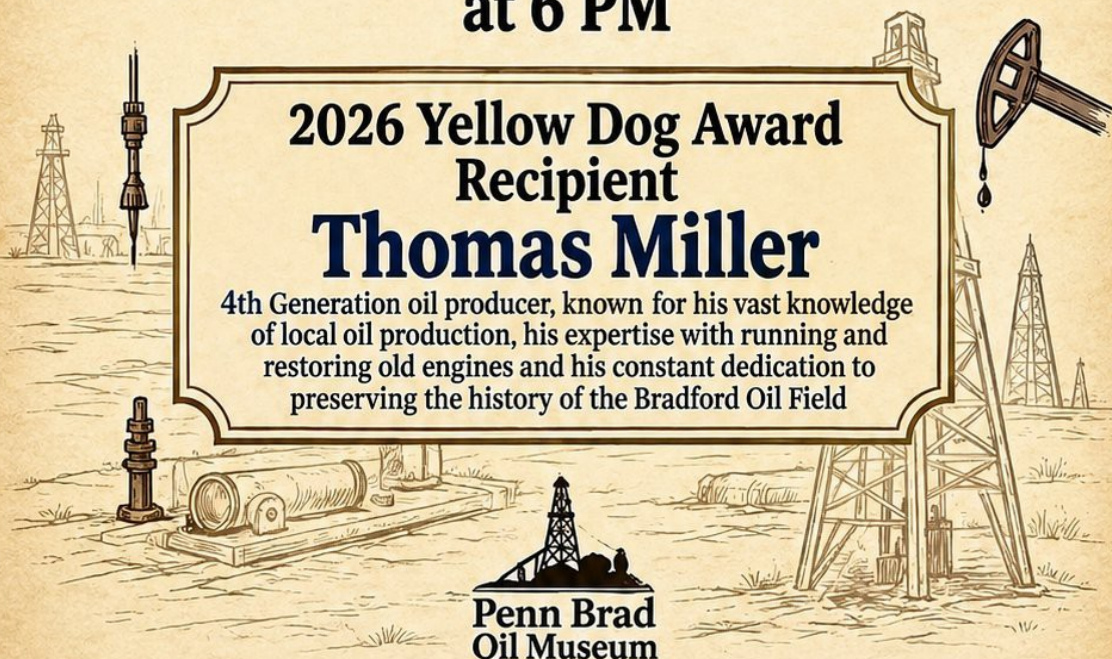


Yellow Dog Award Dinner

**Mukaiyama Room,
University of Pittsburgh at Bradford
Campus Drive, Bradford PA
Wednesday, October 28, 2026
at 6 PM**

2026 Yellow Dog Award Recipient Thomas Miller

4th Generation oil producer, known for his vast knowledge of local oil production, his expertise with running and restoring old engines and his constant dedication to preserving the history of the Bradford Oil Field



**Penn Brad
Oil Museum**

**More Information - Call Marsha at 814.558.7051
Reservations and sponsorships coming soon**

Board Of Directors

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

Brenda Fish, President
 Marsha McCracken, Vice President
 Patty Lehosky, Recording Secretary
 Joyce Cline, Treasurer
 Isabelle Champlin, Corresponding Secretary

Jeff Brewer William Pantuso
 Fred Fesenmyer Stanley Pecora
 Matt Kropf Sherri Schulze
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Archived Editions of Museum Newsletter

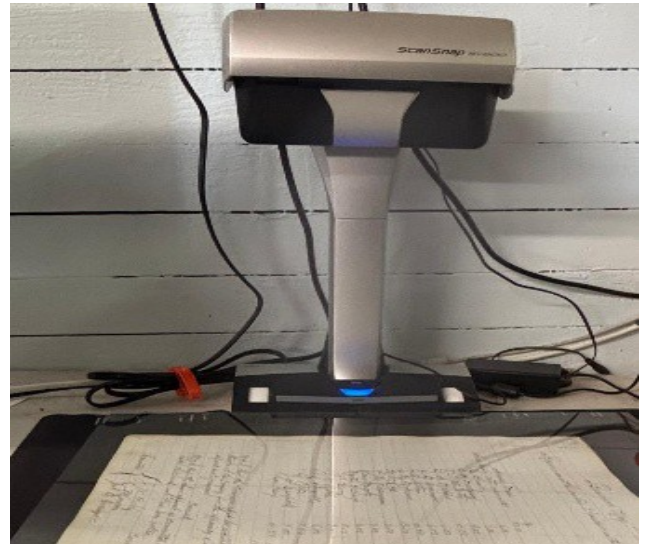
by Joyce Cline

Anyone interested in archived issues of On the Lazy Bench can now find them on the museum website, penn-bradoilmuseum.org.

A request was made for information in a newsletter prior to those that had been on the website. Thanks to the use of the scanner at the Bradford Landmark Society (pictured below), I was able to make copies of past issues to a flash drive and send the information to our website manager who moved them to the museum website.

Fifteen newsletters from Volume 1, No. 1—Fall 2015, when On the Lazy Bench was edited by the late museum manager Sam Slocum, through Volume 8, No. 2—Spring 2022 can now be found under DOWNLOADS, ARCHIVE. (Note that there are gaps in the volume numbers when no newsletter was issued.)

Engraved personalized paving bricks can be purchased to surround the base of the flag pole. The bricks can 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 May 28 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 _____	

High Hopes for Bradford's 250th Anniversary Parade

by Francie Long, Museum Manager

We had hoped to include a special display celebrating America's 250th anniversary in Bradford's parade held in June. Unfortunately, last-minute technical difficulties with the 100-year-old truck we planned to use prevented us from presenting the traditional nitroglycerin display we had envisioned.



oil derrick built by Curt Anderson was donated to us following the parade. It now stands proudly outside the main entrance to the museum, where visitors can see it for themselves. Stop by, take a look, and learn a little more about Bradford's remarkable oil heritage.

Even so, Bradford's rich oil history was proudly represented by two floats — one from the McKean County Historical Society and another from American Refining Group. Both did a wonderful job showcasing the important role oil has played in Bradford's history.

We were especially pleased when the



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

PO Box 163
Bradford, PA 16701