

# 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. 10 – No. 3 – Summer 2024

## Crowd Enjoys Derrick Day Event!

photos by Angela Nuzzo, Editor



A steady stream of people wandered the museum grounds at our 2024 Derrick Day celebration. They examined the displays and enjoyed watching the special heritage craft presentations.

Isabelle Champlin demonstrated candle dipping. Nancy Dryden shared the art of tree weaving. Julia Morgan

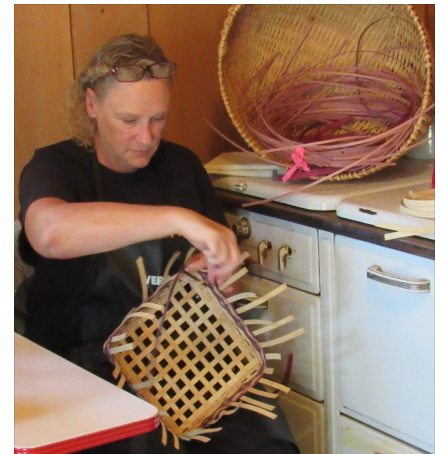
showed her skill in basket weaving. And the Kinzua Quilters Guild was sewing away in the library. Caricature artist Eric Jones was busy all afternoon on the lease house porch. Fair to Fiddlin' filled the summer air



with live music and The Lunch Bus filled the air with the smell of tasty treats.

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the silent auction and to the

volunteers who made the day a success.



## 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 Talks in June and July

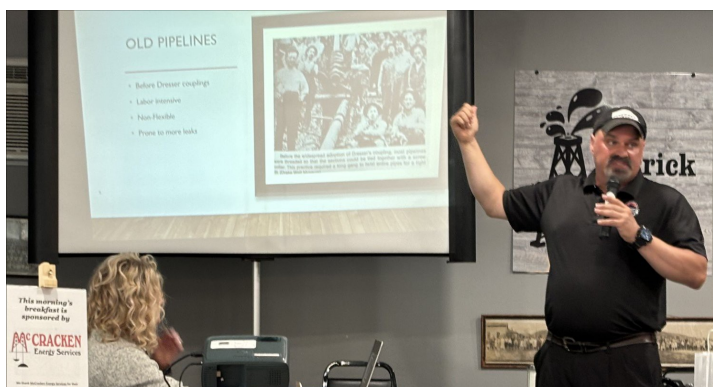
by Isabelle Champlin with photos by Joyce Cline

At the June meeting, Taylor McConnell, the general manager of The Wilds Sonshine Factory, talked about this new 7-acre education center, distillery, art gallery, gift shop, banquet hall, and event venue in Kane, PA.



It was developed to promote the natural resources and agricultural products of this Pennsylvania Wilds area. (The “Pennsylvania Wilds” comprises 13 counties, with over 2 million acres of public lands, about 25% of the state but with only 4% of the population.) Their signature sunflower-based liqueur is locally made and is produced nowhere else in the world. Another unique attraction is the world’s longest table constructed of one piece of wood (made of eastern hemlock, our state tree). The gift shop sells only locally made artworks and souvenirs.

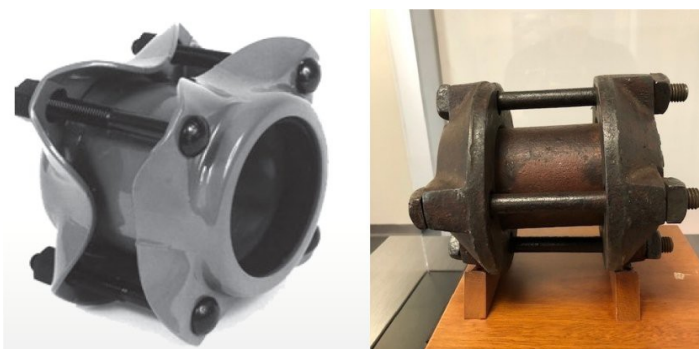
Besides tours and tastings, the facility hosts live music, vendors, car shows, festivals, and workshops such as fly-tying. More information can be found on their website: [www.wildssonshinefactory.org](http://www.wildssonshinefactory.org).



At the July meeting, Marc South, Inside Sales Representative of Dresser Utility Solutions here in Bradford, showed the history of Solomon Dresser’s innovative coupling technology in an illustrated

presentation.

In the late 1800s, sections of pipeline were laboriously screw-threaded together by large crews of workers, but they often leaked. In 1880, Dresser patented a bolt-tightened coupling for a pipeline joint that was easily and rapidly installed, flexible, and non-leaking. With a middle section like an automotive wheel drum, two sections of pipe inserted on each side could be held together with gaskets that sealed the joining.



*A modern Dresser style 38 coupling is on the left, the original style 38 is on the right. The basic construction is the same.*

Besides a large manufacturing plant in Bradford, Dresser also built an enormous mansion in 1903 that today would probably cost 60 million dollars to construct and furnish. A beloved local example of oil boom wealth, it unfortunately burned down in 1986.

One question from the audience was about the size of a Dresser coupling. The largest was 246 inches in diameter, but the usual large size now manufactured is 120 inches. Many types of Dresser couplings are made today, including special 60° and 108° post-Katrina ones installed in New Orleans.

Originally made of rubber for oil pipelines, Dresser gaskets are now made of many different materials for different situations: sewage water, saltwater, acids, high pressure and high temperature liquids and gasses, fly ash, and many more.

If you are interested in more information, the Penn Brad Oil Museum library has a copy of “Initiative in Energy: The Story of Dresser” by Darwin Payne.



# Penn Brad Oil Museum



## DAN PALMER MEMORIAL GOLF SCRAMBLE

**Sunday, September 15, 2024**



**10am Shotgun Start**

**West Warren Road ~ Bradford, PA**

- \$75 entry fee per person
- 18 holes ~ Includes golf, cart & lunch on the course
- Pro shop monies awarded following scramble
- Sign up in person at the Pro Shop or call Pine Acres at 814.362.2005 to register
- 50/50 raffle

All proceeds benefit the Penn Brad Oil Museum's capital improvements

### Skills Competitions

- Casino Hole
- Closest to the Pin
- Longest Drive
- 100 Yard Shootout (following scramble)
- Skins

## Sponsorship Form

\_\_\_ Event Sponsor\*\*\* \$ 2,000

\_\_\_ Hole Sponsor \$ 100 \_\_\_ Cart Sponsor \$ 50

(Sponsors signs placed on carts / Hole Sponsors will be listed on sign at clubhouse)

\*\*\*Four complimentary registrations

\_\_\_ Check enclosed made payable to **Penn Brad Oil Museum**

\_\_\_ Credit Card please call Joyce at 814.368.6824

(Business) Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Your sponsorship is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law (501 (c)3)

Penn Brad Oil Museum PO Box 163 Bradford, PA 16701-0163

## Fireside Pumpers Breakfast

The Fireside Pumpers of the Penn Brad Oil Museum will meet each 3rd Monday of the month at 8 am for a breakfast meeting with a guest speaker, at the Derrick City Diner, 563 Derrick Road, Bradford. Attendees will individually order off the menu beginning at 8 am, with cash being preferred over credit cards. The program will begin at 8:30. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. 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.

**September 16, 2024**

Jamie Pierotti

Backus Factory in Smethport

**October 21, 2024**

Jeff Brewer

ARG Processes & Products

**November 18, 2024**

PBOM - The Year in Review



This great advertising piece for the Sandburg Oil Company was donated by Tom and Pat Miller.





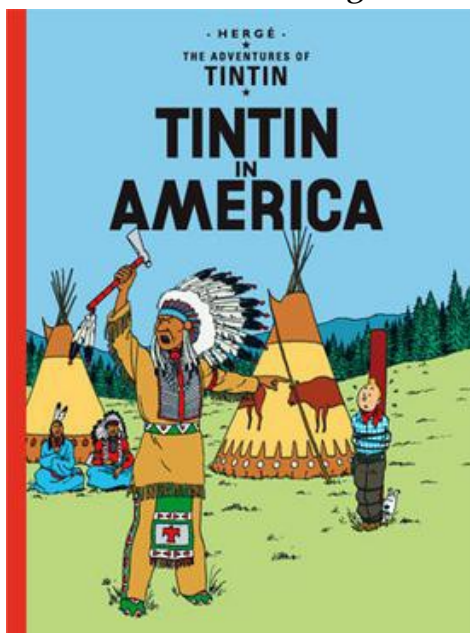
## Book Reviews

by Isabelle Champlin, Corresponding Secretary

These are our first reviews of any children's cartoon books, as there are few that deal with petroleum. This popular long-running series of books was first created in 1929 by Belgian artist Herge, the nom de plume of Georges Remy. Tintin is a young intrepid newspaper reporter who has adventures all over the world accompanied by his little white dog named Snowy. Various standard characters appear in many Tintin stories, of which there are 24.

### Tintin in America by Herge

First published in 1932, revised in 1945 & 1978  
Farshore Publications 2012, large format, 62 pgs

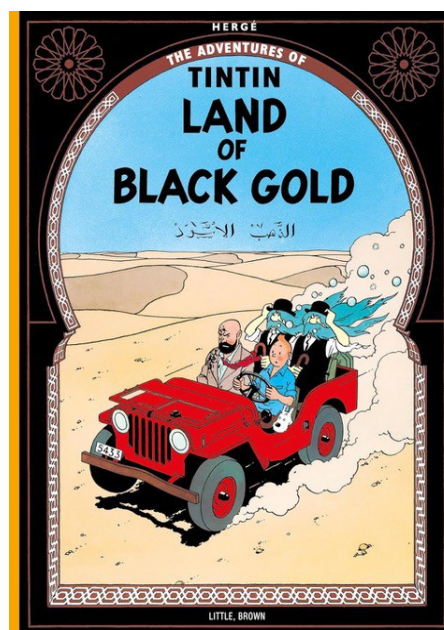


'Tintin in America' is the best-seller of all the Tintin books. It is mainly concerned with Tintin's investigations of Al Capone and organized crime in Chicago in 1931. But it also briefly describes Tintin accidentally discovering oil on a Blackfoot Indian reservation. In an effective parody of the rapidity of an oil boom, oil speculators immediately appear, the Indians are driven off by the US Army, oil companies take over, and by the very next morning an American city complete with traffic jams has been established. The author portrays other 1930s tropes such as powerful crime syndicates, striking factory workers, lynch mobs, meatpacking canneries turning out dog/cat/rat sausages, Hollywood's dramatic "tied to the railroad tracks" method of execution, and a ticker-tape parade for a hero.

Sometimes criticized for depicting racial and ethnic stereotypes of native peoples, the feathered war-bonnets in this Tintin book are in fact authentic to the Blackfeet culture.

### Land of Black Gold by Herge

New York: Little, Brown and Co, 1975  
Large format, 62 pgs



First published in 1950, 'Land of Black Gold' takes place in the fictitious Middle Eastern country of Khemed, in the Arabian peninsula bordering the Red Sea. The story begins in Europe with car engines and cigarette lighters mysteriously exploding, airplane flights being canceled, and oil prices soaring, as WWII becomes eminent. Suspecting an undetectable additive is the cause of the chaos, Tintin sets out for the Middle East. While supposedly written for children, the story line is convoluted, with different local political factions struggling to control different oil concessions with different European powers. Tintin, as usual, gets repeatedly captured but then cleverly escapes, survives sandstorms and dehydration, mirages and assassination attempts. No oil fields are depicted, but revolutionists do blow up an oil pipeline.

Both of these comic books, drawn in colorful clear line graphics, are available in the Kinley Library of the Penn Brad Oil Museum.



## Museum's Flagpole Receives a Little TLC

photos by Francie Long & Joyce Cline

According to Jeff Brewer, members of the ARG heavy aquipment shop brought a manlift to the museum to access the top of the flagpole and returned the hoisting mechanism to proper working order.



In August, Benny Toothman placed the cord inside the pole where it can be locked. It will only have to be opened when the flag needs to be lowered or replaced. Benny also spent several hours hooking up a spot light for the flag.



When the dedication plaque is received, a ceremony will be held to thank PYOGA for donating the flagpole in memory of past member April Lang.

## Spring Backyard Tour Brings Big Group

The McKean County Backyard Tour on May 10 saw over 50 people visiting the museum during the annual day-long event. The group also visited the Marilyn Horne Museum, Zippo / Case Museum, Eldred WWII Museum, Kinzua Bridge & Sky Walk, Laughing Owl Press, Wilds Sonshine Factory, and CJ Spirits in Kane. The tour included lunch and wine tastings. Turina Martin of the Allegheny National Forest Tourist Bureau shared these photos of Tom Miller and Isabelle Champlin guiding the groups through the museum.



### Oilfield Jargon

**Doghhouse :** a small enclosure on the rig floor used as an office for the driller and as a storehouse for small objects.



## Far From Home

by Isabelle Champlin

Thanks to reader Nancy Dryden, we have photos of some well used Kendall oil cans repurposed as lamp shades in a restaurant in North Carolina.



Strange décor for a restaurant? Not this one. It's called the Tap Station and was once a gas station / garage, but now diners can admire lots of interesting petroleum memorabilia.



Website photo

Here's their website in case you're ever in Apex, NC: [www.tapstationapex.com](http://www.tapstationapex.com). A quick internet search brings up many photos showing other great vintage objects that they've used in their decorating.

## Recent Donations Given to the Museum by Chris Wolcott



## Railing Update

Since the last newsletter, the new railing has been completed by Tom & Pat Miller and Jeff Brewer. They added a handrail made from vintage wooden sucker rods.



## More Photos of Derrick Day





## 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

Jeff Brewer                      Marsha McCracken  
 Meredith Fesenmyer      Stanley Pecora  
 Brenda Fish                      William Pantuso  
 Matt Kropf                      Sherri Schulze  
 Pat Lehosky                      Dale Smith  
 Chip McCracken



## Memorial & Honoring Gifts

**In Memory Of:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Given By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dennis Stromberg ..... Chuck & Lynn Byrd

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 August 12 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**

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

# Fireside Pumpers Talk in August

by Isabelle Champlin, photo by Joyce Cline

Bradford's mayor, Tom Riel, has been finding, digging and collecting antique glass bottles for over 25 years. He specializes in, and has the largest collection of, handblown bottles from Bradford, PA, dating from the 1870s to about 1910 when the automated bottle machine was invented. He finds his bottles at numerous construction and demolition sites, garbage dumps, early lumber and hunting camps, privies, in the crawl spaces under some of Bradford's oldest buildings and also at antique shows. Bottle collecting exploded in popularity in the 1970s and the largest annual bottle show in the world is held in early March near Baltimore, MD, drawing thousands of people from all over the globe.

Using specimens from his more than 1,000 handblown Bradford bottles, he pointed out diagnostic techniques of manufacture, especially on the bottoms and mouths, of bottles which once held patent medicines, whiskey, water, beer, horseradish and other products.

Riel donated a rare and valuable bottle embossed "Emery Mfg. Co. Bradford PA." to the museum's collection, and also donated 10 common Bradford bottles which were raffled off as door prizes at the conclusion of his presentation.

This month's sponsor was Treadle Treasures of Middleburg, PA, which focuses on handmade Civil War period clothing.

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

