

June 6, 1932

Evaline J. Stewart marries John W. Nelson, Sports Editor of the Era.

The Ted Weems orchestra plays at a Kiwanis dance in Olean.

June 7, 1932

A \$1,118,500,000 tax increase is signed by Hoover.

June 30, 1932

The Democratic convention adopts a plank for repeal of prohibition.

Geo Kish

Membership

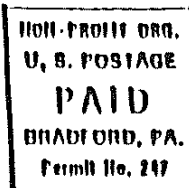
Once again it is time for the Bradford Landmark Society dues to be paid. If the address label on this issue of the Landmark Newsletter has a red line on it your dues have not been paid according to our records. Please mail your payment to Bradford Landmark Society, 45 East Corydon St., Bradford, PA 16701, or you may pay at the dinner. If you would like a membership card please enclose a stamped envelope.

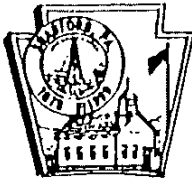
Regular.....\$5 per year
Contributing.....\$10 per year
Life.....\$100

BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY

45 E. Corydon St.

Bradford, Pa. 16701





The Landmark Society

News

Bradford, PA 16701

April 1993

NOTICE OF MEETING

Thursday April 29, 1993

Downbeat Restaurant - 27 Main St., Bradford, PA

Reception: 6:00 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM

SPEAKER

Henry F. Pruch with S. W. Gregg, Jr.

Topic: The Kendall-Witco Company

Choice of: Baked Haddock

or

Roast Beef

\$9.50 Including gratuity and tax per person
cash bar

Reservations may be made at the "Bakery", 45 East Corydon St., phone 362-3906

The "Bakery" is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 1:30 to 4:30 PM

Please try to make reservations by Monday, April 26, 1993

(Last minute reservations will be accepted Wednesday, April 28, 1993)

There will be a business meeting including election of officers

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Membership

Once again it is time for the Bradford Landmark Society dues to be paid. Please mail payment to the Bradford Landmark Society, 45 E. Corydon St., Bradford, PA 16701 or you may pay at the Annual Dinner Meeting. If you need a membership card please enclose a stamped envelope.

Regular.....\$5 per year
Contributing.....\$10 per year
Life.....\$100

1993 SEMINAR

The February 1993 Seminar Series given jointly by the Bradford Landmark Society and the Social Science Division of the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford was very well received. "Trails through the Past" attendance reached a high of 172 the first night, 145 the second and with bad weather and a competing dinner the third night admission was just under 100. The last night 144 attended making a total of 218 different people signing the register. We thank them all.

The first night featured a book revue by Stephen Hodges "Pioneer Life, Thirty Years a Hunter" by Philip Tome. A Talk by Midge Stock on the "Seneca Nation in the 1800's" was highlighted by her singing an opening and closing native song.

Great interest was shown on Lumbering in McKean County, as presented by Geroge Kish and Bradford's Railroads by Richard Robertson, both were very well received.

Isabelle Champlin thru her presentation showed the various methods of trapping and netting which led to the demise of the passenger pigeons that once were so plentiful here. It brought us face to face with species extinction in this area for a gourmet delight in New York City.

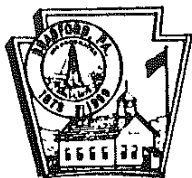
Our natural gas at the turn of the century brought not only heat to our homes but cheap fuel for many industries including glass plants throughout the county. The presentation, ably presented, thru slides and talk by Louise Catlin of Port Allegany, showed many, many glass plants. Anne Digel Potter and her team did a professional research on the Cut Glass made in Smethport including samples and slides highlighting various patterns.

After the last session a well known local resident said he would never again view Bradford's housing with the same point of view. Dr. Vincent Kohler's slide lecture on Bradford architecture and emphasis on Lustron and Sears homes; also on local bungalows, a type of architecture originating in India. Bradford's Art Deco buildings were built at the same time as those so well known in New York City. The Seneca and the Hooker-Fulton buildings are prime illustrations of this type of architecture. The original entrance to the Odd Fellows Building now Seneca has been changed.

Bob Bromeley wound up the series with a serious discussion of "Why Preservation?"

Thanks are due to each of our lecturers for very interesting presentations and to Dianne Austin and her staff for setting up the dining room so efficiently for our last three lectures.

On going discussions are being held with the Natural Science Division of UPB for a joint series next year. We hope to see you then.



The Landmark Society

News

Bradford, PA 16701

June 1993

N.S.#27

"THANKS FOR THE DANCE"

The Bradford Landmark Society annual dinner meeting was held Thursday evening, April 29, 1993 at the Downbeat Restaurant with a full house of at least 70. At about the same time, thousands of schools and colleges were having their graduation parties and dances, theirs with music. More to the point, Bradford was having several other meetings as well as school parties on the same night so we must have had more than music to have attracted our fair share of attendees. And we did.

It was really no surprise that everyone wanted to hear Henry Pruch and Sam Gregg. As Sam pointed out, Bradford was the first oil field in the world to produce a million barrels, never mind that the world didn't know what to do with that much oil - kerosene being the only useful end product at that time. The Kendall Refinery played an important part in establishing Bradford as not only the first big producer but as "The Oil Metropolis Of The World", not withstanding the effulgence of robber baron John D. Rockefeller.

As Henry and Sam detailed the history of the Kendall Refinery it was clear that a classic case study of the emergence of a successful business was unfolding. In 1881 three men started a little "refinery" consisting of not much more than evaporation vats to boil off the volatiles and straining the remainder to get kerosene, the only salable product. In about three years the business failed and sold out to Thede Barnsdall. By 1886 the Barnsdall business also failed and sold out to another group. During the next ten years the automobile was born and created a market for gasoline so that by 1906 the opportunity of an expanding market coincided with the tenure of a dynamic manager, Otto Koch. Koch was quick to install improved technology as it became available and to come up with many innovative marketing strategies assuring the continued success of the company. We are grateful to Henry and Sam for telling us how Kendall-Witco developed and played a major part in helping to make Bradford the center of the world's first major oil field, particularly because it was first hand. They were there.

Maybe one of these days some one will write an essay taking to task the Pulitzer prize winning book, "The Prize" by Daniel Yergin, not the one with the same title, "The Prize" by Irving Wallace. The one replete with omissions and subsidized corporation poetry, the other a roman a clef study of the Nobel Prize disguising facts as fiction.

George Kish

THE BAKERY LIVES FOR BRADFORD

Without let up, every week is a busy one at the Bakery, not just once in a while, but all year round. The phone rings. Jane Stack answers to be reminded that that evening twelve Boy Scouts are coming to learn about old time Bradford. Did we say that evening? We thought the hours were from 1:30 to 4:30. We learn that even Saturday engagements are not unusual.

We are impressed. Jane Stack and Margaret Clark are volunteers dedicated to the work. How could we manage without them? Of course there are at least 200 Society members who donate many hours of their time and we want to acknowledge all of their efforts and we will, even at the hazard of missing some, but for now, more about the Bakery.

Helping Jane and Margaret have been Ann DeLucia, Eleanore Montouri and Pat Schlessner; Larry Richmond also helps frequently. A most important function that the Bakery provides for Bradford is to provide a repository for vintage documents; after all, the accumulation of information about Bradford is the resource enabling Jane to do the research needed to answer questions and provide facsimile copies which she does so freely. The steady input from Bradfordians is what makes this all possible.

Recent donors giving us documents, pictures, film and slides include Anna Connelly, Elaine Darling, Howard Fesenmeyer, William Kaschube - William Seagren cleaned 16 mm film and Dick Robertson helped organized slides - Virginia and Madeline Miles, Harvey Phillips, Henry Pruch, Vic Samuelson's estate and Inie and Jim Schonblom; many of whom have given before. We thank you all. A major gift of engineering size drawing files via William Kaschube will be delivered soon.

A final note: Church historians, service clubs, seminars, speakers, welfare organizations, letter and phone researchers, student projects and other researchers, if you are publishing information, please include acknowledgement of your sources. Jane Stack will be happy to cooperate and will also be glad to check your copy for reference errors.

THE CROOK FARM FLOURISHES

Once again the School Program is underway. Bus loads of children come for one day to experience a sample of the nineteenth century. A half day is spent in the one room school, complete in every way the way it was a hundred years ago. The rest of the day is spent visiting demonstrations of life on the farm. The children discover that farm life was varied indeed, witnessing activity in the farm house, the summer kitchen, candle making, the barn, weaving in the loft and the carpenter shop, not to mention the rural environment and some of the "conveniences" that are not so convenient. The program started in May and will continue till June 18, 1993. As of May 26 there have been twelve active days with 495 children participating. They have had fun making 550 candles and shaving pegs in the carpenter shop and may have been astonished at seeing an old fashioned farm house.

This activity requires a large cast of actors dressed in period costume. But they are more than "actors", teachers are former professional teachers, in one case the "teacher" herself experienced a one room school when she was a child. The weaver really knows how to weave on a vintage loom; all have become adept at portraying an activity on the farm. Many volunteers are involved and are needed because not every day is convenient for any one person. The list below may appear to be long but more volunteers are always needed, so if you would like to participate do not hesitate to call Trudie Ostrander at 368-5981. You may surprise yourself at the fun of demonstrating something to wide eyed children who may never have seen that before.

The Crook Farm flourishes because you make it flourish:

Teachers reenacting the one room school:

Connie Eymmer, Mary Keller, Jerry Zetler

Reenactors of activity on the farm:

Barb Abbott, Beulah Blair, Bob Blair, Carol Calderwood, Ruth Campbell, Joyce Cline, June Close, Janet Detweiler, Sue English, Miriam Freeman, Pam Fry, Ruth Gower, Dorothy Higley, Vera Heron, Margrieta Hewey - Chair Crook Farm, Kathy Herzog, Marmy Hodges, Bea Holleran, Marlene Kijowski, Doris Knight, Bill Kresge, Narcissa McGill, Jean Nelson, Trudie Ostrander - House Hostess, Lynn Ostrander, Nora Querski, Debbie Smeltzer, Peg Stom, Mary Lou Woods, Mebane Taylor, Harry Taylor, Don Watkins and Jinx Zetts.

All summer and into Fall the Craft Shop is also open every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 till ? Attending the Craft Shop you will find Marian Bromeley, Margrieta Hewey, Jerry Hart, Rosann Klussmann and Bonnie Pagano.

Repairs and maintenance: The winter of '93 had severe effects on the barn. Unusual snow loading was too much for the roof trusses requiring cable ties to reenforce the tension members and bring the trusses back to normal. Then it was discovered that the main doorway lintel had sagged 6" due to deterioration of the bottoms of the two support posts. This was an emergency. Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Harry Taylor with help from Don Watkins took prompt action to evaluate the extent of the restoration necessary. Exploratory excavation revealed that the underground wooden beam foundation was badly decayed and that proper repair should substitute concrete for wood. This required more than volunteer work and the services of a contractor were necessary. The work was done under Harry's supervision and completed May 26, 1993.

The water well back of the school house has been drilled and has been continuously pumped for three weeks in order to purge it. The underground treatment cubicle and pipeline to the farm house kitchen will be complete and in operation in time for the Country Fair.

THEODORE NEWTON (THEDE) BARNSDALL, I 1851 - 1917 ⁽¹⁾

In the pantheon of memorable Bradford people Thede Barnsdall I, not his nephew of the same name, is probably the closest Bradford can come to a counterpart of John D. Rockefeller. But what a contrast. Anything you could say about John D. would be the opposite for Thede, except for wealth. No one was ever known to have a bad word for Thede. Free and easy with his largesse he was known the country wide for his trust in people, many who took advantage of this to his loss. A handshake from Theodore Barnsdall was good for millions of dollars; but judgement notes in exchange for oil and gas leases were his tools of the trade.

A boyhood friend of John A. Archbold, later head of Standard Oil, Thede at one time was able to borrow \$7,000,000 from Archbold on the basis of their friendship, this with the full knowledge by both that Barnsdall was not an ally but a competitor of Rockefeller. It is unlikely that John D. was aware of this. At the time of his death Thede was a partner or owner of at least two dozen oil and gas companies across the continent including thousands of miles of gas pipelines, coal, copper, gold and silver mines and other enterprises.

This story should be about the legend of a dynasty but unlike that of Rockefeller whose descendents have perpetuated the family name and fortune, the Barnsdall dynasty has become invisible, but it was a bountiful family tree with many fruitful branches. It all started with William Barnsdall, Sr., (1810 - 1901) and his wife Fidelia Goodrich Barnsdall, (1826 - 1907) he an immigrant shoemaker from Ireland, she a school teacher, residing in Titusville, PA.

After Drake's discovery well in 1859, William Barnsdall Sr. was quick to recognize an opportunity, dropped his shoemaking business and drilled the second well just below Drake's on Oil Creek, on his brother-in-law's farm, and the rush was on. William quickly became wealthy, drilling one well after another, even building a little "teakettle" refinery with William H. Abbott at Rouseville, the first refinery in the oil regions. From there it was Pithole, Pleasantville, Tidioute and Warren northward toward Bradford.

Flowing production in Venango County played out fast but by the time exploration reached Bradford, William Barnsdall Sr. was ready; he had a sizeable bank account. He ventured to drill a hole on West Corydon Street. It was purportedly the first attempt to drill a well in Bradford; it just wasn't deep enough. When the Moses well was drilled on the back road to Limestone, demonstrating that you had to go down at least a thousand feet, Barnsdall had the money to try again and to obtain leases on Quintuple hill. Now he really made money and was probably the first millionaire in Bradford.

It is only at this point in time, about 1871, that our celebrant Theodore Barnsdall, William Sr.'s son, age 20, comes on stage. William Sr. had three sons, Theodore, Noel and William Jr. and he brought all three to Bradford. Thede may have emerged as the favorite son, in any event he seems to have taken over for his father, now 61. Thede was a 6 ft. 4 in. giant, about 270 lbs. and as strong as an ox. Back in the Oil Creek days he had already helped his father drill a 250 barrel-per-day flowing well and no doubt sheer physical strength played an important part.

Theodore Barnsdall was a complex man at the start. Beginning at age 16 he had been there to see his father become affluent. It seems that it should have been natural for him to ride the wave, carrying on for his father from the beginning, but that was not the case. At age 19 he is in Poughkeepsie, NY. What is he doing there? In a letter dated Jan. 6, 1870 he writes his father that he is willing to come back to Titusville but he is out of money and there seems to be other problems:

".....Father I don't want you to feel bad because I have acted so (sic) for I have commenced to do better this year and have shut down on playing billiards and swearing. I have not played a game of billiards this year yet but I have swore some but not as much as I did before and I think after while will stop off entirely....

".....if I do come home I want you to give me some kind of business to go at....I will do anything you want me to do for I am bound to be steady the rest of my days....I will try and do all I can to please in the future. I am sorry that this has happened last summer for I am ashamed of that but I did not want to let you know at the time."

Whatever he did that he was ashamed of and in his father's bad graces, within a year he is in Bradford with his father and brothers at the head of the Barnsdall clan as the manager and heir designate, well started on a huge fortune far beyond anything his father envisioned. Physical strength was not unusual in a boom town full of hard living men, for example, Hugh Grant Sr., to name another 6 ft. 4 in. giant, also engaged in finding his fortune. But Thede's success was due to more than physical endurance. We can see him bounding up Quintuple hill, carrying weights other men would leave for a horse, but as soon as production is secure he is off to other fields. There is no doubt that the fortune he made in Bradford enabled him to carry on a nation wide search to find and lease other mineral properties, spurred on not for money, but by the exhilaration and chance taking of the hunt....and his raging genes!

On June 22, 1881 he married Louise A. (Angie) Stitt (1855 - 1907). Their first home was at 22 Walker Avenue where their two daughters, Frances and Aline were born. Sad to relate, the marriage lasted only five years. It is hard to understand how a man famous for kindness to everyone, who never said a harsh word to anyone, known country wide for helping oil men down on their luck, generous to a fault, could find reason to actually initiate proceedings to divorce his wife. The divorce was twice denied in McKean County court. Angie's reputation was spotless and widely supported as a caring, diligent wife and mother.

In 1886 Thede left Bradford to establish his headquarters and home in Pittsburgh, in 1903 acquiring the fabulous McKelvey mansion at 1025 Negley Ave. including fourteen acres in the prestigious section of the city. At this stage of his life he spent most of his time traveling, investigating one strike after another, legend has it, grabbing a sandwich on his way to catch yet another train somewhere. Having a home anywhere hardly mattered. In the meantime his daughters got the best of everything including education and frequent travels abroad.

In 1883 Thede purchased a failed refining company on Kendall Ave. and installed his brother Noel to manage it, selling it in turn to another group that became the Kendall Refining Company four years later. Noel died while he was managing the refinery. The other brother, William Jr. managed the family oil properties in Bradford while Thede was busy establishing the nation wide saga of oil and gas field enterprises connected with the Barnsdall name. William Jr's son was named after Thede and it is that "Thede" Barnsdall that is associated with the Barnsdall Printing Co. in Bradford. It should be mentioned that William Jr's widow from a second marriage, Grace Carrol Barnsdall, remarried and became known in Bradford as Mrs. Ramsbottom.

Theodore Roosevelt, by way of influencing the courts, is credited with affecting the fortunes of Rockefeller and Barnsdall. The 1909 court verdict separating Standard Oil into 33 companies had no diminishing effect on the huge empire, in fact it made it more secure. Not so in the case of the 1916 court verdict against Barnsdall and his associates which took away all but 4800 acres of the 680,000 acres that they had proved and developed in the Osage Indian Territory. The Barnsdall operation lost at least \$16,000,000 and this event may have contributed to Thede's death in 1917.

Upon Thede's death the Barnsdall enterprises were left in the very capable hands of his son-in-law, Robert Law, his daughter Frances' husband. The dynasty now became invisible perpetuated to a considerable extent by the Law family. Some of the many oil and gas companies founded by Thede were combined into the Cities Service Company, other combinations were made as well as new companies started including Falcon Seaboard Drilling. A number of other mineral corporations started by Thede still exist.

Now we come to Thede's other daughter, Aline. She deserves to be in Bradford's pantheon if for no other reason than as an extension of her father's forceful character, but not exactly following in her father's footsteps. Unlike William Sr. and Theodore who recognized an opportunity in the discovery of oil she settled in in Hollywood in 1916 within blocks of the infant motion picture industry without recognizing an opportunity. She had other ideas and a willful determination of her own.

Spending several summers in Europe she made contact with notable playwrights, directors and artists and became enamored with live theater. Ready to spend millions she engaged Frank Lloyd Wright to draft grandiose plans for a theatrical arts center in Los Angeles featuring an open air Greek theater. She had many plays and theatrical projects in the works but never got off the ground as a producer. Only her mansion complex, "Hollyhock House", was ever constructed.

As strong willed as Wright she soon came at odds with him and carried on a feud by correspondence for twenty years. Excerpts from one of her letters expresses herself as a true feminist:

".....You will never know me if you don't come to realize that I have never known fear in that (Wright had accused her of having fear due to 'woman weakness') or in any other moral sense and that I am at home in uncharted seas. My willfulness I was born with....there is a new kind of woman in the world today...."

Ahead of her time, even for Hollywood, she allegedly had a child by one of her directors, refused marriage and raised her daughter Betty by herself. She also espoused some radical socialist writers and causes but there is no doubt that she was never intimidated by any conventional attitudes. Maybe Thede would have recognized the raging genes in his daughter with wry appreciation and some sense of a form of perpetuation. Her "Hollyhock House" is today a social center in Los Angeles.

- (1) All sources were obtained from the Bradford Landmark Society archives. Acknowledgement is also due to Betty Robinson, former Society Secretary and genealogist, now residing in Seattle, WA, who contributed to the file.

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MEMBERSHIP

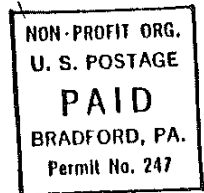
The membership year begins on the day of the annual dinner; this year it was on April 29, 1993. Don Watkins, Chairman of the Membership Committee, conducted a very successful canvass by mail for new members, a reminder that dues payments were in order for the coming year and a reminder to those in arrears. The returns were very gratifying with a bring-up on dues and we have many new members. Our Headquarters office is still busy distributing membership cards and acknowledgements. Congratulations, Dr. Don.

Just as a further reminder, our Headquarters are at 45 East Corydon St., Bradford, PA 16701, the "Bakery" is open 1:30 to 4:30 Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Please make checks payable to the Bradford Landmark Society in case we overlooked you or you overlooked us.

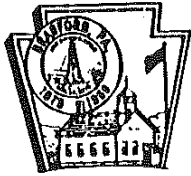
Regular.....	\$5	per year
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DON'T FORGET THE COUNTRY FAIR
SATURDAY, AUGUST 29 AND SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY
45 E. Corydon St.
Bradford, Pa. 16701



M/M Elmer De Lucia
160 Summer St.
Bradford PA 16701



The Landmark Society

News

Bradford, PA 16701

November 1993

N.S. #28

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IN MEMORIAM

Janice Colt Taylor, a founding member of the Bradford Landmark Society, died Friday, October 30, 1993. We extend our sympathy to Berne, her husband, and other members of her family.

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CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT THE CROOK FARM - Sunday, November 21, 1993 - 2:00 to 4:00

Mark your calendar, the Christmas Open House comes early this year, hopefully, to avoid possible bad weather that could come later and that last year blanked us out. As usual, Santa Claus will preside at the School House with hot chocolate and cookies and a hay ride will be available. Hot punch and coffee will be served at the Farm House. There will be picture taking and many craft items will be available; the Craft Group have been busy ever since the Country Fair getting ready for this. Don't forget to come.

CROOK FARM REPRISE

The summer was very busy starting with the Country School Program. During May and June area schools numbering 28 participated sending 1097 children and 89 adults. Our volunteer teachers were Gerry Zetler, Connie Eymer and Mary Keller; it was an honor to also have the founder of the school program, Beulah Blair, participate. Supplementing the school sessions 51 volunteers demonstrated activities typical of nineteenth century life on the farm.

The children participated in making 1348 candles and 11 woven kitchen rugs. They also seemed to be eager to go to the craft shop to purchase items for their families. The Craft Group was pressed to try to keep ahead of demand in making things for sale.

After the School and before and after the Country Fair on August 28, 29, many other events took place involving a large number of people. For example, on July 20 the annual Kiwanis picnic took place hosted by Bob Blair. On August 12 the American Association of University Women held their annual picnic and were taken on a tour of the trails by Trudie Ostrander. On August 19 a group of Vacation Bible School children including Debbie Lowery and aids toured the trails guided again by Trudie. Then came the Genealogical Society for their annual picnic.

On August 23 Harry Taylor brought a life size model of a cow to the barn, a donation from Barry Foster of Duke Center. In preparation for the Patron Party on August 27 hosted by Mr. and Mrs. James Ericson, Harry Taylor, Marian Bromeley, and Margrieta Hewey arranged the display of quilts made and donated by Florence Webster, an oil painting donated by Betty Finlan Renninger (now residing in Jacksonville, FL), and teddy bears donated by Anne Bouquin. Other donations from Leonard Bixby included a one-beam sled and a wooden slip scraper in memory of Arnold Bixby. A small cast iron laundry stove (27" high x 19" square) was donated by John Olmstead. Jack Wells aided by Bill Kresge made and set up direction signs to the Country Fair.

The Country Fair held August 28, 29 was attended by more than 4300 visitors and even more successful than last year based on net proceeds. In addition to the featured exhibitors, varieties of food offered and extensive entertainment, the Farm House was an attraction. Many people were able to enjoy walking through the house thanks to the guidance provided by volunteers stationed in the rooms. Many had never been inside before. Becky Ryan got much attention baking bread and pies in the kitchen stove and cooking chicken stew, creating the aroma and flavor of a real working country kitchen. Doris Knight was observed with interest weaving the place mats that are sold in the gift shop.

Numerous walkers took the trails aided with a booklet that was available describing the flowers and trees. Along the way the old fashioned garden with many herbs and flowers designed by Mr. and Mrs. Urban produced inquiries such as which ones were suitable for drying.

After the Fair more groups visited. A contingent from Warren State Hospital took the tour. Twenty-eight senior citizens from North Tonawanda came. A luncheon of Rotary Anns was hosted on October 11.

All of these activities need volunteers. We would love to have you volunteer. We can find a job you would like to do. Call Trudie Ostrander, 368-5981, Margrieta Hewey, 362-3230 or Nora Quereschi, 368-5959.

Margrieta Hewey

THE BAKERY

The Bakery was busy as usual hosting more than three visitors every day that the Bakery is open; Jane Stack and Margaret Clark also participated in the Country Fair, Margaret chairing the Bake Sale. For the past few weeks they also had the burden of trying to restore order after everything had to be moved to accomodate complete painting of the interior; Larry Richmond helped in this. The flow of gifts of historical documents continues, one donation alone from an old Bradford company consists of about 75 pounds of a hundred years of correspondence putting on record some real history of Bradford, a treasured reference for a serious historian.

Jane Stack

HAIL BUT NOT FAREWELL

We are not too happy about the alleged retirement of Woody Woodruff from master-minding the annual Country Fair (he says he means it) but having found an heir apparent in the person of the very competent Don Fredeen we should rejoice in his legacy because it means that success will continue. But we can't help but mull over the steady, expanding success every year of the Country Fair with no small part of the credit due to Woody and not to forget Tom Urban, also retiring, who was Woody's right hand man and also a major contributor to the success of the Fair. Best wishes to both of you and we will not forget.

"A GATHERING OF EAGLES"

This was the title of a picture taken on May 18, 1966 (Joe Field's birthday). The photograph shows Don Tanner, Ralph Kessler, Frank Stack, Don McGrath, Ray Johnson, Sam Heffner, Bob Hungiville, Joe Field and Jesse Maitland. Joe Field, of course, was the manager of the Harri Emery Airport since 1931. They were flyers all and the picture could have been titled, "The Last of the Bradford Eagles".

Back in June 1936 the "Emery Flyers" included many others - as many as 25 - who rented a Piper Cub at \$2.50 per hour including fuel. But even these were preceded by such names as Parker Cramer, Harriet Fertig, Howard Greene and Jimmy Stinson, Harri Emery, of course - not to forget C. Gilbert Taylor and W. T. Piper.

But wait, the earliest flyer in Bradford was Parker Cramer who used the farm next to the Crook Farm for his landing field. An old post card once possessed by Frank Stack (now lost) shows a wood slat and canvas biplane with open seat behind the engine surrounded by gawkers with the original Crook farm house and barn in the background; this was about 1914. Earlier than that, in 1911, Parker built a glider that he sailed in off a little hill at Beechwood. (Beechwood is located about a mile east of Foster Brook cross roads and was the home of Mrs. Fred Miller, the daughter of S. R. Dresser; Parker Cramer's mother was a sister of S. R. Dresser.)

It wasn't until after World War I that Bradford had a dedicated airport. It is credited to William Harrison "Harri" Emery who lived with his parents at the head of Dorothy Lane on West Corydon street over looking their farm, now occupied by the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford. Harri learned to fly in the U. S. Air Force near the end of World War I. The war ended before he could participate, contemporarily with Amos Prentice "Hal" Chase (Dana Beers) who learned to fly the same way and also didn't make it to WWI. Hal arrived in Bradford at about the time that Harri became very active but Hal was no longer interested in flying. (Too late now to find out, we don't know if Hal and Harri even knew each other.)

After WWI Harri Emery was able to purchase a "Curtiss Jenny" because he knew that he could use an open field of the family farm for a landing strip. The open grassy field had been used before, on at least one occasion, by a barn storming adventurer. Now Harri started to fly around Bradford for fun. Legend has it that sometimes when he spotted a likely open field he would land on the farmer's grass, surprising the owner, whereupon he would offer to take him for a ride. With a landing speed of 30 MPH it did not seem very hazardous.

Harri soon found that he had a business, charging \$2 then \$5 for a ride over Bradford. He built himself a little hangar and business boomed after the public became charmed by the Lindberg flight in 1927. Sam Gregg remembers that he and Jim Schonblom helped Harri push the little Jenny airplane, backwards, into the hangar, on occasion. In early 1928 the little Harri Emery airport became commercial with other flyers coming in, renting space in a larger hangar that had to be built or just staying overnight. For those who could afford it, round trip flights to New York could be arranged for \$300.

Blanche Noyes, a show girl from New York, was one of the first to come to Bradford on a purchased flight. The Kendall Refining Company became interested and built a hangar on the opposite side (north side) of Dorothy Lane. (It became a laundry room for UPB.) Kendall became a principal user of the airport transporting business clients to and from Bradford. Harri relished doing stunt flying and his airport became a tourist attraction. The airport was very busy every day that weather permitted.

By 1929 the Harri Emery airport housed six single engine planes. They were Travel-Air planes, now called Beechcraft. Harri was a friend of Walter Beech and the fourth plane built by Beech was flown to Bradford by Harri. On July 6, 1931 Jimmy H. Doolittle signed in at the airport. In 1932 speed pilot Lowell R. Bayles and Russell Boardman, the non-stop flyer from New York to Turkey, were among those who flew into Bradford.

On September 29, 1929, at age 33, Harri Emery died in a crash of his plane in the Kane area. In a dense fog he lost his way, spiraled down to try for visibility but the fog had reached right to the ground. His fiancee, Ella Davis, brother Leon and an unidentified student pilot died with him.

WILLIAM THOMAS PIPER, SR. 1881 - 1970

The tragedy of Harri Emery's death in 1929 is that it occurred at the height of his career, just when big things were starting to happen at his airport. He was instrumental in bringing the Taylor Brothers Aircraft Company to Bradford from Rochester, NY. He provided an airport site for their operations - there were not many airports in those days - one that was only 1½ miles from town and even had a railroad spur (the Erie) to it. Harri promoted a \$50,000 subsidy from Bradford City Council and most important, supplied his widely known persona and enthusiasm as a flyer. C. G. Taylor came to Bradford, built a plant on the edge of Harri's runway and started manufacturing his 37 horsepower E-2 Cub just at the beginning of the great depression. He tried to sell them for \$4000 without much success. The concrete floor of his factory is still there in the parking lot of the Roman Villa Restaurant.

At this point in time W. T. Piper, Sr. at age 49 recognizes an opportunity and buys into Taylor's company as a director and becomes managing director. Although Piper was born at Knapp Creek and his family was engaged in oil production, he hadn't returned to Bradford until 1914 after serving in the Spanish American War, graduating from Harvard and spending nine years as a construction engineer distant from Bradford. The Bradford oil field was enjoying a rebirth and rising to its second peak in spite of the depression; Piper came home at the right time, at a time of oil industry prosperity.

Piper's first act was to hire a design engineer, Walter Jamouneaux, to redesign the boxy E-2, rounding the wing tips, reshaping the stabilizers and increasing the horsepower, creating the J-3 which could sell for \$1000, one-fourth the price of the E-2 ! Piper and Taylor came to the parting of the ways and Piper bought out Taylor in 1936, to eventually become known as the Henry Ford of the aviation industry.

But to follow the world wide fame of the Piper Cub we have to digress from Bradford because in 1937 the factory burned down and Piper's factory relocated into an abandoned silk mill in Lockhaven, PA. Again too bad that Harri Emery wasn't around, he might have engineered a matching subsidy to keep Piper in Bradford.

The Piper Aircraft Corporation became the nation's premier lightplane builder. Advantages and performance of the little yellow Piper Cub became legendary. Easy to fly, inexpensive to operate and strong they were sold as fast as they could be produced. Its bungee cord sprung landing gear could absorb rough landings, it could take stresses six times the weight of the plane before coming apart. You didn't need exotic instruments for a plane that got its wheels off the ground at 40 miles per hour, cruised at 75 mph, topping out at 87 with a range of 220 miles. Many improved models appeared over the years and more than 80,000 Piper planes have flown since that Cub took off from Harri Emery Airport. During WWII 75 percent of all U. S. pilots learned to fly in a J-3 and more than 7000 flew all over the world.

In May 1991 a forty cent stamp was issued by the U. S. Postal Service featuring a likeness of W. T. Sr. and a picture of the little yellow cub. The caption states, "William T. Piper Aviation Pioneer, US Airmail 40", placing him in the company of such aviation figures as the Wright Brothers, Igor Sikorsky, Charles Lindberg and Glenn Curtiss. Not bad for a Bradford native who learned to fly at age 50.

THE STAR-CROSSED

At a time when everybody traveled by train, commercial travel by airplane was in its infancy, any company transporting its salesmen and clients by private airplane was considered adventuresome, spectacular and certainly hazardous. The Kendall Refining Company did just that, pioneering in a sales policy and receiving the envy and admiration of its competitors. It was characteristics of the forward looking, boldly innovative Number Two executive at Kendall. He was Howard H. Greene, heir apparent to Otto Koch, chief executive officer from 1906 to 1948.

Howard Greene recognized the significance of the widely popular and exciting acclaim received by the flying "daredevils" gravitating to Bradford's new airport. It was a wave of the future and he persuaded Otto Koch to let him buy a company airplane and build a company hangar. He had learned to fly himself and often piloted the plane on a flight to bring prospective customers to Bradford, quickly responding to customer inquiries or to deliver technicians and salesmen to distant points.

He attended a meeting of the Independent Refiners Association at a convention in Atlantic City, that, like with Harri Emery, ended in tragedy. On his return to Bradford, flying alone, he got lost in a dense fog. Spiraling down in an attempt to reach visibility he crashed into a cranberry bog. The date was September 18, 1938. That was enough for Otto Koch. Mr. Koch sold the company hangar and cancelled flying for company personnel. Howard Greene had dared ahead of his time.

Parker Dresser Cramer, the second Bradford man to be inducted into the Aviation Hall of Fame at the Glenn Hammond Curtiss Museum, after W. T. Piper, Sr., also had a short and exciting life. We've already mentioned that at the age of 15 he was the first flyer in Bradford. Ten years later in 1921 he flew his plane under the bridge that crosses the Allegheny river at Kittanning. In 1928, according to Harvey Phillips, Cramer set out to demonstrate that flying the great circle route instead of the way Charles Lindberg took was the better way. He found a sponsor and proceeded.

Accompanied by a co-pilot, Bert Hassell, they were forced down in Greenland on the glacial ice. They were 400 miles from the planned meeting point with an advance party that was to supply them with fuel and provisions. They spent the next 15 days walking, sometimes walking around or swimming across glacial streams, to link up with the advance party and return to the United States. But Cramer wouldn't give up and tried again three years later. This time he disappeared; his last radio message was, "I see the coast of Norway".

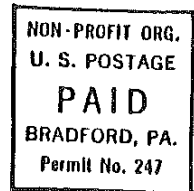
Harvey Phillips writes the sequel to that story. In 1968 he noticed a small item in the New York Times telling that a Danish helicopter pilot had spotted an unidentified airplane wreckage on the Greenland ice cap. Feeling certain that it was the Cramer plane of 37 years before, Harvey telephoned William Cramer, Parker's brother, in Cleveland. Acting on the tip, William Cramer relocated the wreckage and ascertained that it was the Parker Cramer plane.

Geo Kish

Acknowledgement for verbal information is made to D. Harvey Phillips, Sam Gregg and Diane Weisenfluh. All other references were taken from the Bradford Landmark Society archives: Emery Flyers, Inc., Statement of Flying During Month of June, 1936; Robert Rogge, Bradford Era, Dec. 3, 1967; W.T. Piper, Henry Ford of Aviation, Bradford Era, Jan. 17, 1970; Helene Fragman and Alpha Husted, Bradford Era, June 15, 1979; Dan Green, Aviation News, March 26, 1984; Stamp Honors Piper, Bradford Era, June 13, 1991; letter from W. T. Piper, Jr. to Bradford Landmark Society, Sept. 21, 1992.

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BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY
45 E. Corydon St.
Bradford, Pa. 16701



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