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January 2010

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January

"The shortest day has passed, and whatever nastiness of weather we may look forward to in January and February, at least we notice that the days are getting longer. Minute by minute they lengthen out. It takes some weeks before we become aware of the change. It is imperceptible even as the growth of a child, as you watch it day by day, until the moment comes when with a start of delighted surprise we realize that we can stay out of doors in a twilight lasting for another quarter of a precious hour."

-Vita Sackville-West

January

January – named after the Roman God Janus. January, the gateway to the new year. January, the traditional second month of winter. One of seven months with 31 days. The birthstone is garnet, and the flower is a carnation. And in our case, the beginning of a new decade. Can you believe that ten years have gone past, since the Millenium of 2000? All the big fuss about whether computers could identify the four digits, or would they all shut down, world-wide, and create chaos. And yet, here we are, ten years in, doing just fine.

In historical terms, however, ten years is just a dot on the page of time. At the Landmark Society, we realize this, but we also know that history is being made every day. Sometimes we don't even recognize the moment in history for what it is. But be assured – the Landmark is watching, and recording, everything Bradford does.

This *Inkwell* is a tribute to the past year. Check out our annual Necrology of the Buildings and Businesses. Not surprisingly, in the current economic climate, there weren't many businesses that opened this year; but on the bright side, we lost no buildings to fires or demolitions, few businesses actually closed, and no major employer packed up and left.

We have included an article on that famous song, Auld Lang Syne, which is attributed to Scottish poet Robert Burns. January 25 is Burns' birth date and in Scotland and around the world wherever there are lovers of Burns' poetry, a Burns supper is often held as a celebration of the life and poetry of the poet. They say the two absolute items which must be present at such a dinner are Scottish whiskey, and the reading of poetry.

Be sure to check out page 2, which lists the news of the Landmark Society, and our article on snow. Living in Bradford, we all know about snow; but you might also be interested in finding out what happened on other January days of long ago. Life in Bradford doesn't stop just because we get a little snow! Some of our most "historic" days happened during the month of January.

And remember, we are at the doorway to the new year.

Make it a good one!

What's happening at the Landmark?

- We held a Christmas Open House on Saturday, December 5, and if you couldn't make it, you missed a very merry time at the Bakery, with cookies, hot chocolate, candy canes, Christmas music, and the entire staff on hand to help you choose the perfect "historical" Christmas gift. We decorated the front of the bakery and made a charming display of our books, mugs, DVDs, and yellow dogs. Lisa Duke, of Lisa's Airport, brought down several of her digital paintings of Bradford buildings and the local area, and they made a very nice addition.
- The Bradford Landmark Society was awarded a grant in May to help with collections management at the Herbig Bakery, and the Crook Farm. Lynn Beman, a consultant from the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations visited us in June, and again in July, and issued a report in October. She made several valuable recommendations to the Landmark, concerning management of our historical collections including photographs, clothing, memorabilia, and other artifacts. We plan to implement several of her suggestions in an effort to maintain our mission as the historical repository of local history.
- Liz Sefton, a Bradford Landmark Society board member and our Treasurer, has resigned from her position. She and her husband have moved to Hilton Head, South Carolina, where we are sure she will miss all this snow and cold weather! Judy Yorks, also a board member, has volunteered to take over the duties of Treasurer. We will miss Liz, but welcome Judy as our new Treasurer.
- Don't just sit there- Square Dance! Square dancing is held at 7 PM every Tuesday night at The Crook Farm bank building on Seward Avenue Extension, one mile north of Bolivar Drive. Admission is \$3, and please bring a snack along to pass. Refreshments are served at 8:30 PM. Music is by the Crook Farm All Stars, with calling by Keith Blackmon and other guest callers.
- The Bradford Landmark has submitted a nomination to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for a historic marker honoring Lewis Emery of Bradford. Emery, a local oil producer, entrepreneur, statesman, businessman and known for his support of independent oil producers against Standard Oil is eminently qualified for such an honor. The state reviews all nominations, and if accepted, will notify us in March. Bradford currently has two such markers; one honors the oil refinery and is located on North Kendall Avenue; the other honors the Holley Brothers and is located, aptly enough, on Holley Avenue.
- Due to technical difficulties, the publication of our book, *Welcome Home, 1909 Old Home Week*, was delayed. We had anticipated publication in late October; however the new publication date has been pushed back until the end of February. While the book has been delayed, it promises to be even more entertaining than ever, with nearly 200 pages of never-before published photographs and text.
- This year, we anticipate the publication of several other books as well, including Volume II of *Looking Down from Above*, by Mike Fuoco, an aerial photography book that will cover southern New York State; a comprehensive book on Bradford Houses by Sally Costik; and a collection of our popular "Time Capsules" articles. Molly Lindahl is also working on a book tentatively entitled *Death By Train* – a series of true articles on the dangers of railroads "back in the day".
- And for you Civil War buffs, beginning April 2011, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. Through traveling exhibits, educational materials, regional events and a content rich Web site, Pennsylvanians will experience firsthand the American struggle for justice and equality, which reached a watershed moment in the Civil War and continues to this day. To learn more, visit www.PACivilWar150.com.

Necrology of the Buildings

Each year, the Bradford Landmark Society compiles a necrology of the buildings and businesses in Bradford that have moved, opened, erected, razed, or just plain changed or been affected by events during 2009. It is not surprising to many that our list is much smaller this year, as fewer businesses were opened. On the plus side, fewer businesses closed, however, and store owners continued to keep their businesses profitable.

- **Coffee Connixtion** at 23 Pine Street. Offered coffee, food and speed dating. Opened in January, closed by summer.
- **Joe's Deli Mart**, 976 South Avenue. Convenience store. Opened in January 2009; closed.
- **The Perfect Touch**, 4 Mechanic Street. Offers pedicures, manicures, and waxing. Opened in mid-June, still in operation.
- **McCool's Outdoor Power**, 20 Russell Blvd. Small engine repair, parts and service. Opened in June 2009.
- **Curtis Wallace**, 31 Boylston Street. Architectural Engineering – opened in June 2009.
- **Alleghany Wood Moldings & Custom Cabinetry**, 20 Russell Blvd. Wood supplier for moldings, cabinetry, custom furniture, solid countertop fabrication and wood hobby needs. Opened in February 2009.
- **The Neighbours' Kids**, 595 Seaward Avenue, licensed day care center for infants and children. Opened in February 2009.
- **Times Past**, Olean Road. Gifts, tin-ware and potpourri. Closed in May 2009.
- **Wear It Again**, 86 Main Street. Clothing consignment shop. Opened in September 2009, closing in early 2010.
- **The Airport Restaurant**. Opened in September 2009. Small restaurant at the airport.
- **Swanson's Fabrication**. 19 East Washington Street. Aluminum, stainless, and steel fabrication. Opened in October 2009.
- **Joseph M. Durphy**, 686 East Main Street. Personal trainer for physical fitness. Opened in November 2009.
- **Kimberly's Cool Beans Café**, 30 Boylston Street. Coffee shop and espresso bar. Formerly Emery Espresso opened in November 2009.
- **Sports Café**, 48 Davis Street. Changed owners; reopened in September 2009.
- **DeSoto Holiday House**, 515 South Avenue. Changed owners in August 2009.
- **Compu-Tech**, Changed locations, moved to 101 Main Street in July 2009.
- **The Hemlocks**, 1020 Route 219, Limestone. Flea market, farmers' market, crafts, jam sessions. Opened in July 2009.

And some more:

Rink Brothers, a car dealer located on East Main Street, closed in July after 70 years in business. It was believed to have been the oldest continually operating Chrysler dealer in the United States.

Microbac, a water testing company which was located at 101 Main Street for seven years, closed its doors in January 2009.

The Bradford Pharmacy closed its doors in December.

If we have missed your business or store, or made an error, we apologize in advance.



SNOW



Snow! One of my favorite songs in Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" is the one that Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, and Vera Ellen sing while sitting at a table in a dining car on a train. Bing and Danny have just helped the girls escape from paying their hotel bill by helping them out a back window and onto a train, and they are all on their way to New England to an old Army buddy's holiday resort. They sing of snow . . .

Snow, snow, snow, snow, snow!

It won't be long before we'll all be there with snow.

Snow! I want to wash my hands, my face, my hair with snow!

Snow! I long to clear a path and lift a spade of snow!

Snow, oh to see a great big man entirely made of snow!

Well, even if you're not that much into snow or *White Christmas*, it's still pretty. And we need it; it helps to replenish the water table in the earth. Nature needs it as a resting period. And who doesn't like snowmen? They say that Eskimos have 52 words for snow. And while we only have one, it's a fact that we will have snow every year.

These are a few historic facts about snow in Bradford

- In 1912, there was snow on the ground for 52 days with no thaw.
- In 1878, there was snow on the ground for 78 days with no thaw.
- In 1901, 40 box cars were stuck in the snow in Mt. Jewett, with drifts as high as the cars.
- The first serious snowstorms usually hit the Bradford area in late November, with an average of about 54" of snow each winter.
- On July 11, 1884, it snowed on the hills around the city.
- In 1945, snow on May 11 forced the postponement of the opening day of Bradford baseball (Bradford Bees vs. Hornell Hornets).
- In 1945, on January 2, the temperature fell from 30 degrees at 5 PM in the afternoon, to 12 degrees at midnight.
- In 1958, Mayor Hugh Ryan ordered all parked cars on the streets towed away so that the snow plows could get through.
- In 1994, the roof of the Hanley Brick Company building in Lewis Run caved in with the weight of the snow melting.
- In 1921, W.M. Abrams, Jr., Olean, announced the Snow Shoe Club would make its annual hike to Bradford. Abrams had made this hike 50 times in his lifetime.
- Eleven persons were hurt as a snowplow crashed into a bus on Congress Street Extension; the Greyhound bus was proceeding north; six were hospitalized, January 25, 1945.
- In 1916, snow was removed from the sidewalks using a horse-drawn snow plow.



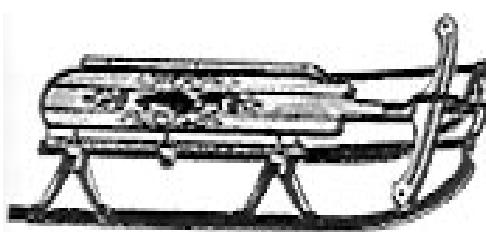
- In the early days, the streets were not plowed at all. Wagons were put away for the year, and sleighs were brought out. Salt was not used at all – as a matter of fact, in January 1886 a city ordinance was passed that made it illegal to use salt on the roads. The salt slowed down the sleighs. The ordinance reads: *That it shall be unlawful for any person to throw salt on any of the streets in the City of Bradford, or on the bed of the street railway. Any person violating this provision shall be fined \$100 dollars, and if not paid, would be imprisoned as the law directs.* In 1886, \$100 is roughly equivalent to over \$2000 today.

And, of course, to make snow you need cold. The coldest day on record in Bradford is believed to be on January 5, 1904, when the coldest temperature ever recorded was 42 degrees below zero at Hobson Place. East Main Street had 42 below; Congress Street had 38 below; and even at Limestone, Mt. Alton, Rixford, Custer City, and Cyclone, temperatures were recorded at least 36 degrees below zero. Brrr!

And now, some SNOW facts:

- Based on National Climatic Data Center records, New York state is home to the snowiest cities in the United States: Syracuse averages 115 inches of snow per year, and Rochester averages 93 inches per year.
- Buffalo, New York, is a close runner-up in terms of U.S. large cities with the most snow. A 39-inch snowfall in 24 hours in early December 1995 cost the city nearly \$5 million for snow removal.
- Almost 187 inches of snow fell in seven days on Thompson Pass, Alaska, in February, 1953, according to the National Snowfall and Snow Depth Extremes Table provided by the National Climatic Data Center.
- Each year an average of 105 snow-producing storms affect the continental United States. A typical storm will have a snow-producing lifetime of two to five days and will bring snow to portions of several states.
- In the early 1900s, skiers created their own terminology to describe types of snow, including the terms "fluffy snow," "powder snow," and "sticky snow." Later, the terminology expanded to include descriptive terms such as "champagne powder," "corduroy," and "mashed potatoes."
- Practically every location in the United States has seen snowfall. Even most portions of southern Florida have seen a few snow flurries.
- Nationwide, the average snowfall amount per day when snow falls is about two inches.

And don't forget, The 2010 Winter Olympics, officially known as the XXI Olympic Winter Games or the 21st Winter Olympics, will be held on February 12-28, 2010, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada



In 1912, an Era reporter went bobsledding with a group of young men on Marshburg Hill, or as it is known today, West Warren Road. The night was cold, the road was icy, and the brave Era reporter went along for a bobsled ride down the hill. When they reached the bottom of the hill, he had clocked the sled going one mile in 45 seconds, or as we say, 80 miles per hour. Telegraph poles, he said, were just a blur as they zoomed by – and he wouldn't go a second time. Would you?

Auld Lang Syne

"I mean, 'Should old acquaintance be forgot'? Does that mean that we should forget old acquaintances, or does it mean if we happened to forget them, we should remember them, which is not possible because we already forgot?"

- (Harry, in the movie *When Harry Met Sally*)

If you were anywhere near a New Year's Eve party last December 31, or happened to be watching 'the ball drop' on TV, chances are you either sang, or heard, one of the best-known songs in the world. But have you ever wondered about the history behind it?

"*Auld Layng Syne*" is actually a Scottish poem attributed to Scottish poet Robert Burns in 1788. Over the years, it has been determined that Burns did not actually write Auld Lang Syne – he admitted himself that he wrote it down from the words to a folk song he had heard from an old man – but it is well known in many English-speaking (and other) countries and is often sung to celebrate the start of the New Year at the stroke of midnight. Its use has also become common at funerals, graduations, and as a farewell or ending to other occasions.

It was Canadian band leader Guy Lombardo who is often credited with popularizing the use of the song at New Year's celebrations in America. Lombardo's annual year-end broadcasts on radio and television began in 1929 and the song became his trademark.

Auld Lang Syne literally means "old long since", but a more idiomatic English translation would be something like "long long ago", "days of long ago", or "olden days". The song begins by posing the question whether it is right that old times be forgotten, and is generally interpreted as a call to remember long-standing friendships.

Most common use of the song involves only the first verse and the chorus. The tune to "*Auld Lang Syne*" is a Scots folk melody, probably originally a sprightly dance in a much quicker tempo.

The song has been sung all over the world, marking different occasions. A somewhat different use of the song as a farewell occurred in October 2000, when it was played as the body of former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau left Parliament Hill in Ottawa for the last time, going to Montreal for the state funeral. On the sinking of the Japanese ship Montevideo Maru in World War II, carrying 1,053 Australians (mostly POWs), the Australians in the water sang this for their trapped mates as the ship went down. According to the book "Freedom at Midnight", the song was played to accompany the departure of the final British troops from India through Mumbai's "Gateway to India" in 1948; similarly it was used at the British hand-over of Hong Kong in 1997. On the 30th of November 2009, students and staff at the University of Glasgow sang the song in 41 different languages simultaneously.

The song is popular in many movies as well. In the 1937 film "Wee Willie Winkie", Shirley Temple sings the song to a Scottish soldier on his death bed. The song is sung in many of the films produced by Frank Capra, including It's a Wonderful Life, Mr. Deeds Goes to Town, and Mr. Smith Goes to Washington. In the 1972 film The Poseidon Adventure, the song is sung by the ship's passengers at midnight on New Year's Eve, moments before the ship is struck by a tidal wave and capsized. The song was played in When Harry Met Sally, the New Year's party in which Harry states he never fully understood what the song meant (see above). Towards the end of Ghostbusters II, the people of New York City sing, "Auld Lang Syne", which weakens the evil Vigo the Carpathian's power enough to be defeated. And the 1942 cartoon The Wabbit Who Came to Supper has Bugs Bunny suddenly claim that it is New Year's Day to stop Elmer Fudd from chasing him. Bugs starts singing *Auld Lang Syne*, only to have Elmer look at a calendar and realize that it is actually July.

So as the year 2010 begins, let us all remember *Auld Lang Syne*, and may all of us have a Happy New Year!

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 Aurehaim 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 Citizens' 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 Shea's 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.
- 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 the 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?

Bradford Landmark Society

45 East Corydon St.
Bradford PA 16701

Mike Vitucci's Royal Italian Band, taken during Automobile Day during the Old Home Week Celebration of 1909. This is an early bus. The band was not actually from Bradford, but were members of the Johnny J. Jones Exposition, which was showing in Bradford that week, and often lent its carnival workers for various parades.

