

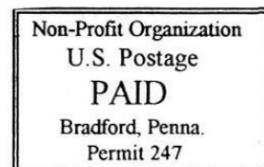
It's coming! 2013-14 Membership!

Soon it will be time for you to renew your membership. The continued growth and development of the Bradford Landmark Society depends on people like you who share an interest in the rich heritage of our city. As a member, you :

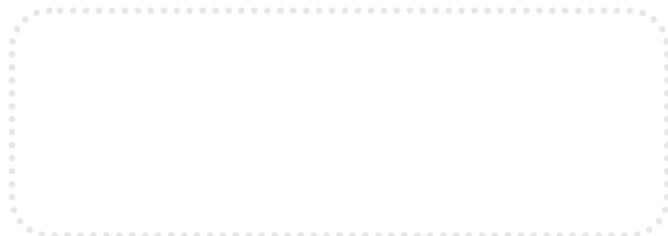
- Help support the preservation of the history of the Bradford area.
- Get advance notice of programs, events, workshops, and special events.
- Receive a free subscription to our quarterly newsletter, *The Inkwel*, outlining the news of the society and offering entertaining and educational articles on local history.
- Are entitled to vote at our annual meeting, and are eligible to serve on the board of directors.
- Can choose volunteer opportunities at the Herbig Bakery, or at the Crook Farm.

Watch your mail for important membership information, coming soon!

Bradford Landmark Society
45 East Corydon Street
Bradford, PA 16701



Return Service Requested



The Inkwel

The Newsletter of the Bradford Landmark Society

July 2013

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Shelley Harvey

Pete Gardner

Herbig Bakery

Curator

Sally Costik

Crook Farm,

Director

Judy York

Genealogist

Molly Lindahl

Summer is at its half-way point. Of course, back to school supplies are already in the stores, but don't let that depress you—there are still plenty of hot lazy days ahead.

And of course, the Crook Farm Country Fair is coming. It may be just a pleasant way to spend an afternoon for most folks, but here at the Landmark Society it is so much more than that. Other non-profit organizations and local community clubs know how it goes—lots of work just getting ready for the big event. As for the Crook Farm Country Fair, the Fair Committee meets in early spring to start preparations; Margie Harris, who co-ordinates our craftsmen and vendors sends out letters to each person and maps out the locations on the farm property for each tent; other non-profits are contacted to ask if they want to join in by hosting a food tent; advertising is planned; the program is designed, posters are created and placed around town, social media is posted, Foster Township is notified, ambulance and security is arranged, and on and on and on. It's a lot of work, but we love it. The Crook Farm Country Fair has become a tradition in the Bradford area; and is ALWAYS held the last summer weekend before the Labor Day weekend.

This year is the 34th annual Fair and there have been some changes over the years. That first year, in 1979 (and 1980) the Country Fair was held in September for one day; admission was \$2.00. The Landmark realized immediately that one day wasn't enough for the vendors, craftsmen, or all the people who wanted to attend. So it was expanded in 1980 to two days, which has continued ever since.

The farm and the Fair looked very different in those early years. The barn was missing—it was moved from the Stack farm in 1980; the schoolhouse had recently been moved in the late 1970s; there was no bank building, no tractor shed, no outhouse behind the farmhouse, there was no parking lots, no split rail fence, no candle shop, and no weaver's building. The garden wasn't even growing yet! But it was popular, showcasing old time crafts such as broom making, weaving, candle making, wood carving, and cooking. And baked foods, of course!

The Landmark will once again have a booth and display inside the Bank Building where we will be selling memberships, books, and providing information about the history of Bradford. Plan on being a part of this year's event! See you there!

CROOK FARM COUNTRY FAIR AND OLD TIME MUSIC FESTIVAL

WHEN

August 24th & 25th
10am - 5pm

WHERE

Historic Crook Farm
476 Seaward Avenue, Bradford, PA

The Bradford Landmark Society's annual event features bluegrass, folk and American traditional music and dance, great food, crafts, vendors, demonstrations, and tours to learn about the way of life for Erastus & Betsy Crook, one of Bradford's pioneer families in the 1870s .

www.bradfordlandmark.org



ADMISSION \$4.00

CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

The barrel house could handle 2,000 barrels of crude a day, and was split into two sections with a covered alleyway between. One half was used for gasoline, and the other half was for oils. The building was surrounded by sidings which switched onto the tracks of the B.R. & P. railroad. All the buildings were made of either brick or concrete and spaced far enough apart that fire hazards were minimal.

By the second week of February, 1923 with the plant nearly 90% completed (the filter house was not yet finished) the new refinery was producing 750 barrels a day. A new wax plant was scheduled to be in operation within the coming year, and ten new tank cars were on order. A three-ton Packard truck made local deliveries. Things seemed to be going great.

And they were, for nearly 17 years. In 1937-38 an improvement program at the refinery saw more than \$500,000 spent to install a gasoline reforming unit to produce gasoline from naphtha and other stocks, a dewaxing plant for high grade lubricating oils, a new boiler, new fencing, additional facilities for compounding, barreling, and canning oil, and other modern additions. Eventually, the gasoline unit could turn out one million gallons of motor oil a month, with the capacity of the lubricating oil plant reaching 25,000 gallons daily. The storage capacity reached 2,500,000 gallons of various types of oil products.

But time and history have a way of changing things. In early 1940 Adolf Hitler began his drive through western Europe. Foreign overseas markets dried up and led to the loss of US oil export markets. The Bradford Refinery was heavily invested in those markets. Financially overextended by the recent upgrades to the refinery and the depressed prices for Penn Grade oil products overseas proved to be the downfall of the Bradford Refinery and led to the suspension of refinery operations in December 1940.

By April 1941, the refinery was in the hands of Citizens National Bank and bond holders. A public auction was held on August 8, 1941 and bidding was brisk. Opening bid was from a local scrap dealer, J. Reichenbach, who offered \$25,000. E. Kent Kane of Kushequa, raised to \$35,000. Harry Goodman, acting on behalf of Associated Metals (a conglomerate of scrap dealers) offered \$75,000. United Refining of Warren bid \$150,000, Alliance Oil of New York City countered with \$175,000. Quaker State Oil Refining Corporation upped the bid to \$180,000, as Pennzoil of Oil City jumped in with \$190,000. Harry Goodman hiked his offer to \$200,000 as Kendall Refining Company finally joined the bidding war with Bert Fisher bidding \$205,000. After that, all other bidders but Kendall and Pennzoil dropped out as the two competing oil companies battled it out. When the final gavel hit the auctioneer's block, Kendall had won with a final bid of \$350,500—beating out the last Pennzoil offer of \$350,250 by just \$250.00!

Kendall's successful bid for the entire Bradford Refinery Operations did not include oil inventories, supplies, retail pumps, trucks, automobiles, office furniture or 1000 feet of 3-inch pipe formerly used in running crude from Music Mountain. As for what Kendall planned for its purchase of the old refinery? J. B. Fisher announced that "our interest in the Bradford Oil Refining company's plant is primarily in connections with the development of specialty products from Pennsylvania oil and from the standpoint of light oil storage. These developments cannot be accurately foretold, but we feel confident that the use of Pennsylvania products in this field is going to expand." The rest, as they say, is history.

One cannot help, but wonder though, if the Bradford Oil Refinery had managed to hang on just a few months longer, would it have survived its financial difficulties? Our entrance into the World War II was less than five months in the future—would it have made a difference? Might we still have two different refineries operating in Bradford today?



If you saw the photo on the front page of the Bradford Era recently, or drove down Bolivar Drive lately, you may have noticed a large painted sign on an old brick building inside the refinery property, which says "All Pen Motor Oil". The sign was uncovered when an old storage building was torn down, and to the great surprise of nearly everyone in Bradford, the old advertisement for All Pen Motor Oil appeared. This raised a lot of questions about the sign – when was it painted, who painted it, and what was All Pen? Well, we can answer one of those questions, maybe the most important one – What was All Pen?

The story goes back to 1922, when 133 Bradford area oil producers banded together to form the Bradford Oil Refining Company. These men had the experience, the oil resources, and most importantly, the financial ability to fund such an undertaking. And it was quite an undertaking, with plans to build 49 miles of pipe line, ample crude storage facilities, a modern refinery with tanks for refined storage, and a full complement of tank cars, drums, and packaging necessary to market their oil. Operations began in February 1923 on the site of the old Foster farm.

The concept was simple: only crude oil from the area would supply the new refinery, and only the highest quality of oil would be produced. The company believed that it had the capability to become a success, not only in Pennsylvania, but world wide. Ironically, as you will see, the dependence on European markets in the late 1930s would doom the Bradford Oil Refinery to bankruptcy.

But initially, the men at the helm of the new company certainly had the experience. J. Harvey Rose of Bradford was the first president and other prominent company officials included Lewis Mallory, James Lewis, J.W. Matthews, W. R. Miller, T.F. Connelly, F. D. Korner, E.E. Slingerland, Homer Barcroft, Dr. W. J. Fredericks, James Paul, and Francis Nash. The refinery began construction in 1922. Projects included:

- six 5,000 gallon storage tanks for incoming crude oil, two 500-barrel steam stills constructed by Southwestern Engineering Company, enabling the Bradford Oil Refinery to produce a lower end-point gasoline than was possible with the old type condensers and to get more gas from a given quantity of crude (or so they said).
- A new power house, equipped with two Gould's 6 x 8 triplex pumps and two 6 x 12 pyramid direct driven pumps all driven by motors, power for which was purchased from the Bradford Electric Company.
- A new boiler house, equipped with a 200 horse power Sterling boiler and a 6 x 12 fire pump with a capacity of 750 gallons of water a minute. This was connected to a large reservoir of 10,000 barrels of water to be used in case of fire.

The receiving house (called the jail house by the refinery men) claimed to be the latest in refining technology. Because of the location of the new plant, it was possible to run oil by gravity from nearly all the oil produced within a ten mile radius into the refinery's tanks. Inside the receiving house, were centrifugal pumps with a capacity of 250 gallons a minute of water for cooling the condensers, and two pumps for pumping hot oil. Connected to the receiving house were 10 tanks of 600 barrel capacity for storing the different products produced.

You're Invited to Tea with Mrs. Crook

Please join Mrs. Crook (skillfully portrayed by Linda Larson in costume)

for tea and cookies at the Crook Farm farmhouse

476 Seaward Avenue, August 10th, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

\$7.00 per person.



"Mrs. Crook" will entertain you with stories of life on the farm and serve delightful goodies and treats and pour delicious tea.

Bring your friends, but space is limited.

Please call the Bradford Landmark Society at 362-3906 for reservations.

Win this lovely Wooden Bowl!

Several years ago, one of the magnificent maple trees near the Crook Farm farmhouse had to be taken down. A local wood turner, Jack Northrop of Kane, offered to turn a bowl for the Landmark made of the wood of that tree which was over 100 years old. This year, we are raffling off that beautiful, solid maple bowl. It measures 11" across and approximately 4.5" tall with maple leaves engraved along the sides, and Northrop's name signed on the bottom.



Tickets are \$1 each, or 6 for \$5, and will be available at the Crook Farm Country Fair and Old Time Music Festival in the Bank building, OR at the Herbig Bakery at 45 East Corydon Street, OR online at our website, www.bradfordlandmark.org. Call us at 814-362-3906 for more information. Wouldn't you just love this bowl? Buy a ticket! You have to be in it — to win it!

The United States Hotel (aka Star Lunch)

Whether you remember it as the Star Lunch, Charlie's Pub, or the newer name, the Lighter Side, the little building on the corner of Mechanic and Barbour Street is probably a lot older than you can imagine. It is an indelible part of Bradford history, though, and deserves to be remembered as one of our oldest and continuous businesses.

It was built as early as 1883, during the early oil boom years, and served as a hotel and a restaurant during those exciting years. Back then, it was named the United States Hotel, and was owned, and operated by Patrick Mulqueen. An Irish immigrant, Mulqueen had a talent for the hotel business and ran the United States hotel – successfully - for over 13 years. In 1896, he sold his interest in the United States Hotel to George Crooker, purchased another lot and erected another hotel, the Mansion House, just down the street.

Crooker had been born in Bradford in 1846, the son of D. H. Crooker, proprietor of the first store and hotel in the city. He knew the hotel business well. Crooker did the first remodeling of the old United States Hotel, making extensive improvements, including plastering the interior of the entire second story and tearing down an old wooden building at the rear that had been used as a kitchen. The Industrial Post of 1896, a small newspaper, reported that *“The hotel is now practically a new structure in every respect. It has a large, roomy, and pleasant office, a handsome new bar, a light and commodious dining room, and 16 large, well equipped sleeping rooms.”*

In 1913, Crooker sold the building to A. W. Eygabroat, who in turn sold it the next year to two men, Cleary and Murray. History gets a little fuzzy here, but the building was not longer used as a hotel for by the spring of 1922. C.E. Gunton of the Red Rock Rosery, opened a florist shop here, and in 1929 a small furniture store, the Home Furniture store owned by J.M. Ertz and Arthur Cohen was located here for a short while.

By 1934, though, the United States Hotel building was reborn as the Star Lunch Restaurant, owned by Art Johnson. The name was probably chosen due to its close proximity to the Star Garage which was located next door on Barbour Street. Johnson operated the restaurant until 1944, when two World War II buddies, Gene Rizzuti and Tony Frisina, bought the restaurant when they returned to Bradford, promising “steaks, chops, beer, wine, and liquor”.

By 1947, however, Rizzuti had left for California, and in 1950 Frisina sold out to John Lekas. Lekas and his wife had owned and operated several restaurants in Bradford, including the Old Spain and the Mayflower, and jumped at the chance to own the popular Star Lunch. In 1952, the front was covered by perma-stone and the interior was remodeled again. The grand opening was held on June 19th, 1952.

In 1958, a new banquet room on the second floor designed to accommodate 125 people was opened. A service bar ran the length of the back, with refrigeration, sinks, and cupboards running up to the ceiling. The Lekas family continued to operate the “Star” for many more years.

In 2006, the Star was renovated once again, this time renamed Charlie's Pub. Today it is under new ownership, and is called The Lighter Side. Just recently, the exterior side facing Barbour Street and the Zippo parking lot was resided, and the old United States Hotel is looking good once again.

This photo dates from August 1909, during the Old Home Week celebration. The bunting was used in many downtown businesses that summer.



Compare the above photo to this one, which was taken just a week ago.

