

# 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. 4 – Autumn 2021

## Oil 150 / 50 Celebration & Derrick Day, Resounding Successes!

by Angela Nuzzo, Editor

A week of special events celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bradford Oil Field culminated in a day of beautiful weather and crowds of visitors to the museum.

Following a year off because of the pandemic, Derrick Day returned like a gusher with people flowing in constant waves across the museum's grounds.



Visitors of all ages enjoyed viewing the amazing collection of oil field memorabilia in the main building, pumper's house, and



tool house. While enjoying the warm September day, they watched vintage equipment exhibitions, listened to the sounds of the Allegheny Harmonizers, and treated themselves to tasty goodies from the food vendors.

Greeting visitors throughout the day was a 10-foot-tall Uncle Sam.



On Sunday, the clear blue sky welcomed family and friends back for a beautiful memorial for Bill Cline and the dedication of the new rig in his name.



Isabelle Champlain, Corresponding Secretary, said, "As the co-chair of the 150/50 Committee this past year, I now have a better appreciation for the organizational planning it must have taken for the 100th anniversary committee in 1971. That was a much bigger celebration." Fran Bottone, Museum Manager, said, "Derrick Day and the dedication of the new rig

to Bill Cline were a resounding success. We were blessed with great weather and fantastic volunteers, including friends of the museum, the Desk and Derrick Club, and our Board of Directors. Thank you everyone! Having attended the first one myself and then having the privilege of helping to organize and promote this one was very rewarding, especially with it being such significant anniversaries. I think Bill was smiling down on us."



## PENN BRAD OIL MUSEUM

901 South Avenue - Bradford, PA 16701

Email: pennbrad.oilmuseum@yahoo.com

Web: penn-bradoilmuseum.org

Phone: 814-362-1955

Open: Wednesday to Friday

9 AM to 4 PM

Saturday

9 AM to 2 PM

Admission Cost:

Adults - \$5.00

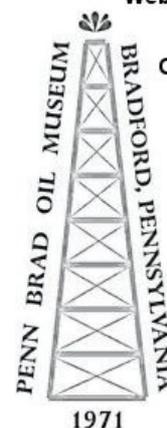
Seniors - \$4.50

Children (under 12) -

FREE

Active Military / Family -

FREE



## Fireside Pumpers Talks

by Isabelle Champlin, Corresponding Secretary

In August, Robin Augustine, American Refining Group's Senior Vice President of Operations, explained the complex process of the 2019 refinery turnaround that cost \$3.8 million. It required over 300 contractors to do a complete inspection, cleaning, repair, replacement, and recertification of multiple components, such as pressure relief valves, heat exchangers, reactor catalysts, and steam boilers. It also required constructing a new \$7 million flare unit and cooling tower, new railroad loading racks, and modernizing the packaging plant.



Refinery turnaround and transitions are done every three years at ARG, the oldest continuously operating refinery in North America.

In September, Matt Retger, Fire Safety Chief at ARG and a Fire Instructor for the Pennsylvania Fire Academy in Lewiston, spoke about the "Refinery Fire Safety" standards and practices of an oil refinery, a highly flammable facility. Matt used many Power

Point images of the extensive and specialized equipment needed to monitor and control a fire, such as huge pump systems and large-scale alarm networks.



He also discussed modern safety methods, which call for training drills, inspection protocols, and cooperating with local fire stations and other refineries. ARG has a 30 to 35-man fire brigade ready at all times, and has its own fire station with foam pump truck and HAZMAT truck.



In October, Kylie McLaughlin, General Manager of Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad (WNYPRR) and Doug Ringelberg, Chief Mechanical Officer, spoke

about the "Alco and GE Locomotives" used by this short line railroad headquartered in Olean, NY.

They used Power Point images of railway maps, showed different locomotives before and after reconditioning, and had a chart comparison between the two types of engines. The transition to the newer GE diesels included helpful innovations such as steerable trucks and AC power and resulted in lower maintenance costs. There were many questions from the large audience, including insights about the filming of 'Unstoppable', which used WNYPRR tracks in Pennsylvania.



In November, Fran Bottone, manager of the Penn Brad Oil Museum, used many photos and videos in a review of the museum's 2021 activities. Noted events included: the Harvey Golubock Memorial Clays and Ironman Shoot in August, the six Fireside Pumpers meetings, the

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# Ironman Tournament a Great Addition to Clays Shoot!

by Angela Nuzzo, Editor, with photos by Isabelle Champlain, Board Corresponding Secretary

Adding an ironman tournament to the traditional Harvey Golubock Memorial Clays Shoot was a winning decision and a great time was had by all in attendance on this sunny day in August.

Marsha McCracken, Event Chairperson, "was pleasantly surprised by the attendance because of the addition of the Ironman Tournament. We had 29 shooters this year and a majority of those participated in the Ironman. It was more popular than the traditional clay shoot."



Shooters on the trap field

Isabelle Champlain, Museum Board Corresponding Secretary, shot the traditional clays course but thought the Ironman tournament was a big hit.



Matt Kropf on clays course

Board Member Matt Kropf thought the event was a success and said, "I shot in the Ironman and even though I didn't hit many clays, I had a blast!"

The museum would like to thank the local individuals and businesses that donated items for the 16 basket raffles.



And a big Thank You goes out to our sponsors this year.

### Clay Station Sponsors:

- Giardini Bros. Construction
- Phillips & Roeder
- McCracken Energy Services
- Dallas-Morris Drilling
- Charlie's Cycle Center
- DEW Services
- Gould Stables
- Jarrett Machine Co.

### Beverage Sponsors:

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- U.S. Energy

### Lunch Sponsors:

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- Emerling Ford

### Trap Field Sponsors:

- Lang Surveying
- Fox & Sons

August 20, 2022, is the date set for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvey Golubock Memorial Clay Shoot & Ironman Tournament. Mark your calendars!

### Eye-Catching Addition!



Thank you to Marsha and Chip McCracken for their donation of a neon OPEN sign for the museum's entrance door.

### Pumpers Talks continued

newsletter publications, the 150/50 lecture series at the public library, Derrick Day activities, the Willard Cline Memorial Rig Dedication in September, as well as the Oilman Tribute Rifle Raffle. Museum improvements included new concrete walkways, the north lot clearance, the rebuilding of the standard derrick, a new neon "open" sign for the entrance door, a new photo gallery in the main display area, a new mural in the gift shop, and plans for a new exhibition hall.

# Rebuilding a Landmark

Photos by Fran Bottone, Museum Manager



July 2021 - ground cleared and foundations set

New platform and Samson post



And up...



Legs and bracing, going up...



And up!



Crown pulley installed



Housing complete



Engine house and belt hall framing



Bull wheel

New band wheel arrives



Kinley Corp's foreman on the job, Jeff Bockmier, did an excellent job and was very receptive to suggestions. He may now be the country's foremost expert on standard rig building. To show his dedication, he was here by himself completing final details the day before Thanksgiving. Thank you from everyone at the Penn Brad Oil Museum, Jeff. You and your crew can be very proud. Thanks also to Jeff's boss, Don Wilcox. All that remains is arranging items to our taste in the rig, and Kinley will be back in the spring to do some final landscaping.

## Thank You!

Special Thanks to Bill and Nora Bottorf of Bottorf Embroidery for the beautiful Bill Cline dedication plaque that will be placed on the new rig.

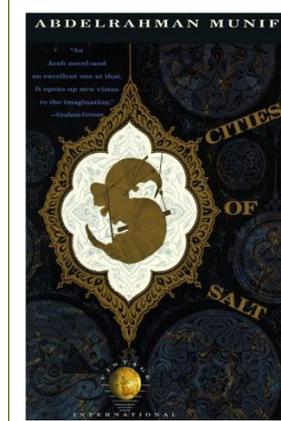


The Bottorfs are also responsible for the cool Penn Brad Oil Museum hats, t-shirts, glass mugs, and sweatshirts, that are available in our gift shop.



## Rig Rebuild Makes Way for New Development

Museum patrons will notice that we turned the new rig 90 degrees from its old footprint. This was so we would have room for a 70'x70' pole barn that will be used to house engines and other big items that are waiting in the wings to be donated by local collectors and enthusiasts. Donations have already been pledged from some local collectors, but the museum hopes to raise the remaining funds needed for this project in the coming year.



## Book Review

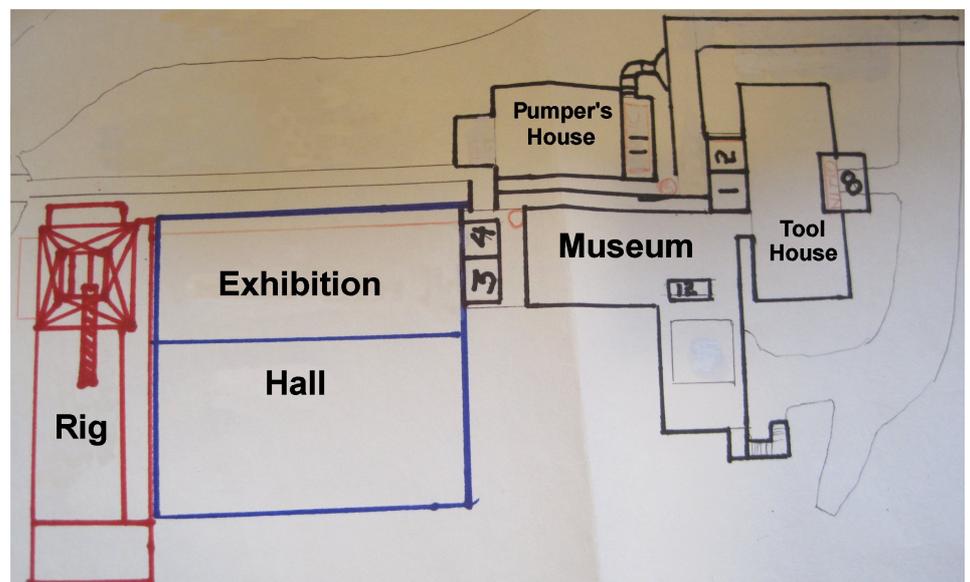
Cities of Salt by Abdul-Rahman Mounif  
Vintage Books, 1989  
(Originally published in Arabic in Beirut, 1984)

The author was an oil economist from Jordan, who lived and worked in Iraq, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iran, France and Yugoslavia. Born in 1933, he witnessed huge changes to the Middle East as a result of the oil boom. His novel centers on the drastic upheavals to the traditional, naïve inhabitants of a small isolated oasis village. They are helpless in the face of powerful and, to them, alien technologies that utterly transform their life.

While this novel has become famous for showing how exploitative and deceptive the western oil companies were, it is actually far more critical about the greed, corruption and indifference of the local despotic governments. Because it depicts the enormous wealth of ruling families and the widespread poverty and torture of those ruled, it was banned in Saudi Arabia and other Mid-Eastern countries. This story illustrates the problems of modernization, when economies are devastated by changing endeavors, like the collapse of New England whaling or the demise of the Erie Canal. The translator of this novel, Peter Theroux, says that "... *Cities of Salt* was no more about oil than *The Godfather* was about olive oil." A copy of this disturbing novel is in the museum's Kinley Library.



## Diagram of Future Museum Grounds with New Exhibition Hall



# 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
- Matt Kropf
- Chip McCracken
- Marsha McCracken
- William Pantuso
- Stanley Pecora
- Paul Phillips
- Steve Pratt
- Sherri Schulze
- Dale Smith



Photo by Angela Nuzzo



Engraved personalized paving bricks can be purchased to surround the base of the new flag pole that will be erected in the near future. The bricks can be used as a way of honoring people who have been important to or involved in the oil industry, or as a memorial to a deceased person. Bricks can also be purchased personally to show your support for the work of the museum. Notification of the gift and the placement of the brick will be given. To purchase a brick, print out the order form available on our website or call the number below for details.

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

Memorials received after July 31 will appear in the next newsletter.

Memorials are available by calling our Treasurer, Joyce, at 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.

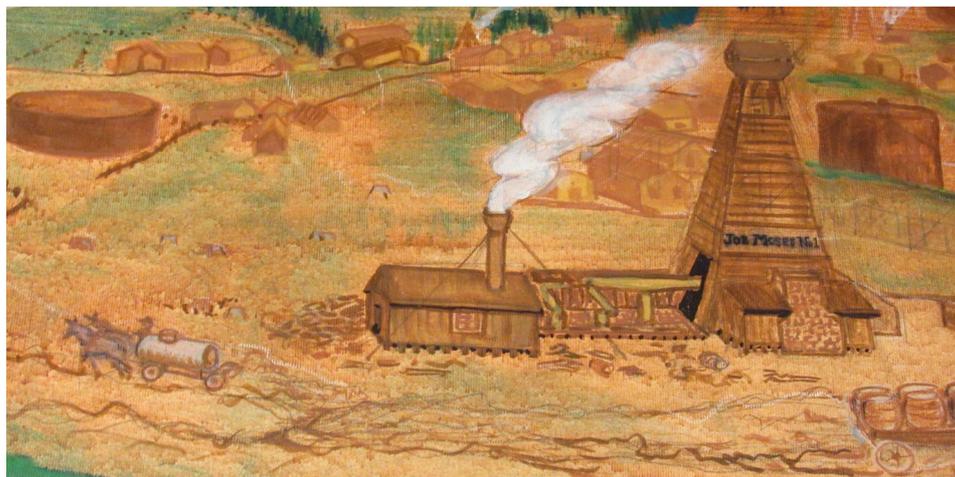
Clip and Mail Coupon

<i>(PLEASE CHOOSE IN MEMORY OF OR IN HONOR OF)</i>	<b>Memorial/Honoring Gifts</b>	<i>(PLEASE PRINT)</i>
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STREET		STREET
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## New Mural Featured On Museum's Wall



A new mural, painted by Isabelle Champlain and Samila Susic, hangs in the museum's gift shop and spans 28 feet over 3 canvas panels. The painting is a panorama showing the growth of the Bradford oil field from 1865 to the 1930s. The amazing details have to be seen in person and you will probably see something new each time you view it. It took the two artists about 154 hours to paint the mural.



[Visit our Facebook page for more articles, photos, and updates. User name: Penn Brad Oil Museum.](#)

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