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The Inkwell



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Hours of Operation:

Herbig Bakery, 11AM - 2PM,
Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Historic Crook Farm

Closed until Spring

If you've been wondering where your newest edition of this newsletter was, you are right - we were delayed by at least six weeks due to problems with our paper suppliers. But no fear - we decided to make this one an extra special one. We are including a map of the historic district in the centerfold. There has been a lot of discussion in Bradford lately about the historic district; why certain buildings were included, and why others were not; why and where the boundaries are, etc. so we are enclosing a map and an index to all the buildings listed. And since this is the last newsletter of the year, we are including our annual "necrology" of the buildings. We are happy to report that only three buildings in the Bradford area were torn down this year - the Wesleyan Church on the corner of Bishop and Boylston Streets; the West Branch School on West Washington Street, and Evans Rollerdom on East Main street. The Hamsher House, out near the hospital, will soon be gone as the hospital expands across Pleasant Street, but for now its still standing, and so we will not include it on our list. On the bright side, there were lots of small businesses that started in 2005 in Bradford - we could almost call it "the Year of the Small Businessman". Be sure to check our listing, located inside this edition. And lastly, our house tour was once again a great success and we thank everyone who was brave enough to donate their house for the tour! Its really a lot of fun, and everyone has a good time. I know that the Madrigal Singers did a good job (okay, one of my daughters is a member) and really set the tone for the coming holidays.

Hey, Merry Christmas, Everyone!

Inside this edition of The Inkwell

Just What is the Historic District - Index and Map
New Businesses in 2005 - Jammin at the Crook Farm

Anthony Dodaro - The King of Transportation

The Pennsylvania State Armory

Dagwood Anniversary - and more!



If you've driven by the Crook Farm on a Tuesday night lately, you might have wondered what all the people are doing there. And you might even have heard some great county blue grass music pouring out of the windows of the bank building. We invite you to stop by and listen to the music of some of Bradford's and the surround area musicians and learn what we mean, when we call it

Jammin' at the Farm

The Bradford Landmark Society is proud to welcome the Jammers at the Crook Farm as our honored Musical Artists in Residence. This group had formerly been the guest of Gravitz Associates on Chestnut Street, and has built itself up into an interesting impromptu musical group that now meets at the Crook Farm. The Jammers meet to learn to play folk, dance, Grand Old Opry, and other favorite music of past generations and we are delighted to share our facility with them to promote the living history of music that they enjoy working on. They are not a band for hire, but more like a back porch gathering of friends or family who plays whatever instruments they have, and sing along when they know the words. As you can imagine, its quite a scene each Tuesday night, when the bank building is jumping traditional American, Irish, Scottish, New England and old Southern tunes.

The musical jam session started in September, and since then, anywhere from four to thirteen musicians have come to the Crook Farm on Tuesday nights to play their music; some coming from as far as Great Valley, NY and Hinsdale, NY. Depending on who comes, there may be accordions, keyboards, hammered dulcimers, mandolins, banjos, guitars, string bass, fiddles, clarinets, flutes and other instruments all playing along. The skill level ranges from beginner to experienced performers who play in their own bands, but they all share a love of music. Anyone with an instrument that is not amplified is welcome to join them.

Recently, a group of square dancers from Allegany, NY read a notice in the newspaper looking for more people to join the Jammers, and were eager to come. They visited the Crook Farm and fit right in, with hearty rounds of square dancing, waltzing, and polkas, all danced on the second floor of the Bank building, and all accompanied by the Jammers. Their only complaint was that the Jammers wouldn't take a break! They won't, either, when there is so much good music to play.

We look to see more good things from our musical and dancing friends, and invite you to come on down on Tuesday nights to the Crook Farm and hear for yourself. If you would like more information, just contact Howard Blumentahl at 368-4057 or email at howard@heydiddlediddle.org or Anne Bouquin at 362-



Anthony Dodaro. Bradford's King of Transportation

Horatio Alger wrote a series of famous books about young boys who worked hard to turn adversity into opportunity and succeed in the American Dream. But even he would have been impressed by Bradford's own 'self made man', Anthony Dodaro, Sr. Born in Italy, immigrating to the United States as a young boy, working hard, and becoming a success, it was once said that his life read like a page of fiction. It's a remarkable story; an inspiring one, and we invite you to learn more about the man the Bradford Era called "The King of Transportation".



Born in Italy, Dodaro came to Bradford in 1911 at the age of 14. His first job was at the Leon Ferenbach silk mill on East Main Street for \$12 per month; he soon moved on to Case Cutlery where he earned \$5.50 per week; and next to the American Alkali and Acid plant at \$1.50 per day. But Dodaro was not content with even that, and by 1919 became a fruit and grocery proprietor at the old Flatiron building on Barbour Street. His only means of delivery were a borrowed horse and wagon, which he used to peddle goods throughout the streets of Bradford.

Then Tony caught the taxi bug. With hard earned capital, Tony purchased one of Henry Ford's 1920 touring cars. The taxi business during the first week brought a gross \$1.50. The next week saw this account doubled. And the business kept increasing and grew and that fall Tony increased his equipment by the purchase of a Ford sedan. Another machine was soon ordered, and then another until by 1925 the genial Tony saw the need of enlarging his business and incorporated it into the St. James Yellow Cab company.

He once ran a series of advertisements offering any one a free ride if the taxi failed to respond within five minutes after receiving a call. But only three times in five months were free rides given.

During these years the street car business had been steadily going down hill and in 1927 when rumors were frequent that the traction company was about to give up its street car franchise, Tony Dodaro immediately saw the need of supplying Bradford and vicinity with up-to-date bus service. He application for a bus franchise found immediate favor with the state public service commission, and it was not long before a Larabee bus was a novelty on the streets of Bradford.

With the elimination of the Street Railway Company, Tony's business grew by leaps and bounds. For quite a period he was adding new coaches to his fleet at the rate of one a month. – from The Bradford Era, September 27, 1930.

At that time it was estimated that 800,000 people rode a Dodaro bus each year, with an average of almost 70,000 riders a month. The approximate mileage traveled was nearly 500,000 annually.

Dodaro Motor Coach Line was the first transportation company to establish bus service between Bradford and Buffalo, NY. He later purchased the C.H. Latham Lines.

By 1930, his business had grown so much that he purchased, and completely renovated, the old Tidewater office building on the corner of Chautauqua Place and South Avenue.

The new terminal was quite different from the original building. The Bradford Era stated *"From old pictures we see it in its drab exterior, considered ornate in its time, because of turrets, corbels, awkward do-dads, and topped off with the 19th century adaptation of a Mansard roof. – from a special edition of the Bradford Era, covering the opening of the new terminal building.*

Bradfordians could hardly believe the changes that the old Pompleon Hall – the Tidewater building – had undergone. Dodaro had hired a local architect, Thomas Hendryx, to design the renovations, and when finished the old Victorian building that had stood on that corner for nearly sixty years was completely transformed.

The west wall of the old building was entirely done away with and the new wall built widening the building several feet. The north, or Chautauqua Place side

was extended still further and the old wall later wrecked. All partitions in the main portion of the first story were removed throughout the South Avenue elevation, and the upper floors carried on heavy steel work.



The walls of the old building were then veneered with the latest development in burned clay products in the form of Hanley Company's matte glazed white brick. The entrance to the waiting room which is the main feature of the building is through an arch opening of rusticated stone with wrought iron grille above. All windows and store fronts are trimmed in polished aluminum while all exterior hardware is in a modernistic design of dull chromium to match the color of the other metal trim. The two separate stairways to the office floors are also through arched openings and the stairs are of steel with non-slip tile treads. The clock above the

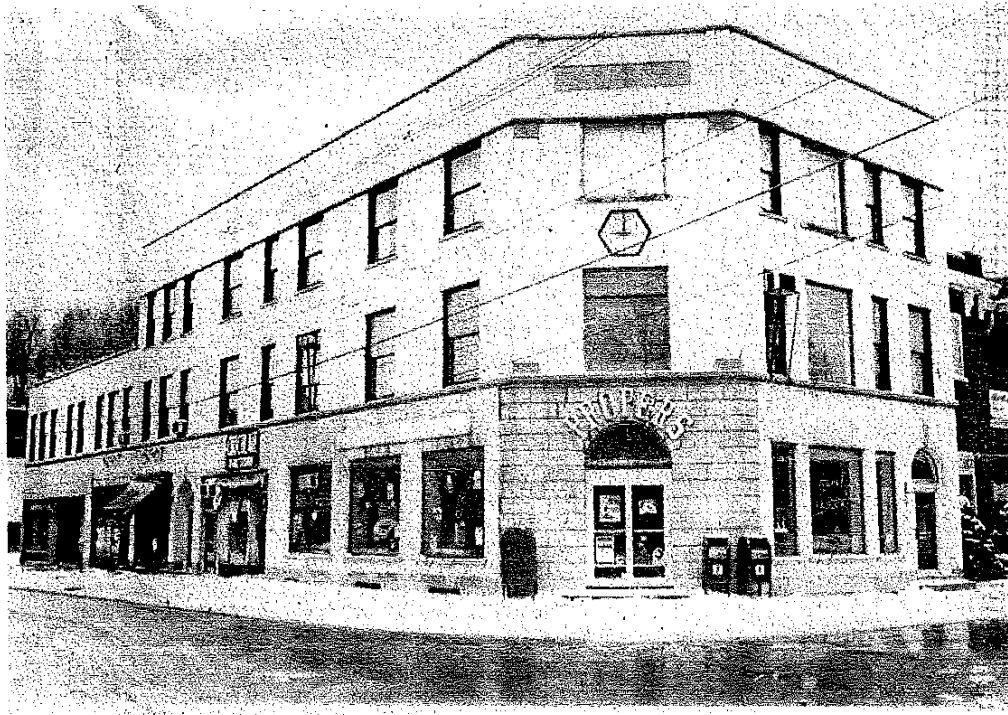
entrance is a feature which has caused much comment. Lighted from within, the white dial has instead of the conventional numerals, the letters "Travel By Bus". Set in a polished bronze hexagonal frame with red hand, this useful and very modern design of time piece can easily be read for several hundred feet. It was built especially for this building to the architect's designs and is controlled by the Western Union system.

Entering the waiting room we find it done in the best of everything. The beautiful floor of alternate black and white tile blocks, the textured walls, the light and airy appearance topped by ornamental cornice work and a beamed ceiling gives an effect of richness that must be seen to be appreciated. Huge, modernistic chandeliers of beautiful design light this room to perfection. The faience tile soda fountain for the convenience of those who "ride the bus" adds much to this interior and to the rear of the business office is to be found the most up-to-date restrooms in the city. And let's not forget the most striking thing of all – a huge, neon bus on the sign which topped the building.

Several small businesses profited from the remodeling of the old Pompleon Hall as well. Sylvester Rusch opened a new combination luncheonette and soda fountain in the waiting room; Walter Neilly & Co. supplied the ice cream. Montin's Music Store located there; with "distinctive music and musical instruments, pianos, violins, banjos, radios, band instruments, sheet music and music magazines". V. J. Rizutti opened a shoe repair shop, and other small shops faced Shea's Theater, with offices upstairs.

The congratulatory advertisement in the Bradford Era declared that the building was "Made in Bradford, by Bradford people, for Bradford people".

But Tony Dodaro wasn't one to stop expanding his business interests. He sold the bus lines to Greyhound Bus Company, and in 1936 he bought and assumed management of the Emery Taxi Company, from William O'Connor. This was the



first transportation service in the area to establish the method of radio dispatched cabs. He was affiliated with the Brown Realty company as well. In 1954 he went into semi-retirement, but kept active in a supervisory capacity, handling his real estate concerns and other businesses. He died on February 22, 1961; his obituary was front page news.

The business talent of the Dodaro family didn't

end with Tony Dodaro, Sr. You may remember his son, Anthony Dodaro, Jr., a local restaurateur who was quite well known in Bradford in his own right. Tony, Jr. and his wife Marjorie owned and operated several restaurants in Bradford, beginning with the Brook Club in 1955. In 1964 he, his cousin Louie Borsa, and Fred Colosimo opened The Ponderosa. In 1966, he and Gino Chirillo opened Togi's Drive Inn and Togi's Old Barn. In 1975, he and his wife opened Caesar's Cove, later known as Legends. Later, they opened Anthony's, and the Sugar Shack, from which Dodaro, Jr. retired in 1999. He died on October 12, 2002 at the age of 77.

Late Breaking News on the old Terminal Building...it has been reported this week, November 15, that there is a major gas heating problem inside the old building. At the time of publication of this newsletter, the building is without gas heat....let's hope that the problems are soon resolved, and that the Terminal Building once again becomes a valuable Bradford asset.

Bradford's Historic District

There has been much controversy this past summer about Bradford's Historic District. This controversy is centered on the right of property owners to decide what actions can be taken when the property in question is inside the historic district. Further controversy stems from confusion over the HARB – the Historic Architectural Review Board, and The Bradford Landmark Society. We would like to set forth the facts.

The Historic District is located primarily in the commercial district of Bradford. True, there are some houses scattered among the businesses, but for the most part, the district covers the traditional core of the downtown area. There is a map of the district included in this newsletter's centerfold.

The district boundaries were drawn up in the fall of 1999; with acceptance of the district by the National Register of Historic Places the next January. The plans were drawn up by Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc. of Brookville, PA., experts in the field of architectural analysis.

Taylor & Taylor used three different criteria to analyze the buildings within the proposed district. Basically, these are location (1), age (2), and architecture (3).

1. Association with commerce and industry. The formal application states "the district contains the traditional central business district of the city of Bradford, and as such, is locally significant as the physical reflection of the commercial development of this leading Pennsylvania oil community.
2. Most of the buildings in the district were found to have been built during the 'Period of Significance', which begins c. 1870 and ends in 1950. (This last date corresponds to the 50 year guideline set forth by the National Register.)
3. The architecture of most of the buildings within the district is 'locally-distinctive', that is, they reflect a period of architecture that is "vernacular adaptations" of many different styles, and are "important manifestations of local building traditions" in the area.

Taylor & Taylor spent many weeks in Bradford (we know, because they came quite frequently to the Bradford Landmark Society), doing research, photographing, and walking the streets. When finished, they had an eighteen page application, as well as a map and index to all the buildings.

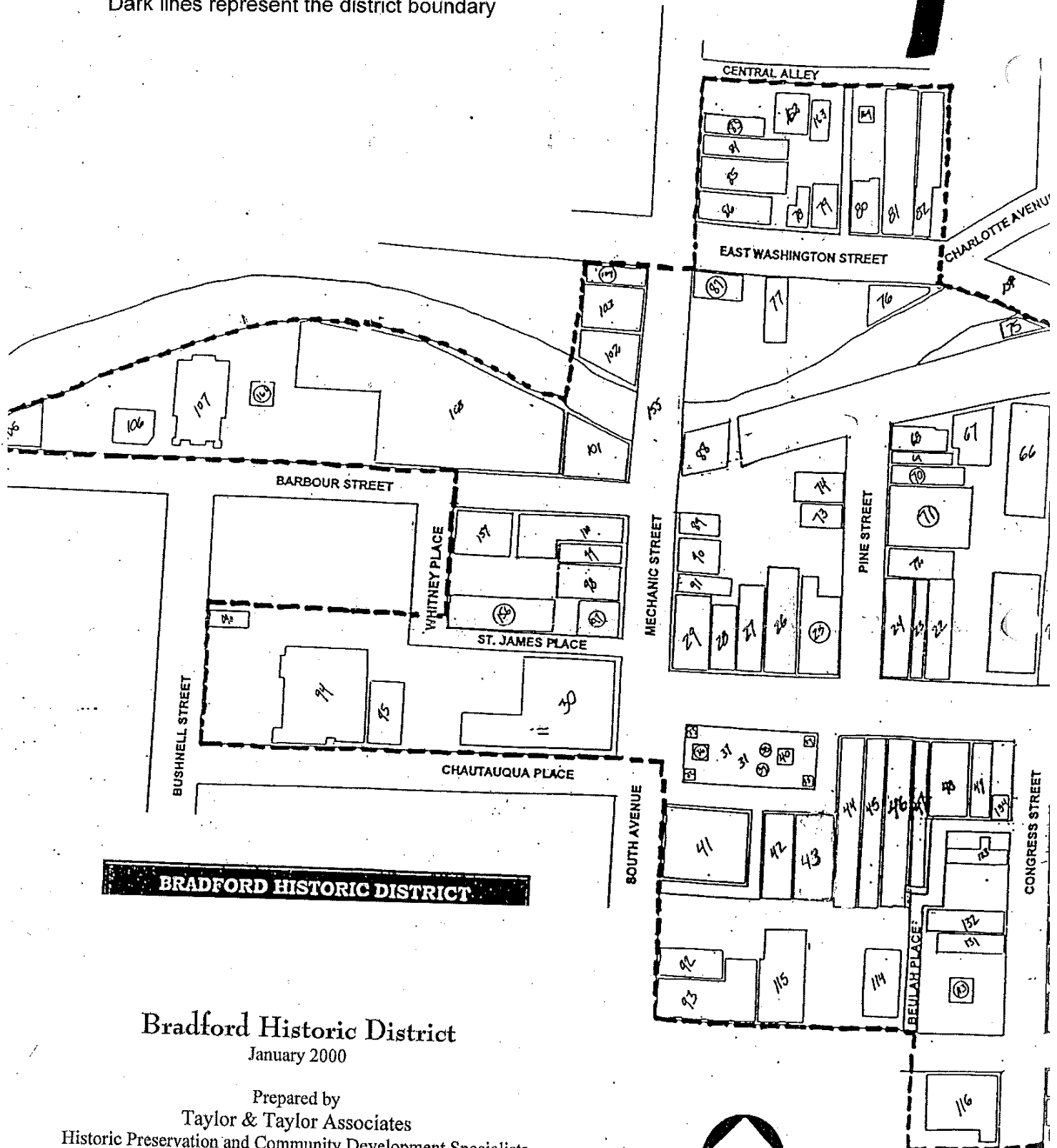
They listed 166 buildings, bridges, and structures inside the district.. Of these, they identified 136 buildings as "contributing" structures, and 27 as "non-contributing". There are also three structures within the district that had been previously placed on the National Register of Historic Places, these being the Rufus Barrett Stone flatiron building on the corner of East Washington Street and Boylston Street; the PA National Guard Armory building on Barbour Street, and City Hall, on the corner of Kennedy and Boylston Streets.

The HARB, a city appointed group of individuals, rule on the future of these buildings, esp. in regards to colors of paint, signage, construction, demolition, renovation, restoration, and re-adaptation. Sally Costik, curator of The Bradford Landmark Society, is on this board, representing the historic aspect of the buildings and acting as a guide to the other members in regards to building age, past uses, interesting historic facts or events, and other pertinent historic information that might better inform the HARB. Other than this connection, the Bradford Landmark Society has no part in HARB proceedings or decisions.

An Index to the Buildings Inside the Bradford Historic District

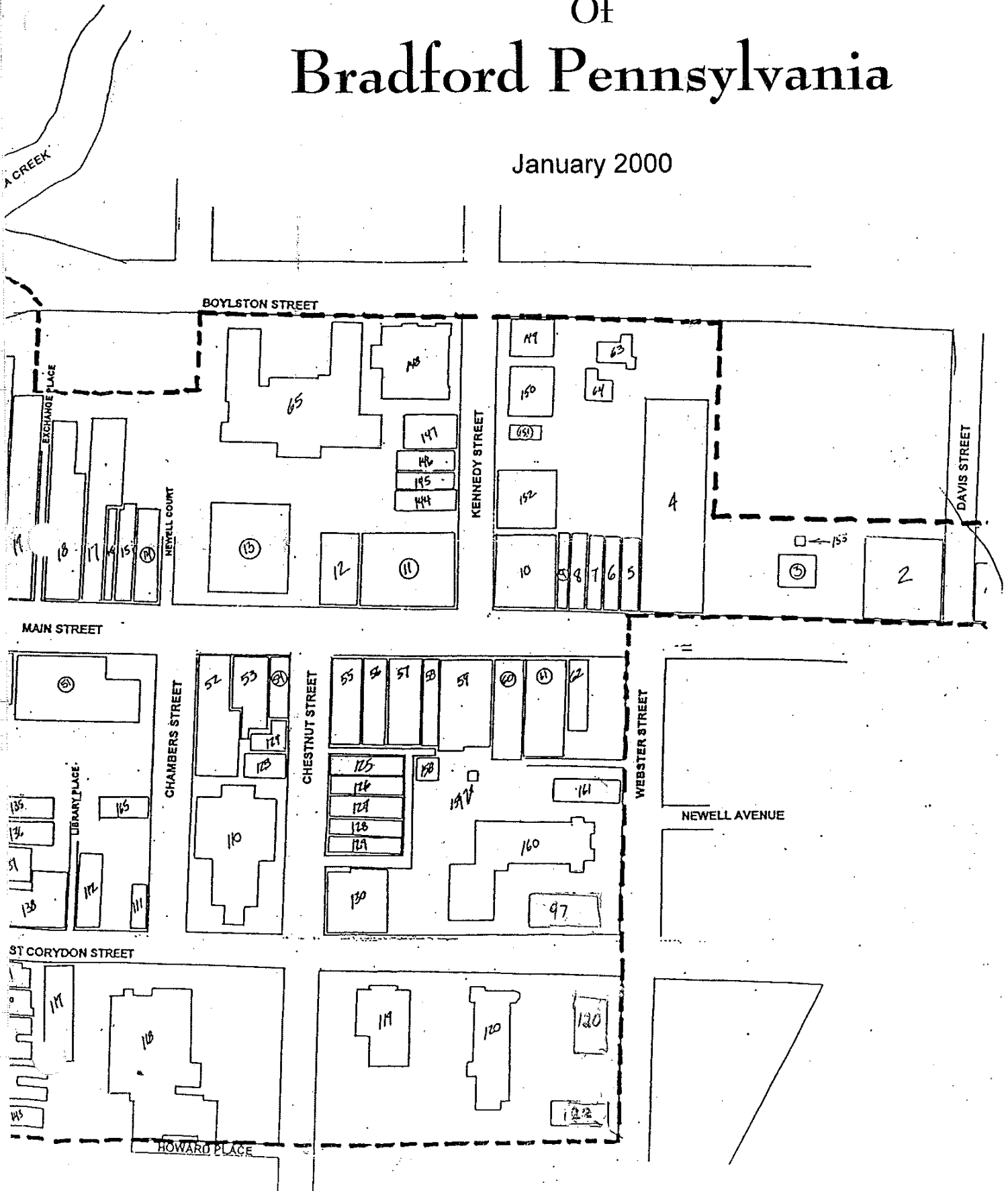
#	Address	Original Name, or Use	Current Name or Use	Year Built
1	161 Main Street	A.A. Catarina Bldg.	Commercial Use	1907
2	149-153 Main Street	Holley Hotel	Hotel	1901
3	141 Main Street	McDonalds	Fast Food	1976
4	119-133 Main Street	Hooker-Fulton Building	Commercial Use	1931
5	117 Main Street	C. H. Dubois Building	Currently Vacant	1895
6	115 Main Street	Peerless Theater	Currently Vacant	1901
7	111-113 Main Street	C. L. Bradburn Building	Archery store	1890
8	109 Main Street	T. B. Brown Mercantile	Mexican Restaurant	1897
9	105-107 Main Street	Man's World	Man's World	1950
10	101-103 Main Street	Schonblom Building	Commercial Use	1902
11	83-95 Main Street	Main Street Plaza	Main Street Plaza	1995
12	79-81 Main Street	Masonic Temple Building	Commercial Use	1889
13	71 Main Street	National City Bank	National City Bank	1961
14	57-59 Main Street	Merriam Building	Currently Vacant	1895
15	55 Main Street	George Groves Shoe Store	Bradford Pharmacy	1889
16	53 Main Street	Tobacco Shop	Langella Law Offices	1892
17	51 Main Street	Mose Cohn's Dry Goods	Movie Magic	1898
18	45-49 Main Street	Emery Hardware	Currently Vacant	1884
19	43 Main Street	Lewis Emery Offices	Bradford Era offices	1919
20	39 Main Street	Option House	Option House	1903
21	33 Main Street	Oil Exchange	Northwest Bank	1878
22	27 Main Street	Confectionary store	Downbeat Restaurant	1922
23	25 Main Street	Commercial Use	Currently Vacant	1889
24	17-21 Main Street	Thompson & Wood Drugs	Commercial Use	1881
25	13-15 Main Street	Commercial National Bank & Legal offices	Commercial National Bank & Legal offices	1922 & 1972
26	11 Main Street	Smith Brothers Grocery	Commercial Use	1895
27	7-9 Main Street	Rothstein & Lippman Jewelry	Colligan Realty	1895
28	5 Main Street	Commercial Use	Commercial Use	1895
29	1-3 Main Street	Phoenix Building	Commercial use	1895
30	2 South Avenue	Emery Hotel	Emery Towers	1929
31	Public Square	Public Square	Veterans Square	n/a
32	Public Square	Public Square lights	Veterans Square	c. 1930s
33	Public Square	Public Square lights	Veterans Square	c. 1930s
34	Public Square	Public Square lights	Veterans Square	c. 1930s
35	Public Square	Public Square lights	Veterans Square	c. 1930s
36	Public Square	Gazebo	Veterans Square	1955?
37	Public Square	Spanish American War Memorial	Veterans Square	1914
38	Public Square	Vietnam Vets Memorial	Veterans Square	1983?
39	Public Square	Korean War Memorial	Veterans Square	1983?
40	Public Square	Bradford War Memorial	Veterans Square	1919
41	2-10 Main Street	I.O.O. F. building	Seneca Building	1932
42	14 Main Street	Elks Club	Club building	1914
43	16-18 Main Street	Parker Building	Demolished	1895?
44	20 Main Street	Berry-Melvin Building	Commercial Use	1884
45	22 Main Street	Isaac Cohn Building	Commercial Use	1905
46	24 Main Street	The Fair - Dry Goods Store	Commercial Use	1909
47	26-28 Main Street	Eloskey Block	Commercial Use	1896
48	30 Main Street	Yampolskis Building	Commercial Use	1920?
49	32 Main Street	Sugar Bowl	Commercial Use	1921
50	40-42 Main Street	Dikeman Block	Commercial Use	1891
51	44-50 Main Street	Taylor Photo, The Alpine, & Producers Bank	All now contained in County National Bank	1961, 1940, and 1976
52	62 Main Street	Wagner Opera House	Commercial Use	1876

Dark lines represent the district boundary



Map of the Historic District Of Bradford Pennsylvania

January 2000



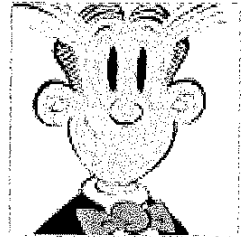
53	66 Main Street	Barnsdall Printing	Currently Vacant	1926
54	72 Main Street	Hinckley Building	Jewelry store	1965
55	76-78 Main Street	Aurehaim Building	Forest Oil Bldg.	1901
56	80-82 Main Street	James R. Evans Bldg.	James R. Evans Bldg.	1902
57	84-86 Main Street	Bay State Hotel	Commercial Use	1896
58	88 Main Street	Cigar Store	Sub Shop	1897
59	90-94 Main Street	Commercial Use	Meyer Brauser's store	1915
60	96-98 Main Street	Fashionland/ Tate's Furs	Commercial use	1954
61	100 Main Street	Commercial Use	Commercial Use	1898
62	104 Main Street	Oil Well Supply	Hairdresser shop	1879
63	80 Boylston Street	Residential	Residential	1890?
64	80 Boylston St., rear	Residential	Garage	1930?
65	50-54 Boylston Street	Dresser office building	Medical Arts Building	1904
66	18 Boylston Street	Free Methodist Church	Free Methodist Church	1924
67	4 Boylston Street	Commercial use	Commercial Use	1894?
68	26 Pine Street	Era Hook & Ladder Fire Dept.	Hospital Resale Shop	1890s
69	24 Pine Street	Era Hook & Ladder Fire Dept.	Hospital Resale Shop	1904
70	22 Pine Street	American Legion Club	American Legion Club	1931
71	14 Pine Street	Loyal Order of the Moose	Loyal Order of the Moose	1927
72	12 Pine Street	Harness Shop	Dentist Office	1890
73	17 Pine Street	Commercial Use	Commercial Use	1890?
74	19 Pine Street	Commercial Use	Commercial use	1889
75	11 Boylston Street	Rufus Barrett Stone House	Private Use	1900?
76	20-24 East Washington	The Arcade Building	Private Clubhouse	1903
77	8 East Washington	Nusbaum Grocery	Currently Vacant	1896?
78	9-11 East Washington	Benson Building	Commercial Use	1926
79	13 East Washington	Residential	Demolished	1910?
80	19 East Washington	Commercial use	Commercial Use	1890?
81	21 East Washington	Partiss Garage	Commercial Use	1923
82	23 East Washington	Glass Bakery	Commercial use	1907
83	56 Mechanic Street	Commercial Use	Commercial Use	1915?
84	54 Mechanic Street	Residential	Residential	1920s
85	50 Mechanic Street	Commercial Use	Commercial Use	1940
86	52 Mechanic Street	Commercial Use	Private Use	1900?
87	42 Mechanic Street	Commercial Use	Commercial use	1890
88	22 Mechanic Street	Commercial Use	Bakery	1880s
89	14 Mechanic Street	Commercial Use	Currently Vacant	1895
90	10 Mechanic Street	Leonard-Sheehan Boarding House	Commercial use	1896
91	12 Mechanic Street	Commercial Use	Currently Vacant	1895?
92	27-29 South Avenue	Addition to Koch's Undertaking	Funeral Home	1903
93	33 South Avenue	Koch's Undertaking Parlor	Funeral Home	1892
94	24-30 Chautauqua Place	Church of the Ascension	Church of the Ascension	1888-1912
95	20-22 Chautauqua Place	Residential	Residential	1895?
96	13 Bushnell Street	Residential	Residential	1890?
97	3 Mechanic Street	B & O News Store	Commercial Use	1939
98	5-7 Mechanic Street	Mansion House Hotel	Destroyed by fire 2004	1896
99	9 Mechanic Street	Christian Science Reading Room	Commercial use	1960s?
100	11-13 Mechanic Street	Bodine Hardware	Demolished 2002	1889
101	19-21 Mechanic Street	United States Hotel	Currently Vacant	1880s
102	35-37 Mechanic Street	Commercial Use	Currently Vacant	1890s
103	39-43 Mechanic Street	Ertz & Joseph Building	Commercial Use	1895
104	45 Mechanic Street	City Hotel	Demolished	1880s
105	56-58 Barbour Street	Pringle Powder Company	Current Use Unknown	1913
106	46 Barbour Street	Armory Garage	Private Use as Garage	1920
107	28 Barbour Street	PA State National Guard Armory	PA Nat. Guard Armory	1912
108	10-36 Barbour Street	Star Garage	Demolished 2003	1926
109	97 East Corydon Street	St. Bernard's Convent	Demolished 2001	1906
110	23-25 Chambers Street	First Methodist Episcopal Church	First Methodist Episcopal	1927

111	51 East Corydon Street	Commercial Use	Commercial Use	1880s?
112	45 East Corydon Street	Gaul's French Bakery	Headquarter, Landmark Soc.	1876
113	28 Congress Street	Gas Station	Gas Station	1940s
114	21 East Corydon Street	Bell Telephone Business Office	Commercial Use	1961
115	11 East Corydon Street	Ideal Carriage Company	Star Garage	1920s
116	30 East Corydon Street	Bell Telephone Exchange Bldg.	Telephone exchange	1930
117	44 East Corydon Street	Enty's Turkish Bath	Commercial Use	1920s
118	54 East Corydon Street	First Presbyterian Church	First Presbyterian Church	1917 +
119	80 East Corydon Street	US Post Office	Commercial Use	1912
120	88 East Corydon Street	St. Bernard's Catholic Church	St. Bernard's Catholic Ch.	1892
121	98 East Corydon Street	St. Bernard's Rectory	Demolished 2001	1896
122	98 East Corydon, rear	Garage	Demolished 2001	1980s
123	10 Chestnut Street	Commercial Use	Commercial Use	1895
124	8 Chestnut Street	Commercial Use	Commercial Use	1910
125	11 Chestnut Street	Telephone Office & Exchange	Commercial Use	1903
126	13 Chestnut Street	Stinson Building	Commercial Use	1902
127	15 Chestnut Street	Tammaro Building	Commercial use	1902
128	17 Chestnut Street	Commercial Use	Commercial Use	1905
129	19 Chestnut Street	La Stella Lodge (LSIA) Building	Commercial Use	1907
130	27 Chestnut Street	Central Fire Station	Fire Station	1910
131	22 Congress Street	Commercial Use	Commercial Use	1910?
132	20 Congress Street	Eiseman's Meat Market	Commercial use	1923
133	16 Congress Street	Congress Street Diner	Flower Shop	1940
134	10 Congress Street	Bradford Filling Station	Commercial Use	1929
135	17 Congress Street	Commercial Use	Currently Vacant	1910?
136	19 Congress Street	Commercial Use	Shoe Repair Shop	1890s
137	21-23 Congress Street	Newell Building	Commercial Use	1881
138	21 Congress Street	Carnegie Public Library	Restaurant	1901
139	33 Congress Street	Women's Christian Temperance Hall	Residential	1910
140	35 Congress Street	Residential	Residential	1900
141	39-41 Congress Street	Residential	Residential	1900
142	43-45 Congress Street	Residential	Residential	1890
143	47 Congress Street	Residential	Residential	1890s
144	9 Kennedy Street	Bank	Grahams Florist	1911
145	13 Kennedy Street	Turano Building	Commercial Use	1925
146	15 Kennedy Street	McKean Co. Building & Loan	Commercial Use	1928
147	21 Kennedy Street	Salvation Army Building	Salvation Army Bldg.	1902
148	15 Kennedy Street	City Hall	Old City Hall	1897
149	28 Kennedy Street	Hanley Brick Company offices	Bradford Water Dept.	1930
150	24 Kennedy Street	Healy Petroleum Office Building	City Hall	1942
151	18 Kennedy Street	Bradford Police Station	Police Station	1980
152	10/14 Kennedy Street	Commercial use & Boarding House	Commercial use	1889
153	141 Main St., rear	Cline Oil Well No.1	Cline Oil Well No.1	1870
154	Boylston St. Bridge	Bridge	Bridge	n/a
155	Mechanic St. Bridge	Bridge	Bridge	n/a
156	10 St. James Place	Commercial Use	Commercial use	1920s
157	152 Barbour Street	Holden Building	Commercial Use	1921
158	East Corydon St	Commercial Use	Commercial Use	1900?
159	East Corydon St	Commercial Use	Commercial Use	1930
160	20 Webster Street	St. Bernard's Auditorium	Parish Center	1933
161	16 Webster Street	Italian Club	Italian Club	1930s?
162	2 Central Ave., rear	Residential	Residential	1900s
163	13 East Washington, rear	Residential	Residential	1900s
164	19 East Washington, rear	Residential	Residential	1900s
165	18 Chambers Street	Wagner Harness Shop	Dry Cleaners	1900?
166	36 Barbour Street	Zippo Fuel Building	Zippo Manufacturing	1940s?

Happy Birthday Blondie!

This year, 2005, marks the 75th anniversary of the comic strip "Blondie". Created in 1930 by Chic Young, "Blondie" is now written seven days a week by his son, Dean, who took over when his father died in 1973. Reaching about 250 million readers in more than 2,000 newspapers in 55 countries, "Blondie" ranks among the top five most popular strips in newspaper comics surveys year after year.

"The Dagwood Sandwich" has even become part of the language. It's described by Webster's New World Dictionary as "a thick sandwich with a variety of fillings, often of apparently incompatible foods" -- such as peanut butter, avocado, horseradish and a fish! And Blondie is featured on the first-ever U.S. postage stamps commemorating the first 100 years of the comic strip.



The comic strip first appeared in *The Bradford Era* on July 13, 1936. The Era described it as "a hilarious picture presentation of the complications in the household of a young married pair who are raising a baby. Things happen fast and furious, and it's always fun". To our knowledge, it's been a part of The Era's comic strip page, or the "funnies" ever since.

The first strip published in the Era shows Dagwood, late for work as usual, racing out the front door and crashing into the postman, Mr. Beasley. This scenario has been repeated in various ways over the past 75 years.

The Dagwood of 1930 was very different from the Dagwood of 2005, however. Dagwood Bumstead was born the son of a billionaire railroad tycoon, J. Bolling Bumstead, who ran the Bumstead Locomotive Works. In his town, J. Bolling not only owned all of the property on his side of the track, but also all the property on the other side of the track....plus 3,000 miles of the track!

The character of Dagwood was written as a bumbling sort of fellow -- once he got lost in his own mansion, and had a hard time getting his polo pony to actually play polo. Most ironically, though, Bumstead was just one of many suitors of the lovely, pretty- girl flapper Blondie Boopadoop. And he might have remained so, except for the coming of the Great Depression in the 1930s. All of a sudden, a flighty blonde and her goofy billionaire boyfriend weren't so funny anymore, and as more and more newspapers began to drop the comic series, Chic Young knew he had to make some big changes.

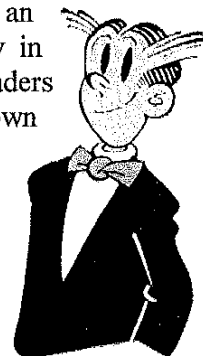
In true comic fashion, the unthinkable happened. Chic Young decided to make Dagwood and Blondie actually fall in love, get married, and raise a family. For added effect, he made the J. Bolling Bumsteads oppose the marriage, disinherit their son Dagwood, and force him to get a job and live just like the rest of the folks in the 1930s. It was a stroke of genius. Vowing to "live on love," the young couple moved to a modest house in the suburbs, where they struggled over bills, bought furniture, met neighbors and fought and made up just like millions of couples everywhere.



As Blondie's popularity expanded, so did the Bumstead family. A son, Baby Dumpling (real name Alexander), was born Apr. 15, 1934, and, in 1941 came

the second child, Cookie, who was named in a readers' contest. Nearly half a million readers submitted suggestions, even though the prize money was a mere \$100.

As a family strip **Blondie** was an instant success because it dealt with universal themes: love, marriage, parenthood, work, relaxation, eating, and sleeping. Like many American families, the Bumsteads lived in a rented house, Dagwood caught a bus to work, and they rarely went out for entertainment. Chic Young shied away from mentioning seasons or making consumer goods specific in order to reach an audience that might not own a car, the latest stove or refrigerator, or eat out regularly in restaurants. Fans all over the world identified with the Bumsteads. In fact, international readers were often surprised when they found out that the comic strip did not originate in their own country.



While the Bumsteads could have been anyone living anywhere, **Blondie** has been different from other comic strips from the start. Once she had married, Blondie ceased to be flighty; she had barely left the altar before asking Dagwood to help out with the housework, using flattery and gentle trickery to bend him to her will. Since 1933 he has done dishes, helped care for the children, cleaned the attic, and cooked an occasional meal. Shortly after their marriage, in fact, Blondie organized local housewives and lobbied for an eight-hour day. She led Dagwood to the sink full of dirty dishes with a wink to newspaper readers, many of whom might have felt overburdened by long days of managing a household. Blondie is the center of the Bumstead family household, capable of stopping Dagwood's tirades with a single look.

Yet it is Dagwood's zany antics and constantly foiled pursuit of personal pleasure that people remember: the huge sandwich made of apparently incompatible foods, the nearly missed bus, running into the mailman, Mr. Beasley, and the interrupted baths and naps. Dagwood is the perfect foil to Blondie's steady ways.

In celebration of the 75th anniversary, many other comic strip characters will be appearing this summer in the Blondie strip. Garfield, Beetle Bailey, Hagar the Horrible, baby Marvin, Dennis the Menace, Dilbert, the kid from "Zits" and others a virtual who's who of the funnies will drop in and out as the Bumsteads plan a huge party for an unspecified wedding anniversary to be celebrated in the Sunday comics Sept. 4. President Bush and wife Laura are also set to make an appearance.

Cartoon characters have been known to cameo in each other's strips from time to time, but nothing like what's happening in this summer's tribute. Hagar the Viking will have to travel 1,000 years through time to show up at the Bumstead's gala. Garfield, of course, will be looking forward to the food.

Tomorrow as you read the paper, and turn to the "funnies",
remember to wish the Bumsteads a Happy 75th Anniversary.

(Parts of this article were taken from the Internet and websites.)

Pat Schessler, one of our Landmark volunteers, remembers
The Pennsylvania National Guard Armory

It was a grand and glorious affair. On the 26th of November, 1912, Governor John K. Tener of Pennsylvania, high ranking military men in full dress uniform and their ladies; old veterans of the Civil War and the Spanish American War, and the cream of Bradford society came together to dedicate the recently completed Armory...the new home of Company C, Second Brigade, 16th Regiment, Pennsylvania National Guard. Given Bradford weather, late November isn't the best time to throw a party, but if it was cold outside, it glowed with warmth inside. No expense was spared in decorating for the event, plants, flowers, and ferns filled the hall while the Stars and Stripes hung from the Balcony.

Governor Tener was greeted by Capt. Lester Simons, a veteran of the Spanish American War, who served as his aide during the visit. W. H. Dennis of Tuna Manufacturing presented the keys to A.P. Mount of Corry, PA, supervising architect for the project, who in turn presented them to Gov. Tener. The Governor then presented the keys to Company C, represented by Capt. F. P. Schoonmaker. Following the presentation, the guests enjoyed a sumptuous banquet. Jamison's Orchestra played for the dancing that followed.

Almost a century has passed since that November night, and much of Bradford history is wrapped up in the old fortress on Barbour Street. Several generations of young men and women have gone to war from the building proudly wearing their red "Keystone" patch which became known as the 'bloody bucket'. The Pennsylvania National Guard participated in some of the bloodiest conflicts in World Wars I and II, as well as in Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, and now the war in Iraq. Catastrophes at home have also been part of the Guard's work, and they have recently returned from helping down south with Hurricane Katrina.

Despite its fortress appearance, life at the armory hasn't been all guns and drill. In May, 1924, the Bradford Lions Club held their first installation ceremonies in the armory. These included a three day bazaar, a grand ball, and spectacular entertainment that included members of the Ziegfeld follies, a Turkish dancer, and a special broadcast from Radio Station KDKA in Pittsburgh. The event concluded with a special Children's Fair.

Many seniors will remember roller skating at the armory, and there might just be a few who can recall the basketball games and boxing matches. In a story in the Bradford Era of January 1976, writer Francis X. Sculley tells of basketball games, wrestling, and boxing matches held in the hall. Scully also remembers sadder times; a soup kitchen that provided food for the poor in the Depression of the 1930s.

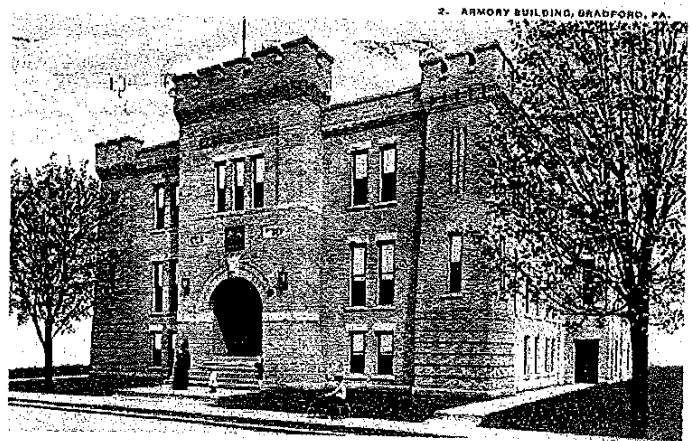
The Girl Scouts held an annual Bazaar and birthday party at the Amory in the 1950s. The Scouts proudly showed off their accomplishments, presented programs, and one year held a fashion show with Girl Scout uniforms dating back to the 1920s. One Scout, who shared her birthday with founder Juliette Lowe, was chosen as a Birthday Girl, and the event concluded with a birthday party, complete with cake and candles.

The Armory has witnessed many changes in the neighborhood over the years. A blacksmith shop that was its neighbor is gone, the nearby staples replaced by garages; and now, they too are no more. The small Zippo factory next door moved across the street into larger quarters. Gone, too, are the family homes, the neighborhood grocery, and the feed mill. And Water Street has disappeared completely.

Time has taken its toll on the Armory, too. The old building is no longer adequate for 21st Century military with all its machines and equipment. A new home for Company C has tentatively been selected near the airport.

The soldiers may leave for a new home but the old Armory will still keep watch over Bradford. In 1992 the Armory was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and is safe from the wrecking ball.

The guard may disappear from the area around Barbour Street, but the memories will linger and there are still more yet to be made.



The Ever Changing Face of Commerce

Each year, the Bradford Landmark Society keeps track of the businesses that are new, closed, coming, or changed in some way. We enter all this information onto a data base, so that history that is happening now is recorded accurately for the future. This page lists many of these businesses; and while we know that we may have missed a few here and there throughout 2005, it is comforting to know that business in Bradford is alive and growing, especially for new small businessmen and women!

New Businesses	Closed Businesses
Bradford Therapeutic Massage & Body Resort Brick Oven Pizza Designer Threads Foster Brook Glass J.D. Novelties Mercantile Art & Antiques Miller Kenpo-Karate-Dojo studio Nutrition Assessment Services Performance Tools Pet Wash Save-A-Lot The Carpet Store The Classy Canine	Archer's Colors Galore 'n More J.P. Outdoors Nusbaum's Grocery Race-Buick Cadillac, Inc. Gleason Beer Distributing Company
	Coming Soon! The VFW will be moving into the old Gleason Beer Distributorship building on Barbour Street. The Bradford Regional Medical Center just began its multimillion dollar expansion across Pleasant Street A new shopping plaza, is under construction on the site of the old Evans Rollerdom and will open next spring.

Moved or Expanded Businesses
Ed Shults Auto Group (took over Race Buick location on South Ave.) now has two locations, other on East Main. Green Mountain Organic (moved from East Main Street to Kennedy St.) Goodwill (moved around the corner; now faces Davis St.) Orris Jewelers (moved from South Avenue to Chambers Street - after 55 years at the old location!) S & H Computers (now Two Geex); moved from Mechanic Street to South Avenue Hedlund Glass (moved a few doors down on North Kendall Avenue) The Hot Spot (combined bridal shop with hair/tanning/nails shop) expanded on South Ave. The Groomery on Bolivar Drive moved to the old Grange Building on Bolivar Drive. The old Downbeat Restaurant is now Abasso at the Downbeat , under new ownership and renovated inside.



Season's Greetings

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