

# 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. It also honors the people and their families whose lives contributed to making Bradford the "Highgrade Oil Metropolis of the World."*

A Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. 5 - No. 1 - Winter 2019

## 2018 The year in review - The opening event...

### Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social



*Isabelle Champlin, Bev Roberts and Patti Brink look over ice cream social display.*

The museum doors opened for the forty-seventh season on April 2, 2018. On April 14th the Opening Event, an old fashioned ice cream social, was presented free of charge to the public. Leadership for the event was provided by Isabelle Champlin and museum events coordinator Bev Roberts. Ice cream was donated by Chip and Marsha McCracken from the Foster Brook Creamery.

Many guests were treated to an endless supply of ice cream and toppings. For many from the Bradford area, this was the first time they had ever visited the museum.

The many comments expressed the same sentiment of surprise that the museum was so nice.



*Greg and Jane Bell of Eldred and grandchildren enjoy the delicious ice cream.*

There was fun for everyone with historic oilfield movies presented in

the "Doghouse Theater," several running oilfield engines and interactive displays and most of all getting together with friends.



*Mike Fuoco, Tom Miller, Dick Sandburg and Bill Benedict share ice cream and many oilfield stories.*

## PENN BRAD OIL MUSEUM

901 South Avenue • Bradford, PA 16701

E-mail: [pennbradmuseum@icloud.com](mailto:pennbradmuseum@icloud.com)

Web: [pennbradoilmuseum.org](http://pennbradoilmuseum.org)

Phone: 814-362-1955

Monday to Friday

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Saturday

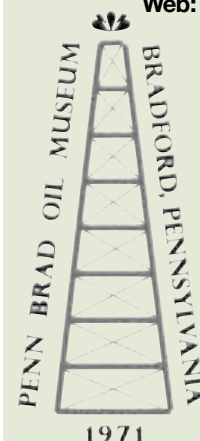
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**Admission Cost:**

Adults - \$5.00

Seniors. - \$4.50

Children - Free



## 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

Jeff Bell	William Pantuso
Isabelle Champlin	Stanley Pecora
Meredith Fesenmyer	Paul Phillips
Jim Frick	Steve Pratt
Matt Kropf	Jordon Roeder
Chip McCracken	Dale Smith

Note: The board of directors is pleased to announce the addition of Jim Frick to the board.

They used to drop a heavy iron weight down the well to blow off the charge. That's a Go-Devil. You'll get a charge from the Go-Devil loaf - heavy but delicious!

Recipe: Go-Devil Graham Bread

From the Kitchen of: Derrick Delights



1 egg	2 cup sugar
1 tsp. soda	1 tsp. salt
2 cups sour milk	2 cups Graham Flour
2 cups White Flour	

Mix, and then add about two cups each of graham flour and white flour, enough to make quite a stiff batter.

Let rise a few minutes, then bake in oven until brown, 350°, about an hour, for one large loaf.

Makes one large or two smaller loaves.

From *Derrick Delights: Old-Time Recipes From the Oil Boom Days*, prepared by Girl Scout Troop 93, Bradford, Pa., a booklet in the collection of the **Kinley Library** at the **Penn Brad Oil Museum**.

## Memorial Bricks

**In Memory Of:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Given By:** \_\_\_\_\_

"Hap" Thomas, Lafayette Oil, Lloyd & Abrams.....  
 .....Richard "Dick" Thomas  
 April C Lang .....Bev Roberts  
 Arthur R Shonts .....Bill & Joyce Cline  
 Dale F Fox - Audrey J Fox .....Bill & Joyce Cline  
 Dale F Fox .....Penn Brad Oil Museum Board of Directors  
 Edmund D Howard - Dale L Howard .....Howard Drilling  
 IL "Louie" Geer.....Bill & Joyce Cline  
 Joseph Null, Sr. ..University of Pittsburgh at Bradford Employees  
 Warren Paynter .....JKLM Energy

## Memorial & Honoring Gifts

**In Memory Of:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Given By:** \_\_\_\_\_

April C Lang .....Bill & Joyce Cline  
 April C Lang.....Minard Run Oil Company  
 Dale & Audrey Fox .....Lois J Schueltz  
 Dale F. Fox .....Tom & Jean Bromeley

## In Memory Of:

## Given By:

Dan Toothman .....	Tom & Pat Miller
Don Naughton.....	Bill & Joyce Cline
George Magee.....	Paul & Betsy Aiello
George Magee .....	Tom & Pat Miller
Harvey Golubock .....	Bev Roberts
Harvey Golubock .....	Bill & Joyce Cline
Harvey Golubock .....	Dale Smith
Harvey Golubock .....	Fred Fesenmyer
Harvey Golubock.....	Isabelle Champlin
Harvey Golubock.....	John & Tina Bulmer
Harvey Golubock .....	Paul & Betsy Aiello
Harvey Golubock .....	Richard Hatch
Harvey Golubock .....	Steve Pratt
Harvey Golubock .....	Tom & Pat Miller
Ray Dart .....	American Refining Group
Rodney Boshert .....	American Refining Group
Sonny Williams.....	Kay F. Williams
Thomas E Baker.....	His Family

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

Memorials received after Feb. 1 will appear in the next newsletter.

Memorials are available by calling 814-368-6824, or by mail 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 to Address Above

(PLEASE CHOOSE IN MEMORY OF OR IN HONOR OF)	MEMORIAL/HONORING GIFTS	(PLEASE PRINT)
OR		
IN MEMORY OF _____	IN HONOR OF _____	
SEND CARD TO _____	FROM _____	
STREET _____	STREET _____	
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____	CITY/STATE/ZIP _____	

# Eastern Producers Glycerine Explosion on the Miller Farm

by Thomas A. Miller, museum board president

My great-grandfather Andrew (Pete) Miller was born in 1855 as his parents emigrated from the state of Thuringia, Germany. It was recorded that he was born in New York, NY but according to family lore he was actually born on the boat. I suppose that "Atlantic Ocean" wouldn't have been a valid entry. The family settled in Buffalo and later had a farm in Cheektowaga. He went to work in a shoe factory. According to what I remember from my grandfather, William Miller, Andrew, along with one of his brothers who also worked at the shoe plant, actually came up with the idea for what became the Goodyear Welt method of attaching the sole to the upper of a shoe. The daughter of my grandfather's older sister concurred with this, having

heard the same thing from her mother.

According to Wikipedia, The Goodyear Welt was invented in 1869 by Charles Goodyear Jr., son of Charles Goodyear. That would make Andrew 14 years old at the time. It is conceivable that he could have been serving as an apprentice, a common practice at that point in time.

Sometime after that Andrew moved to Lafayette Township, McKean County, PA where he purchased a tract of land and proceeded to clear the virgin hemlock in order to build a farm. It is my understanding that he had a partner at first until the land was cleared and then bought out the partner. He did not acquire the minerals as there were four wells on the property owned by Grant

MacGregor. He did have free gas however. He cleared the large hemlock stumps by laying a gas line to each stump and burning a gas fire until the stump was consumed.



*Honora Sheehan Miller with Sons Arthur and William*

Andrew and his wife Honora Sheehan Miller raised three children on the farm: Gertrude, William and Arthur. My grandfather William was born on this farm in 1895. I fondly remember as a youth having many conversations with my grandpa, a wonderful humble, kind and loving man, about his growing up on that farm. I would go with him sometimes when he would pump his wells on a property he owned that adjoined the farm. It was a tough life and everyone had to work really hard for survival as the land was very poor for farming. They raised vegetables and had dairy cattle. Grandpa told about delivering butter from the isolated farm to I presume Lafayette, Riterville and possibly Mt. Alton. When possible he would walk on the steam boxes that were built to insulate the steam lines from the boiler to the pumping rigs at the wells. My grandfather faithfully



*Hole from McQueeney Nitro Glycerine Explosion*

## Eastern Producers Glycerine Explosion on the Miller Farm cont.

kept a daily journal throughout his life, even as much as possible while serving in the Army in France in WWI. Most of these journals have been preserved and I gleaned some of my information from them.

As a youth Grandpa would help Mr. MacGregor work on his wells but somewhere along the line MacGregor decided to abandon the wells. After the wells were abandoned the Miller farm lost its gas supply. Grandpa remarked that it was always so cold and dark after they had to revert to wood heat and oil lamps after having had gas light and heat in the house and a gas flare in the yard. Sometime after the wells had been abandoned Cory L. Baker acquired the minerals, reopened one of the MacGregor wells and drilled a new one. The new well was completed in 1913, at first in the Bradford Third Sand but then deepened to the Upper Kane Sand.

The rig was powered by a 15 hp. steam engine that didn't have enough power to drill the well to the depth of the Upper Kane. Consequently, the diameter of the hole was reduced from 6¼ inches to 4 inches. The engine could barely swing the smaller tools as the well was deepened to 2325 feet. My grandfather was hired to stand by the engine and help the flywheel around so the engine would not stall on center stroke. He was 18 at the time.

He and Mr. Baker became friends as evidenced by a letter in my possession from Baker to my grandfather. I think that his early associations with MacGregor and

Baker as well as personnel of the South Penn Oil Co. that adjoined the farm influenced Grandpa to gravitate toward the oil business. I know he did not want to go into farming. The South Penn people let my grandfather use their boilers and gas at night to boil maple sap. He made heat exchangers that would pass live steam through pipe immersed in the sap in a wooden barrel. It was very efficient and he made as much as nine gallons of syrup in a night.



*Andrew (Pete) Miller*

Eventually, my great-grandfather (Andrew) moved off the farm and built a brick house on the corner of Roberts Rd. and Rt. 59 that is now the residence of Bruce and Bev Roberts. There he operated a general store and shoe shop, making custom-made shoes. The establishment even had an ice pond and ice house to provide refrigeration. Andrew died however in 1926 and the family sold the house. It became a bar for several

years before becoming a private residence.

After being dormant for some time the farm property was sold to Daniel H. McQueeney for the purpose of building a nitroglycerine manufacturing plant for the Eastern Producers Glycerine Company formed by Mr. McQueeney in 1935. McQueeney claimed to have a new method of nitro manufacture to make the well shot more efficacious. The new company also sported the latest hydraulic reels on their shooting trucks.



*Dan McQueeney*

The new nitroglycerine plant was erected very close to where the Miller residence had been on the farm. There was a necessity for a source of sufficient fuel to fire the boiler for operating the plant. As

it happened, my great-uncle Arthur Miller had an oil property near to the old farm. It was on the other side of the farm from Grandpa's oil property. Arthur provided that source of fuel by drilling a well to the Kane Sand for gas. A pipeline was laid from the well to the boiler house for the plant on the old Miller farm. My father Andrew D. Miller was 10 years old at the time and helped lay the pipeline. I remember his telling about how strenuous the work was for him at that age.

McQueeney's company operated until March 10, 1938 when at around 2

## Eastern Producers Glycerine Explosion on the Miller Farm cont.



*Eastern Producers Glycerine Company Stock Certificate*

PM a tremendous explosion occurred. Both my mother and my father were in school at the M. J. Ryan School in Lafayette. My mother Pauline recalls that windows in the school were cracked as were I am sure those in residences. It was reported by The Bradford Era that the door on Tack's Inn was blown open at a distance of four miles from the blast. It was estimated that between 600 and 800 quarts of liquid nitroglycerine had detonated. The explosion killed both Mr. McQueeney and shooter Ralph Mong. It left a hole in the ground about six feet deep and 20 or 30 feet in diameter at the site of the building where the explosive had been manufactured.

Some of the school boys including my dad were enlisted to scour the debris field for fragments of the bodies to be put in baskets. Only small fragments of Mr. McQueeney's body were found,

the largest being a foot and an arm. The torso along with the back of the head of Mr. Mong's body was found.

As it turns out I actually was acquainted with one of Dan McQueeney's daughters, Winifred (Jackie) Cotton, but I never realized she was his daughter until I read her obituary. She lost her father when she was 18.

Nitroglycerine was used to enhance production in oil and gas wells for well over a century. It made many wells profitable that would not otherwise have been and enabled the recovery of oil, not only in the Bradford Field. Fortunately, accidents of this nature were few and far between but they did happen. This was one example of how destructive nitroglycerine could be when it detonates in the wrong place at the wrong time.

## Fireside Pumper's Breakfast

Fireside Pumper's breakfast is taking a break for the winter months and will start up again on Wednesday, March 13, 2019. The **Fireside Pumper's Breakfast** features speakers on oil or community related subjects and a large, delicious breakfast buffet.

The monthly event welcomes anyone wanting to learn from the speakers. You will have to get up early because the breakfast starts at 7:30 AM and the cost is \$12.00, a portion of which goes to improving the museum

### 2019 Schedule

**Wednesday, March 13, 2019**

Sally Costik

"Something's Burning"

**Wednesday, April 10, 2019**

Ralph Bailey

"Civilian Air Patrol"

**Wednesday, May 8, 2019**

Holly Dzenmyan

"The Kinzua Bridge"

**Wednesday, June 12, 2019**

Jennifer Kane:

"St. Mary Basilica"

**Wednesday, July 10, 2019**

Jare Cardinale

Salamanca R R Museum

**Wednesday, August 14, 2019**

Steve Skvarka

"Fly Fishing School"

**Wednesday, September 11, 2019**

Rick Frederick

"Wall Street Bombing of 1920"

**Wednesday, October 9, 2019**

Bev Roberts

"Magic Suitcase"

**Wednesday, November 13, 2019**

Matt Kropf

**Wednesday, December 11, 2019**

Museum Review 2019

*(Subject to Change)*

# 2018 The year in review - The Yellow Dog Award...

Photo Credits: Patrick Crants



Joyce Cline - 2018 Yellow Dog Award Reciepeint

As the springtime approached and the month of April began, the museum celebrated its annual Yellow Dog Award. The Pennhills Club provided a festive atmosphere as the Bradford oilfield community gathered to honor one of their own, Joyce Cline.

Nominated by the late Harvey Golubock and unanimously selected by the board of directors, Joyce reluctantly and graciously accepted this honor.

Joyce Cline's early years were spent in Lawrence Park, Erie County, PA, where she graduated from Lawrence Park High School in 1959. She continued her education at Indiana State Teachers College earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. A teacher for nineteen years in the Bradford Area School District, Joyce eventually earned a Masters of Education degree from the University of Pittsburgh. She works today as business manager for Cline Oil.

A delicious dinner was presented by the Pennhills Club staff and dinner music was provided by pianists Nate Morris and Kathy O'Mara.



The Yellow Dog Award was presented by Tom Miller, former board member of Pennsylvania Independent Petroleum Producers, Beverly Roberts, board member and member of the Penn York Oil and Gas Associates and Bill Pantuso, board member of Penn Brad Oil Museum.

Citations of exceptional service and civic recognition were presented by The Honorable Thomas Riel, Mayor of Bradford, The Honorable Kathy Rapp and Martin Causer for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, The Honorable Joe Scarnati for the Pennsylvania Senate and The Honorable Glenn Thompson, for the United States House of Representatives.

Closing Remarks were given by Tom Miller, board president.



Pennsylvania House of Representatives Citation given to Joyce Cline by Kathy Rapp and Martin Causer.



G.T. Thompson and Joyce Cline on the patio before dinner.



Bill Cline joins in the applause for our honoree, Joyce Cline.



Bev Roberts makes presentation on behalf of P.Y.O.G.A.



Bill Pantuso presents the Yellow Dog Award to Joyce Cline.

# 2018 Year in Review - Derrick Days Festival Saturday, July 14, 2018



Derrick Day Festival 2018 was filled with many engine and equipment displays as well as food, games, crafts and lots of fun for everyone.

# 2018 Year in Review - Harvey Golubock Memorial Sporting Clays Saturday, September 15, 2018

The final major fund-raising event of the year, named for our beloved board member and "champion of Bradford," Harvey Golubock, with leadership provided by Steve Pratt

was held at the Bradford Gun Club. Many wonderful door prizes donated by local sponsors were available at the festive fall event. Emerling from Springville, NY was

the sponsor and provided vehicles that were on display. A 2019 shoot is planned with details as the date approaches.

Event Sponsor: Emerling, RAM, Dodge, Ford, Jeep, Chrysler

Lunch Sponsor: Pennard Drilling, Inc., AC CRACKEN Energy Services

Beverage Sponsor: ARGENTY OIL

Station Sponsors:

Station No. 1 Sponsor: Emerling	Station No. 2 Sponsor: AC CRACKEN	Station No. 3 Sponsor: Pennard Drilling, Inc.	Station No. 4 Sponsor: AC CRACKEN	Station No. 5 Sponsor: ARGENTY OIL
Station No. 6 Sponsor: Emerling	Station No. 7 Sponsor: Emerling	Station No. 8 Sponsor: Pennard Drilling, Inc.	Station No. 9 Sponsor: AC CRACKEN	Station No. 10 Sponsor: ARGENTY OIL



Matt and Isabelle are two happy participants in the annual shooting event.

## Membership Drive Starting Soon...

2018 was a banner year for support of our Friends of Penn Brad Oil Museum. Contributions came from those involved directly and indirectly in the oil and gas industry. We also had donations by some who just recognized the important mission of the museum and wanted to support the cause.

It will soon be time to again ask for donations of those who supported the museum in the past but more importantly, to gain support of others in the community by showing them the progress made over the past few years since our rebuilding, and the passion of the museum board members to continue building a "bigger and better" facility to house and display the important history of this area's unique oil field.

Watch your mail in the next month for the form that will be mailed out. Respond with whatever donation you

consider appropriate for you. Encourage your family, friends and neighbors to support Penn Brad Oil Museum so we can enlarge our family of Friends in order to have the funds needed to achieve the plans the board has to continue the good work that has been done in the past.

We thank you for your past support and thank you in advance for remaining a Friend of Penn Brad Oil Museum!

## Coming Events...

- Penn Brad Oil Museum opens for its forty-eighth year on Monday, April 1, 2019. Tours and gift shop hours begin at 9:00 AM and end at 4:00 PM. The Saturday closing time is 2:00 PM and the museum is not open on Sunday.

**OPEN**

- **The Spring Opening Event, *An Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social*** will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Like last year, the event is free and open to the general public.



- **The Annual Yellow Dog Award Dinner and Recognition** will be held on Saturday, June 22, 2019 at The Pennhills Club. Each year the museum recognizes outstanding achievement and dedication to the oil industry and the preservation of its history. The evening begins with Cocktails, Hors D'oeuvres and Cash Bar at 6:00 P.M. followed by Dinner at 7:00 P.M. and presentation of Awards at 8:00 P.M.



*Please consider volunteering some of your time to help out at the museum.*