

# 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. 3 – Summer 2022

## Derrick Day Festival Brings in the Crowds!

by Angela Nuzzo, Editor

Mother Nature blessed us with beautiful weather for our Derrick Day festival in July and, according to Museum Manager Fran Bottone, "it was another successful event and the Penn Brad crew pulled together with everyone making their own unique contributions. The Buffalo drilling engine that was brought back to life by Tom Miller and Mike Fuoco was a big draw, along with the updates to the rig floor just before the event. But everything from the rigs and engines set up on the north end, to the chainsaw carver and activities for the women and children in the lease house were very well received. The volunteers that we had also made life easier throughout the day."



Demonstrators located at the lease house included Nancy Dryden and family doing tree weaving or outdoor rag-rug making; Julie Stacey and Rekha Gajanan doing basket weaving; and Isabelle Champlin doing candle-dipping with equipment loaned by the Bradford Landmark Society and wax from International Wax, Inc. of Farmers Valley. Isabelle said of the spectators,

"The children were enthusiastic dippers, including several that were held in their mom's arms."



Board member Stan Pecora shared Bradford oil history with talks in the museum's library. Brian Fox shared his chainsaw carving skills and McCracken Energy Services, Phillips & Roeder, and Steve Tachoir were our equipment exhibitors. Throughout the day, the band Fair to Fiddlin' entertained both guests and volunteers.



Photo by A Nuzzo

Tom Miller, Museum Board President, had this to say about the success of the day: "Thanks to help from a crew from McCracken Energy Services and another from

Cline Oil, we were able to get the grounds in shape. They also enabled us to get the rig tooling and appurtenances arranged somewhat in order. They were a great help and we could not have gotten it done without them. Isabelle Champlin provided labels and a printed guide for rig tours. With help from Mike Fuoco, I got the Buffalo Engine in the rig plumbed up and ready to run. It needed work after being out in the weather while the rig was rebuilt. In addition to the Buffalo, the Half-Breed and Bovaird & Seyfang engines in the toolhouse were in operation. Mike Fuoco monitored the Buffalo engine throughout the

*\*\*\*story continued on page 2*

## 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

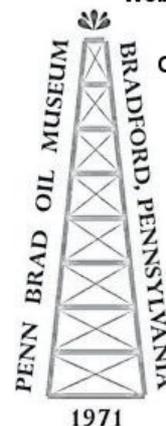
Seniors - \$4.50

Children (under 12) -

FREE

Active Military / Family -

FREE



## Derrick Day continued

day and Jordon Roeder kept watch on the engines in the toolhouse. Dean Fox was in the rig to conduct tours. There was considerable interest in the Buffalo engine by young and old. It was featured in photographs in both The Bradford Era and The Bradford Journal with an excellent historical write-up on the engine in the Journal by Grant Nichols. I personally witnessed several nice comments and expressions of gratitude to the museum on the new Willard M. Cline standard rig." Joyce Cline, Museum Treasurer, said several visitors were amazed at the improvements to the grounds and to the museum displays. Thanks to all who helped make the day a success!



*Joyce greets visitors with a smile!*



*Isabelle & Rekha Gajanan build a basket*



## Recession Takes Its Toll on Clay Shoot Fundraiser

from Event Chairperson Marsha McCracken

The Harvey Golubock Memorial Clay Shoot, held on August 20, seemed to feel the effects of high gas prices and supply shortages. The cost and lack of ammunition and the cost of fuel has reduced attendance at all events at the Bradford Gun Club this year. Due to low attendance, the Ironman Tournament was cancelled and the 13 shooters that signed up took part in the regular Clay Shoot only.

We would like to thank our sponsors:

**Luncheon Sponsors** - Dallas-Morris and Emerling Ford  
(lunch provided by the Derrick City Diner)

**Beverage Sponsors** - ARG and Northwest Bank

**Clay Station Sponsors** - Howard Drilling, Zippo, Phillips & Roeder, McCracken Energy Services, Dallas-Morris, Lang Surveying, Worth W. Smith Co., E&M Engineers, and Gould Stables

**Trap Field Sponsor** - Stateline Supply

Thank you to those who volunteered their time to help at the shoot and a huge thank you to the Bradford Gun Club for hosting our annual event!

Mark your calendars for next year's shoot - August 19, 2023.



Board member Dennis Stromberg and his wife recently donated a large 5 foot by 3 foot historic print of the Bradford business district from back in 1881. It now hangs in the James H. Kinley Library here at the Penn Brad Oil Museum. Thank you both very much for your generous gift.

**Oilfield Slang** - "SUCKER RODS" - These were usually either 5/8" iron rods or 1 5/8" wooden rods about 25 feet long and were used to pump the well. They "sucked" the oil up the pipe from the bottom by means of a traveling valve and a standing valve.

# *Penn Brad Oil Museum*

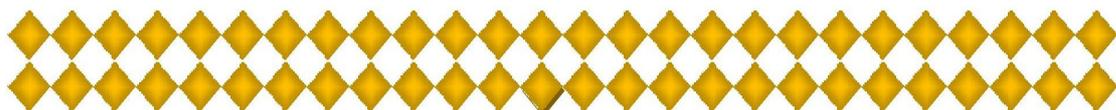


## *Yellow Dog Award Dinner*

The Yellow Dog Award was instituted to recognize the leadership and dedication of those who help preserve the history of the Bradford Oil Field and the unique culture that developed along with it.



**Honoring long time Bradford oil field  
producer and businessman  
Tom Morris Sr., Dallas-Morris Drilling**



*6 p.m., Saturday, October 15, 2022 - Pennhills Club*

*Pennhills Drive, Bradford, PA*

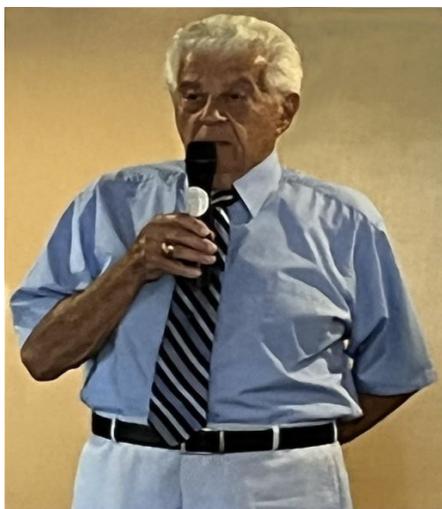
## Fireside Pumpers Talks in June, July, & August

by Isabelle Champlin, Corresponding Secretary, and Fran Bottone, Museum Manager  
with photos by Joyce Cline

A native of Olean, NY, Larry Kilmer and his father wrote three books about local railroads: "Bradford & Foster Brook Peg-Leg Railroad", "The Erie Railroad 1863-1976: Bradford Branch" and "Iron Rails in Seneca Land." Larry's talk centered on the narrow-gauge Olean, Bradford, & Warren Railroad, which began in 1872 primarily to freight oil over Rock City Hill between Olean and Bradford. It was eventually, in 1898, converted to a standard gauge trolley line called the Olean, Rock City and Bradford, with a regular stop at Rock City Park with its famous hotel, amusement park, and unusual rock formations. A modern version of Rock City Park is still in business, but the trolley service stopped in the 1920s.

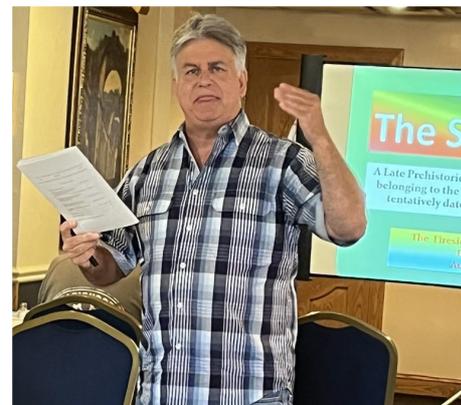


As the photo shows, Larry used many old postcards, maps, stock certificates, photographs, time-tables, newspaper articles, and artifacts such as a link and pin coupler, badges and tickets to illustrate detailed histories of several more railroads and trolley lines that once provided freight and passenger transportation in this area. He is currently working on a book about the old A&K (Allegheny & Kinzua) logging railroad run by Spenser S. Bullis in what is now Allegheny State Park.



Stan Pecora, local attorney-at-law, city and state solicitor, and Corydon Township solicitor for 57 years, reviewed the book "Go-Devil!" by Marguerite Eyssen, who was a neighbor of his while growing up in the Interstate Parkway area. The 1947 book used real people to illuminate the oil boom times of the 1860s through the 1880s, such as Captain Jones and Ben Hogan (the self-styled 'wickedest man in the world'), as well as real places such as Music Mountain and Cherry Grove. The novel's

protagonist, Rand Boyle, was styled after some of the actual achievements of local entrepreneur Senator Lewis Emery, Jr, who was a successful oil producer, founder of the Bradford Oil Exchange and an oil refinery, created an impressive mansion on Congress Street, and who challenged Rockefeller by building an oil pipeline to the New Jersey coast. The astonishing attainments of these early oilmen were countered by the brutal work undertaken by both men and horses. Stan noted that the museum's Kinley Library has an autographed edition of this book.



Kelly Lounsberry, educator and board member of the Pioneer Oil Museum, described his archeological excavations at the Smith site, a Late Prehistoric (about AD 1550) small village near Bolivar, NY. His talk was illustrated by many maps, images of diagnostic artifacts such as Madison projectile points and trumpet tobacco pipes, evidence of deer bones, corn, beans, hazel and hickory

\*\*\* story continued on page 5

## The Museum's Player Piano Sits Silent

by Isabelle Champlin, Corresponding Secretary

The museum's upright player piano, a Story and Clark instrument, has been broken for several years. Its tinkling, lilting tunes from the paper-punched rolls of music with titles like "Allegheny Moon", used to be a great attraction and an advertising selling point for the museum.



Photo by Isabelle Champlin

Mr. Joel Cluskey of Pittsburgh, a member of the Piano Technicians Guild and the president of the Automatic Musical Instrument Collector's Association, visited the museum on May 28th to inspect our player piano and provide estimates for its repair. He spent several hours disassembling the intricate workings, which revealed many problems. For example, the sound board is cracked, the felt needs to

be replaced on all of the little wooden hammers, and the tiny bellows, one for each key, need to be taken apart and new material glued into place. Unfortunately, his written report estimated that a full restoration (about \$15,000) would cost much more than the purchase of another antique player piano that has already been refurbished.

Our particular player piano was patented June 10, 1924, but Story and Clark pianos have been made in America since 1857. Melville Clark is generally credited with creating the first player piano as we know it today, and the company is still in business, manufacturing conventional pianos that can also be player pianos with "pianomation" entertainment systems purchased as additional adjuncts.

Anyone want an old player piano? Better yet, anyone want to give us a restored player piano? We have over 90 rolls of music that we would love to hear once more.



## Pumpers Talks continued

nuts, as well as features such as the palisade post-molds, longhouse hearths, storage pits, and keyhole smoke-houses. He distributed copies of his report, published in 1997 in the Pennsylvania Archaeologist 67(1):5-20, to the interested audience.

## Fireside Pumper's Breakfast

The museum welcomes the public to the Fireside Pumper's 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 limited breakfast buffet is \$12, 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.

### 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*



Photo by Angela Nuzzo

Visitors read the plaque dedicating the new rig to Willard "Bill" Cline.

# Refinery Barrels From the Olden Days

by Fran Bottone, Museum Manager

The Penn Brad Oil Museum recently received two donations of local historic importance.

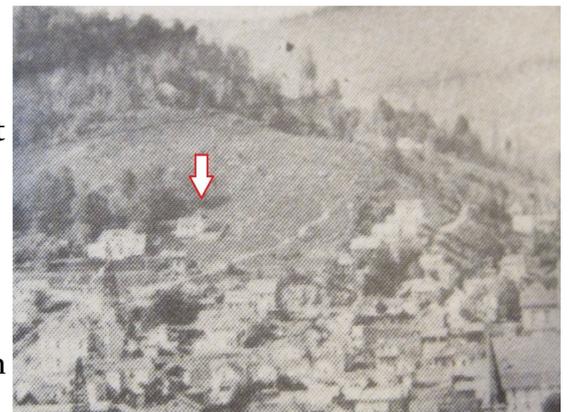
John Allen donated a Bradford Oil Refining Co. drum(1) and Bill Lowe donated a Kendall Refining oil barrel(2). Add those to the Emery Manufacturing Co. barrel(3) that was already at the museum and we are well represented. The Kendall and Emery barrels were interestingly patterned after the whisky barrels that were used early on to ship oil. The Bradford Oil drum was an early variation of our modern 55 gallon drum. Oil is still bought and sold in a 42 gallon quantity (on the commodities market) because a whisky barrel held 45 gallons and they figured some would spill or leak, but 42 gallons would usually make it to market.



# The Church on Quintuple Mountain – Novel Revisited

by Fran Bottone

If everyone remembers, this book was reviewed by Rick Lutz for the Winter 2022 newsletter. After a few people here at the museum read the book, it was accepted as a semi-fictional account of life in the early Bradford oil fields. We also decided that other than a catchy book title, no church ever existed on Quintuple Mountain. Well, lo and behold, as I was perusing an old booklet celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Bradford oil fields and was looking close at a small photograph reproduced inside one of the covers, there it was! The church was near what would be the north end of Maplewood Avenue. The photo was dated from the 1870s.



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



Photo by Angela Nuzzo

### Memorial & Honoring Bricks

<u>In Memory Of:</u>	<u>Given By:</u>
Samuel Slocum .....	Anonymous
Don & Pauline Miller .....	The Miller Family
Perry & Margaret Taylor .....	The Miller Family
Will & Orpha Miller .....	The Miller Family

Engraved personalized paving bricks can be purchased to surround the base of the new 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.

### Memorial & Honoring Gifts

<u>In Memory Of:</u>	<u>Given By:</u>
Donna Griesbaum .....	Tom & Pat Miller
Donna Griesbaum .....	Joyce Cline
Donna Griesbaum .....	Kelly Lounsberry
Willard M. Cline .....	Kelly Lounsberry



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

Memorials received after August 18 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

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

## Flag Pole and Bricks Spruce Up Museum's Entrance



In June, Kinley construction did a great job installing our new 30-foot spun aluminum flag pole, which was graciously donated by the local chapter of the PYOGA Desk and Derrick Club. Member Roger Klenovich was instrumental in researching and procuring the pole. Thank you to everyone involved. After the flag pole was completed, the next project was the layout and installation of the new memorial brick area, which runs parallel to the new concrete walkway, and is expected to be finished by this fall. This project is being completed by volunteer labor from the staff here at Penn Brad.



*Photos by Fran Bottone*

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