



The Inkwell



September 2024

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

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As I write this introduction to this month's Inkwell, I am sad to report that one of our devoted volunteers, Linda Brocius, who has served on the Board of Directors since 2012, has decided to step down. Linda has done so many things down at the Crook Farm – gardening, wreath making, a musician, school program volunteer, helping at the former Crook Farm Fair, Creative Women Workshop teacher...the list goes on, and always, her input during Board meetings to help make the right decisions was invaluable. But don't worry – she is still in charge of the wreath making classes this fall!

And on another, sadder note, one of our long-ago Board members, Ken Jadowiec, passed away in Florida on August 13. Ken had been a board member for seven years. Back in the day, Ken was always willing lend a hand, realizing that volunteers are priceless. Ken was 73 years old.

Here at the Herbig Bakery, we have been busy with a variety of 'historical' projects. We've had some great donations over the past months: several quilts including one made by a local Girl Scout troop, accounting books from an old department store in Bradford, photographs, a huge pile of Fortune magazines from the 1930s, over 200 blueprints of local businesses and houses, a fire alarm box, a nurses cape and pin, a large, framed portrait of a World War I soldier, a small jeweler's anvil, old newspapers, and of course, and what might be the best donation of all, the papers and personal items of Joe Fields, a pilot and aviation enthusiast, who was connected to the early days of the Harry Emery Airport.

Two more big events are planned for this October – the first annual (we hope) Creative Women Holiday Workshop, scheduled for Oct. 5 in the Bank Building, and the Harvest Apple Festival, scheduled for Oct. 19 at the Crook farm.

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.

Inside this issue:

Summer Happenings
down on the Farm

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AND WHO COULD FORGET THE ANNUAL CROOKTOP MUSIC FESTIVAL?



You may have seen all the campers, tents and trailers parked at the Crook Farm and wondered what was going on. Well, it was Crooktop, the annual bluegrass/country music get-together. This year, it was held August 22-25 at the Crook farm. With workshops for musicians, jam sessions, square dancing, song tent, a pot luck dinner on Saturday, and a Gospel Sing Around on Sunday morning – it was a great three days and just keeps getting better each year!

An Update on the Bradford Landmark Society's Fire Alarm Box



You may remember that the Landmark Society was recently given an old Bradford Fire Department alarm box dating from the late 1950s. This box is number 315 which, according to an old fire alarm location map that we have, was located near the hospital on Interstate Parkway. This is one of about 125 or so Gamewell Fire Alarm boxes that were located throughout the city, and were the primary means of calling in a fire to the fire department.

You may also recall that it was in rather poor condition.

Well, we now have several people to thank for restoring it to its original glory.

You may not remember what it looked like when we received it, but here it is, as it would have looked when it was new.

First of all, thank you Mike Fuoco, who made it his mission to get this thing restored. First, he took it to Charlie Hancock, who 'glass bead' blasted it, getting rid of the old paint (what was left on the box) and bringing the surface back to a smooth finish.

Next, Mike painted it red, just like the original, and carefully painted the words "for FIRE" in white paint. Because the key to open the door to the inside was lost, we had to order a key off eBay and also bought a FIRE decal for the side.

John Costik made a wooden support for it using two boards. Tom Miller provided a special battery to make it work, and Mike Fuoco bought a small alarm to replicate the sound of the alarm being activated.

Looks amazing, doesn't it? Stop in sometime, and we'll 'fire it up' (that's a pun) for you!

And now an update on our scanning project...



Several months ago, following an urgent call for volunteers for the Landmark Society at 45 E. Corydon Street, Joyce Cline heard our plea, and volunteered to scan, well, almost anything we asked her to. She has been at it, nearly every Friday afternoon, since March. She is like a human scanning machine – it’s amazing how fast, how accurate, and how many items she has scanned. It has been a HUGE help.

Keep going, Joyce!

Here is a list of what she has been doing for the past six months:

- Programs for the Big 30 Football games, from 1975, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- Bradford High School Football programs, 1936, 1952, 1953, 1954
- All the Bradford Era calendars. 1944-2024
- Meeting minutes booklet for “Bundles for Britain, 1940.” Bradford Chapter, group of women, headed by Grace Emery, which organized a charity drive for Britain during World War II.
- Bradford Fire Department Record books, 1887-1897 and 1897-1909.
- McKean County Rifle Club minutes, 1934-1935-1936.
- Pulse magazine. A magazine published by the Bradford Hospital. 1953-1956
- VNA Vital Signs, Vol. IV, No. 2. Newsletter booklet published by the VNA. 1987
- Junior High Schools (School Street & Fretz) yearbooks. 1962-1990, various years
- St. Bernard grade school yearbooks, 1994-1995, 1998-1999
- Historical Data of McKean County, 1804-1970. Small magazine type booklet.
- Letterheads & bill heads of local businesses, dating back to the early 1880s
- Small booklet, Glimpses of Limestone, 1877-1977
- Folio 60 – Creative Writing examples from Bradford High School students 1960.
- Information on BRMC’s East Wing, 1992
- The Home and School Visitor, 1931-1966. A magazine style report written about county schools.
- Census of Children in Lafayette Township, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935
- City Limits Magazine. 1947-1949. Magazine published in Bradford about social events in the city.
- Various, random calendars of other areas.
- The Opening of Casey’s restaurant, 12-1-1986
- Bradford Answers Floods, 1947. An extensive, bound report of the flood of 1947 citing need for flood control following disastrous floods in 1942, 1946, and 1947
- Lifeline. A magazine for Bradford Hospital employees. 1971-1982
- Hundreds of Auerhaim Department Store credit report index cards, c. 1900. This large store on Main Street kept an index card report on credit worthiness of each customer.
- The Junior Hi-Lite, 1940
- Autobiography of a Valley, 1938

And now the ‘Big Reveal’

Last spring, the Bradford Landmark Society was lucky enough to be chosen as one of several non-profits to receive a grant from the McKean County Commissioners Community Foundation.

The grant was for the restoration and repair of the front of the Bakery building. If you had driven by 45 E. Corydon Street in the last few months, you saw that it needed it! The grant will be used for that purpose.



Before...

Repair of the front of the building began in August. Further work is scheduled for this October, and a new sign for the front is being ordered. We also hope to have gutters put on the building as well.

In the meantime, here are two photos of the Herbig Bakery, showing before and after.

It's an amazing difference.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000, the Herbig Bakery plays a unique role in collecting, researching, interpreting, and promoting the history of the city and the surrounding area. Built in 1876, the Herbig Bakery is the oldest building in Bradford's historic district. It has served as the headquarters and research facility for the Bradford Landmark Society since 1970.

It was built as "the French Bakery" by Celeste Gall, a Frenchman baker who made Bradford his home in the 1870s. Gus Herbig bought the building in the 1890s, and continued the bakery tradition. It is a two story, double boarded wooden building. Right now, it is nearly 150 years old! Its amazing that it survived all those years, since so many of the wooden oil boom buildings fell victim to the numerous fires that plagued the city in those early years.



After



Harvest Apple Festival

October 19 at the Crook Farm

We are gearing up for our inaugural Harvest Apple Festival on Saturday October 19th! Craft / Artisan Vendors, Food Trucks, historic demonstrations, music and more! Load up the family and enjoy a fall day in the late 19th century for only \$5 per carload!