



The Inkwell

December 2020

45 E. Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701

814-362-3906

www.bradfordlandmark.org

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And Still They Come

Well, the year 2020 is almost over. It's been a strange one. But, it is fascinating to actually live through a time that literally is going down in history, just like the Spanish Flu of 1918.

Here at the Landmark, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, we cancelled everything – no school program, no Creative Women's Workshop, no Country Fair and old Time Music Festival, no picnics at the Crook farm, no Christmas Open House at the Herbig Bakery, no participation in this year's First Night Celebration (which was cancelled, anyway), no nothing.

We closed the Herbig Bakery, our headquarters, and are now only open on Fridays, from 9AM to 1PM. Our front door is locked, but we let people in, as long as they are wearing masks. So far, it's worked out very well, and the only difference is, instead of coming in Mondays or Wednesdays, everyone wants to come in on Friday or phone us on Friday mornings. Check out our recent acquisitions, included in this newsletter.

We never even opened the Crook Farm and the buildings remain locked. The grass was mowed all summer, and while it *looks* like normal, it's not. The farm sleeps, awaiting the New Year and better days ahead.

On a positive note, the community has been generous to the Bradford Landmark Society, and has helped financially to keep us going. The Landmark depends on the support of the community and our members. We receive no government aid, so closing all our fundraising activities for an entire year – ouch!

We leave you with this thought from Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-1892):

*"Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring, happy bells, across the snow.
The year is going, let him go. Ring out the false, ring in the true."*

The Landmark Society is currently open on Friday mornings, from 9AM to 1PM, although special arrangements can be made for individual appointments. Masks and social distancing are required. 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.

Each year, in the last newsletter of the year, the Bradford Landmark Society lists all the businesses in the Bradford area that have opened, closed, moved, changed owners, simply vanished, or changed in some way. We feel that this is important to understand where Bradford is heading as a vital growing community and to record history as it happened.

We are unable to catch all of them, but we try our best to keep track of them during the year. Of course, this year is unusual, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, and even though it may seem that some businesses have closed forever, we sincerely hope that they are simply dormant, waiting for happier days to start up again.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE BUILDINGS AND BUSINESSES

OPENED FOR BUSINESS

Muddy Paws Dog Grooming Salon, Chambers Street. Opened on May 1.

Papa Scoops Ice Cream, 58 West Washington Street. Opened July 1.

Headspace Salon, 118 Kennedy Street. Opened August 20.

Mama Janes Eatery, 31 Bolivar Drive. Opened October 6.

Bright Beginnings Childcare & Preschool, 17 Derrick Road, opened November 30.

MOVED or REORGANIZED THEIR BUSINESS

Graves Barber Shop, moved from 4 Boylston Street to 7 Main Street. Reopened September 1.

A. F. Sullivan Tattoo Gallery, Moved from 8 Chestnut Street to 85 Main Street. Reopened September 20.

Burkhouse's Bargain House, Moved to 42 Foster Brook Blvd. from Mill Street. Reopened November 7.

Shoe Department at 42 Foster Brook Blvd. moved to renovated location; now **Shoe Dept. Encore** at the mall.

BCPAC (Bradford Creative and Performing Arts Center) moved from 2 Marilyn Horne Way to 119 Main Street.

CLOSED THEIR BUSINESS

Family Video at 102 West Washington street closed by the end of October.

Monte's Restaurant at 491 E. Main Street was sold and closed on November 17 and is currently being renovated into the **Liberty Tavern**.

Family Dollar at 32 Davis Street, closed this past summer.

Gordmans, at 1001 East Main Street (Bradford Mall) closed on September 27, 2020.

In August 1909, F. A. Churchill, former editor of the Bradford Evening Star newspaper was asked to write an article on what he believed to be the origin of the city.

The following is his editorial as it appeared in the newspaper on that day.

August 9, 1909

BRADFORD A PECULIAR CITY

The Character Of Her People Has Made This A Place Distinct From Other Inland Towns.

A Great Philadelphian's Amazement at Its Cosmopolitanism

I have been asked to write something about Bradford for the Star-Record's Old Home Week symposium.

An experience of twelve years as editor of Bradford newspapers ought to qualify me to write with assurance of events and persons connected with the city's development during its early years.

Yet, as I cast my mind over the past, I cannot recall any special train of events which I feel sure has been the main vehicle for carrying the city forward. Nor does any group of men stand out in my memory so conspicuously as to warrant the conclusion that the members of the group were chiefly instrumental in bringing to pass results of which all loyal citizens are proud.

A rational mind is ever seeking causes. We all know what Bradford is. What has made Bradford what it is, is a question not to be answered conclusively without reflection.

The first impulse is to say "Oil!" But that answer carries an admission that Bradford is today what it was thirty-five years ago – an accident. Such is not the case. Whatever fortuitous circumstances gave the city its initial impetus, its subsequent progress has been due rather to the operation of internal forces than to extraneous agencies.

Two Sides of Bradford

There are two sides to Bradford – the Bradford of natural resources and the Bradford of spiritual forces. Without the latter, the former would not have availed.

The oil-bearing rock is admittedly the foundation of the city's material prosperity. But oil does not explain Bradford. Oil is a source of wealth. But it is neither a principle of life nor an element of character nor a property of the soul. Mere wealth does not give character to a community. Other cities are as wealthy as Bradford but they do not resemble Bradford in any other respect. A city possessing individuality as strong as Bradford's has distinctive qualities. In order to account for Bradford, it is necessary to define these qualities.

Due credit is given the influence exerted by important events. Some men have done more than others in giving direction to the course of affairs. But, in my judgement, Bradford is not Bradford because of accidental happenings or by reasons of the determining influence of a few leading citizens. Bradford is a concrete expression of the spirit of the community as a whole.

Unencumbered by a Past

This may read like commonplace. It is not altogether so. Unlike many eastern cities, Bradford is unencumbered by a past. It is not bound by moss-grown traditions. It has never been hampered by provincial ideas. To all intents and purposes, it sprang into being full-fledged, like "Pallas from the brain of Jove."

Almost overnight a hamlet became a populous city. Wealth, energy, enterprise hastened here from all sections of the country. The influx brought some "undesirable citizens" but comparatively few drones. If weaklings came they soon faded from view. It was a time for the survival of the fittest. And let it be borne in mind that the survivors were the fittest of the fit, since other communities contributed their strong and most active men to the contest.

These men came from all quarters. They brought wide diversity of ideas. They represented every school of thought, every shade of opinion, and every avenue of life. They were men of action, with executive ability, keen business instincts and strong mental grasp. Some of them were diamonds in the rough. Others had trained intellect and liberal education. Very many of them held in solution, at least, and by varying degrees, the stuff of which empire-builders are made.

Bradford is the precipitate of the elements originally so held in solution.

Such men as I have described constituted not only the dominating influence, but also the actual numerical majority of the male population. And this heterogeneous mass of dynamic humanity was fused into the homogeneous body and became the people of Bradford.

The formative period is not far back. Many of the men referred to, and the children of others, are here today. Others of like character have from time to time recruited the gradually depleting ranks.

Of course, we have a narrow-minded, small-souled, penny-grubbing element. But the influence of this class is confined within very narrow limits. Progressiveness, public spirit, and breadth of view are still characteristics of the city.

Great Editor on Bradford

The editor of a prominent Philadelphia journal visited Bradford a few years ago. He was entertained socially and he participated in semi-public functions. As he was about to leave the city, after a visit of several days, he said to the writer:

"Bradford amazes me. It is unlike any other inland city I have ever visited. It seems wholly free of provincialism. Socially and in the indefinable things which mark the essential cosmopolite, Bradford people are abreast of the best element in the large cities. I am surprised at the democracy, the mental liberality, the wide acquaintance with the world and the up-to-datedness of the people I have met socially and in a business way. The capacity shown by your business men in managing vast enterprises, some of them of worldwide extent is wonderful."

This candid opinion, by an unbiased and competent observer, epitomizes facts which in their amplified form explain Bradford.

LET'S GO TO THE SHOW!

I recently did a lot of research on past theaters and opera houses, as requested by BCPAC (Bradford Creative and Performing Arts Center) which moved from the Seneca building down to Main Street, near the Chamber of Commerce office and the movie house. I knew that there had been quite a few theaters, opera houses, movie houses, etc., but even I was surprised at the number of theaters in Bradford's history.

Many only existed for a short time, a few years or less; some were very small, and others held 600 or more people. It seems that even in the year days of Bradford, there was a keen interest in entertainment. Entertainment consisted of lecturers, singers, magicians, boxing matches, clowns, juggling, recitations, and the more common stage play, and many famous people came to Bradford as members of visiting troupes or as individual performers. Lilly Langtry, George M. Cohan, John L. Sullivan, Edwin Booth, Sarah Bernhardt, Boris Karloff, John Phillip Sousa, Roy Rogers, and others are just some of the famous people who came to Bradford to entertain us. Here is a list of the theaters:

Theater Comique (1877-1880) on Chambers Street. Burned in 1880.

The Alhambra (1878) On Mechanic Street, near the bridge. Never completed.

The Adelphi Theater (1878-1879), corner of Congress and East Corydon Streets

Academy of Music (1878-1880), on the corner of Main and Webster Streets. Burned.

The Gem Theater (1880-1912), Chambers Street. Converted to a horse stable.

The Wagner Opera House (1878-1903), on Main and Chambers Street.

The New Bradford Theater (1904-1958) later renamed **Sheas Theater** on South Avenue.

The Theatorium (1906-1910) at 29 Main Street.

The Star Continuous Show (1906-1912) 11 Main Street

The Star (1912-1919) 11 Main Street

The Strand (1919-1924) 11 Main Street.

The Peerless Theater (1907-1917), 115 Main Street.

The Grand (1910-1948), 29 Main Street.

The McKean Theater (1948-1963) 29 Main Street. Demolished 1998

Wonderland (1906-1907), 82 Main Street, later 54 Main Street.

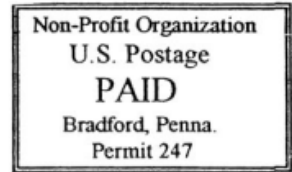
Dreamland (1906-1907), 54 Main Street.

Nickelodeon (approx. 1906-1907) Corner Main & Webster Streets.

Worsley's Opera House (1878) Derrick City



Bradford Landmark Society
PO Box 1021
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Return Service Requested



AND STILL THEY COME! RECENT ACQUISITIONS.

Even though the Bradford Landmark Society is only open on Friday mornings, people who wish to donate items to the historical society manage to find us! And it is with great appreciation that we recently accepted the following gifts to the Herbig Bakery.

1. From John Place - Two in-depth and detailed scrapbooks covering the Bradford High School football team, 1953-1956. Compiled by Andy Zetts, and given to his son, Jim Zetts in December 1956, the scrapbooks contain sport schedules, programs, newsprint photographs of the teams, just about every newspaper clipping generated about the teams during those years.
2. From Ken Johnson – three bound ledger books dating from 1937, from Johnson’s Gas Station (and no relation to Ken Johnson and formerly located where Togi’s Restaurant is today). These hand written ledgers list customers, prices, and payments and are wonderful examples of bookkeeping methods of a small business.
3. From Louise Stoltz – a millennium edition of the Bradford Era, dated January 1, 2000 and a Bradford Journal from August 19, 1971 which included a special Oil Centennial edition.
4. From Peggy Johnson – a White House Cookbook, **1905 The White House Cook Book** by Mrs. Gillette & Hugo Ziemann Saalfeld, featuring recipes from First Ladies. Delicious!
5. From Linda Lamborn – a good collection of bedside nursing equipment (think bed pan, invalid cup), probably from the 1930s. All white enamel, all in good shape.
6. From Rob Denning, his grandmother’s framed copy of the BHS class trip to Mount Vernon in 1939.