

# 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. 8 – No. 2 – Spring 2022

## Amazing Turnout for Ice Cream Social!

by Angela Nuzzo, Editor

The changeable weather did nothing to dim the enthusiasm of the crowd that showed up for the museum's Ice Cream Social on April 9th. Heavy dark clouds one minute and bright blue skies the next didn't seem to phase the more than 150 people who stopped in to enjoy ice cream, popcorn, and sloppy joes.



Photo by Mickey Clark

According to Isabelle Champlin, Corresponding Secretary, "I think we were all astonished and pleased at how many people visited us, probably due to the front page article about the event in the Bradford Era urging everyone to bring the family. We had a lot of children this year walking around with free bags of popcorn."

Joyce Cline, Treasurer, thinks "there must be something special about the popcorn offered at museum events as it is always a very popular item. Is it the tempting aroma or the ease of eating from those little bags? Whatever it is, kids and adults alike kept the

popcorn popper running nonstop throughout the day and I found it hard to keep up with the demand. Perhaps it contains a little flavor of our Penn Grade Crude Oil."



Photo by Bev Roberts

A family enjoys the table full of goodies

During the 4 hour event, most of the crock pot sloppy joe mix was used up, along with a three gallon tub of ice cream and many home-made cookies.



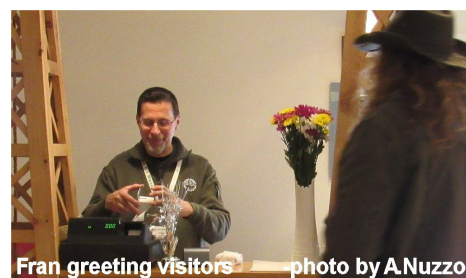
Photo by Mickey Clark

Marsha & Sue hand out cookies & sloppy joes

Thank you to the following board members and volunteers who donated food and supplies: Isabelle Champlin, Joyce Cline, Susan Gould, Marsha and Chip McCracken, Dennis Stromberg, Heather Rosenberger, and Bev

Roberts. Thank you also to board members Tom Miller, Stan Pecora, and Steve Pratt, for taking part in the celebration.

When asked to sum up his own thoughts on the Ice Cream Social, Fran Bottone, Museum Manager, said, "With it being my first one, and so early in the season, I was not expecting the turnout we had, but was grateful that it all worked out and a seemingly good time was had by all." Indeed.



Fran greeting visitors

photo by A.Nuzzo

## 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

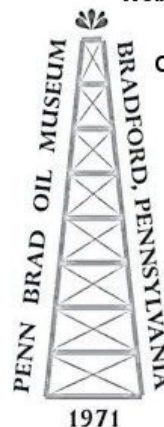
Seniors - \$4.50

Children (under 12) -

FREE

Active Military / Family -

FREE



# No Need for a Lazy Bench with This Crew!

photos by Fran Bottone, Museum Manager

We were blessed with beautiful, sunny skies for our first clean-up day in April. It was all hands on deck in preparation for opening day and the museum's Ice Cream Social. Volunteers spent several hours sprucing up the grounds and cleaning off the layer of winter that had settled over the buildings. Those present were: Fran Bottone, Tom Miller, Paul Estus, Jim Frick, Mike Fuoco, Don Schrubb, Joyce Cline, Isabelle Champlin, Terri Anne Schrubb, Susan Gould, and Angela Nuzzo.

Jobs taken care of included: the derrick and rig straightened up and rig floors swept, both upper lots and the TVTA walkway swept, miscellaneous work picking up the grounds, the AC Thomas Half Breed Engine adjusted, tuned, and test fired for the season, lease house straightened up and windows cleaned inside and out, museum cleaned and arranged for the Ice Cream Social, as was the gift shop and the kitchenette.



*Paul Estus supervises Tom at the Thomas Half Breed*



*The crew cleans up the derrick floor, Tom Miller, Paul Estus, Angela Nuzzo, Don Schrubb, Terri Anne Schrubb, and Fran Bottone*



*Sweeping the upper lots, Mike Fuoco, Paul Estus, Jim Frick, Fran Bottone, Tom Miller, and Don Schrubb*



*Tom Miller tweaks the AC Thomas Half Breed*



*Break time. Isabelle Champlin, Joyce Cline, and Jim Frick enjoy some pizza*

The next scheduled clean-up day will be June 4 at 9 am. If you would like to help out, watch our Facebook page for details or call the museum.

# Penn Brad Oil Museum

## Harvey Golubock Memorial

### Clay Shoot & Ironman Tournament



**Saturday, August 20, 2022**

**Bradford Gun Club ~ West Warren Road ~ Bradford, PA**

### **9am—11am Registration**

#### **Clay Shoot**

- **\$50 entry fee**
- 10 Station/50 target course
- Lewis Class—cash prize for top shooter in each class
- Targets included
- **BRING OWN GUN/SHELLS**

#### **Ironman Tournament**

- **\$75 entry fee**
- 50 Sporting      25 Five Stand
- 25 Skeet        25 Trap (23 yard)
- Targets included
- **BRING OWN GUN/SHELLS**

- Lunch/drinks provided
- Awards presented after event is completed
- 50/50 Raffle
- **Registration forms available at Penn Brad Oil Museum or on day of event**



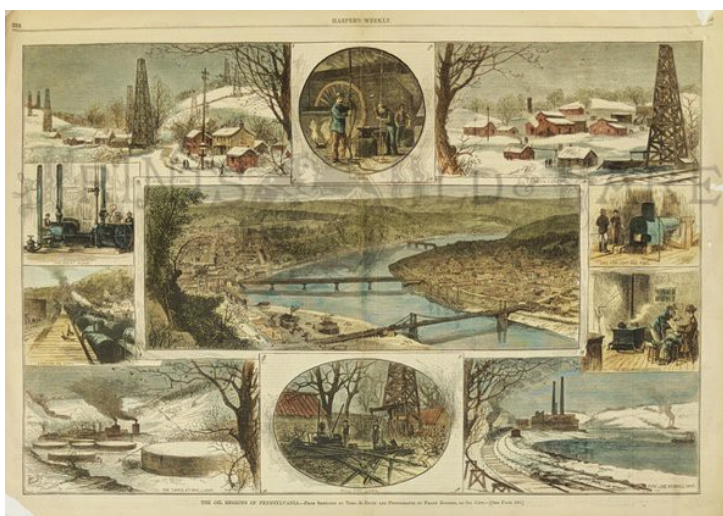
**LIMITED AMOUNT OF SHELLS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT GUN CLUB**

Printable Sponsorship Form and Registration Form available on our website, [penn-bradoilmuseum.org](http://penn-bradoilmuseum.org).

# New Donations to the Museum

by Fran Bottone & Isabelle Champlin

Barb Nolte of New Kensington, PA, donated a large framed picture of the *Harper's Weekly* spread of March 30, 1878, pages 252 - 253 titled "The Oil Regions of Pennsylvania", with multiple illustrations of sketches by Theo. R. Davis made from photographs by Frank Robbins. We are very glad to have this, since Frank Robbins created many stereoscopic views of Pennsylvania oil fields, had a studio on Main Street in Bradford, and is buried in Bradford's Oak Hill Cemetery. The print looks like this image from [www.printsoldandrare.com/pennsylvania](http://www.printsoldandrare.com/pennsylvania).



An enormous barrel house drum scale was donated to the museum late last fall by the ARG refinery and specifically through the generosity of Desk and Derrick president Ed Dallenbach. This scale was made by Fairbanks Morse and was used in the Kendall (and then ARG) Barrel House for many years to weigh all of the drums going out to confirm that the amount of oil was correct in each one. Then it was decommissioned and put into storage. This huge scale (photo at right) is approximately 6-7 feet tall and weighs around 1000 lbs. It was delivered to the museum by the McCracken Energy crew, then degreased here in our basement to remove years of high-quality Bradford crude, so it can eventually find its way up to the main museum for a new display, the logistics of which we frankly haven't worked out yet.

A collection of pipeline maps, magazines, newspapers, and oil memorabilia came to us in April

through good friends of the museum, Mike Fuoco and the Bradford Landmark Society, after he had the opportunity to peruse files at the Drake Well Museum archives that were in the deaccession process (another name for housecleaning). These "Sandpumpings" literary/historical magazines were created and published by Olean, NY, high schoolers who, in their words, wanted to be like the 'drillers of yore', in exploring the pioneer days.



\*\*\*story continued on page 6

# Fireside Pumpers Talk

by Isabelle Champlin, Corresponding Secretary  
with photos by Bev Roberts

The first of the 2022 Fireside Pumpers’ breakfast buffet programs was held at Togi’s Restaurant in Bradford on Wednesday, May 11. The speaker was Jeff Pierson who presented A Nitroglycerin Factory Virtual Tour, along with a background history of the development of this extraordinarily effective and dangerous explosive.



His large, detailed scale model is based on the Otto Cupler Torpedo Company factory in Titusville, PA, where he worked for a year in 1976-77 to get his blaster’s license.



He described the inventive technology that dealt with the careful composition of volatile and corrosive chemicals, the necessity of constant but slow blending in special tanks, the requirements to cool the liquid and to neutralize it, and the eternal

hazard of igniting an explosion by miniscule amounts of pressure or friction. For example, in packaging the nitroglycerin product into tall metal containers, screw-top caps could not be used; instead corks were soaked in oil so they could be gently pushed into place. This talk raised many questions and comments from the fascinated audience.



**Derrick Day Festival**

Saturday July 30, 2022

10 am - 4 pm

Free Admission

Engine Exhibits

Demonstrations

Entertainment

Food Vendors

Bring the Family & Enjoy the Day!

Penn Brad Oil Museum 901 South Ave., Bradford, PA



## Book Reviews

Oilman by Robert Stuart McLean  
Trafford Publishing, 2011.

Jinn by Robert Stuart McLean.  
XLibris Press, 2020.

Reviews by Isabelle Champlin

Oilman begins in 1948 western Canada, when a high-school dropout heads to the Leduc oilfields to become a weevil (what we call a maggot) at age 17. There are nostalgic descriptions of haying with horse teams, using party-line telephones, going to a movie that also shows news reels and cartoons, and the crushing rural poverty that drove young men to harsh work. The modern problems of oil boom towns such as heavy drinking and bar fights, local animosity and exorbitant pricing, intolerance of immigrants, housing shortages and hustlers, and sudden tragic accidents, were the same back then. The author also describes the roles of shady landmen, bankers, and stock speculators, and the extravagant lifestyles of those who became wealthy.

Jinn is about Americans drilling in Libya for BP. Although at least one review calls this ‘a rollicking good read’, sticklers for standard spelling and punctuation will be greatly distracted. Also, there are no chapter headings at all, in spite of many scene and timeline shifts. (The Yom Kippur War of 1973 takes place while these Texans are drilling in Libya, but the author can abruptly shift to Rommel’s Afrika Korps maneuvers of 1942 and then back again.) If the reader perseveres, however, there is buried treasure, kidnappings, political insurrections, and fascinating details about Muslim etiquette and work ethics.

The author worked on oil rigs and uses his knowledge to create many eccentric characters, many of them foul-mouthed but verbally fluent. Neither of these novels can be highly recommended, but they are available in the museum’s Kinley Library.

## New Donations continued

A last-minute contribution, just in time for our Spring Open House, were the comfy foam cushions for the wooden benches in our Dog House Theater, hand-made by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Benedict of Bradford. Thank you very much for this welcome addition. Future movie nights will be much more comfortable.

These are just a few of the many, many generous donations that we receive from local families and organizations that share our interest in preserving our rich local oil history. Thank you again to everyone.



## Fireside Pumpers Breakfast

The museum welcomes the public to the Fireside Pumpers breakfast meetings, held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:30 a.m. at Togi's Banquet Room, 412-422 E. Main St., Bradford. The breakfast buffet is \$15, with a portion of that going toward museum improvements. Check the Bradford Era the Monday before each meeting for details or changes in the schedule.

### June 8, 2022

Larry Kilmer  
*Early Local Railroads and Streetcars*

### July 13, 2022

Stan Pecora  
*Go-Devil! A Novel by Marguerite Eysen*

### August 10, 2022

Kelly Lounsberry  
*Archeological Investigations at the Smith Site:  
A Chautauqua-McFate Hillfort in Southwestern New York*

### September 14, 2022

Matt Kropf  
*The New STEM Building - UPB*

### October 12, 2022

Bill Robertson  
*Haunted House Guide Book Series*

### November 9, 2022

Fran Bottone  
*Penn Brad Oil Museum:  
The Year in Pictures*



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



Photo by Angela Nuzzo

## Memorial Gifts

**In Memory Of:**

**Given By:**

Braxx Price-Edmundson ..... Tom & Pat Miller  
 Loni Fesenmyer .... Tom & Pat Miller & Joyce Cline

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 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 museum.



Photo by Angela Nuzzo



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

Memorials received after May 6 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.

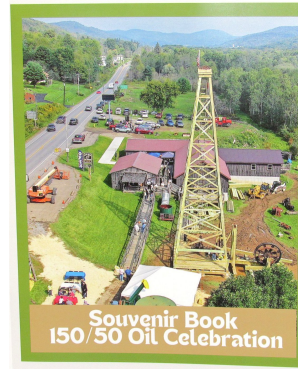
Clip and Mail Coupon

<i>(PLEASE CHOOSE IN MEMORY OF OR IN HONOR OF)</i>	<b>Memorial/Honoring Gifts</b>	<i>(PLEASE PRINT)</i>
IN MEMORY OF		IN HONOR OF
SEND CARD TO		FROM
STREET		STREET
CITY/STATE/ZIP		CITY/STATE/ZIP

# The Oil 150 / 50 Souvenir Book

by Isabelle Champlin, Corresponding Secretary

The final project for the Oil 150/50 celebration was published in March, 2022. The “Souvenir Book” was edited by Isabelle Champlin, Angela Nuzzo, and Heidi Scrivo Passmore, with additional articles by Fran Bottone, Marsha McCracken, and Thomas Miller. The 20 page booklet was sent to the members of the 150/50 planning committee, the financial donors, exhibitors, entertainers, demonstrators, lecturers, museum board members, and dignitaries. It features the three posters that were used in advertising and many photographs of the September 2021 event, including the construction of the new standard rig and its dedication ceremony, highlights of the engine exhibits, bit dressing demonstration, well shot, anniversary mural, barbershop-style singers and stilt walker, with sections describing the American Oilman Tribute rifle raffle, and the special products such as the Zippo lighters, letter opener, postcard booklet, embroidered ballcaps, commemorative coin, and engraved glass mugs.



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

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