

# 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. 9 – No. 1 – Winter 2023

## A Letter From the President

by Thomas A. Miller, Museum Board President

The Bradford Oil Field, discovered in 1871, was the first giant oil field, covering a large area in both Pennsylvania and New York. It enjoys a very rich industrial as well as cultural heritage and has many claims to fame. The Penn Brad Oil Museum was instituted in 1971, the centennial of the discovery, in order to preserve that heritage.

The mission and purpose of the Penn Brad Oil Museum is specifically stated in the by-laws of the organization:

*SECTION 4. The Mission of the Museum shall be to preserve and display the history of the petroleum industry in the Bradford Oil Field and the unique culture that developed along with it. The Museum shall be a repository of oil & gas memorabilia, artifacts, documents and apparatus and will host educational events that foster an appreciation of our community heritage and honor the people and businesses that contributed to its development.*

We are proud of our mission to preserve the history of The Bradford Oil Field. This effort inevitably demands a tremendous amount of work and funding. The people who volunteer their time and expertise, including several directors and officers, are vital to the operation and survival of the

museum. However, we could always use more help.

Likewise, the museum could not function without some source of revenue. We do not have any guaranteed income and contrary to the opinion of some, do not have support from major oil companies.

The museum is financed entirely by admission fees, memberships, donations (both monetary and in-kind) and fundraisers.

While we have had good patronage from the public, admission fees would not come close to covering operating expenses which include utilities, maintenance, supplies and payroll for our one employee who manages the day to day operations (and then some).

We currently have 135 members. While membership dues are a significant contribution to our expenses, they still do not make ends meet. Membership is open to anyone who is interested and includes benefits such as our excellent quarterly newsletter.

We have had some very generous donations, both monetary and in-kind, and a lot of small ones, and we are grateful for all. Large donations are generally limited to a specific project and are not to be used for regular expenses. That leaves the rest to be covered by fundraisers.

The museum has held regular fundraisers such as Derrick Day, The Yellow Dog Award Dinner, The Harvey Golubock Clay Shoot and the monthly Fireside Pumpers Breakfast. We have also held raffles and other fundraisers. The next fundraiser is the St. Patrick's Day Dinner in March.

There is always work to be done around the museum, including help with grounds-keeping, maintenance, etc., as well as more specialized tasks.

If you would be interested in helping in any way by volunteering your time or talents, by supporting any of our fundraisers, or by becoming a member, please contact the museum. We would be very happy to have you.

## 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



## Fundraising 2023

by Isabelle Champlin, Corresponding Secretary

The museum has long needed a building to shelter and display our growing collection of oil field equipment. The need is now urgent to accomplish this quickly. We are the recipients of a McKean County Commissioners grant and we must spend their bequest in the coming year. To fill in the difference for the estimated \$200,000 cost of this building, the museum has planned the following fundraisers for 2023:

- 1) March 18. A St. Patrick's Day Dinner at the Bradford Club. A delicious Irish Stew will be served along with Irish-themed desserts and beverages. Toucan Jam will provide music. We had a similar event in 2012 to raise funds for the construction of the library addition to the museum, and it was a great success. A seat at this dinner is \$50. You can also help by funding one of five levels of sponsorship for the evening. See the ad on page 3.

- 2) May 13. A Hike & Bike Fundraiser on the Blaisdell-Emery Trail concurrent with our annual family-friendly Ice Cream Social Opening Event. The south parking lot of the museum is a mid-trail access for the Blaisdell-Emery Trail. Penn Brad Oil Museum T-shirts will be prizes for those who acquire the most sponsors for their bike/hike effort.

- 3) Golf Scramble at Pine Acres Golf Club, date TBD.

- 4) July 27. A Pig Roast, Beer Wagon and Silent Auction evening before our annual Derrick Day, July 28.

These four events are in addition to the annual Yellow Dog Award Dinner and Harvey Golubock Memorial Clay Shoot.

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## New Sponsorship Opportunity at Fireside Pumper's Breakfast

by Joyce Cline, Treasurer

On the second Wednesday of each month, April through November, Penn Brad Oil Museum sponsors "Fireside Pumpers," an educational breakfast program, and one of our major outreach efforts to the larger community. It is also a fundraising event for the museum.

Beginning with our April 2023 breakfast, the museum is offering businesses (or individuals) the opportunity to sponsor a breakfast. A sponsorship would include:

- a sign at the breakfast buffet, acknowledging your generosity,
- your name in the Bradford Era and Olean Times Herald newspaper notices of the upcoming program,
- your name, as a sponsor, in the museum's newsletter publication,
- one complimentary breakfast, and
- 5 to 10 minutes at breakfast for you to talk about and/or distribute information about your business.

The cost of each sponsorship is a minimum of \$100.

If you are interested in a sponsorship, please complete the form available on our website or call the Treasurer at 814-368-6824. See page 5 for a complete listing of this year's breakfast programs.

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## 8" x 8" Engraved Paving Bricks Now Available

The museum is now offering 8"x8" personalized engraved paving bricks for placement around the base of the new flag pole. We had to find a new supplier for our brick orders after Bisett's changed ownership. The new company is very accommodating and will work with you to design just about anything you want. We are also offering up to 18 characters per line; graphics are now only an additional \$10 per brick.

A newly designed brochure will soon be available on our website or at the museum when we open in May.



# Penn Brad Oil Museum Exhibition Hall Fundraiser

**St. Patrick's Day Dinner**  
**Bradford Club, Bradford, PA**  
**Saturday, March 18, 2023 6pm**

## Sponsorships

- \$750 Entrée Sponsor\*\*
- \$500 Appetizer Sponsor\*\*
- \$400 Music Sponsor
- \$300 Flowers Sponsor
- \$250 Dessert Sponsor
- Cash Bar Available**

(\*\* two complimentary dinners included    Sponsors will be acknowledged with signage)

Dinner Reservations @ \$50.00 each    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Due (sponsorship and/or reservations)    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to Penn  
Brad Oil Museum

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return sponsorship/  
reservations by March 6, 2023**

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

## Board Games for the Oil Enthusiast

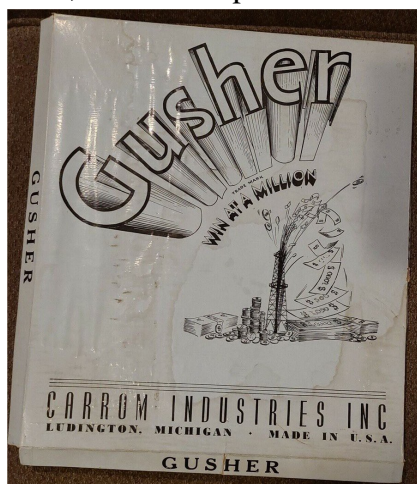
by Isabelle Champlin, Corresponding Secretary

The Penn Brad Oil Museum has three of the many board games based on the excitement and uncertainty of oil exploration, or on oil refining, transporting and global petroleum investments.

**GUSHER** is our oldest board game, created in 1940 by Carrom Industries. The colorful board itself is a ½-inch high box, rimmed with wood.



The gameboard is shaken horizontally at the beginning of each game, shifting the location of several interior wooden discs that represent oil deposits. (Our board has a loose rim, and the wooden discs can be viewed.) Each player begins with money from the bank to be used to buy lease certificate tokens, and then proceeds to try



to strike it rich with a movable derrick that is inserted into the holes on their lease property. If a player's derrick has a gusher (that is, a needle in the derrick cannot penetrate the hidden wooden disc underneath), he/she then has a steady income from the bank once an oil tank is purchased. The first to make \$1 million wins the game. Our game is missing the little metal derrick, but it has many of the other pieces, including the instruction manual.

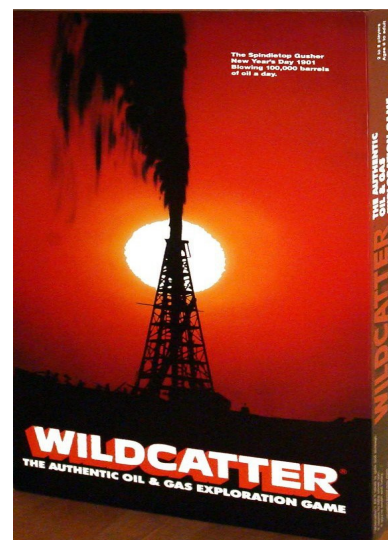
**KING OIL**, a 1974-copyrighted Milton-Bradley game, also has an unusual "board." This one is a 3" high green plastic square, with a slot in the side by which 3 plastic discs can be rotated at the start of each game to allow for hundreds



of combinations of success / failure. This game's playing surface also is a map of oil properties, and it also has a derrick that is passed from player to player, but this one can reveal 4 color-coded results: a dry hole (and a loss of \$6000 to the bank), a shallow well (\$2000), a medium depth (\$4000), or a deep well, which of course costs more to drill (\$6000). Play is more realistic and complicated, with wildcat (disaster/bonanza) cards and the opportunity to purchase pipelines that can bring royalties

from other players. The first to force the other players into bankruptcy, and avoid it themselves, is the winner.

**WILDCATTER** was invented in 1981 to be "The Authentic Oil & Gas Exploration Game" using drilling depths, success ratios, costs and production figures that were actually taken from the major oil basins of the US and Alaska. These are vividly displayed in geological accuracy on the conventional cardboard fold-out game board, which looks much like a Monopoly board with properties arrayed on the outer edges; for example there is North Slope Alaska and Powder River Basin instead of Park Place and Marvin Gardens. Payments accrue each time you go around the board, and if you land upon another players' lease you must pay rent. There are Wildcat and Blowout Cards, Lear Jet tokens when you're forced to go to DC for



congressional hearings, penalties if you don't develop your lease with producing wells, and many other complications. *Cont. Pg 5*



## Book Reviews

[Athabasca](#) by Alistair MacLean  
NY: Fawcett Crest 1980.

[Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands](#)  
by Kate Beaton  
Montreal: Drawn and Quarterly,  
2022.

Reviews by Isabelle Champlin

Alistair MacLean was a Scottish WWII vet who wrote many adventure/thriller/war stories, and [Athabasca](#) involves industrial sabotage and murder on the Alaskan pipeline in Prudhoe Bay and concurrently in the Athabasca tar sand mining operations in Canada. Three men from a Texan company that usually specializes in oil field disasters, such as well fires in the Middle East, are hired to deal with the unknown terrorists.

This book became an international best-seller in 1980. It was never made into a movie like his other arctic novels *Ice Station Zebra* (1963) and *Bear Island* (1971), but his descriptions of the hazardous frozen landscape and the awesome technology would have made spectacular footage. For example, tar sands extraction is described as “the biggest mining operation in the history of mankind” with dragline machines that are “the biggest things that ever moved on earth” weighing more than 6000 tons with booms longer than football fields. The 800-mile-long pipeline also is depicted in superlatives, and the easy feasibility of actually sabotaging these immense machines and isolated structures is convincing.

[Ducks](#) is a 436-page award-winning graphic novel by a Canadian cartoonist that brings the tar sands experience up to date in a modern genre, and with an insider’s viewpoints. As a young female from Nova Scotia earning wages that can help pay off her college loans, she realistically illustrates life in a ‘man camp’ with humor, honesty and heart-break. Not a novel but rather a captivating memoir, it is not recommended for the faint-at-heart reader, but very highly recommended for those who want to understand the allure and consequences of high-paying work in a dangerous and vulnerable environment, with rampant misogyny. It is a female version of [The Good Hand: A Memoir of Work, Brotherhood, and Transformation in an American Boomtown](#), by Michael Patrick F. Smith, the 2021 close-up depiction of life in a North Dakota boomtown.

All three of these books are available in the museum’s Kinley Library.

### ***Board Games Continued from Pg 4***

The rule book for Wildcatter is exceptionally educational, with a glossary, rig diagrams, and production statistics. (Note: there are several other similarly named board games such as “Wildcatters” (plural) and “Texas Wildcatter”.) All three of the games described in the article are non-circulating, but you can come and play them in our Kinley Library.

## Fireside Pumper's Breakfast

The Fireside Pumpers of the Penn Brad Oil Museum meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month for a breakfast buffet with a guest speaker, at Togi's Banquet Room, 412-422 East Main St, Bradford. The buffet begins at 7:30. A portion of the cost of the buffet goes toward museum improvements. The public is invited to attend. Announcements are published the Monday before each meeting in the Bradford Era and the Olean Times Herald.

**April 12, 2023**

Jim Zoschg

*Invasive Species*

**May 10, 2023**

Tom Frair

*The Music Mountain  
Historical Marker*

**June 14, 2023**

Steve Appleby

*25 Years of the Eldred WWII  
Museum*

**July 12, 2023**

Dr. Katie Zapel

*The Zippo Museum and Car*

**August 9, 2023**

Ben Porkolab

*Elk Hunting & the Elk County  
Viewing Center*

**September 13, 2023**

Steve Teachman

*Olean's Historic Treasures*

**October 11, 2023**

Stan Pecora

*Review of Empire Oil*

**November 8, 2023**

Fran Bottone

*PBOM - The Year in Review*

## Museum in Search of Assistant Manager

by Fran Bottone, Museum Manager

What do we do here at the Penn Brad Oil Museum? Our Facebook page describes our official mission as "A non-profit museum dedicated to the memories of the men and women, their stories, and the preservation of the equipment relating to the history of the Bradford Oil fields." We have done just that for over 50 years, but this story is about the day-to-day operations of the museum and some of what is involved in keeping this well-oiled machine running.

Our museum runs with a dedicated board of volunteer directors from different walks of life who all care enough about keeping our local oil history alive to donate their time and efforts, a paid manager position, a fantastic newsletter editor, and a few dedicated volunteers that get harder and harder to find with everyone's busy schedules these days. So the day-to-day operations of the museum come down to a one man show.

During our regular season, which runs from the beginning of April until about Halloween each year (although we have limited hours until Christmas), the main function of the manager is to be there to give guided tours of the museum and grounds as people come and go throughout the business day.

Being a 'people' person is a plus. In the past this may have been more of a random thing, but with the great work of our local tourism board, chamber of commerce, and word of mouth, we serve a surprising and steady stream of people throughout the season.

When the manager is not giving tours, he is operating the museum gift shop, which involves stocking the gift shop with different items and souvenirs, from clothing to books, lighters, postcards, coffee cups and the like. Sometimes even being involved in the design of this merchandise. This also involves running the register and credit card terminal and balancing weekly receipts for the treasurer.

The manager is responsible for updating and maintaining displays, helping to plan and man yearly events and promotions, giving pre-booked group and bus tours (usually always with the assistance of board members), contributing stories and information to our quarterly newsletter and social media page, supervising and working with volunteers on

scheduled work days and sometimes heading a project to improve the grounds of the museum. When not overseeing these tasks, we try and find the time to maintain the building, grounds and equipment.

This brings us to the point of this article and the fact that we are looking for a well-rounded assistant manager (and why our social media ad says 'Jack of all trades'). Things can get hectic on busy days here, but for the most part this can be an interesting, gratifying and even a fun job.

One key point that we have not included in our help-wanted ads is the fact that this assistant manager job could evolve into a full-time manager position for the right person. Our current manager has plans to retire in the next year or two and this could be a great opportunity for someone.

This list of tasks may sound like a lot, but we don't need an expert in all of these areas. The tasks will be shared between the staff and we will work with and train you. This applies to the knowledge of local oil history as well. Oil history IS Bradford history, and if you're a fan of local history you are halfway there!

We meet and talk to so many nice and interesting people here at the museum. If you're looking for something enjoyable and different from the ordinary run-of-the-mill job, send a resume to us at [pennbrad.oilmuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:pennbrad.oilmuseum@yahoo.com).



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



### Memorial & Honoring Gifts

<u>In Memory Of:</u>	<u>Given By:</u>
Joan Stack .....	American Refining Group
Thomas J Morris Sr .....	Howard Drilling LLC
Thomas J Morris Sr .....	American Refining Group
Thomas J Morris Sr .....	Steve Troisi
Thomas J Morris Sr ..	Cochran & Zandi Lumber LLC
Mila Howard .....	Cochran & Zandi Lumber LLC
Mila Howard .....	American Refining Group
Mila Howard .....	Penn View Exploration Inc
Mila Howard .....	Ken & Ann Kane
Mila Howard .....	Joyce Cline
Mila Howard .....	PA Grade Crude Oil Assn
Mila Howard .....	Rodger Klenovich
Mila Howard .....	Jennifer Smith
Mila Howard .....	Tom & Pat Miller

### Memorial & Honoring Bricks

<u>In Memory Of:</u>	<u>Placed By:</u>
Ray & Mary Jo Saunders .....	Robert Saunders
James A Nelson .....	Marcia Janson
Jimmy Kan .....	Kan's Water Hauling
Joyce Paul .....	Dan & Jan Hoddinott
Perry Paul .....	Dan & Jan Hoddinott
Donna Griesbaum .....	Dennis Griesbaum
Ernest R Hurd .....	Rebecca Ryan
Charles Wareham .....	Kerrie Pessia
William H Larson .....	Kay Lawson

<u>In Honor Of:</u>	<u>Placed By:</u>
Joyce Cline .....	Janice & Rolf, Kevin, Brian, Diane Daeschner
Robert W Merry .....	Robert E Merry

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

Memorials received after February 5 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	-----

## Grant Received to Help With New Exhibition Hall

by Marsha McCracken, Board Member

The Penn Brad Oil Museum is planning multiple fundraisers for 2023 to raise funds for the construction of a 60' x 60' pole building to store and display oil field artifacts that are waiting to be donated to the museum. This new Exhibition Hall is much needed for the expansion of the museum and will be a great place for visitors to view antique engines, tractors, hand tools, signs, etc. out of the weather and in a preserved state for many years to come.

In 2022, the McKean County Commissioners and the McKean County Community Foundation (MCCF) formed a partnership to distribute grant monies made available to the county through the American Rescue Plan Act. As a grant-making entity, the MCCF assisted the Commissioners by processing, awarding and overseeing the administration of the grants. This MCCF / Commissioners Partnership has awarded \$226,595 to local organizations for their programs and projects that benefit our communities. The Penn Brad Oil Museum was awarded a \$5,000 grant for our new Exhibition Hall! The McKean County Commissioners and MCCF are pleased to provide this opportunity to financially assist the non-profits of McKean County.

The Penn Brad Oil Museum is proud to have received this grant from the MCCF/Commissioners Partnership and will put the funds to good use on the new Exhibition Hall. Anyone interested in donating to the museum can do so by mailing donations to Penn Brad Oil Museum, PO Box 163, Bradford, PA 16701. The museum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and all donations are fully tax deductible.

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



Marsha receives a check from County Commissioners and Bob Esch of MCCF

PO Box 163  
Bradford, PA 16701