



The Inkwell



Sally Costik, editor

The Newsletter of the Bradford Landmark Society

January 2018

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Well, it's the end of 2017 and the beginning of a new year. The Landmark has had a successful year and we look forward to another great one.

We welcomed the Bradford High School History Club in July. These kids have volunteered to record the location of every headstone in St. Bernard cemetery. This may seem an odd project, but it's very worthwhile. We have headstone records of all the county cemeteries, but most, like St. Bernard, don't have a corresponding location with the index. We can assure researchers and family genealogists that their ancestors are buried there - but we have no idea where! As you can imagine a big cemetery like St. Bernard has about 10,000 graves. It's very difficult to locate a particular grave by just walking around. The History club will divide the cemetery into grids, locate and record the location, and then create a data base. Can't wait to see their results!

We also held two bake sales, in May and November. Calling them the "Landmark's Great Bake Sale" both were very successful and it was amazing the wonderful bakers that we have in Bradford. The Bake Sale will be re-appear in 2018! So bakers, we'll be calling on you to 'get your bake on' this spring. Watch for the announcement on Facebook.

And for the first time, the Bradford Landmark Society participated in the Bradford Chamber of Commerce's "Business After Hours" event, which was held at the Crook Farm in October. We had tours of the buildings at the farm, raffles, cookies, and refreshments.

And, currently underway at the School house at the Crook Farm, the foundation is being replaced and repaired. Once this is finished (and completion will be this spring), the next step is a new coat of paint. The building, which was actually moved there c. 1974, is used for the spring Crook Farm School program. This will be our 40th year of educational programs for 5th grade students - and over 27,000 kids have attended!

Chronology of the Buildings and Businesses

Once again, at the end of each year, we try to list the businesses in Bradford that have opened, moved, closed, changed owners or names, or simply vanished out of business. We know that we don't catch all of them, but try our best to keep track of things during the year.

It's all history in the making!

1. January 2017 **Atlantic Broadband** closed its Main Street office and moved to a new location next to Valu Home Center at 669 East Main Street.
2. January 2017 **Cricket Wireless** open new store in Shops at Foster Brook Plaza in the old Subway location (by Walmart).
3. Feb. 2017 **Michael's Stateline Steakhouse** moves to the old Cow Palace.
4. March 2017 **MG Arms, LLC** opens for business at 579 South Avenue.
5. March 2017 **Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Inc.** moves into Maple Manor, formerly the Heritage Suites at 139 Minard Run.
6. April 2017 **On the Side Books** opens at 10 Kennedy Street.
7. April 2017 **The Beer Barn** builds and moves to the old car lot/detailing place beside Mike DePalma's Pennrealty.com business off Bolivar Drive, near the of JC Penney mall side.
8. April 2017 **The Landmark Café** opens at 10 Boylston Street (the old Aud location).
9. April 2017 **Bradford Area Dance Center** opens at 657 South Avenue in the back warehouse behind Shembeda Floor Covering.
10. May 2017 **Foster Brook Glass & Mirror**, formerly on East Washington Street moves to 589 South Avenue.
11. May 2017 **The Marilyn Horne Museum** opens on the first floor of the Seneca Building on the square, Main Street.
12. June 2017 **Bradford Area Federal Credit Union** moved from its old location at 9 East Washington Street to 52 Davis Street.
13. June 2015 Attorneys **Lang & Hvizdzak** law firm moves to a new office on St. James Place.
14. June 30 A medical marijuana dispensary has just been approved by the state of PA for Bradford and will be located where the old Mexican restaurant (La Mexica) was on Main Street.
15. June 2017 **The Willows** at 2669 West Washington Street in Corydon Township reopens after two and a half year closure.
16. July 2017 **Northwest Consumer Discount Company**, 30 Main Street, closed its business July 14.
17. July 2017 **Vinelli's Picture and Sound** store at 308 Jackson Avenue closing after 15 years.

18. July 2017 **Blueprint Auto Body** opens at 171 Seaward Avenue with grand opening on July 8th.
19. July 2017 **Amanda's Car Care** burns. Located at 156 Seaward Avenue, it was originally the home of the Bradford Milk Company, which moved to Bank Street in 1944.
20. July 2017 **Michael's Stateline Steakhouse** at the Cow Palace is closing and moving to the Downbeat Restaurant on Main Street.
21. July 2017 **Bradford Laundromat** will remain open but dry cleaning closed after 58 years (changes its mind, and will offer that service again in November).
22. July 2017 Street name change - **Brad Penn Way** at ARG which runs in front of Main office and Research and Development buildings is renamed Halloran Way, in honor of Harry Halloran's 20 years of ownership of the refinery.
23. July 2017 **The Closet**, Closing the end of July, run by Destinations of Bradford.
24. July 2017 **The Shack**, formerly the Corydon Hotel, catches fire and burns, July 20.
25. August 2017 **PennLaurel Realty** changes its name to Howard Hanna. Open house held in old Dominos building.
26. August 2017 **Medcare** store front on East Main Street closes.
27. Sept. 2017 **C J Bar-B-Que and Catering Food Trailer** parks at the corner of Chautauqua Place and South Avenue.
28. Sept. 2017 **Big Lots** moves to their new store in the Bradford Mall.
29. Sept. 2017 **Used to be New** antique store at 24 Pine Street, which opened in August 2016, closed.
30. October 2017 **Howard Hanna Real Estate** merges with Chosen Acres on 7 Main Street, Chosen Acres leaves Main Street.
31. October 2017 **Enterprise Rent-A-Car** relocates from Kendall Avenue to the Shops at Foster Brook.
32. October 2017 **Barr's Service Station**, 11 Silicon Way, closes, with owner retiring.
33. Nov. 2017 **New Dollar General Store**, built on the site of the old Sheldon Jewett house in Custer City, opens.
34. Nov. 2017 **Seneca Eye Surgeons** changes its name to Gateway Ophthalmology, Inc. They are still in the Seneca building.
35. Nov. 2017 **ARG** opens new quality lab at refinery.
36. Nov. 2017 **Terry Matthews' gas station** (Bradford Quaker State) on corner of Congress and East Corydon Street closed, and is demolished.
37. Dec. 2017 **ABC Grow with Me Childcare Center** opens on Mechanic Street.
38. Dec. 2017 **ALDI's** opens in Bradford Mall parking lot near Taco Bell.

This past summer and last winter saw extensive repairs to the exterior brick walls and roof of the old Bell Telephone building – now owned by Verizon – on the corner of East Corydon and Congress Streets. This big building, just one block off Main Street, usually just sits there quietly – most people don't know exactly what goes on inside – but the sight of dozens of workmen being hoisted up to the top via a big movable scaffolding system as well as men repointing the masonry on all sides, caught everyone attention. So, what IS the history behind the Telephone building? How old is it? The Landmark thought we'd investigate.

Ma Bell Comes to Bradford, 1930

In a world where 92% of its people now own a cell phone (yes, really!) it might be hard to fathom why in 1930 Bradford City Council balked at letting the Bell Telephone Company build a building on the corner of East Corydon Street and Congress Street. It was only after negotiations between the council members and the legal team representing the Bell telephone company that a zoning variance was granted and construction was approved.

The Bell Telephone people promised that a dial system of telephone service would become a reality once the new building was constructed. In 1929, Bradford had 5,678 telephone subscribers, and that number was increasing all the time. Modern and larger equipment was needed. The new building, three stories high and 80' x 60' would cost \$786,000. (\$11.2 million in today's money). Construction would begin in March, with completion in October 1930. The new dial system would be in place by July 1931.



It all began in November 1929 when Thomas F. Connelly, a Bradford oil producer, sold his large mansion at 30 East Corydon Street to an 'undisclosed' buyer and moved to 117 Kennedy Street. In 1930, that location held the Carnegie Public Library on one corner, a Baptist Church across the street, the Women's Christian Temperance Union clubhouse on the other corner, and Connelly's large Victorian home at 30 East Corydon Street. When word got out that the "undisclosed buyers" were actually a Pittsburgh group representing Bell Telephone and wanted to build a commercial three story brick building on the site, things got interesting.

By the first week in February, arguments on both sides were heated.

The Congress Street residents protested that the new building would be too large for the proposed plot of land. It wasn't the height of building that they objected to, but the length and width, since the building would be too close to the street and in violation of the city building line restrictions. They threatened to get a restraining injunction against Bell Telephone if the building permit were granted.

But Bell Telephone promised to "do whatever it took" to get the city to agree to the footprint of the building.

Corydon and Congress Street residents were represented by attorney William Burdick. Burdick claimed that the telephone company should have been aware of the building restrictions before purchasing the land. The situation, he said, was through their own carelessness and “the burden of their mistake should not be allowed to be thrust upon the shoulders of either the council or the property owners.” Furthermore, he added, “it isn’t fair to my client, a man who has built a fine home on Congress Street, who has established his interests here and who has always been active in the achievement of Bradford to have his property ruined by such a permit.” (It is likely that his client was Earl Emery, who had built a brick mansion at 50 Congress Street in 1921. The new Bell building would be his next door neighbor.)

The residents insisted that “Bell Telephone build the building taller but stay within the same property line restrictions that other property owners must abide by and always have.”

The telephone company representatives were equally steadfast in the proposed size of the planned building and steadfast in their request for a property line restriction variance. They were fully prepared to go ahead with construction and face whatever injunction and legal problems came their way.

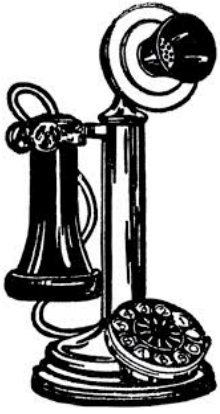
By March 7, a tentative solution was suggested. City engineer Henry Quirk, and city solicitor Francis Nash suggested that the Bell Company buy six feet of the Emery property that bordered the old Connelly property. This additional land would solve the setback line restrictions. Positive that they had found a solution, they eagerly wired Lucretia Emery (Mrs. Earl Emery), who was wintering in Florida. She agreed to sell six feet along the property line BUT only at the same price that Bell Telephone had paid for the Connelly property in 1929 or \$479 a foot. Total cost would be \$2800 (again, in 2017 prices, that strip of land would have cost about \$42,000). Bell Telephone refused, stating that they had enough land already and only needed the building permit to proceed. They vowed to carry the fight forward and build at any cost. Stalemate!

But the story has a happy ending. While we will forever wonder just how the deal went down behind closed doors, ten days later on March 17 Bradford City Council voted unanimously to grant the building permit. A compromise had been reached - the building would be built within two feet of the property line on the Corydon Street side, and at least five feet inside the line on the Congress Street side. Construction could begin.

By June, 1930, the old Connelly mansion was gone and an “impressive ceremonies marked the laying of the cornerstone” of the new Bell building. A specially designed platform, decorated with red, white and blue bunting and a blue and white banner of the Bell system held city officials, prominent citizens, and representatives of the Bell System. A lead box was placed inside the cornerstone, which included the June 25, 1930 Bradford Era newspaper, a copy of the building permit, the financial statement of the banks, a copy of the telephone directory, a number of local business cards, statements of the architect and contractor, a list of city officials, a list of the Rotary club members, a photograph of Miss Phoebe Newell, the oldest living telephone subscriber, and a list of the Bell officials. *Note to our readers: the cornerstone is still there with the date 1930 and can be seen at the corner of the building on Congress and East Corydon. We assume the lead box is still encased there.*

The laying of the cornerstone was followed with invocation by the pastor of the First Baptist Church, a flag raising by Boy Scouts, multiple speeches, and a final benediction by Rt. Rev. Msgr. D. F. Hickey of St. Bernard Church. That evening, a dinner was held at the Emery Hotel with nearly 100 in attendance.

Construction continued, and in June 1931, it was announced that all of Bradford’s telephone subscribers were now on the dial system.



The first phone call was made at midnight, June 27, 1931. Dozens of people were present on both sides of the conversation, as William H. Dennis called A. D. Burns to inaugurate the new telephone system.

“Hello Colonel Burns? It’s W. H. Dennis calling.”

Both Dennis (owner of Tuna Manufacturing Company) and Burns (local plumber and head of 1898 Bradford contingent of the Pennsylvania National Guard in the Spanish American War) were civic leaders and well known in Bradford. It seemed fitting to choose these two men as the first to use a dial telephone to speak with each other.

The actual building had been completed months earlier but the telephone subscribers weren’t ready to switch to dial phoning just yet. Each telephone subscriber was given pamphlets containing complete instructions on how to use a dial phone, and was given a new phone number. A telephone book, with the new numbers, would be published in the summer of 1931. Telephone company representatives gave speeches to local groups, such as the Rotary, Bradford Business Men’s Association, and even scheduled a movie showing at local churches, showing the method of dial phoning. The two reel movie, they boasted, was ‘suitable for both adults and children.’

Now, you may think that anyone could be able to figure out how to dial a telephone. But most of Bell Telephone customers had never used a dial telephone before. Detailed instructions in the Era were posted a week before the system went live. Edward D. Reese, manager of the company, explained it. *“Dialing is easy. Suppose a Bradford subscriber wishes to call the number 1052. He first removes the receiver and listens for the dial tone. This is a steady humming sound and indicates the equipment is ready to receive the call. The subscriber then inserts his finger in the hole above the figure 5 on the dial and turns the dial until his finger strikes the finger stop. He lifts the finger and allows the dial to return to its normal position. This remaining numbers are dialed in the same manner. With a few seconds after the last digit is dialed, the subscriber should hear what is known as the “ringing signal.” This is an intermittent bur-r-ring sound that indicates the called telephone is being rung. In the event the called telephone is busy, a “busy signal” is heard. This is a series of buzz-buzz-buzz sounds. The subscriber should then hang up the receiver and dial the call again after a short time has elapsed.*

What was the advantage of using a dial phone, versus the old fashioned telephone operators? Dial systems were developed in the 1920s to reduce labor costs as usage increased, and to ensure privacy to the customer. Dial systems were more accurate than manual operators and quicker. Bell also declared that a huge advantage was, that during the hours of nighttime, Sundays and holidays, the dial system was just as quick as during the working hours of the day.

And, as Bell Telephone advertised in the Bradford Era, you could call the operator at any time of the day and for only a five cents, she would tell you the correct time! Their slogan? ***For the Right Time, Any Time...Ask the Operator!***

And now, some telephone (and cell phone) trivia:

- As a tribute to Alexander Graham Bell when he died in 1922, all the telephones stopped ringing for one full minute (14 million telephones in US and Canada were affected).
- “Ahoy” was the original telephone greeting suggested by Alexander Graham Bell, but was later superseded by Thomas Edison, who suggested ‘hello’ instead.
- The American Bell Telephone system was named after Alexander Graham Bell. However, the Canadian Bell Telephone system wasn't named for Alexander Graham Bell. It was named for his father, Alexander Melville Bell. Being a good son, he gave his father the Canadian rights to the telephone.
- Phone service was established at the White House one year after its invention. President Rutherford B. Hayes was the first to have phone service (1877-81).
- In the early days of the telephone, operators would pick up a call and use the phrase, “Well, are you there?” It wasn't until 1895 that someone suggested answering the phone with the phrase “number please?”
- Bell's version of the telephone received a patent in 1876. When he tested it five days later with the line, "Mr. Watson, come here, I want you," he was 29 years old and Mr. Watson was 22.
- There used to be a height requirement for switchboard operators (5ft 3in), to ensure they could reach the top of the board.
- “Cellular phones,” or more common today “cell phones,” get their name from the fact that areas served by towers are divided up into “cells.” The first use of the word “cellular” in this fashion was in 1977. The first documented use of the word “cell phone” was in 1984.
- According to the Guinness World Records, the current fastest texter in the world is Sonja Kristiansen of Norway who was able to text the following message in 37.28 seconds (fastest to date): “The razor-toothed piranhas of the general Serrasalmus and Pygocentrus are the most ferocious freshwater fish in the world. In reality, they seldom attack a human.”
- Area codes are also known as NPAs, or Numbering Plan Areas. They came into play in the late 40's in larger cities and were fully implemented everywhere by the mid 60's. When area codes were first implemented, rotary phones were the norm so highly populated areas like New York City (212), Philadelphia (215), Los Angeles (213) were assigned lower digits (less time to dial) and less populated cities like Phoenix (602) and Salt Lake City (801) were assigned higher digits.
- Emergency numbers differ from country to country. While 911 was eventually adopted as the standard number in the United States and Canada, in Europe you'll need to dial 112, although 999 also works in the UK, where there's been an emergency number system since the 1930s.

911 was not official until the late '60s, when it was first known as "nine-eleven," and then later changed to "nine-one-one" to avoid confusion with people wasting precious time looking for the "11" button.

IT HAPPENED IN JANUARY LONG AGO

- January 16, 1939. J.C. Penney Company announces they will be open for business at the new location at 63 Main St., transferred from 115 Main St. A pleasing feature of the new store is a completely furnished rest room for the convenience of tired shoppers.
- January 26, 1934. New Park Cut Rate store opens at 20 Main Street. Will feature toilet articles, rubber goods, patent medicines, tobacco & sundries. W.H. Killen, proprietor.
- January 29, 1931. New music store will open at 47 East Corydon Street, operated by Peter Monago estate; called Monago's Music and Appliance store.
- January 7, 1930. The Auerhaim Building at 76 Main Street, at the corner of Main and Chestnut streets, has been sold to the Forest Oil Corporation. Designed by E. Unruh, the building was erected in 1900 by Solomon Auerhaim as a department store.
- January 2, 1918. Due to the discontinuance of Erie passenger service, the local station is formally closed.
- January 27, 1917. A live female infant will be given away at the grand ball at the Armory on Jan. 30, 1917 by the Citizen's Band, Ed Bitner, director. (*Note, they never said the live female infant was human!*)
- January 1, 1925. Bradford celebrates a "dry" New Year's Eve, with a big crowd at Sheas' Theater.
- January 18, 1924. The name Seneca Junction will be changed to "Bradford Junction" next Sunday as a result of action taken by the board of directors of the Olean, Bradford, and Salamanca Railway Company.
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- January 17, 1924. The new National Meat Market at 5 Mechanic Street opens for meat sales. \$5 gold pieces are to be given to the first two lady buyers.
- January 31, 1921. Police captured, but later released, what appeared to be a bootlegger's blockade running motor trucks on Kennedy St. Although the vehicle had a number of compartments under the front seat, no liquor of any kind was found.
- January 10, 1921. 82 pupils found to be 15% or more underweight. 8 oz. of milk to be administered twice daily under direction of Dr. Ben F. White, Jr.
- January 1, 1906. Tansy Jack (a local character), sleeping on the ice covered sidewalk, was discovered by police Sunday. He was taken to the lockup and thawed out.
- January 10, 1902. L.L. Beal & W.A. Smith travel to the Pasteur Institute in New York for the treatment of rabies, having been bit by Mr. Beal's foxhound. The dog has also bitten a number of animals. As a result, every dog in Coleville has been killed.
- January 17, 1900. The Painless Dentistry Parlors at 53 Main St. offers inexpensive dentistry and teeth extracted without pain by their new discovery of Botanical, vitalized air, for 25 cents.

Remember?

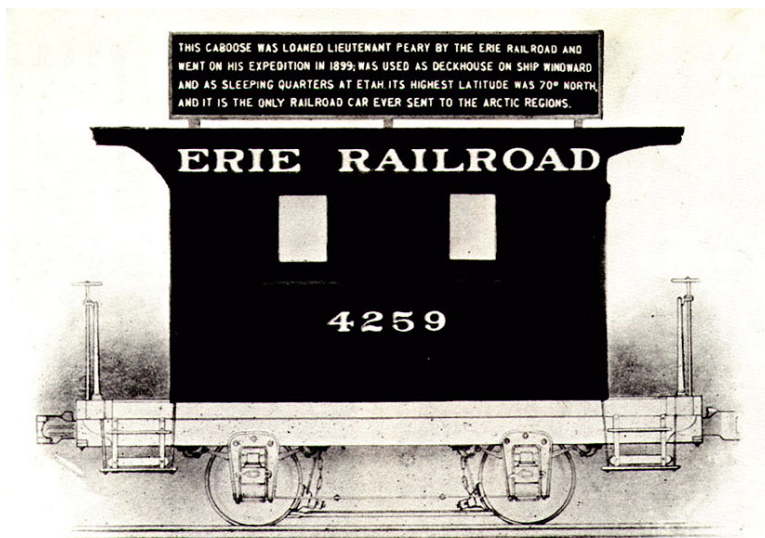
Interesting Moment in History for Rail fans....Famous Caboose Comes to Bradford

The caboose which Peary took on journey looking for the North Pole will be shown at First Methodist Church. October 23, 1909.

The famous Peary caboose was on exhibition near the Main Street crossing of the Erie railroad in this city yesterday (Oct. 25) and a good delegation visited and became interested in the structure as well as the choice relics shown on the inside. The caboose is being shown here under the auspices of the Epworth League of the First Methodist Church. It will be open for visitors until 7 o'clock this evening. Admission is ten cents; the relics alone are worth the price. – The Bradford Era, Oct. 26, 1909

In 1892 the Erie Railroad built a small four wheel caboose numbered 4259 for use on short runs. The increase in freight tonnage made this style of caboose obsolete and after six years of service, following a crash that lifted it off its wheels, Erie Caboose #4259 was left in the Susquehanna, Pennsylvania railroad yard where it was used as a foreman's office in the sawmill section where ties were cut. While visiting a friend in that area, Captain Robert E. Peary saw the solidly constructed caboose and asked the Erie Railroad if he could use it on his upcoming voyage to the North Pole.

Seeing the potentially much needed positive publicity of the loan, the little caboose, minus its wheels was loaded on a freight car and shipped to New York City. On July 4, 1898, in a well-publicized and attended ceremony, it was hoisted onto the deck of Perry's Steamship 'Windward' where the caboose served as a deckhouse and headquarters for Captain Peary while on the ship.



In August of 1899, Perry set up a base camp in Etah, Greenland. With the help of local Eskimos, he struggled to get the little caboose ashore and secure it with heavy ropes staked into the ground. Boxes of provisions all the same size were stacked around the caboose to form a six foot high wall two feet away from the caboose. Canvas was then spread from the top of the caboose roof to the top of the wall and secured with heavy stones. With snow heaped against the wall and over the canvas, it provided an igloo like structure that was warm and protected from the winter. The caboose was heated by a coal stove and lighted with oil lamps.

In 1902 upon his return from the Arctic, the caboose was returned to the Erie Railroad and refurbished in the Buffalo N. Y. railroad shops. At the request of John Kilgor, the Erie Railroad displayed the caboose at the Shohola Glen Amusement Park in Shohola, Pennsylvania until 1907 for publicity purposes. It was decorated with scenes of the Arctic and was a popular attraction at the park. With the closing of the park in 1907, it then made a successful tour of the entire Erie Railroad System and was finally displayed (minus it's wheels again) at Susquehanna, Pennsylvania where it was constructed. Unfortunately, The Shohola Caboose was destroyed in a fire in 1940.

BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY

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We posted this photo on Facebook a few weeks ago. We were hoping that our readers would recognize exactly who these men are, and where they are standing. We did find out that the men in white are actually mechanic repairmen who worked at the General Garage, but still haven't figured out who the men are. They seem to be drivers – but not milkmen (our original thought) and of course, school kids usually walked to school, so probably not school bus drivers. But who are they!