



THE BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY

The Inkwell

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www.bradfordlandmarksociety.org

May 2002 Edition

The Bradford Landmark Society

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What's Baking at the Bakery

You know, sometimes an older building like the Herbig Bakery (built 1878) makes funny noises at night - and I admit, even I get spooked working down there at night sometimes. A few weeks ago, I stopped in to look something up in our files. It was a quiet day, no one around, so I thought I'd just pop in, get the information, and go to the library. Well, there I am, quietly flipping through the files, minding my own business, when all of a sudden I hear a small scratching sound behind me. Sort of like something walking very lightly. I immediately think (MOUSE!), which would be almost unbelievable, because in seven years I've worked at the Landmark there has never been a mouse there - and of course, I am afraid of mice. I slowly looked around - nothing. My imagination, I told myself, "must have been one of the trucks in the alley delivering supplies to Beefeaters restaurant next door". I went back to the files. There! I heard it again. And again. By this time I was really spooked, so I slowly sneaked out into the research room. Nothing! But I knew I had heard something. I crept into the middle room as I heard the noise again, and then slowly turned around and looked at the bookcase where the noise was coming from. And there, cocking his little head from side to side was a small brown sparrow, walking up and down on the papers on the shelf. He seemed puzzled as to why I was there at all - and I sure was puzzled as to where he came from! Every so often, we come into work and find a bird in the bakery. Now, we don't have open windows, and we don't leave the doors open, so how do they get in? A few years ago, a family history researcher came early to go over our records. He'd been waiting outside for about ten minutes before we unlocked the door, and got right to work. Larry and I bustled about getting books and papers for him to use. After about a half an hour, he leaned back in his chair to take a break, and thanked us, adding "I think it's just great that you guys have a pet bird in here." Larry and I looked at each other, dumbstruck. "We don't have a pet bird" we protested! "Oh, then why is there a little bird in your front display window, sitting on the shoulder of that uniform?" he asked. We raced out to look, and sure enough, there was a little sparrow, on display in the front window. Where he came from we'll never know, but unlike all the others that we've had "visit" us over the years, we managed to release him unharmed, outside.

NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY

The Landmark recently received some great donations from some great people. It's always like Christmas here when someone donates something. It's really amazing what treasures are still 'out there' in the world. Thank you to all those who donated items to the Society over the past few months.

From Elizabeth Coachman of Tarpon Springs, Florida, who donated items from the estate of Myra Post Little, who died at the age of 92 on 2/28/2002. Mrs. Little's husband was a direct descendent of Colonel Leavitt Little, the founder of Littleton (Bradford's first name) (4/24/02):

1. The History of Bradford, dated 1901.
2. An 1837 sand shaker used by Col. Little to blot ink before blotting paper was invented.
3. Photographs of Charles Dix Webster, his son Charles Leavitt Webster, Orpha Jane Gleason Webster (Aunt Jennie to Frank Webster of Bradford).
4. C.D. Webster's Civil War Commission
5. Telegram notifying "Aunt Jennie" of Philip Leavitt Webster's death in 1915.
6. Newspaper clipping about a heroic occasion of C.D. Webster.
7. Newspaper clipping about the oldest Odd Fellow P.L. Webster.
8. A handbill, for J. West of Bradford.
9. Copies of articles from Tarpon Springs' newspaper - obituaries regarding the deaths of P.L. and C.D. Webster.
10. Family histories of the Little and Webster families.

From Helen Digel of Bradford (4/24/02):

1. A beautiful chain link metal evening purse, with gold and brown and white links, dating from early 1900s.

From Mary Bickel of Bradford (April 2002):

1. Negatives belonging to and taken by her late husband, Rudy Bickel; mostly of Main Street, taken in the 1950s.

From Richard France of Bradford (4/12/02)

1. Photographs and memorabilia of Bradford Electronics and Corning Glass.

Thank you all again. The Landmark always welcomes donations to our collection and we promise to cherish each and every item.

It's Membership Time Again!

Time for Your 2002 Dues to be Paid!

We checked our records, and have found that many of you who are receiving this newsletter owe dues for this year (and some of you haven't paid dues for the past three years!). Please, dues are now "due". Please use the handy form below and send it to the Landmark or drop it in our mail slot. Thanks!

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

Dues Paid _____ (\$5.00 Senior, \$10.00 Individual, or \$15.00 Family)

The United Pipe Line Building, c. 1890. Later this building became the Bradford Club. This building is the last one chosen for the series of Zippo lighters which depict prominent Bradford Buildings. Previous buildings chosen include the Grand Theater, the Dresser/Pennzoil Building, and old City Hall.



Bradford's City Directories

More than just a phone book!

Actually, they aren't phone books at all, at least not the very early ones. So, what are City Directories, anyway? In short, they were (and are) a book published about a home town that includes the names and occupations of all the residents, a listing of all the streets and a directory of all the businesses in town. All streets are listed alphabetically – usually in the front half of the book - and under each heading, all street numbers are given, along with the businesses or property owners living there. Conversely, all persons are listed alphabetically, along with their address (usually in the back half of the book).

In other words, if you want to know what business was at 95 Main Street in 1900, you can look up the number '95' under the Main Street heading, and find that the Bradburn building was located there. If you want to know where John Smith lived in 1900, you would look under the "names" section of the book. You would find Mr. Smith's name, his address, his occupation, and possibly the name of his wife. It will also tell you if he owned the house and how many inhabitants lived there. For example, it can prove when your great-grandfather lived here and his wife's name; it can list the former occupants of your home – and sometimes give an indication when it was built; it lists all the businesses and where they were located on each street and it can tell you what your great-grandfather did for a living.

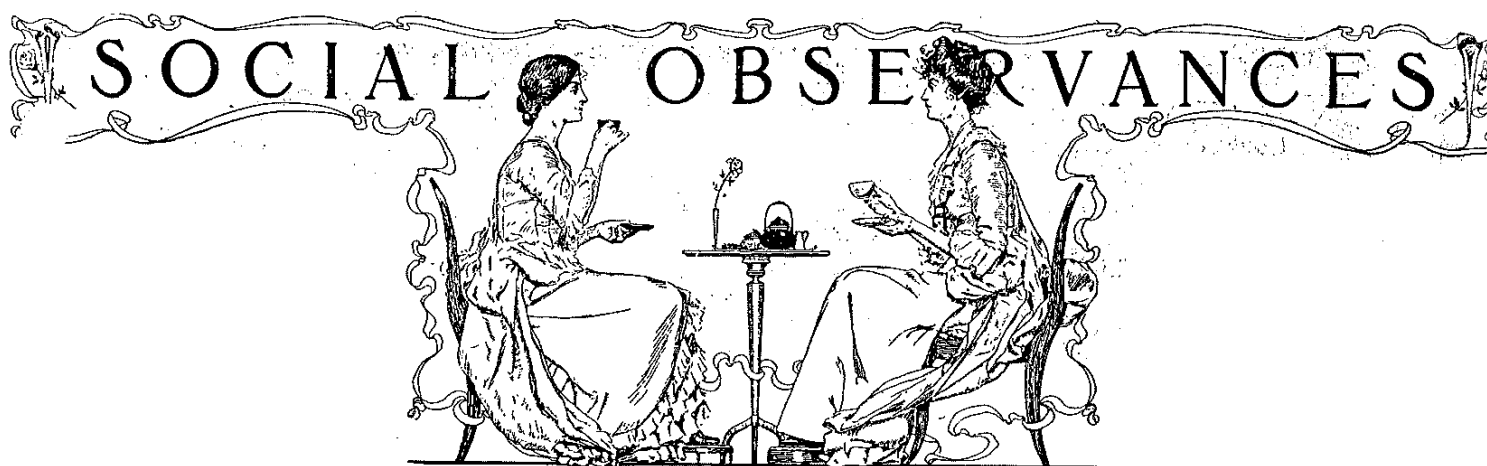
Bradford's City Directories were published by different men, although by far the greater number of them were compiled and published by Charles Latham. Usually, they were published every other year - and not at all during the Depression or the early years of World War II. Many of them had a street map of the city.

In 1900, perhaps in celebration of the new century, the City Directory was expanded to include neighboring towns, as well as nearby New York State towns. It described itself as "a general, a classified business and an improved unique street and block directory of the city of Bradford; records of the city government, its institutions, organizations, etc.; a new map of the city; new map of McKean County, and directories of Duke Center, Eldred, Hazelhurst, Kane, Mt. Jewett, Port Allegany, Portage Creek Village, Rixford, Smethport, and the townships of McKean County, as well as Bolivar, Carrollton, Chipmunk, Limestone, Red House, and Salamanca." The cost was \$4.00.

The most ambitious of all the city directories was one of the first ones, the 1879-1880 City Directory, compiled and published by Hamilton Childs. Its packed with all sorts of information, including articles on the rise and progress of oil development in the Bradford area, an official directory of the district and county government, state government, short histories of some of the more prominent companies that were just getting started in Bradford, and an index to all sorts of neighboring towns (some of which are no longer in existence today), including Babcock's Mills, Bell's Camp, Coleville, Custer City, Dallas City, DeGolier, Derrick City, Duke Centre, Eldred, Four Mile, Fullerton City, Gillmor, Haymaker, Kendall, Knapp's Creek, Oil Centre, Red Rock, Rixford, Sawyer City, State Line, and Summit City.

The best feature, though, is the listing of inhabitants. This 1879-1880 directory is the only one that included not just the name of the person living in Bradford, but also his address, where he originally came from, and how many years he had lived in Bradford. In an oil boom era, such revealing information is invaluable, and a very rare find for a historic researcher.

Currently, the Bradford Landmark Society and the Bradford Area Library have copies of all known directories. We invite you to stop in and take a look!



(Oh, for the day of genteel behavior and good manners. This article is taken from The Delineator, a woman's magazine, and dates from 1908)

A garden party is a most attractive kind of entertainment. It may be given in a fine place, where there are old trees, well-kept grounds and flower gardens, or at a small unpretentious country place with a pretty lawn and a few trees. It may be an elaborate and a costly function, with a large collation and a band of musicians, or it may be a very simple and an informal entertainment within the limits of the purse of any country hostess. It is, in reality, merely an afternoon reception, out-of-doors, and for this reason is especially enjoyable. It gives the hostess an opportunity of inviting a large number of guests. It gives the women the opportunity of wearing their smartest summer gowns and hats.

Good weather is an essential part of a successful garden party, but that cannot be ordered for the occasion, and a hostess who plans such an affair must content herself with having the reception indoors, if the weather proves unfavorable.

Cards are issued a week or two in advance, but a few days' notice may be sufficient. The card may be a formal At-Home card, or merely the visiting card of the hostess with the date, hour, and the words "Garden Party" in the lower left hand corner. The hours may be from three to six, or from four to seven.

The hostess receives out of doors, wearing a pretty summer dress and hat.

The house is, of course, thrown open, and guests may, if they wish, leave wraps in rooms designated by the servants.

A good supply of chairs and seats must be on the piazzas and lawn, and about the grounds. Rugs are spread on the grass, and chairs placed on them for the convenience of the guests.

The refreshments may be served out of doors, from a table under the trees, or under a marquee; or, if preferred, the table may be in the house, but it adds considerable to the informality, pleasure and variety of the occasion if everything is arranged to take place outside. Salads, cold salmon with mayonnaise sauce, sandwiches, jellies, ices, cakes, claret punch, grapes, peaches, and other fruits may be offered, or there may be only simple things as tea, coffee, cake, and lemonade. Servants may pass trays of tea and cake among the guests, or some young girls may pour tea at the tables. A plentiful supply of forks, glasses, napkins, etc. should be in readiness. Nothing must be visible that is not neat and fresh. Servants must have trays or baskets to carry away promptly everything as soon as used.

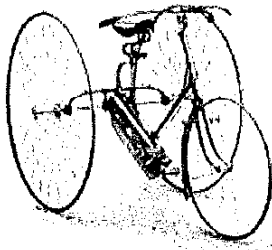
Out-door sports, such as tennis, archery, etc. are enjoyed by young people at garden parties. Guests are expected to amuse themselves, to play games, wander about the grounds, and partake of refreshments when they wish.

*"Went to a garden party...everyone was there...
people came from miles around...there was magic in the air..."*

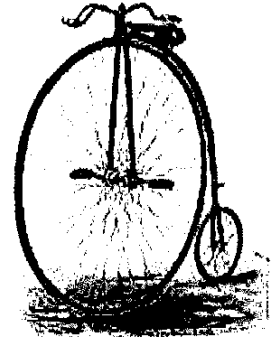
Bicycle Mania 1890s Style

"If the entire world isn't depopulated by the rapidly increasing membership of this suicide club, the human race will die out by reason of lack of manhood and inability to propagate"

The rage that was the bicycle hit Bradford pretty hard right about 1885. The fad had been sweeping across the nation for some time and it was only a matter of time before the younger crowd turned their fancy towards this latest toy. The first bicycle in Bradford was the penny farthing, or "ordinary" bike. It had been invented after the Civil War, but had been difficult to ride. Front wheels ranging from four to five feet across, the rider's weight almost directly over the front axle,

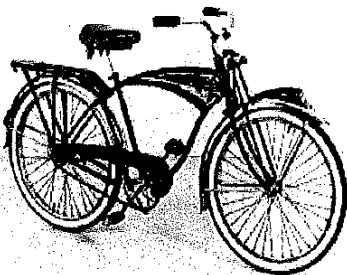


hard rubber tires, and poor road conditions made these older versions of the bicycle notoriously unstable. They were expensive, too - nearly \$5700 in today's prices - and heavy as well, weighing an average of 70 pounds. Nevertheless, these early bikes were quite popular with



The "Ordinary" Bicycle

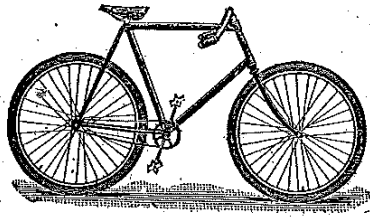
young men. A photograph in the files of the Bradford Landmark Society shows a group of men on such bikes on East Main Street, in front of the Fisher Inn and there is evidence that an early cycle club had a great many members. By the 1890s, however, the design of the bicycle had undergone some radical modifications and was being manufactured at an incredible rate. Less expensive, lighter (a mere 26 pounds), and easier to ride, the 'standard' bicycle appealed to nearly everyone. A three wheeled version, the "trike" was also popular, especially among the professional men such as doctors and clergymen who thought it improved their image and looked more dignified. For the first time, women could enjoy the sport as well, although the older generation of Bradfordians decried the sight of women sitting astride a bicycle seat. But it was the Gay Nineties, and the bike revolution was changing the way men and women spent their leisure time. And Bradford was no exception. By the summer of 1895 a bicycling club was formed, calling itself the Central Cycle Club of Bradford, and decided on white and blue as the club colors. Races at the Driving Park off Congress Street were held for both men and women (and many spectators showed up just to see these daring women racers wearing the latest - and scandalous - bloomers as they pedaled around the track). Long bicycling treks were popular as well. On August 10, 1895, three Bradford men took such a trip. Levi Ruslander, Ben Friedlander, and Abe Weinstock rode their bikes from Buffalo, New York to Bradford, leaving at 4:30 AM and arriving here by 7:30 PM that night.



But everyone wasn't so thrilled. Reports in the newspaper told of countless accidents involving bicycles and wagons, horses, pedestrians, and other bicycles. One underlying factor, of course, was the fact that bike

By the 1950s, bikes such as this one were a common and unremarkable sight. But in the 1890s, the idea of bike riding had some scientists predicting the end of the human race...

Bicycles, Bells,
Lamps and Sundries.



Bicycles Repaired.

B. L. FELLOWS & CO.,

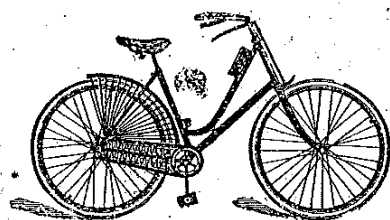
113 Main Street.

To give some idea of the unwholesomeness of bicycle riding, listen to this: first, you have a kind of paralysis of the hands from constant gripping of the handle bar; then contraction of the muscles of the legs, contraction of the posterior muscles of the lower limbs and of the inside muscles of the thighs; round shoulders from stooping over and a contraction of the chest. This causes congestion of the lungs and leads to consumption; continued violent exercise also leads to enlargement of the heart. Furthermore, with men, rupture, varicocele, hydrocele follows, and worst of all, it destroys virility.

"With women, constant riding causes trouble peculiar to women and promotes amorous desires. Married women riding bicycles are especially liable to very serious physical mishaps.

"In fact, the dangers are multitudinous. People have neglected them too long, and if the entire world isn't depopulated by the rapidly increasing membership of this suicide club, the human race will die out by reason of lack of manhood and inability to propagate'.

Such doomsayers couldn't stop the increasing growth of the bicycle, however, and today's bicycles, with their shocks, ultra light frames, different gears and gel- filled bike seats are testaments to the popularity of the bicycle as an exercise tool, a means of transportation, and great fun. And contrary to Dr. Mark's prediction, the human race is doing just fine, too.



"That Rambler is a Fine Wheel!"

You hear that expression everywhere. The Rambler owner speaks it lovingly, honestly enthusiastically, boastfully. He knows. The owner of the other wheel sighs it longingly, regretfully. He believes it now. The Rambler agent knows it too. Why this universal Rambler praise when "bicycles" is the subject? Also full line of Cycles and Sundries at

WOODBURY'S BICYCLE HEADQUARTERS,

43 Mechanic Street.

brakes hadn't been invented yet! Bradford City Council even addressed the problem, and passed an ordinance that all bikes must be equipped with a bell to warn those in the biker's path. And by the way, this ordinance still stands.

And there were other, far more serious objections to this new hobby. A group of noted dentists in New York gathered together and issued a proclamation that bicycle riding would soon lead to tooth decay. The abnormal flow of air over the teeth and gums, especially while pedalling uphill when the bike rider would more often have his mouth open, would lead directly to poor dental health. The very idea of morality soon came into play as well. "How can a lady ride a bicycle, and still remain a lady?" moaned The Bradford Era, and this sentiment was shared by many. The harshest opinion came from a noted St. Louis doctor, Dr. Heine Marks who, in 1895 spoke out against the whole bicycle riding fad. "In my mind, owing to the excess of exercise indulged in by bicycle riders today, when a man or woman buys a wheel they take the first spadeful of earth from their grave.

In 1896, Lieutenant James Moss organized the 25th Infantry Bicycle Corps to test the military potential of bicycles. The corps undertook several short journeys before making a 1,900 mile trip from Fort Missoula to St. Louis in 1897. The Army concluded that while the bicycle offered limited military potential, it would never replace the horse.

The Streets of Bradford

G F S Q X A X S M E Y I L A O E A C K H G
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ABBOTT
 BOSS
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 COLE
 EDNA
 HIGH
 KEATING
 MAIN
 MILL
 WALKER

BARBOUR
 BOYLSTON
 CHAMBERS
 CONGRESS
 EDWARD
 INTERSTATE
 KENNEDY
 MARIAN
 PEARL
 WASHINGTON

BENNETT
 BURKE
 CHESTNUT
 CORYDON
 HARDING
 JEROME
 LORANA
 MECHANIC
 PINE
 WILLIAMS

What Rockefeller Center and Bradford Have in Common

Recently The Bradford Landmark Society came across an article in the April 1933 copy of the McKean County Motorist about Rockefeller Center in New York City and the part Bradford played in building the 12 acre complex.

In 1929 John Rockefeller Jr. wanted to build a new Metropolitan Opera House and was able to lease 12 acres of historic land from Columbia University in midtown Manhattan. Plans for the Opera House fell through but Rockefeller decided to build a large complex to include theaters, the arts, shops, radio stations, offices, and restaurants, all within a beautiful plaza and courtyards. The centerpiece would be the 70 story RCA building. Here's the Bradford connection. The McKean County Motorist tells us the exterior was to be made of Hanley Face Brick, manufactured right here in Bradford. Hanley buff and gray face brick was chosen because it would compliment the limestone inside. It was estimated that more than four million bricks would be used in building the complex, but more may have been used since construction wasn't finished when the story was written.

Rockefeller Center is so much a part of our national heritage isn't it great to think that Bradford played a part in such a magnificent monument to the 20th century!

GAS
OIL



AIR
WATER

Let us take care of your Radiator this Winter

Our Alcohol Service is Unexcelled

Motor Inn Filling Station

Cor. Washington & Pearl Streets

"On Your Direct Road to and from School"

Did You Know? Little Known Facts About Bradford



Did You Know?

...that when the J.C. Penney store opened at 115 Main Street in 1927 it was one of the first Penney's stores in the state of Pennsylvania?

Did You Know?

...that the City Council strongly considered using the old vacant Hobson Place School as a possible site for the town's police station?

Did You Know?

...that the ice skating rink at Callahan Park is officially named the David J. Kreinson Memorial Skating Park?

Did You Know?

...that a baseball league named the Iron & Oil League was formed in Bradford in 1898, paying its baseball players \$600 a month, and umpires \$60 a month?

Did You Know?

...that a house of ill repute, called The Headlight, was located in the center of the block between Webster and Chestnut Streets and was owned and operated first by the notorious Minnie Stoddard, and later Lizzie Williams? (It burned in 1907)

Did You Know?

...that the Kinzua Dam was formally dedicated on September 17, 1966?

Did You Know?

...that a series of lessons on "how to play baseball" were printed each day in the Bradford Era in April 1922?

Did You Know?

...the first newspaper published in the city was the Bradford Miner, on March 12, 1858? Sam Crane was the editor.

Did You Know?

...that on Ebay, the internet's auction site, you can search for "Bradford, PA" and at least two pages of Bradford memorabilia will come up? (The Landmark often buys old, scarce postcards this way)

Did You Know? Little Known Facts About Bradford



Did You Know?

...that the first self dialed telephone call was made on June 21, 1931? (Before that, all calls were operated assisted). William H. Dennis, age 80, of the Tuna Manufacturing Company, called his long time friend A. D. Burns, age 79. Burns was a Captain in the Spanish American War, and later returned to Bradford and opened a plumbing store.

Did You Know?

...that a flying saucer was seen hovering over Bradford on July 7, 1947? A Jerome Avenue man reported seeing an object resembling a "flying saucer" about 8:50 o'clock, near the Dresser Manufacturing Plant. He described the object as "about the size of a dinner plate, pretty flat and shiny", flying through the sky at about the height of two telephone poles high. He then said he heard it "zip" and fly off in the direction of the Bolivar Run area.

Did You Know?

...that Edwin Booth, considered one of the greatest Shakespearean actors in history, performed Hamlet at the Wagner Opera House on December 28, 1886? Booth was, of course, the brother of John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln.

Did You Know?

...that there is a monument dedicated to the Spanish American War of 1898 in Veterans Square? It is cast from a piece of the USS Maine, which was blown up in Havana Harbor on February 15, 1898. The slogan "Remember the Maine" became the battle cry to soldiers. Nearly 100 Bradford men fought in this war.

Did You Know?

.... that one of the oldest buildings on Main Street is that of Lisa's Hairport, which was built in 1879 as part of the Oil Well Supply building. The right front half of this building was destroyed by the Monago fire on March 3, 1986. The left half was restored.

Did You Know?

...that the name "Alton" was officially changed to "Mt. Alton" on July 1, 1882?

Did You Know?

...that East Main Street was once called Tarport?



Bradford Landmark Society
HERBIG BAKERY & CROOK FARM

45 E. Corydon St.
Bradford, PA (814) 362-3906
Downtown



11AM - 2PM M, W, F
Fascinating collection
of early photographs,
area memorabilia,
newspapers and
genealogical
information.

Come and Visit Us!

Seaward Ave. Ext.
Bradford, PA

Take Kendall Ave Exit onto Seaward Ave, 1.7 mi. on your right to the Farm



A typical farm from the 1800's.
Includes house, barn, school
house, depot, outbuildings in a
beautiful setting.



OPEN: Mid June thru September The Crook Farm House
Tues. thru Fri. 1:00 - 4:00 PM or call (814) 368-5981

THE CROOK FARM FAIR

Always the weekend before Labor Day Weekend

- Over 76 Arts & Crafts Exhibitors
- Demonstrations of old time crafts: chair caning, weaving, blacksmithing, and quilting

Saturday: 10 AM to 5 PM

Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☒ Continuous Entertainment | ☒ Kiddie Carnival |
| ☒ Tours of the buildings | ☒ Pancake Breakfast in the Garden |
| ☒ Pancake Breakfast in the Garden
(Sun. 10AM-12PM) | |
| ☒ Food - Food - Food | |
| ☒ Admission: \$3.00 Adults | |

The Bradford Landmark Society
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Bradford, PA 16701

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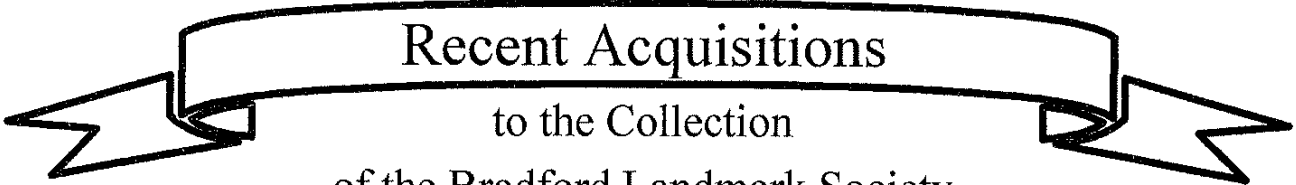
45 E. Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701

814-362-3906

Its hard to believe, but another year has almost passed. Another year goes down in history. One of the hardest things people can grasp is that what we do every day becomes part of the historical past. History isn't just wars ending, fires, famous people coming to town, or what is "memorable" and "historic". Everything you do every day is affecting the whole picture and someday, some historian will look into your life and times and marvel that we lived in such historic times and never realized it. Oh, well, enough philosophizing!

Its been a quiet year at the Bradford Landmark Society. (Nothing historic going on here, right?). We've been continuing our index of the Bradford Newspapers and related documents, and now have over 6500 specific entries listed that pertain to the history of Bradford. The retyping of the obituary listing book from 1901 to 1934, all of which was lost in a computer crash years ago (but fortunately, the paper work still existed) keeps rolling along, and so far, 1901 to 1917 have been redone on computer disk. When all are finished, we will combine the years together and put out a CD with all of them. The researchers down at the Public Library will appreciate that! We still have school groups coming through (we had a fifth grade a few weeks ago and they were so interested that they missed their bus and had to walk back - quickly - to School Street to get their rides home.) Lynn and Trudy Ostrander have started organizing the upstairs of the Herbig Bakery, which is where all our clothing, uniforms, hats, and misc. storage is located and believe me, its going to be quite a job. Thank you both so much! We have great volunteers down here at the Bakery, and let me take a moment before you read the rest of the newsletter to thank them, too: Pat Schessler, who not only helps to write part of this newsletter, but also comes every day to help sort, file, and find; Gordon Ernest, who is our 'computer' man, scanning each and every photograph we have (about 2500 at last count); Ann DeLucia, who files the scanned photos into our fire proof file and is devising a filing system; my mother, Mary Ryan, who did the impossible - finally managing to write a tag description for every photo we had laying around so that Gordon could take them to the next step; Jan Graham, who actually lives in Ohio, but volunteers to index newspapers when she is home visiting her mother on Seaward Avenue; and all those who bring in things for us to see, photogrpahs to copy, or items to donate.

Thank you one and all! - Sally Costik



Recent Acquisitions to the Collection of the Bradford Landmark Society

1. **From Nancy Knight Lyon of Bradford:** Small children's socks, several belly bands, handmade slip.(al cream colored); cotton eyelet parasol with plain wooden handle. All items once belonged to Mrs. Grace Deiter and Harriet Dieter Nicholes.
2. **From Amelia Piganelli of Bradford:** a red vinyl trash carrier for an automobile, with "Herbig Bakery" stamped on it.
3. **From Marie Weaver of Bradford:** Twelve books and journals from the Current Events Club. The club was formed in 1900. Included are minute books which date from 1907, listing members names, dues paid, meeting locations, weekly discussions, and current events.
4. **From James Burkhouse of Bradford:** A gray wool, baseball shirt, number 12 written on back; blue trim, white buttons. Front says "Bradford Local 10-10" (probably a local labor union team).
5. **From Madelyn Miles of Bradford:** Photographs, showing the Johnson Hose Team, Gus Herbig; christening gown of H.W. Loveland, 1888; a World War I certificate given in thanks by Mayor and City of Bradford to Harry Herbig, dates Oct. 15, 1919, with a small photo of Herbig; framed Herbig Bakery certificate, dated 6/1/1921.

Thank each of you for thinking of us. Our entire collection has been based on generous donations of items such as these from Bradford's past, and we appreciate all of them. And its amazing how much great "stuff" is still out there! Keep cleaning out those basements, trunks, and attics, and remember the Bradford Landmark Society!

Bean Bags Wanted!

The Crook Farm is in need of bean bags to sell in their Craft Gift Shop, especially during the spring, when the farm hosts the School Program. We are asking anyone who would like to sew some bags to please make them approximately 4" x 5", filled with beans, of course, and of suitable material (calico would be great). The school program is held each year at the Crook Farm as Bradford and surrounding school districts send their fourth and fifth grade classes for a day at the farm, learning at the old one room school house as well as carrying water, weaving, dipping candles, and other 19th century chores. The bean bags are a great way to illustrate one of the games that children of long ago might have played at the Crook Farm. Please bring all completed bags to the Herbig Bakery or the Crook Farm, or call Trudie at 368-5981.

Thank You Chamber of Commerce

The Bradford Chamber of Commerce recently gave the Bradford Landmark Society a wonderful set of the four collectible Zippo Lighters which were sold over the last few years to create interest in the downtown Bradford buildings.

The four buildings depicted on the lighters are:

*Old City Hall
Pennzoil-Dresser Building
Grand Theater
Original Bradford Club*

There were a total of 750 lighters produced of each of the four buildings. Two of these buildings in the series have been razed; the other two (Pennzoil-Dresser Building and Old City Hall) are part of a restoration project underway by the City of Bradford. Thanks so much for this great addition to our Zippo collection!

And now a little quiz for our readers:

Historically speaking, we love to name things – streets, buildings, roads, etc. – and recently, we discovered some long forgotten names to several of the shopping plazas in our town. Here are four shopping plazas that we challenge you to accurately identify. We'll even give you some hints to help. The answers are located elsewhere in this newsletter:

Westgate Plaza. Built in the early 1960s, this plaza got its name from its location. Still a popular shopping site, can you identify it?

Union Square Plaza – The newest one of all, this plaza has several shops and one of the best little restaurants in town. Where is it?

Pembroke Plaza – Not as well frequented as the others, this shopping plaza has had several stores come and go during its relatively short lifetime. Can you identify it?

Producers Plaza – Named for the original bank which was located there, this shopping plaza used to have huge trees in its parking lot, which were removed over thirty years ago to increase parking. (at least I remember them as huge from my childhood.) One of the original stores was "Clarks". Remember?

Costik 1910

IMAGES
of America

AROUND BRADFORD



*Sally Ryan Costik
and the Bradford Landmark Society*

Who are they? Two couples, both apparently well to do, standing in an oil field. Where are they? Who are they? Here at the Bradford Landmark Society we often get asked this very question. This photograph appears on the cover of our first "Around Bradford" book, and every now and then someone writes to us and asks for their identity. Well, to put in simply, we just don't know. It seems likely that the two men are brothers (just look at those eyes and that receding hairline on both men) but are the women sisters? or sweethearts? It also seems likely that the group is somehow related or connected to the Van Vecton family of Derrick City, since this photograph was found in some related photographs, but then again, who knows?

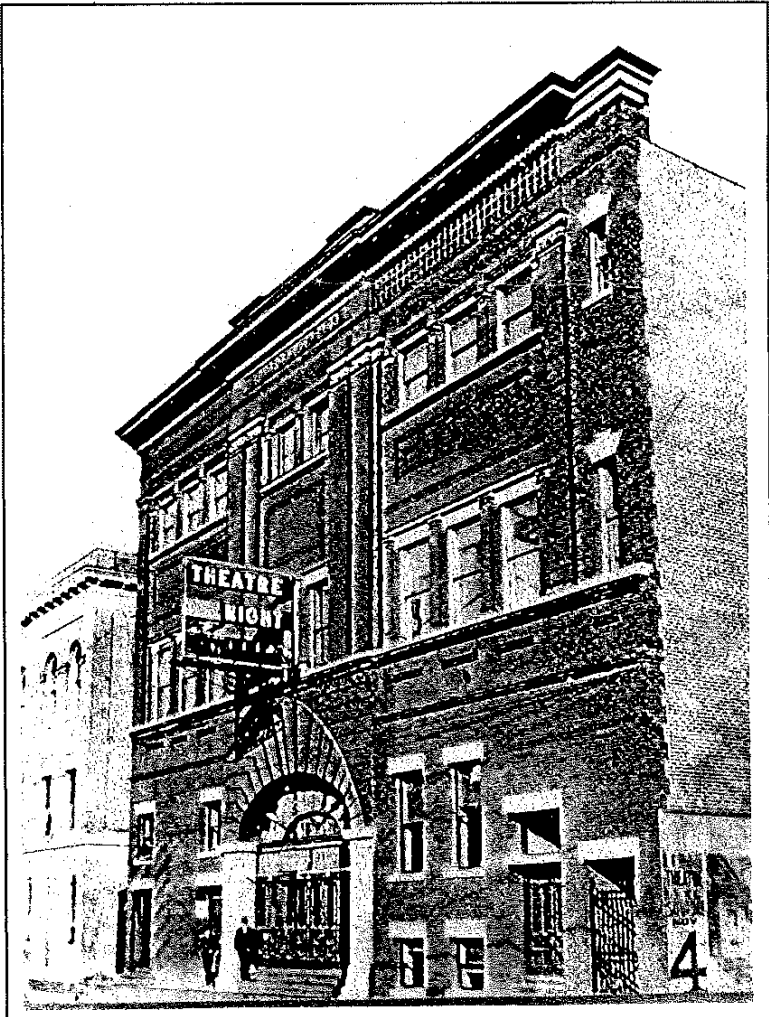
Shea's Theater – the Beginning and the End

At first glance, she was plain and a little dowdy. Her dark red brick façade with its large doors flush to the street looked more like a factory than a theater. But that was just outside. Theatergoers streaming into the new playhouse on the night of November 5, 1903 found themselves in a chamber that would be the envy of the Queen of Sheba. Arrayed in the finest of silks and satins, trimmed with brocade in silver and gold, fitted out with luxurious boxes and three floors of comfortable seating to accommodate 1,000 patrons, the New Bradford Theater opened its doors to the Bradford public. The play, *The Prince of Pilsen*, was given good reviews but the theater itself was the star of the evening.

The New Bradford Theater was a legitimate theater, and not equipped for the new "movies" and movies were the 'in' thing. In 1922, the New Bradford Theater was purchased by M.A. Shea Enterprises and began a new life as Sheas. Realizing that Bradfordians loved live entertainment, Sheas brought many Broadway hits to Bradford: *How Green Was My Valley*, Marc Connelly's *Green Pastures*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace* with Boris Karloff were just a sample of Sheas' offerings. The three Barrymores played Sheas, and Ethel returned to Bradford several times.

On screen, Douglas Fairbanks rescued Mary Pickford from the villains; Rudolph Valentino made girls and women swoon. Theda Bara, Gloria Swanson, and a host of beauties vamped the male audience. Uncle Tom's Cabin made many returns, and Peter Pan flitted across the screen. For several years vaudeville was the craze of the country but faded with the coming of the "talkies" in the twenties. As old stars disappeared, new ones took their place: Jean Harlow, Joan Crawford, Silvia Sidney, Katherine Hepburn, and who will ever forget Clark Gable, Robert Taylor, or Errol Flynn.

There were local performances, too. Bradford's own Miriam



Kreinson held her dance reviews at Sheas and remember the long running and popular Cooking School?

In 1934 Shea's Theater was completely remodeled. The architect was Victor Rigaumont, and the work was done in 31 days by Bradford firms working in two shifts. When Sheas reopened on August 17th, it was a new theater.

Gone were the boxes, the Rocco trim, the ugly façade. Instead, a new marquee was installed as well as new doors and new floor coverings trimmed with gold fringe framing the archways. The columns were in shades of water green and silver complimenting the etched glass and chandeliers and the cerise plush seats were lighted indirectly from below. 'Everything is new' theater manager Jack Hymes bragged, 'even the projector' but the gallery seats still only cost ten cents.

In 1938 Sheas celebrated their sixteenth birthday with a grand party and the "largest birthday cake" ever baked in Bradford. It was six tiers, (4 ½ feet high), four feet wide, and weighed 650 pounds. It was baked under the direction of Fred Johnson of the Davis Bakery and was displayed in R.J. Frick's window. Mayor Hugh Ryan cut the cake and gave the first piece to Police Chief Edward Edmonds. Everyone who attended the performance received a piece of cake as well. The featured movie, rather gruesome for a party, was *Marie Antoinette* with Norma Shearer and Tyrone Power. I don't remember the cake, but I'll never forget the sound of the guillotine lopping off Marie Antoinette's head!

There are many memories connected to the Sheas – long summer afternoons with friends, climbing up to the third floor gallery and sitting on hard church pews to save money for a tubber afterwards, first dates, and lining up around the corner of South Avenue to see *Mrs. Miniver*, *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, *San Francisco*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and never forget *Gone With the Wind*.

The fifties bought television to Bradford and Broadway plays starring well known actors to Sheas. And then, in June 1961, the announcement came that Sheas would be torn down for a parking lot. Its demolition on August 19, 1961 captivated Bradford audiences once more time. A star to the end, Sheas Theater took her final curtain all in front of a large and loyal audience. Sheas Theater is gone now, but for those of us who knew her; Sheas will live on in our memories forever.

And the famous cake recipe?

110 pounds of flour
491 eggs
121 pounds of sugar
41 pounds of shortening
30 ounces of salt
121 ounces of baking powder
22 ounces of flavoring
46 quarts of milk





Turn Back Time....And What a Year That Was!



Ten Top Stories of 1951

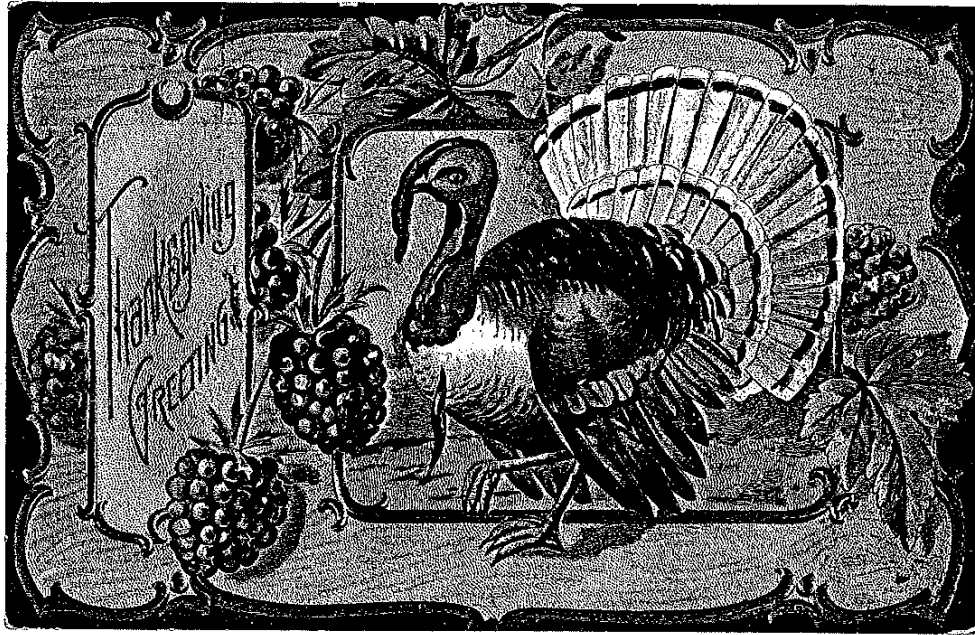
1. **Feb. 19, 1951.** Robert Pflug resigns as head football coach at Bradford High School after 19 years at that helm. He accepts position as a line coach at Brown University. (Francis "Rock" Denning took over).
2. **May 12, 1951.** Bradford's new, five story, two million dollar hospital officially opens.
3. **May 15, 1951.** School Board raises tax on real estate to three mills.
4. **June 19, 1951.** Thieves get from \$80,000 to \$100,000 from safe in Rink home in Foster Township.
5. **August 11, 1951.** The Bradford-McKean County Airport is formally dedicated.
6. **October 5, 1951.** Jimmy Burns, Era carrier boy, finds abandoned baby on the porch of George Gimera home, 14 Brook St.
7. **Oct. 31, 1951.** Philadelphia Phillies drop the local PONY league entry in its farm system.
8. **November 7, 1951.** Joseph L. Hinaman unseats Mayor Hugh J. Ryan, veteran chief executive of Bradford, at general election.
9. **December 19, 1951.** Heavy Snowstorm gives sign that tough winter lies ahead.
10. **December 26, 1951.** Triplets born to Mr. and Mrs. John Westerlund, West Branch, at the Bradford Hospital, first in the city since 1916.

Remember When?

by Patricia Connelly Schessler

- Coming home from midnight mass a single candle burned in every window of the Hotel Emery and you knew it was Christmas?
- The first heavy snowfall of the new year came on New Year's Day?
- When Bradford winters required kids to wear long underwear under heavy cotton wool stockings? No matter how tight you folded the underwear around your ankles it always wrinkled?
- Remember buckle galoshes?
- Remember eating 10 cent tubbers at Bickert and Leonard's Drug store, and playing the Thing and Elmer Tune on the juke box until the store closed?
- At the first hint of spring, the firemen dynamited the ice so that the creeks couldn't overflow and cause a flood?
- Hunting for the first pussywillow?
- The patent leather shoes appeared in the windows of the shoe stores and hats turned the windows of the millinery stores into gardens?
- Remember how many hats and shoe stores there were?
- Remember taking your shoes to the shoemaker to get new soles?

Remember?



Every other year, in February, the Bradford Landmark Society holds a series of historic lectures on a wide variety of topics. The whole idea was thought up years ago as a way to break up the monotony of cold, dark February, and entertain as well as educate the people of Bradford. Our last lecture series, in February 2001, was a tremendous success. We had lectures on Bradford houses, Pennsylvania Women Traveling West, Bradford in the Roaring Twenties, a history of Allegheny State Park, and local wildflowers. This year promises to be just as interesting. While we won't reveal the speakers or topics at this time, we do know that Sally Costik's topic will be "Wild and Wacky Bradford" which promises to be an entertaining look at Bradford's past. Watch your mail for our flyer, which will be sent, out in January and see you there!

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