



The Inkwell



February 2024

PO Box 1021, 45 E. Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701

814-362-3906

www.bradfordlandmark.org

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By the time you read this, Punxsutawney Phil will have predicted – accurately or not – when spring will arrive. During the winter months, the Bradford Landmark Society and Crook Farm look forward to the coming year. And this year, since we now have a dedicated (and boy, is she dedicated!) Crook Farm Coordinator, the Landmark has all sorts of great events planned for the coming year including The Crook Farm School Program, the Patriotic & Popular Music Concert at the Farm, the Creative Women Workshop (and this year, we'll be hosting two versions – the traditional Creative Women, only this year in July, and a special “Holiday Creative Women” in October), the wonderful Crook Farm Old Time Music Festival in August and of course, the ever popular wreath making classes in the holiday season.

Tentative plans are also coming for an Eclipse Party on April 8 at the Farm, a Children's Theater Summer Camp in July, and an Apple Harvest Festival in October. These are new events, so watch for further information to be coming along.

As for the Eclipse, do you realize that Bradford will have 99.4% total coverage? A total solar eclipse won't come again for twenty years. Better get your special glasses early; I heard that they will sell out fast.

Here is a historic fact – UPB has a literary magazine called Baily's Beads. But what are Baily's Beads? Actually, they are an astronomical phenomenon. During an eclipse, as the eclipse edges towards the moment when totality begins the sun's light is almost completely blocked by the Moon. All that's left are small, receding points of light that shine through around the irregular shape of the moon's disk. These are known as Baily's Beads. These ‘beads’ were discovered during an eclipse in 1836 by Sir Francis Baily, an English astronomer. So, now you know a bit of history!

The Landmark Society is currently open on Friday mornings, from 9AM to 4PM, although special arrangements can be made for individual appointments. We can be contacted via email at info@bradfordlandmark.org or by calling 814-362-3906. Please visit our website at www.bradfordlandmark.org to learn more about the Society, the Herbig Bakery, The Crook farm, and interesting articles on local history.



Make 2024 the Year You Volunteer!

The Bradford Landmark Society is always looking for volunteers to help with various tasks at Crook Farm and the Herbig Bakery. This is a great opportunity to get involved in preserving local history and making a difference in your community.

At the Herbig Bakery

Willing to donate an hour or two of your time on Fridays? Come down to the Herbig Bakery on East Corydon Street to help catalog historical records, artifacts and organize photographs. (we have about 16,000 photographs, so you can see that it's a job that needs doing!) We specifically need someone who can help digitalize and scan photographs, documents, scrapbooks, etc. And don't worry – it's easy, and we will teach you. And think how much you learn!

At the Crook Farm

The Crook Farm is the Bradford Landmark Society's historical farmstead, offering a glimpse into Bradford's past through its restored buildings and engaging events. Volunteering at Crook Farm can involve:

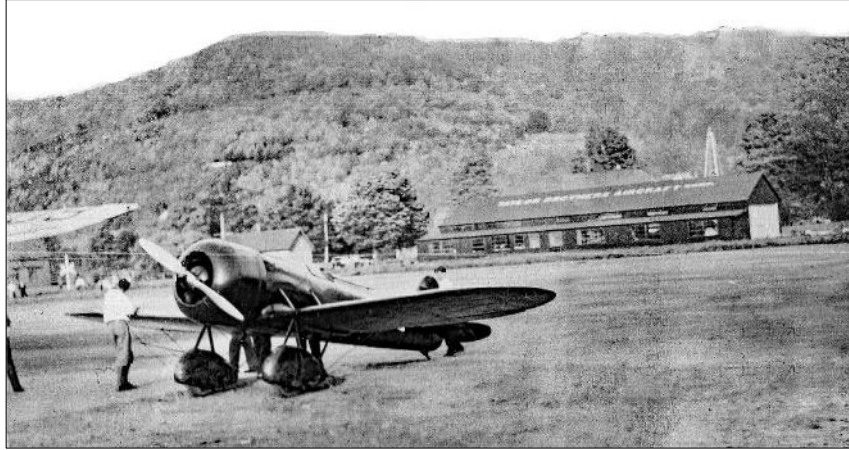
- **Guiding tours:** Sharing the farm's history and stories with visitors.
- **Assisting with events:** Helping out at this spring at the Crook Farm School Program, summer festivals, workshops, and other events planned throughout the year.
- **Groundskeeping and maintenance:** Preserving the farm's physical integrity through upkeep and repairs. Know how to swing a hammer? Weed whip? Paint? Weed flower gardens? We can use you!

If any of these opportunities pique your interest, don't hesitate to contact the Bradford Landmark Society. We are always eager to welcome volunteers who share our passion for history and community.

Remember, volunteering at the Bradford Landmark Society is not just about giving back; it's also a rewarding experience that allows you to learn new skills, connect with like-minded people, and make a lasting impact on preserving Bradford's heritage.

I hope this information helps you find the perfect volunteer opportunity at the Bradford Landmark Society! 814-362-3906 or info@bradfordlandmark.org or stop in at 45 E. Corydon Street for more information.

The Mystery Ship



The Mystery Ship in front of the hanger at Emery Airport. Taylor Brothers Aircraft factory can be seen in the background.

On June 24, 1930, at exactly 11:20AM, a mysterious airplane appeared in the sky over Bradford. Minutes later, it landed at the Harri Emery airport.

Piloted by Dale “Red” Jackson, a daring stunt pilot and barnstormer during the late 1920s and early 1930s, this was the “Mystery Ship,” a privately built racing airplane so secret that the windows of the Wichita, Kansas factory where the plane was built had its windows painted black so that curious reporters could not spy on its construction.

Trans-Continental Air Races were the rage in the 1920s and 1930s (Bradford’s own Harri Emery raced in two of them, coming in 5th in 1927, and 3rd in the race from New York to Los Angeles in 1928) but nearly all racing airplanes were based on US military designs. Two men, Herb Rawdon and Walter Burnham, decided to privately design and build a new type of plane that could out race them all. And they were successful.

Labeled as ‘Type R Mystery Ships’ (the R was for Rawdon’s name) these were a series of wire-braced, low-wing racing airplanes. The first three aircraft of the series (including the R614K which landed in Bradford) were built entirely in secrecy.

It was quite a coup to have the first of the Mystery Ships land at the Harri Emery Airport. Proof can be found in the Emery Airport Register, just one of the items that belonged to the late Joe Field which was recently donated to the Landmark Society.

Joe Field was an airplane mechanic, pilot, aviation enthusiast, and friend to Harri Emery and many other early Bradford pilots. His wonderful collection of aviation related documents, photos and plaques were donated by Thomas Lewis, son of Raymond Lewis, also a pilot and a good friend of Joseph Field who had inherited the collection after Field’s passing.

Red Jackson was just 23 years old when he piloted the Mystery Ship into Bradford but already had a reputation as a daring pilot. On January 6, 1932, at the age of 25, Jackson was killed while stunt flying over Miami.

2023 WAS A YEAR OF DEMOLITION

While sad to see buildings torn down, each of these six buildings had been vacant or unused for years and due to the high cost could not be rehabilitated or remodeled. Hopefully new use for these locations is projected for the future.



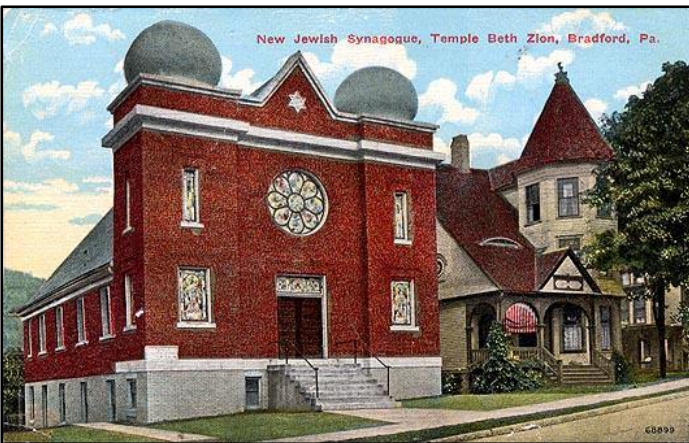
The old Cantwell Johnson, or Napa Auto Parts store, at **434-436 E. Main Street**, on the corner of East Main and South Kendall Avenue, was demolished in January 2023. Built in 1903, and designed by architect Eli Brickell, it was constructed by William Hanley. Over the years, businesses included the Home Bakery, Green Grocery, Ray Dempsey's Red & White Store, Readings Nation-wide store, and finally, Cantwell Johnson in May 1968.



Both these buildings, **20 and 22 Congress Street**, were demolished in October to make way for the new ATA bus terminal and access onto Congress Street.

The red, two-story brick building at **20 Congress Street** was built by Albert Eiseman in 1923, as a meat market; in 1940 he sold the building to Firestone Home and Auto Supply Store. From 1940 to 1957 the offices of attorneys McDowell & McDowell were located upstairs and in July 1954, Greer & Aleci Jewelers moved here from the corner of Main and Chestnut Street. Later, a Montgomery Ward Catalog Store, Warner Cable, and a Paper to Pages Scrapbook store were located here, however, it had been vacant for a number of years.

22 Congress Street was built by Charles Zoeller as Zoeller's Bakery in 1922; he retired in 1923. In 1924, Frank Rossi had a shoe repair shop here, but moved to Pearl Street in January 1924; the New Style Hat Shop was here in July 1925; next was the Fannie Cake and Sandwich Shop, then the Appetite Inn in Nov. 1925, followed by a series of beauty parlors and/or barber shops (Princess Beauty Parlor & Barber Shop, Harriet Beauty Shop, the Personality Beauty Shop, Angelo Sica barber); the Marguerite Shoppe (clothing store for children) opened in May 1936 and closed May 1960. Dr. Edgar Danny, optometrist, had an office here from 1964 until at least 1976. In recent years, Congress Street Antiques were located here.



Torn down in June, the old **Temple Beth Zion** building was located on South Avenue. It was built in 1910, and designed by architect Eli F. Brickell. It had a seating capacity of 240 people and was dedicated on Yom Kippur in October 1910. In 1962 the congregation joined the newly erected Temple Beth El on Jackson Avenue and the building was sold to the Assembly of God church, then sold again to the Bradford branch of the Latter-Day Saints in 1974. Recent years have seen a variety of owners, none of which remained here for long. It had been vacant for quite some time.



The old
was torn down in November to make way
for the new ATA building terminal. It had been
vacant for several years.

It was built in 1911 as the Deal Garage by
Lawrence Harris and John McAmbley of
Bradford. Harris soon sold his interest in the
business and entered the oil business, but
McAmbley continued to work at the Deal Garage
until his death in April 1950. The business was
sold to Hire A Gar, Inc. in 1950 and sold again in
May 1951 to the firm of William Sehman of
Franklin, which owned similar businesses in
Corry, Butler, and Franklin. Sehman's offered tire
sales, repair, wheel alignment and tire balancing.



, and more recently St. Bernard Elementary School, was torn down
this fall. Recently purchased by the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, future plans for this area are
unknown.

Dedicated on September 30, 1952, the school was named "Central Christian" because it brought together
Catholic high school students from three local churches – St. Bernard, St. Francis and Our Mother of Perpetual
Help – into one central location.

The 1 acre plot had been purchased in 1940 by Msgr. David F. Hickey for future St. Bernard cemetery
expansion, but by the late 1950s, with baby boomers increasing, the Archbishop of Erie announced plans to
build six Catholic high schools within the diocese. Central Christian would be one of them. \$900,000 was
set aside for the new school, although by the time it was completed, the total cost was over a million dollars.

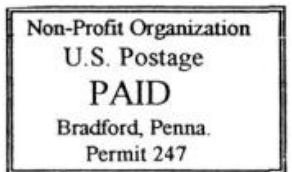
The high school closed in 2000 and for several years afterward, the building was used as St. Bernard
elementary school. The building was purchased by UPB in 2022.

WREATH MAKING CLASSES A SUCCESS

Each year, the Bradford Landmark Society hosts “make your own holiday wreath” classes at the Bank building at the Crook Farm. The classes are held after Thanksgiving, and are scheduled for several weekends before Christmas. This year, we had six classes, and 85 women signed up to make beautiful wreaths of natural greens.



Bradford Landmark Society
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Return Service Requested