



The Inkwell

The newsletter of the Bradford Landmark Society
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January 20, 2008

Published 4 times a Year

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Mary Ryan

Gordon Ernest

Molly Lindahl

Bill Knight

Hours of Operation:

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

Historic Crook Farm by Appointment
Judy Yorks, Director

Once again, January has arrived, with bitter temperatures and snow. It's been such a mild winter so far that people are actually rooting for more snow! Brrr.

Every time a stranger walks into the Herbig Bakery, they are amazed at the number of people working away in the back. Mary Ryan sits quietly in a world of her own, typing the end of year chronologies into a database format. Larry Richmond, who sits across from her, bustles about, doing a variety of research; Mike Fuoco either sits at one of the research tables or is inside our only official "office", scanning aerial negatives; Tom Jones, our newest employee, manages to keep our computers going, and is in the midst of designing a Powerpoint presentation on early Bradford; Molly Lindahl sits inside our "office" answering email, xeroxing, and scanning photographs; and Sally Costik, the curator, sits on the other side of the research table, doing all the other misc. things that have to be done. And of course, visitors come in, the phone rings, and every time one of us finds out something interesting we feel compelled to share it with the rest of the Herbig Bakery volunteers. It's a great place to work.

And things keep changing! Congratulations to Harrijane Hannon, who recently married Jerry Moore; and more congratulations to Anne and Don Bouquin, whose daughter Jennifer was born Dec. 27 at Bradford Hospital.

The Bradford Landmark Society was recently donated the funds towards the purchase of a special photographic scanner, capable of scanning 5" x 7" negatives, and a new computer, dedicated to just these negatives. The words "Thank You" cannot express our thrill at finally obtaining such a scanner, and yet, we are going to say them anyway, "Thank you to Brian Bovaird of Oklahoma, and Bruce and Bev Perry of Bradford, for such a great gift to our society". The Dresser book is a huge success – we've sold over 130 copies so far – and recently re-ordered "Tiger at the Bar" – hardcover edition, which gives a good background to the days of Prohibition and gangsters. Since the movie "Little Chicago" is filming in Bradford, there is a lot of interest in that time period right now. Be sure to check out our featured story this month, "The Necrology and Chronology of Bradford Businesses, and be amazed how many new businesses opened in 2007!

- The Arcade Building, located on East Washington Street, and reported in last spring's newsletter that it was in danger of collapse, was razed two weeks ago. Deemed unsafe by the city, the roof of the 1904 building had caved in even more. Located directly on the Tuna Creek, and even overhanging it by a few inches, its removal was a tricky operation. Now that it is gone, and the debris cleared away, it's difficult to imagine that a building as large as the Arcade could once have stood there. The Bradford Landmark is always sad to see any building inside the Historic District removed, but in this case, we feel that it was totally justified.
- The Bradford Hospital has put out a commemorative calendar on the Hamsher House and the School of Nursing. It's a wonderful fact filled calendar with all sorts of photographs from across the years, showing nurses at work, study, play and fun. The Landmark has a few of these calendars for sale at the Herbig Bakery – and you can find them at the gift shop at the Hospital (Heartstrings), the pharmacies on Main Street, Tina's Hallmark, and the Main Street Mercantile.
- We finally got the Dresser Mansion book finished and out on the shelves. So far, it's one of our best sellers. Most of the book is a reprint of the 1903 souvenir commemorative edition of the mansion written by Solomon Dresser. The first section of the book, though, is a timeline of Dresser's life, his inventions, his family, and the construction, and eventual destruction by fire, of the mansion. We are selling it at the Herbig bakery, and at the Main Street Mercantile. All profits benefit the Bradford Landmark Society.
- We are also selling reprinted, hardcover editions of "Tiger at the Bar". As the movie "Little Chicago" started filming here before Christmas, there is a lot of renewed interest in the Prohibition Era, and the colorful characters that make up that decade of history. It's a lot of fun to watch a real movie being made. Everyone dressed like the 1920s, old cars, huge light sets; they even took out the parking meters on Kennedy Street for authenticity, and for those who saw the house on Howard Street "blown up" – well, it was Hollywood at its best! We can't wait for the movie to be finished and released. Wonder where the red carpet will be?
- We are underway with our aerial photograph book. Mike Fuoco is in the midst of writing captions for each negative – we hope to have about 100 photographs in this book, although we certainly have enough negatives to do at least one more book. These photographs from Donald Tanner are wonderfully crisp and clear. If you have never really looked at aerial photographs, or don't think that you will be interested – well, wait until you see these! We have photographs of the main streets, the Kinzua Dam area, industries, roads and buildings under construction, schools – and these are not taken from so high up that you can't make out details on the ground below. We are projecting publication by the Crook Farm Crafts Fair this August.
- And spring is on the way. The Crook Farm School Program will be underway within the next few months, and we know that the very first reservation letters have gone out to the schools. Geri Zetler, who scheduled the schools for so many years, has "re-retired" and passed that job on. She did a great job, and while we can understand her wanting to take it easy, we'll miss her. And condolences to the family of Margrieta Hewey, who was one of the very first "Crook farmers" I met when I first started at the Landmark 14 years ago. She, June Gray, Marian Bromeley, Doc Watkins and Doc Taylor, George Kish, and others, were among those of the founding core of the Landmark and whose vision of a historical society remains today.

Zip Codes

Last Thanksgiving, just before the holiday, the Bradford Landmark Society published its usual fall newsletter. However, don't consider yourself crazy if you never received it. Due to a huge oversight, the non-profit stamp that was supposed to be put on every single newsletter was forgotten – and not a single Landmark volunteer, or postal employee caught our mistake until weeks after we mailed the whole batch of Newsletters. The majority of them stayed in the postal system and were delivered anyway, but eventually some came back a result of a conscientious postal employee who noticed the missing stamp. Those 60 or so people never did get their last copy of *The Inkwell*. But don't worry – we won't slip up again!

We apologize for this mistake, and you can rest assured that we will be diligently checking each and every newsletter this time around. And just recently, quite by accident, the Internet had a small article on Zip Codes. We thought it was interesting, so portions of that article are included here, for your enjoyment:

Contrary to what most people – well, younger people – remember, there weren't always Zip Codes on letters. Actually, it's been only 45 years since they were required. The word ZIP in Zip Code stands for **Zoning Improvement Plan**; an expansion on a system of postal codes that were first used in cities starting in 1943, such as Minneapolis 16, or St. Petersburg 1, FL.



By the early 1960s a more general system was needed, and on July 1, 1963, non-mandatory ZIP codes were announced for the whole country. Robert Moon, an employee of the post office, is considered the father of the ZIP code. He submitted his proposal in 1944 while working as a postal inspector.

So, okay, what does a zip code number mean? The first digit in a zip code designates a large or broad geographical area of the United States, such as zero for the Northeast, and 8 for the West. (In our case, the number "1".) The next two digits specify population concentrations within those zones. (Such as 67.) The 67 designation reaches throughout all of McKean County – there are 22 different zip codes in McKean County. The last two digits represent a specific geographic area. In our case, this is usually a small town, such as Bradford, Lewis Run, Lafayette, Eldred, Kane, Port Allegany, or larger areas.

Mr. ZIP, informally "Zippy", was a cartoon character used in the 1960s by the United States Post Office Department, and in the 1970s by its successor, the United States Postal Service, to encourage the general public to include the ZIP Code in all mailings. Ironically, there was never a postage stamp with Mr. ZIP.

The Post Office had little difficulty in getting mass mailers to use the ZIP Code as they could require its use in order to receive preferential mailing rates, which it soon did. However, there was some resistance to using it by the general public, members of whom would mail items without ZIP Codes, almost invariably at the first Class Mail rate, which by regulation had to be delivered if at all possible and feasible. This was particularly true of older mailers. Mr. ZIP was the Post Office's answer to this, apparently to teach small children to always use the ZIP Code as they got older, and also to encourage their parents and grandparents to do so.

Stamp collectors sometimes collect the corner block of four stamps with the part of the selvage bearing Mr. ZIP; they are called "ZIP blocks".

Some interesting zip codes: 22222 is Arlington, VA; 44444 is Newton Falls, OH; 55555 is Young America, MN and 12345 is Schenectady, NY.

The Necrology and Chronology

Of Business 2007

Each year, as a tribute to those businesses that sprang into life in Bradford, and to honor those that sadly were closed, The Bradford Landmark Society publishes a list that identifies every one opened, sold, closed, or moved. If we have missed any, we apologize; but invite you to share our memories of Bradford's changing business scene in this edition of *The Inkwell*.

New Businesses:

- Nov. 2007 **Evolution Pool & Arcade**, an arcade and pool hall located at 22 South Avenue.
- Oct. 2007 **The Blue & Gold Café**, a small sandwich, soup, and coffee shop located in the Seneca Building.
- Oct. 2007 **Melange – The Massage Spa**. Located at 22 Main St., featuring all sorts of massages, and spa treatments.
- Oct. 2007 **Allegheny Recreational Rentals**, 217 W. Washington Street. Rentals of all sorts of fun outdoor scooters, canoes, fishing and camping equipment, golf clubs, etc.
- Oct. 2007 **Little Caesars Pizza**, 100 W. Washington Street. Hot-N-Ready Pizza.
- Oct. 2007 **RayBurg M.A.R.S.** Custom paint, glass repair, plastic repair, stain & odor removal, etc.
- Oct. 2007 **Clix PC Repair Center**, 14 E. Corydon Street. Computer repair, cleaning, maintenance, etc.
- Sept. 2007 A new building for the **Department of Motor Vehicles and the Pennsylvania Dept. of Welfare** was erected during the autumn of 2007 at 56-58 Chestnut Street.
- Aug. 2007 **Rocks, Behind the Eight**, 22 South Avenue. Drug & alcohol-free recreation for youth. Apparently changed its name in Nov. 2007 to Evolution Pool & Arcade.
- Aug. 2007 **Fratellis Italian Restaurant**, 1020 East Main Street. Italian food served with a 1950s twist.
- Aug. 2007 **Our World**, located in Westline, PA. Country, contemporary items, jewelry, gifts, etc.
- Aug. 2007 **MS Tire & Auto Service**, 59 Minard Run. Tires for passenger cars and light trucks.
- July 2007 **Paper to Pages**, 14 Kennedy Street. Scrapbook supplies and more.
- July 2007 **Family Video**, DVDs for rent and sale, candy, popcorn, video games.
- July 2007 **Jim's Professional Detail Shop**, 42 Bolivar Drive. Interior and exterior detailing of your vehicle.
- June 2007 **Bradford Oncology**, 8 North Center Street. Oncology and Hematology services.
- June 2007 **Fastenal**, 76 Bedford Street. Contractor & Industrial Supplies.
- June 2007 **Performance Image**, 72 Main Street. Speed shop and off-road center.

- May 2007 **Bella Capelli Salon**, 507 East Main Street. Full hair service, including coloring and cuts.
- May 2007 **Grandma's House Teas & Gifts**, 16 Congress Street. Offering beverages, sweets and merchandise inside former Congress Street diner.
- May 2007 **The Emery Espresso Bar**, 30 Boylston Street. Coffee and espresso products, pastries and bagels.
- May 2007 **The Gilded Lily**, 1111 East Main Street, located inside Graham's Greenhouse garden center. Unique tools and garden supplies, gifts.
- April 2007 **Holiday Financial Services** moved from inside CNB bank to 46 Main Street.
- April 2007 **Bradford Auto Service**, 58 W. Washington Street (formerly Colley's Auto). Automotive repairs, rental, and services.
- Feb. 2007 **South Kendall Auto Shop**, all types of automobile repair.

Going, Going, Gone

- Dec. 2007 **Cindy's Book Haven**, located at 5 Congress Street, sold many types of books.
- Dec. 2007 **Christmas Shoppe**, 88 Boylston Street. Christmas items and gifts.
- Nov. 2007 **The Hamsher House**, located on Pleasant Street, it was built by Sarah Hamsher in tribute to her late husband, Lewis Hamsher. Although built in 1917 as a dormitory for the growing Bradford Hospital School of Nursing, the building later housed students from the University of Pittsburgh, and still later, medical offices. Its demolition was deemed necessary as the hospital underwent a \$14 million dollar expansion project.
- Oct. 2007 **Movie Gallery**, located in the small plaza by Wal-Mart.
- Sept. 2007 **Uni-Marts**, located at 76 Chestnut, and 204 Bolivar Drive, closed in early autumn; the 76 Chestnut Street Uni-Mart has since reopened – the one on Bolivar Drive remains closed and for sale.
- Sept. 2007 The old **Pennsylvania Electric Company Building**, which in recent years had housed the PA Dept. of Motor Vehicles, Curves for Women, and The Print Shop, was demolished in the fall of 2007 as a newer structure was built in its place.
- Sept. 2007 **James R. Evans** men's clothing store at 80 Main Street, closed after 104 years; 47 of them owned and operated by Jack Shatara, who bought the store in 1984.
- June 2007 **Movie World**, located in Save-A-Lot Plaza at 75 Forman Street, closed after 9 years.
- June 2007 **Nickel Paint & Decorating** at 10 Kennedy Street closed when its owner, Fran Nickel, decided to retire after 26 years.

Feb. 2007 **GiGi Ladies Fashion Boutique** at 86 Main Street, closed after 8 years.

Moved from Here to There . . .

Nov. 2007 **Bradford's Chamber of Commerce** moved from the Seneca Building to 121 Main Street, next to Bradford's Main Street Moviehouse.

Sept. 2007 **Green Mountain Organics**, moved from Kennedy Street to 34 South Avenue. Sells a variety of organic and health food products.

April 2007 **The Print Shop** moved from Chestnut Street to 15 Barbour Street.

Mar. 2007 **M M Communications, Inc.** Moved from East Corydon Street to 125 Main Street, specializes in selling Verizon phones.

Jan. 2007 **Bloomer's Florist**, located in the old Congress Street diner, closed in January, but re-opened in Dec. 2007 at the Main Street Mercantile Store.

And finally, sold, but remains the same . . .

Nov. 2007 **Tops Market**, Bradford's largest grocery store, along with the entire Tops Market Chain, was sold to Morgan Stanley Private Equity for \$310 million dollars. The previous owners were the Dutch Supermarket Group Royal Ahold.

*May the Year 2008 prove
as interesting to our city!*

Eskimos and Reindeer Visit Bradford

January 7, 1927

“At the top of the world, in the shadow of the North Pole, sacrifices and personal suffering contributed in making it possible for the citizens of Bradford to enjoy a visit from their Cousins of Alaska, over 5000 miles from here.”

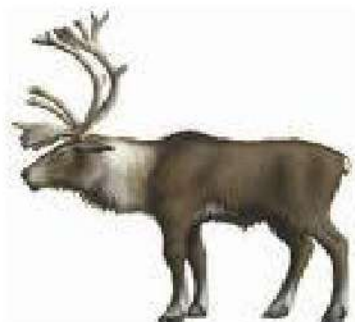
In 1927, city officials in Bradford decided to invite an Eskimo family and their reindeer to come to Bradford under the auspices of local business concerns for an unusual educational exhibition and to share knowledge of their home so far from this city. Now, years later, the authenticity of the Eskimo family is met with some skepticism (some believe that the Eskimos were actually actors from Hollywood) but in 1927, scam or not, Bradfordians were fascinated with the idea of meeting a real live Eskimo family.

Accordingly, Bradford officials invited the Ahkla family and their reindeer “from the frozen north” to appear at the Grand Theater on January 7, 1927. Heavily promoted in the local *Bradford Era*, it was reported that “thousands viewed the Alaska reindeer on local streets”. “The strangely attired visitors of another race – but not of another flag – were not stingy with their presence”, and appeared in various stores throughout the morning and afternoon; and were greeted by throngs of people at every location. Jimmy Ahkla, and wife Trixie, along with their two little children, ages 2 and 4 months, delighted the crowds. The family was dressed in complete Eskimo attire, with the majority of their clothing manufactured from reindeer skin; and their “parkas” fashioned from seal skin.

The Bradford crowds were particularly interested in seeing authentic reindeer, and were duly impressed with the small stature of each reindeer, the large size of their feet, and the smoothness of their coat. Most had believed that the reindeer would be more like a pet than a farm animal, and were surprised to learn that the reindeer could be an aggressive animal.

The Ahkla family had been invited to visit throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Western PA and spent only one night in each town before moving on to the next stop. It had been a short visit, but quite an educational one.

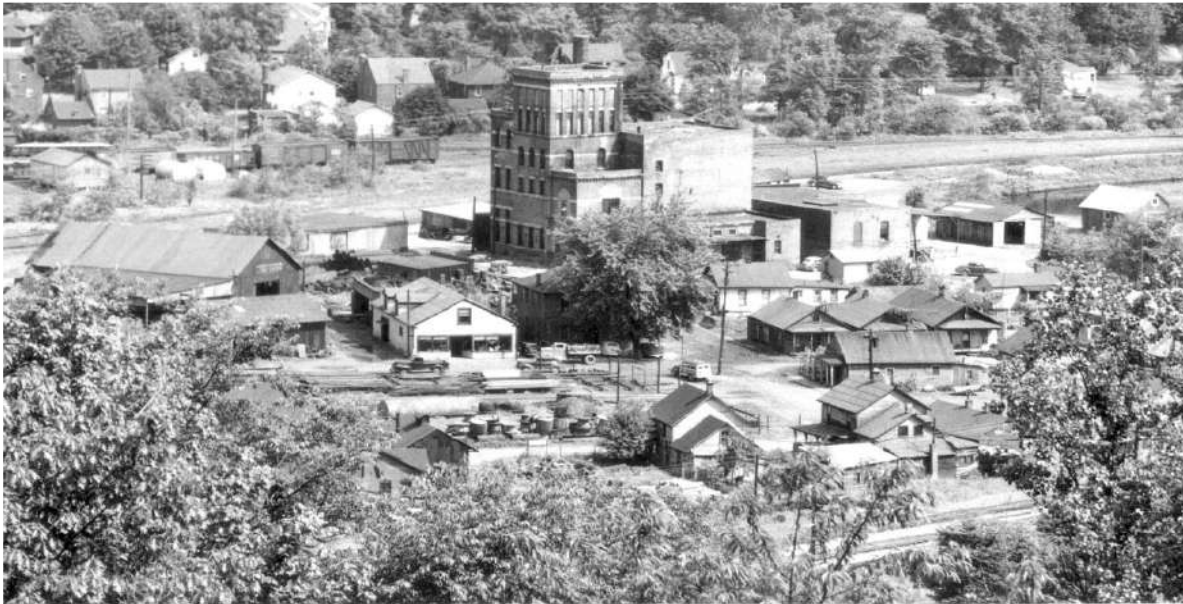
The city never again invited any of our neighbors to the “north, east, or south”, but for those who met a “real, live Eskimo and their reindeer” it was memories in the making.



Bradford Landmark Society

45 East Corydon Street

Bradford PA 16701



Hilton Street area. Old Bradford Brewery is tallest building. Now site of Route 219.

Hey, are you brave enough – or warm enough to hear some winter stories? Read on!

Feb. 13, 1901 40 loaded boxcars are stuck in snow near Mt. Jewett and the Kinzua Bridge with snow drifts as high as boxcars.

Dec. 14, 1904 Members of the Snow Shoe Club of Olean of which many Bradfordians are members, will make their first trip from Olean to Bradford after the first heavy snowfall.

Feb. 10, 1945 1500 people witness the opening of the Zippo Ski Slope at Recreation Park.

Jan. 21, 1985 The temperature in the City of Bradford reaches a low of 11 below zero with a wind chill estimate of 50 degrees below zero.

Dec. 2, 1974 Inclement weather causes the cancellation of three Allegney Airlines flights and the delay of another from Bradford Regional Airport.

May 14, 1985 The Callahan ice skating rink is named the David J. Kreinson Ice Skating Rink by City Council in recognition of Kreinson's 25 years of dedicated service to the city.

Nov. 26, 1888 Tuna Creek frozen solid. Venturesome youth skate.

Jan. 10, 1938 Four local ponds open, three of them rendered useful by aid of Kiwanis Club. Skating areas include old Driving Park on Congress Street, Brook Lake on Interstate Parkway, Graham's pond on Seaward Avenue, and at the rear of Senior High School. Lights will be installed.

Now Get Out There and Enjoy the Winter!



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Historic Crook Farm by Appointment
Judith Yorks, Director

Once again, summer is upon us. So far, it looks like a rainy sort of season, but as they say, it's better than snow. This edition of the newsletter is a grab bag collection of summer related articles, including the famous 1879 bull and bear fight that was held in Custer City one very hot summer day; an article of famous visitors that have graced our city (doesn't everyone have visitors in the summer?); events of past Julys, and the usual news of the Landmark Society and the Crook Farm.

Our latest book, "Looking Down from Above", a collection of aerial photographs taken by Don Tanner in the late 1950s and 1960s should arrive at the Herbig Bakery within the next two weeks. We've already sold enough to cover publication costs. It promises to be one our best top selling books so be sure to come into the Landmark and get your copy. We will be arranging a book signing as well. The book has 112 aerial photographs, and each particular photo was chosen for its clarity, interest, and subject. Views of downtown Bradford, Foster Brook before the mall was built, scenes of the Kinzua dam area, oil industry related photographs and more will make this a truly unique view of Bradford history.

The Crook Farm School Program is over again for the year. Under the direction of Judith Yorks, over 800 children from Bradford and McKean County schools, other neighboring counties and New York state participated in candle making, old time chores, learning about the good old days in a one room school house, carpentry, blacksmithing, and the summer kitchen.

The Landmark is looking for glass plate negatives to copy. We are asking anyone who reads this newsletter, and who has ANY glass plate negatives, to come into the bakery at 45 E. Corydon Street and let us scan your photograph. We won't keep it - promise! - but will return it to you safe and sound. Scanning a negative (glass or film) cannot be done on a regular scanner - but we recently purchased a new special scanner that has these capabilities and we are anxious to copy as many of these rare photographs as possible.

And don't forget the Crook Farm Country Fair, to be held this August 23 & 24. Its fun, food, music, crafts, tours of the farmhouse and school house - and helps to support our Society!

The Long Hot Summer - Here's what happened in other Julys from long ago...

As a result of careful and critical enumeration, the population of the city of Bradford is 17,305.	July 2, 1900
Lee Onn, a Chinese laundryman, accused an Italian boy of stealing 26 Chinese bracelets from his laundry on East Main St.	July 2, 1900
A mad dog caused a reign of terror on Main St., biting men and children, horses and dogs. The dog was finally killed in East Bradford.	July 6, 1900
William Hanley was awarded the contract to build the Carnegie Library Building. He was the lowest bidder at \$22,785.	July 7, 1900
The overhanging sidewalk on East Main St., skirting the west side of the hill, has been completed. The walk is laid upon stringers supported by steel brackets. The guard rail is yet to be built.	July 13, 1900
Men at work on the new Kinzua viaduct are out on a strike and all work on the bridge is stopped. The contractors Grattan and Jennings, refuse to advance wages from \$4.40 per day to \$5.50.	July 20, 1900
According to the new Latham Directory, Bradford has 165 streets on which buildings have been erected, 2107 buildings are owned by occupants, population is 17,608.	July 8, 1901
Lightning caused an explosion of gas in a tank of the Emery Pipe Line. Oil in the tank burned fiercely and then overflowed, blazing oil flowed upon the roadbed of the Erie Railway, destroying the track for a considerable distance.	July 28, 1902
A man, divested of his clothing and attempting to eat grass, gave an "open air" performance in Lewis Run before being arrested.	July 19, 1904
The Italian residents of the Fifth Ward have organized a club called the Italian Patriotic Club for social purposes and the development of citizenship.	July 26, 1904
Plans for new men's medical and surgical building and driving shed detailed by Hospital directors	July 16, 1907
DeSantis Brothers of Chicago will open a meat market at 37 Mechanic Street.	July 17, 1907
Baseball game between the Druggists and Lawyers will benefit Beacon Light	July 31, 1907
The Hotel Holley formally opened yesterday; four story, fire proof of brick and stone, 75 sleeping rooms, etc. Constructed by E.N. Unruh, well known local architect and contractor.	July 12, 1910
Lt. Parker Cramer pilots first plane into Bradford. Lands at side of highway on Fred Hooker's Meadow at 4:40 pm. Lt. Harri Emery accompanies him.	July 4, 1919
Bids will be advertised for construction of the bridge across the Allegheny river at Seneca Junction. The bridge will open a much needed artery into New York state.	July 7, 1922
"Yeggs" use nitroglycerine to blow safe at Bradford Ice Cream factory at 44 State street. Noise heard all over 3rd Ward - \$50 in cash taken from safe.	July 5, 1922

Famous Visitors to Bradford

Bradford may be just a little spot on the map of northern Pennsylvania, but we've had more than our share of well known characters come to town. There was no paparazzi back then, but we thought it would be fun to list a few of the truly famous men and women that came to our fair city in years past. We think that you will be surprised!

Presidents

So far, only two US presidents have come to Bradford, and both were out of office at the time. **Ulysses S. Grant** came in the late 1870s, on his way to see the Kinzua Bridge; his train briefly stopped in Bradford and he greeted city officials before traveling on to see the "8th Wonder of the World".

William Howard Taft, the 27th President of the United States (1909-1913), came here in December 1919. Taft gave a speech on the League of Nations at the Bradford Theater (later renamed Shea's Theater) and later dined that night with the Hazelton family, at 8 School Street.



William H. Taft

Socialists and Speakers



Bradford was always ready to hear a good lecture on topics of the day, and many famous speakers came to Bradford. **Carrie Nation**, the well known opponent of drink and sin, came to Bradford at least twice, in 1901 and 1903 - speaking in the Public Square and staying at the Hotel Holley. **Belva Lockwood**, the first woman to run for President came here in October 1888 and spoke at the Methodist Church. **Eugene V. Debs**, the noted Socialist and labor leader lectured at the Bradford Theater in January 1906, and **William Jennings Bryan** spoke on the "World's Greatest Needs", lecturing at the YMCA and the Bradford Theater, and stayed at the Hotel Holley in March 1922. **Evangeline Booth**, daughter of Salvation Army founder William Booth, came to Bradford in June 1931. **Susan B. Anthony** spoke out on women suffrage at the Wagner Opera House in April 1892.

Belva Lockwood

Actors & Actresses and Entertainers

It should be no surprise that some of the most famous actors and actresses and entertainers of all sorts visited Bradford as well. **Lily Langtry**, the Jersey Lily, reputed to be the most beautiful woman in the world, and the same woman that Judge Roy Bean in Texas renamed his town "Langtry, Texas" although he had never actually met her, came to Bradford with her theatrical company in 1883 and appeared on stage at the Wagner Theater. **Sarah Bernhardt** played "Camille" on stage at the Bradford Theater in 1906; **Annie Oakley** appeared at the Bradford Gun Club in 1929 and shot a cigarette out from between the lips of her husband, Frank. In addition, **Marian Anderson**, a famous black singer who was later banned in 1939 from singing before an integrated audience at Constitution

Hall in Washington, DC (later singing instead on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial), gave a memorable performance here at the Third Ward School auditorium in May of 1938. (The Landmark Society has a program personally autographed by Marian Anderson, of this concert, in our collection). And who could forget **John Phillip Sousa**, noted band leader and composer. He appeared, the *Bradford Era* said, at the Wagner Theater, "with his sable whiskers, white gloves, eyeglasses and medals and filled and thrilled the crowds of the Opera House with soul stirring melody". And speaking of musicians, **Sammy Kaye** (my Dad used to listen to "Swing & Sway with Sammy Kaye" on his little radio in his workshop) - a leader of the "sweet" bands of the Big Band era, came to Bradford (at Shea's) in May 1941. And who could forget **Harry Houdini**, who came to town in 1898 with the Welch Brothers circus, and camped out on Pine Street. Not yet famous, Houdini and Beatrice, his wife would later tour Europe in 1899, and become world famous as "The Handcuff King". **Boris Karloff**, in town while touring with the "Arsenic and Old Lace" play at Shea's theater, donated the first \$50.00 check to the 1943 Red Cross Drive in Bradford, and **Roy Rogers** made a personal appearance at the new theater in the Hooker-Fulton building on May 26, 1939. **Ethel Barrymore** played in "A School for Scandal" in 1932 (and stayed at the Emery Hotel, but refused to give an interview). And who could REALLY forget **Sally Rand**, famous for her "bubble dance", who danced at Shea's theater in April 1937.

Poets

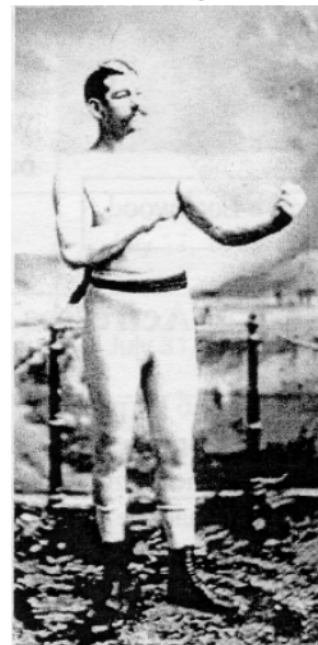
Well known poets also came to Bradford. **Carl Sandburg** spoke at the Woman's Literacy Club in November 1922, and not only read his poetry; he also sang several of his poems while accompanying himself on guitar. **Sinclair Lewis**, also a guest of the Women's Club, spoke at their clubhouse on Chautauqua Place in March 1921. And **Edgar Guest**, a prolific American writer who, in his time, was known as the "People's Poet" spoke at the old high school auditorium in 1921.

Sports

Bradford seems to have a soft spot for athletes, and many famous ones have visited our city over the years. **Rube Waddell**, who was actually born here on Jackson Avenue, became a Baseball Hall of Famer as a left handed strike out pitcher. **John L. Sullivan** appeared in vaudeville in Bradford in 1906, and boasted that he would pay any man \$1000 that he could not stop in four rounds. **Tom Sharkey**, another famous heavyweight boxer, and considered to be one of the "100 Greatest Punchers of All Times" by *Ring* magazine, came to Bradford in 1907, not to fight, but to race his horse at the Bradford Race Track (at the end of Race Street, where Zippo is now located).

Governors and Others

There have been a few Pennsylvania governors who have visited Bradford from time to time, and these include **Samuel Pennypacker**, who was actually running for governor at the time (and made it - he was governor from 1903 to 1907); Governor **Gifford Pinchot** who visited Bradford as a guest of the Board of Trade (now the Chamber of Commerce) and talked in the public square in 1925 and again in 1930; and of course, **Gov. Thomas Ridge**, who visited the Zippo Case Museum opening in 1997.



So, were you surprised?

For years we have heard rumors of a bull and bear fight in Custer City. Newspaper articles would hint at its existence; interviews with old men in the 1920s would mention it; and people would tell us that their great grandfather had been there ...or so they thought. Until recently, however, the exact date had eluded us, but research has turned up this remarkable event in our city's history and we present it to you here in this newsletter. We won't reveal all the details of that terrible match, but suffice to say it was brutal, cruel, and heartless.

The Bradford of 1879 was a very different place than it is today. Bradford was rough - wild - and untamed. Known throughout the state as "Bad Bradford" this bloodthirsty event did little to change our reputation. Newspapers as far away as Philadelphia and Buffalo expressed outrage when learning of the event. An editorial in the *Philadelphia Examiner* stated, "that the people who go into a new oil region are the same class with those whom a mining excitement attracts. A brutal and demoralizing exhibition between a bull and bear has caused the latest sensation in one of the new settlements of McKean County..." The *Buffalo Express* called it "savagery in the oil fields". But Bradford, as you will see, had a very different view of the affair.

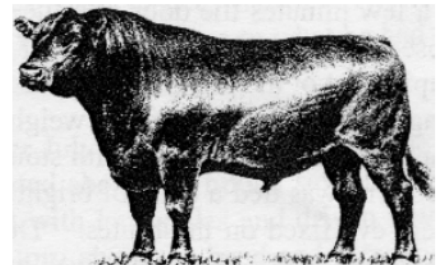
The story opens on a very hot summer of 1879. So hot, that many of the delivery horses had wet sponges slipped under the bridle straps between their ears to keep cool. So hot that fights broke out on Pig Island, an notorious area of saloons, brothels, and bars (located roughly between present day Charlotte Avenue and Mechanic Street) and many men and women that summer were stabbed, shot, or thrown in jail. So hot that one enterprising Custer City man named W. V. Marsh, decided to stage a fight between a massive bull and a large bear.

The Infamous Bull and Bear Fight in Custer City, July 1879

This afternoon, Taurus and bruin will meet in the ring at Custer, there to grapple in deadly combat until one or both of them are stretched out in the arena. Doubtless the novelty of this exhibition will attract a large crowd that will perhaps never have an opportunity of witnessing another such a spectacle. (from the Daily Development column in the Bradford Era, July 2, 1879).

July 2, 1879. The day before the fight. We meet the bull.

In order to ascertain whether this proposed affair was to be a hoax or a sell, an *Era* reporter was dispatched yesterday to Custer to interrogate the proprietor of the menagerie and see if there was a deception in the matter. He found Mr. Marsh, the originator of the show, busily engaged about the barn, which contained his pets. "Want to see the animals, do you?" he said in answer to the inquiries of the scribe. "Well, walk right in and I'll stir him up". In the stall nearest the door was a magnificent bull, of colossal size, munching the hay and casting sharp restless glances at the visitor. "This bull is named Duke" explained Mr. Marsh, "he weighs 1,775 pounds and is seven years old. I bought him for \$75 in Cuba, NY and shipped him here." Duke turned a lowering gaze at the intruders, shook the chain fastened to the ring in his nose and bellowed in a deep baritone. He is a very powerful animal and will doubtless display great strength in the fight. His neck is short and enormously stout, which his physical body served as a simple backing. From his forehead the horns protrude almost horizontally in a semi-lunar curve and are very sharp.



July 3, 1879. The day of the fight. Hundreds arrive in Custer.

About seven hundred persons assembled at the place near Custer City yesterday afternoon to witness what was reported to be a mortal combat between a bull and a bear. At 11 o'clock the Randolph cornet band arrived at

the depot on the Erie train. When the train started for Custer, quite a crowd boarded it for the gory scene. At 1:30PM another train left the city with four coaches well filled with passengers. At the depot in Custer several hundred persons and the cornet band had gathered to welcome the newcomers. Such a throng as was there yesterday Custer City never before witnessed within her borders. Before the train had moved from the depot, the crowd made a rush for the pit where the widely advertised fight was to take place. It lay about fifty rods east of the village in a piece of woodland.

There were eleven rows of seats ranging around the pit, after the fashion of those used in a circus. A portion of the space was shaded by the branches of some young oaks that were allowed to stand when the enclosure was built. At thirty minutes past two o'clock, there were about five hundred persons occupying seats. Among the spectators were a dozen women and eight or ten little girls. Two men in shirtsleeves nestled themselves comfortably in a shady spot. Infants will probably be told in after years that they were spectators at a great bull and bear fight, and the gray-haired sires will shake their heads and sigh that "they don't have Roman sports nowadays."



Bruin was shambling about lazily in the pit, diverting himself with pawing cigar stubs thrown in by the spectators. The impatience of the crowd found vent by stamping the seats and yelling "bring in the bull". The brass band, which was located in the highest seats, played a couple of times, and silenced the crowd. During this time, the bull was brought up and run into the entrance alley. The crowd again called loudly for the bull. Mr. Marsh then announced that a young man would enter the pit and feed the bear. The entrance door was drawn up a short distance as the man's head appeared in the opening. Bruin walked from a corner

toward him. With a long pole he drove the brute back and entered. Spectators sat in suspense, every eye resting on the bear, which stood at a short distance. From a state of solemn silence the young man convulsed the assemblage by announcing with dramatic gravity "Gentlemen, I will now feed the bear!" Suiting the action to the word, he emptied a pan of milk-soaked bread on the ground and darted out quickly through the small opening. The animal approached and devoured every crumb of the food. While the bear was thus engaged, the musicians with grim delight played a heavy dirge. "Bring on your bull" again came from a hundred throats.

The fight begins.

In a few minutes the door into the pit was thrown open, and Taurus sent into the pit with a rush and the door closed quickly. At the corners of the pit above were men with heavy oaken clubs to prevent the bear from leaping out of the pit. On two sides were others with long sharp poles to goad the brutes into action. The bear, a shaggy-coated brown animal, weighing 300 pounds, stood looking toward the top of the pit wistfully for liberty. The bull was trim-limbed, with stout, sharp horns, and weighed 1700 pounds. In his nose was a ring and around the horns was tied a band of bright red ribbon. As the bull jumped into the arena, every voice was hushed and every eye fixed on the brutes. "Duke" (the bull's name), stopped suddenly in the center of the pit and gazed fiercely at "Cuff" the name given by his master to the bruin. Cuff, after a interval of a few moments, turned his head slowly around and glared wildly at his antagonist. (*The Bradford Era*, July 2, 1879).

What followed was a desperate fight between two animals, neither of which wanted to be in the ring but each of which were goaded into action by poles handled by the men running the fight. The bull and bear each took turns clawing, goring, biting, and stomping the other. The crowd cheered them both on. In Round Two, the bear actually escaped momentarily, springing up into the grandstands among the spectators. "A yell of horror arose from the panic-stricken spectators. Women and children screamed. Men's hearts leaped with terror. The crowd rushed from the bear in fright. The animal bounded towards the top seat and sent his sharp claws into the flesh of a woman that was unable to get out of his way quickly enough. The terrified female jumped to the ground below, a distance of fully twenty-five feet. Reaching the top seat, forty feet from the ground, the bear surveyed the distance but would not jump. The bear passed along the seats to the south side. It was here that

BULL AND BEAR FIGHT!

-at-

CUSTER CITY,

Tuesday, July 1st, 1879

THE BEAR ON HAND

Mr. Marsh is at Cuba, and will return through this city, accompanied by a brass band, Tuesday morning, with

THE BULL!

Seats have been put up to accommodate three thousand persons, and all preparations made for a

GOOD SQUARE FIGHT!

In the evening there will be a dance at "Campbell's Billiard Hall". Arrangements have been made with the railroad company to run extra trains to and from Custer City.

the band was seated and they fled with the others in wild dismay. Some persons jumped through the seats and ran for their lives. In several places the boards broke, and the terror-stricken occupants tumbled to the ground. The excitement was intense. The panic lasted for ten minutes. The bear was trying desperately to get away from the crowd, which was also making the finest kind of time in attempting to get away from the bear. During this exciting period, Taurus looked up at the motley and wild throng with apparent amusement. Marsh, the owner of the bear, ran up and tried to capture him, pulling handfuls of hair from the bruin's large coat, but could not check his course. A chain and long rope was fastened around the bear's head, and the end taken to the opposite side. Marsh then asked the trembling spectators "are you satisfied, or will I put the bear back into the pit?" "Put him in" Put him in!" yelled the crowd. "Alright, but he is already licked" said Marsh. The people clamored for the fight to go on. Bruin was pulled down over the seats into the pit, and sent heavily to the bottom of the arena, full fourteen feet below". And the fight went on.

The fight between the bull and the bear continued for an hour and a half, and thirteen rounds. By the end of the afternoon, even the bloodthirsty crowd

had had enough, and urged Marsh to stop the fight. The bear was dragged into his cage, and the bull taken out. Satisfied with the spectacle, the crowd returned to the depot, and at 5 o'clock, four carloads of spectators were landed back in Bradford by a special train on the Erie railroad.

Later that day, two officials from the SPCA of Philadelphia who had learned of the match, charged the men who ran the fight with cruelty to animals. A hearing was held a few days later as the SPCA officials came before Judge Ward of the city. One agent, J. McDonald, who gave a full testimony as to what he had observed, was sworn in and testified as follows:

"I reside in Philadelphia and am an agent of the SPCA, was in Custer July 1, saw the pit dug for the fight and the elevated seats surrounding it; the fight began at 2:30 PM and lasted about two hours; saw tickets sold and taken and men enter the enclosure; saw the animals cruelly punched with long poles and driven towards each other; when they got through both were exhausted and the bull was torn about the head and ears; some got in the ring without tickets; Crocker was gatekeeper; William Marsh owned the animals; I get my authority from the board of managers, SPCA; have no written authority; first heard of the bull fight in the latter part of June; received instructions from SPCA to go to Custer Sunday; was in camp at the time and had to make a very hurried departure; bought a ticket and went in; turned my back on part of the fight because it was too brutal for my feelings; before I entered the ring, I met Marsh and a young man leading the bull; told him who I was and said the fight must not go on. He replied that I hadn't force enough to stop it; afterwards saw the bear in the pit and the crowd clamoring for the bull to come out; after one or two encounters the bear got out but was finally pulled back into the pit by a chain; tried to raise the door of the bear's den, but was unsuccessful; was roughly treated and got a little the worst of it; thought they would overpower me if I stopped the sport; did not dare to interfere lest I should be thrown into the pit... (One man even threatened him at gun point if he tried to stop the fight).

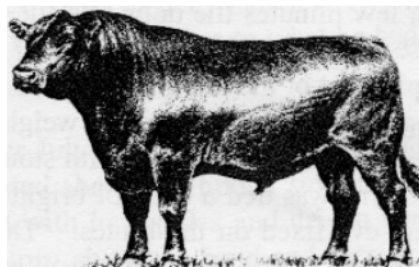
During the hearing, Marsh, the owner of the animals, testified that he had known that McDonald was an SPCA agent before the fight began, but replied that he had too much money at stake to stop the fight when ordered to and had even offered a bribe to McDonald "to settle it all right". McDonald refused the money.

Other testimony followed, but the hearing was short. Most witnesses called to testify claimed that they could not remember any of the people at the fight, and could not identify any of those who participated in the event. Mayor Broder offered every assistance in his power to assure justice was done, but "regretted the matter was outside his jurisdiction". Of the four railroad carloads of spectators that traveled to Custer, none could be found to testify. The *Bradford Era* called it a "strange fatality that came over our fair city, to carry away so many persons and leave no evidence. Although it required four cars to carry people from Custer to Bradford after the bull and bear fight, not a man, woman, or child could be found yesterday that had been there. The question of the hour is when and how were all those people snatched from the earth?"

Those that were fined were ordered to pay \$10 and court costs: The SPCA officials eventually went back to Philadelphia, somewhat disgusted by the attitude of the Bradfordians. Time passed, and the great bull and bear fight was forgotten. But you ask, what happened to the animals?

Surprisingly, both the bull and the bear survived, and it was decided to sell both of them at an auction in the public square. On July 8, one week after the fight, the two SPCA officials and a Bradford officer traveled to Custer City to seize possession of the animals. The following is an excerpt from *The Bradford Era*:

Yesterday morning, Officers Bernard, McDonald, and Ostrander went to Custer to bring up the bull and bear pitted in the late bloody contest, and which were seized last week. They called at Marsh's house and inquired for the gentleman, but his wife answered he was not in. In response to a demand for the keys to unlock the barn in which the animals were confined, the lady said she knew nothing whatever about the matter. The officers again demanded the brutes and said if necessary they would obtain them by force. Finally they found one "Pap" Stoddard, who owned up to keeping the animals and feeding them. When asked to name his compensation, he modestly set the figures at \$10 per day, making a total of \$50. The officers were rather staggered by this unusual specimen of oil region "gall" but recovered and flatly refused to pay any such exorbitant sum. They again demanded the keys to the barn, but "Pap" failed to come in time. In the meantime, a mob of 150 men had collected and were shouting to resist the intruders. McDonald broke the hasp of the door while Bernard and Ostrander kept back the rabble. Then the bull was led out when one Newton appeared and claimed it as his property, as he had bought and paid for it, but refused to show the proofs. Some difficulty was had in getting the bear from the box stall into a box for transportation, and the officers were finally obliged to hire "Pap" Stoddard to enact the role of Van Amburgh and cage the brute. The cage was then loaded on a wagon, a brave man tackled the bull, and the triumphal cavalcade set out for Bradford. The rabble hooted in derision, deeming a rare sport forsooth to have the pride of Custer there exhibited, but there were a few soreheads who uttered large threats against the officers. Marsh, proprietor of the Coliseum and originator of the revival of the sports of ancient Rome, did not appear.



The procession then set out in good order for Bradford, and made a really imposing turnout in the following order:

Small boys.
McDonald Bernard
Chariot with live bear
Boys Boys
Constable Ostrander
The bull.
Guard of Honor.
Citizens of Custer, mounted.
Orator of the Day, "Pap" Stoddard
Reader (of the Riot Act)
Mob 150 strong in various uniforms
Women with babies
Man who fed the bear (with pan)
Representatives of the Press.
All the dogs in Custer.
Man who was bitten by bear.
Tramps.

As this gorgeous pageant filed through the splendid boulevards of Custer, the streets were thronged with a dense mass of humanity who pushed and surged in their efforts to see the whole show. Every window was crowded and many went upon the housetops to see the splendid procession more closely. All acknowledged it beat any circus they had ever seen. All the officers marched with a military step, Constable Ostrander and the bull keeping perfect time, while the bear behaved with becoming dignity. After leaving the outskirts of Custer City, the procession fell off in numbers, but still made a truly moral show. Upon arriving in Bradford, the head of the procession was met by Mr. Marsh, who made an address of welcome. He spoke as follows: "Well, by G-d, I'll make it hot for you!"

To this salutation, a suitable response was given and the cavalcade marched quietly, but firmly, to Smalley's livery stable on Mechanic Street, where it disbanded, the bull and bear being locked up in separate quarters. Both are in very good condition. The bull will be photographed if he can be persuaded to sit for his picture. He is a fine Durham, four years old. Both will be sold at public sale on the Square next Tuesday and those partial to such pets should be sure and attend. Mr. Marsh says he paid \$75 for the bull, but bears have no quotable market price.

It is unknown if the auction ever did take place. The long hot summer of 1879 stretched on, and while other bull and bear fights were held in other towns and states, Bradford never again pitted bruin against bull. The famous Bull and Bear fight in Custer City became a memory, but what a story, that was told again and again by the people who had been there.

The Option House at 41 Main Street

A true Main Street landmark, the Option House has been a part of Bradford since the early days of oil. Even the name "Option" refers to stock options traded by eager oil producers over a hundred years ago.

Recently, the building was bought by Sam Sylvester, a Bradford native, who has big plans for its future. A recent tour of the building by the staff of the Landmark Society revealed a building that still contains tremendous charm and one that gives a good look at the beautiful woodwork and craftsmanship that built the Option House back in 1903. The Option House is currently undergoing a complete renovation, due, partially, to the fact that it will play a significant role in the new movie being filmed in town, *'Little Chicago'*. The movie producers have agreed to restore the downstairs bar and restaurant area back to the era of Prohibition (the 1920s), and will use the facility as a location shot for the new movie.



The movie, titled *'Little Chicago'*, covers the life and death of Al Ritchie, a small town Bradford booze runner and businessman who was shot down on River Street by his rivals in 1931. Writer Carl Veno, Olean native, who based the movie on a short story he wrote in his book, "Invisible Ink", promises lots of action, romance, and of course, all the intrigue of Prohibition years in Bradford, when liquor was either brought in from Buffalo, or brewed in your own kitchen sink or bathtub.

The original Option House was built of wood in the 1880s; but by the turn of the century with business booming, owner Frank McBride decided to erect a much more substantial building. In 1902 he hired architect Frederick C. French to design a brick building that would be the showcase of Main Street. French was well suited to the job - he also designed the James R. Evans building at 80 Main Street, and the Schonblom building on the corner of Kennedy and Main streets.

The new Option House was a four story brick building erected on the site of the former building.

Demolition of the old wooden building began on July 14, 1902, with completion of the new brick building promised by that October. Using arc lights for illumination, two crews of men worked day and night to meet that goal. The second floor which overlooked Main Street was designed as a dining room, while the front portion of the third floor was McBride's apartment. The rest of the building served as a hotel, restaurant, and bar. There were 20 rooms available for overnight customers.

McBride sold the Option House in 1925 to James Rich, who expanded the building, adding thirteen rooms with showers to the rear of the structure. In 1935 a two ton Brunswick bar was installed, and a nightclub, called "Peacock Alley" opened up on the second floor dining hall. During the Depression, the hotel nearly closed, but friendly local bankers kept the business going.

Progress on the Option House renovation is moving along swiftly, and soon we will be able to see the "Hollywood" efforts of the movie crew. Personally, the staff of the Landmark can't wait for another visit!

COMING EVENTS

Country Fair

PLANNING MEETING FOR CROOK FARM FAIR

The annual Crook Farm Fair will be held August 23rd and 24th, 2008. We need volunteers to chair projects, to cook, to work at booths, etc. Please **contact us** to find out how you can help. Thank you.

- *Two meetings have been scheduled - Monday, July 14th and Tuesday, August 12th at 5:15 p.m. at the ARG (American Refining Group) R&D Building at 77North Kendall Ave.*

Even if you can't attend meetings, but can volunteer to work please **contact us**.

Bradford Landmark at 362-3906

OAK HILL CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, July 16, 2008, 10:00 am

at the Bradford Club on Boylston Street

All those interested in preserving this historic cemetery are invited to attend.

Let's Dance!

EVERY MONDAY & TUESDAY EVENING

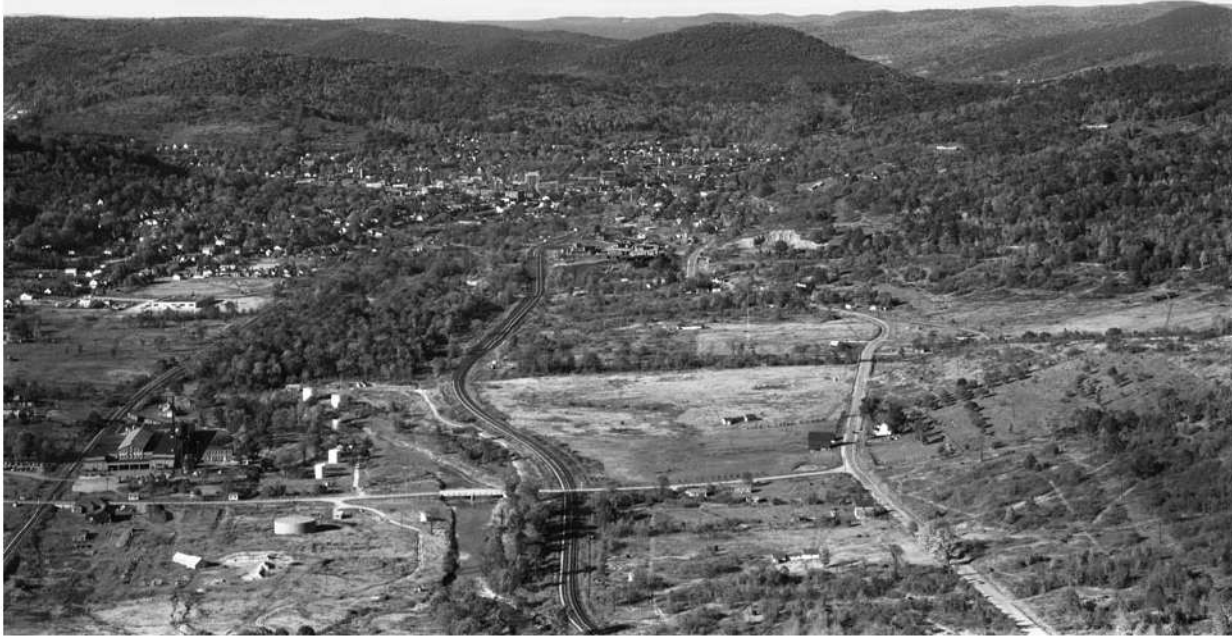
At the Bank Building at the Crook Farm on Seaward Avenue

Join us every Monday night at 6pm for Line Dancing and every Tuesday night at 7pm for traditional Old Time Round & Square Dancing. That's two fun-filled evenings of dancing and music!

Looking Down From Above

The Aerial Photographs of Donald Tanner, 1953-1968

By Michael J. Fuoco, Editor



"Looking Down From Above"

By Michael Fuoco

The new aerial photography book of Donald Tanner's photography
of the Bradford area is now available.

Each book contains 112 incredible aerial photographs of the Bradford area,
taken between 1953-1968 by one of Bradford's best photographers.

\$30.00 each.

Limited copies – buy yours today!



THE BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY

The Inkwell

45 E. Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701

814-362-3906

October 2008

Farewell to Summer

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Curator at Herbig Bakery

Sally Ryan Costik

Researcher/Genealogist

Larry Richmond

Researchers

Mike Fuoco

Tom Jones

Volunteers at the Bakery

Mary Ryan

Gordon Ernest

Molly Lindahl

Bill Knight

Diann Hatch

Hours of Operation:

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

Historic Crook Farm by Appointment

Judith Yorks, Director

How quickly the time flies! In only a few short weeks it will be Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Eve, and snow, snow, snow! But let's not think of that right now, let's focus on this wonderful autumn that we are having.

This edition of the Inkwell newsletter covers a wide range of topics, from Oak Hill Cemetery, to the Crook Farm Fair, to Eskimos. It's truly a "cornucopia" of information and we think that you will enjoy reading it. So sit back, pour another cup of coffee, and take a moment to relax and read...

First, the Eskimos. Our January 2008 newsletter contained an article on an Eskimo family that visited Bradford in 1927, on a nationwide tour to introduce the "neighbors to the north" to those of us who live in the lower 48 states. The Ahkla family from Anchorage was part of a promotional tour and stopped by Bradford, enchanting all who met them and their reindeer. School children in Rixford were even allowed to skip school to come to Bradford and see "real live Eskimos". Imagine our great delight when the Ahkla's great-grandson read our article and sent us an email, filling in some information on his family over the last 81 years. We think you'll enjoy reading about Jim and Trixie Ahkla and their children.

And the Crook Farm Fair was a success, and chairman Bob Esch has written a descriptive article on the fair activities and events. If you weren't there, it was a great weekend and you missed lots of good food and entertaining music.

Molly Lindahl, one of our volunteers, is an active member of the newly formed "Save the Cemetery" Oak Hill Association, and was kind enough to write an article on the progress being made by that organization, which is trying to restore the old cemetery on the hill.

And of course, there is always lots of historic and local information to keep you up to date on what's happening at the Bradford Landmark Society.

Crook Farm Fair 2008

With all the planning behind us the Farm becomes a very busy place with volunteers cleaning the House, the School and all the other structures and the gardens are readied for our guests.

A full day of raising tents and from a distance the farm is consumed in bright white tents. Just as the last stake is driven and the ropes are tightened the Craft Vendors begin to arrive with cargo loads of hand made goods; baskets, soaps, dolls, gems and the fragrance of herbs and spices fill the air. There is something for everyone.

The weekend begins with a reception to honor the many Supporters of the Farm and the Bradford Landmark Society. What a wonderful evening with music, food and best wishes from all our friends, it truly makes us realize how fortunate we are.

Early Saturday morning the anticipation is over. Reveille can be heard coming from the Bucktail Regiment Encampment. The coffee is ready and the volunteers are preparing the food for the day. A menu fit for the best of country picnics; barbecued Chicken & Ribs, Country Sausage, fresh Corn on the Cob, Salt Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Hot Dogs and Burgers and Ice Cream.

The Artisans have arrived and as the Vendors prepare to display their wares, Music and Song fills the air. It seems almost instantly the farm grounds are consumed with people coming through the gates to share in the excitement of a true "Country Fair". The talk of History, laughter, music and dance can be heard from everywhere on the Farm. On the east side of the grounds there is gunfire as the Bucktail Regiment skirmish with Confederate troops.

Sunday morning our day starts before the sun comes up. The griddles are made ready for breakfast; pancakes, eggs, sausage and the smell of coffee glides over the grounds. The Rooster behind the barn crows and reveille from the encampment sounds. Gospel music begins and is so fitting for a Sunday morning this beautiful. Van Wagner talks about history past and our visitors are arriving to be entertained, fed and to barter for the homemade crafts.

At the end of the day, volunteers work to clean up and store all the necessary items needed for next year and the Farm is returned to quiet. The talk turns to plans for next year, the 30th Crook Farm Fair. Another successful Crook Farm Fair comes to an end.

The Bradford Landmark Society would like to thank our Membership and sponsors and a very special thanks to all the volunteers, Vendors, Artisans, Community Partners and all those who attended this special event. See you next year!

-

- Bob Esch, Crook Farm Fair Chairman

-



Schoolhouse No. 8



Crook Farm Homestead



Bank Building

OAK HILL CEMETERY

You have no doubt noticed, or at least heard about, the positive things happening at Oak Hill Cemetery here in Bradford. Due to the efforts of historically minded individuals, groups, organizations, and businesses, the Cemetery evolved from one showing its age to a grounds befitting the fine citizens and leaders there interred.

Vandalism, the high cost of maintenance with limited monies from the Perpetual Care Fund, as well as out-of-pocket expenses incurred by Ralph Rose forced him to announce he and his workers were no longer able to maintain the cemetery and appealed to the community to step up to the plate. It became apparent to Keven Collins, foreman for Luther Excavating a change was in order after he and Dick Luther, owner of Luther Excavating, spent countless volunteer hours hauling gravel, leveling roads, and repairing damage.

In response, a group of concerned citizens met in March 2008, forming a "Save The Cemetery Committee", the purpose being to formulate a plan to generate funding for Cemetery maintenance. By July, the Oak Hill Cemetery Association was in place with a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Assistant Secretary.

The first Volunteer Clean-Up Day was held April 12th to prepare for the mowing season. Work efforts included hand raking, along with branch, brush and litter pick-up. The Cemetery Association was the recipient of a one-time donation from the Blaisdell Foundation making it possible to hire Josh Anthony's "Keepin' It Green" for the mowing season. By the time the second Volunteer Clean-Up Day occurred on May 10th, Josh and his crew had the mowing and trimming well underway. A milestone was reached this year when for the first time in a long while, the entire cemetery had been mowed and trimmed.

Considerable drainage and road work was done by Frisina's, making the upper roads drivable in a passenger car versus the necessity of navigating the roads in a four-wheel drive vehicle at the beginning of Spring. The roadbed is now stable and major drainage problems have been addressed and corrected.

The condition of the Cemetery has come a long way in a short period of time, however, now's not the time to sit back and become complacent. It is imperative to keep the momentum going through fund-raising efforts, volunteerism and education. Overgrowth is continuing to be removed, opening up the cemetery, making it more visible. The community is encouraged to alert the Bradford Police Department if they see suspicious activity in the Cemetery.

Plans are being made by Linda Delaney, author of "Gamble For Glory", to compile and publish a book on the rich history of Oak Hill Cemetery. It is the largest cemetery in McKean County and one of the oldest. Many of Bradford's founding fathers, prominent citizens, pioneer residents and individuals of all walks of life are buried in this non-denominational cemetery.

The Bradford Landmark Society was presented the opportunity to digitally scan the Cemetery's Lot Deeds and photocopy the burial books. These records, along with digital scans of the two Cemetery maps, are tremendous tools for the family researcher. The Bradford Landmark Society is now your contact for locating graves and information associated with burials. For those who've previously contacted Wright Monumental Works for this information, you'll want to now direct your inquiries to the Bradford Landmark Society. We can be reached by mail at 45 E. Corydon St., Bradford, PA 16701, by email at: info@bradfordlandmark.org or by telephone at (814) 362-3906. All we ask is your patience as we "learn the ropes" and work back and forth among three or more files on the computer to answer your questions.

We'd like to thank Ralph and Judy Rose, Kelly Platko, Barb Steinhauer and Greg Buckner for their assistance interpreting these records. Another thank you goes to Chuck and Dan Lang of Lang Surveying for digitally scanning the large cemetery maps. Without the help of these friends, we wouldn't have this information to share with you.

Individuals wishing to donate to the Oak Hill Cemetery Association can do so by mailing their contribution to: "Oak Hill Cemetery Association", PO Box 526, Bradford, PA 16701. All donations are sincerely appreciated.

Eskimo Family Update

A recent Inkwell newsletter described a 1927 visit from an Eskimo family (and reindeer), whose presence was part of a nationwide educational tour to acquaint "the lower 48" with the lifestyles of "our friends to the north". The newsletter article read, in part:

"In 1927, city officials in Bradford decided to invite an Eskimo family and their reindeer to come to Bradford under the auspices of local business concerns for an unusual educational exhibition and to share knowledge of their home so far from this city". Now, years later, the authenticity of the Eskimo family is met with some skepticism (some believe that the Eskimos were actually actors from Hollywood) but in 1927, scam or not, Bradfordians were fascinated with the idea of meeting a real live Eskimo family.

To our surprise, and delight, a distant reader, Paul Ayotte from Anchorage, Alaska, contacted us in September, and assured us that not only were the Eskimos not Hollywood actors, they were his great-grandparents, and as they say, filled us in with the rest of the story. Portions of his letter appear below:

"I happened upon your website the other day, and was excited to see my great-grandparent's names in one of your articles. It was a reprint of them visiting your city back in 1927. Jim and Trixie Ahkla, Eskimos from the far north. It was good to see that it was a treat for your town back then. But there was a question of their authenticity - they were believed to be actors from Hollywood. Not them - they were the real thing. I am only thirty, but I knew my great-



Jim, Trixie, Billy and Miles Ahkla

grandmother Trixie (her English name) well - she passed in 1987; my great-grandfather (Jim Ahkla) passed of a heart attack in 1966; one of her sons, the older one mentioned in the article (my Uncle Billy) passed away when he was a child not long after their 1920s US lower 48 trip. The second son, (only 4 months old when he came with his family) was Uncle Miles; he passed away last year of cancer. Uncle Miles became the first Eskimo Capital police officer in Washington, DC, and was stationed at the White House while Eisenhower was in office; he told me the president liked the smoked salmon that he would bring him, and that they would have long conversations about Alaska's statehood. Uncle Miles then worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, then as President of the Alaska Native Brotherhood and member of the American Indian Congress testifying before Congress on behalf of Alaskan Natives for Alaskan statehood.

(In the 1920s) a business promoter in Youngstown Ohio named Thatcher recruited real live Eskimos and Reindeer for business promotional pageants and Christmas parades. (Picture) a young Eskimo family leaving for the lower 48 on the last steamer of the season (so they couldn't come back even if they wanted to) to be met by Thatcher's employees and to be taken across the US to the eastern United States business districts for the promotional events. *(note from the Landmark - this explains the Ahkla's*

visit to Bradford).

Friends, I find articles and websites such as yours neat and entertaining. I was talking to my mother the other day and she said maybe you all would like to know more about the family. Jim and Trixie Ahkla

...changed their last name to Brandon in the 1940s. The School proprietors could not pronounce Eskimo names so changed them. (It) was a common practice among Missionaries and Dept of ED and later BIA schools in the state at the time. Rather than have a random name assigned to his children by the schools; my great grandfather Jim Ahkla changed his last name to Brandon because he was 1/2 breed; a son of a Irish Whaler - Dr. Brandon, a ship doctor, (who) was one of the 5 people that founded the township of Anvil, Anvil being modern day Nome.

James and Trixie Ahkla Brandon had 8 kids, (Five are, and were, war veterans - the oldest, Army - Uncle Miles WWII Pacific campaign; Uncle James and my grandfather Art; both Korean War Marines; Uncle Kay and Uncle John- both Vietnam, Marines; and Uncle Eddie and Aunt Beatrice. *(the child named Billy died shortly after the 1920s trip).*

I don't know if you all would even care about things like this- but there is a pride thing going on with me, and I guess it is a neat thing this Internet- 'where were they then, and now?' kind of a thing. Well, most importantly; thank you for your website, and your time. With the Internet and websites like yours, future generations of my family can enjoy reading about the past. ---Paul Ayotte, Anchorage, Alaska.



Jim and Trixie Ahkla

The Bradford Landmark Society would like to thank Mr. Ayotte for contacting us and telling us the wonderful history of his family. And he's right, you know, the Internet has, and will continue to, link the world together both now and in the future. We also must apologize for thinking that his great-grandparents were Hollywood actors. In these somewhat cynical times, it is hard to imagine the fortitude it must have taken to leave Alaska, travel all over the eastern United States (with two small children and reindeer no less!), and to meet with curious people in unfamiliar settings. I am not sure that many of us would volunteer for such a job!



Jim Ahkla at Waldorf Astoria, 1926

All the reindeer of that trip starved to death as they were traveling through the eastern states. They would not eat the oats or hay the train conductors tried to feed them.

Holley Motor Company Historic Marker

On September 13, 2008, the Bradford Landmark Society was proud to dedicate a Pennsylvania State Historic marker commemorating the founding of the Holley Motor Company, here in Bradford, in 1899. Special invited guests including Mayor Tom Red, Councilman Bob Omuffer, Gary Hoy, founder of the Street Dreams Car Club, Street Dreams club members, and interested Bradfordians, all who gathered at Holley Avenue for the dedication of the marker. A shortened version of the dedication speech follows below:

This marker is just one of forty three markers that have been approved in 2008 by the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, and is only the second marker ever to be placed in Bradford. Our first historic marker was erected 2 years ago near the American Refining Group office building on North Kendall Avenue during the refinery's 125th anniversary celebration, and it is with pride that we so dedicate another marker in honor of the Holley Motor Company.

The State Marker program in Pennsylvania started in 1946 and since then over 2000 markers have been erected throughout the state. In the late 1970s the guidelines were changed to require "that the person, event or site to be commemorated have had a meaningful impact on its times and be of statewide or national rather than only local significance." The keywords here are "must be of statewide and national significance" and standing here today is proof that the state historical and museum commission felt that the Holley Motor Company held such significance.

It isn't easy to be chosen to receive a Pennsylvania Historic marker. There is a lengthy application process, which must be submitted to the Historic and Museum Commission, which accepts nominations only once a year, in January. The nomination must be submitted in a clear and organized manner, including thorough documentation and verification of the facts claimed. Nominations are reviewed by a panel of independent historical experts from across the state in February, with notification in March. We were notified on March 20.



Unveiling of the marker by Gary Hoy, left, and Mayor Riel, right

Holley Motor Company, which is now known as Holley Performance Products, has been the undisputed leader in fuel systems for over 100 years. Holley carburetors power every NASCAR® Sprint® Cup team and every NHRA® Pro-Stock champion performance fuel pumps, fuel injection, intake manifolds, cylinder heads & engine dress--up products for street performance, race and marine applications.

The Holley name is well known in Bradford. Frank Holley built the Holley Hotel in 1900, but it was his sons, George and Earl Holley, who would make the Holley name famous around the world.

In 1903 George and Earl invented a small car, and called it the Holley Motorette, which used a very unique carburetor. By 1906 they had manufactured and sold 600 Motorette cars, all of which were built here in Bradford. It had a modest price of \$550 featuring a 5.5 horsepower single-cylinder engine, tilt steering wheel with lock, and front and rear kerosene lamps. More than 600 Motorettes were sold during the three-year period in which they were built, but only three are still in existence today, one of which is in the lobby of Holley headquarters in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

It is believed that the Motorette car attracted the attention of Henry Ford, who recognized that Holley's innovative carburetor would revolutionize gasoline engine development.

Ford approached the Holley brothers, struck a deal, and within a very short time, Holley carburetors became standard equipment on millions of Model T Fords. In 1907 the Holley brothers moved their factory to Detroit and the first Holley plant in that city was in operation.

The rest, as they say, is history. The Holley Motor Company has changed its name at various times over the last 100 years, but it continued to maintain its high standards of manufacturing as it expanded into the aircraft industry, the US military, and high performance products. It is truly of statewide and national significance.

Political Poem from over 100 Years Ago

As long as there have been elections, there have been opposing views of those running for office and sometimes, downright distrust of politicians altogether. This poem, written in 1890 and published in the Bradford Era, is one viewpoint that many voters can relate to, especially when they see someone running for office who does not appear to be what he says, in this case the workingman.

"Father, who travels our road so late?"
"Hush, my child, 'tis the candidate."
Fit example of human woes,
early he comes and late he goes.
He greets the women with courtly grace;
he kisses the baby's dirty face;
he calls to the fence the farmer at work,
he bores the merchant, he bores the clerk.
The blacksmith, while his anvil rings
he greets, and this is the song he sings:

*Howdy! Dowdy! How aye do?
How is your wife and how are you?
Ah, it fits my fist as no other can,
The calloused hand of the workingman.*

"Husband! Who is that at the gate?"
Hide, my love, it's the candidate".
"Husband!" "Why can't he work like you?"
"No cash at home and no credit in town,
too stupid to preach and too proud to beg,
Too timid to rob and too lazy to dig,
Then over his horse his leg he flings,
And to the dear people this song he sings:

*Howdy! Dowdy! How aye do?
How is your wife and how are you?
Ah, it fits my fist as no other can,
The calloused hand of the workingman.*

Brothers who labor early and late
Ask these things of the candidate.
What's his record? How does he stand
at home? No matter about his hand,
Be it hard, or soft, so it be not prone
to cross over money not his own.
Has he in view no thieving plan?
Is he honest and capable? He's your man!
Cheer such a man, 'till the welkin ring,
Join in the chorus, when thus he sings:

*Howdy! Dowdy! How aye do?
How is your wife and how are you?
Ah, it fits my fist as no other can,
The calloused hand of the workingman.*



Our tribute to Halloween. Sing if you like,
to the tune, *The Addams Family*.

They're creepy and they're kooky,
Mysterious and spooky,
They're all together ooky,
The Landmark Family.

Their house is a museum
Where people come to see 'em
They really are a scream
The Landmark Family.

There's Molly, Mike, and Larry,
Sally, Tom and Mary,
They're really kind of scary,
The Landmark Family.

Neat. Sweet. Petite.

So if you've got a mystery,
Your family tree, or history,
There's always facts, not fakery,
The Landmark Family.



THE BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY

The Inkwell

45 E. Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701

814-362-3906

December 2008

Happy Holidays and New Year!

Board of Directors

Harrijane Hannon Moore

Robert Esch

Elizabeth Sefton

Gregory Ulyan

Barbara White

Gayle Bauer

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Pamela Fredeen

Susan Oliphant

Charles Pagano

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Curator at Herbig Bakery

Sally Ryan Costik

Researcher/Genealogist

Larry Richmond

Researchers

Mike Fuoco

Tom Jones

Volunteers at the Bakery

Mary Ryan

Gordon Ernest

Molly Lindahl

Bill Knight

Diann Hatch

Hours of Operation:

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

Historic Crook Farm by Appointment
Judith Yorks, Director

Another year in Bradford draws to a close. It's hard to believe that the Millennium was nine years ago! So Merry Christmas, no matter how you celebrate the holidays, to you all.

This is always one of our favorite newsletters, the very last one of the year. This edition of *The Inkwell* always lists the chronology, and necrology, of the buildings of Bradford – those that were erected, and those that were demolished. And we look at the new businesses – and once again, are happy to report that many new businesses were started in Bradford over the past year. True, we lost Mayer Brauser's store, when Joe Brauser retired, but we hope that one or more of the new businesses that opened in 2008 will earn the same fond memories that Brauser's created.

It was a year that saw the old Arcade building on East Washington Street come down, as well as the Sixth Ward Elementary School. It was a year that saw the Oak Hill Cemetery begin a restoration, as a small group of volunteers took on the huge task of maintaining one of the city's oldest burial ground with little or no money – just a willingness to work.

It was a successful year for us in the book business – we published two books in 2008 – *The Dresser Mansion*, which was a reprint of Solomon Dresser's own book on his home, with a new foreword and chapter on Dresser's life; and a wonderful aerial photograph book, entitled *Looking Down From Above*. Literally, the first book of this kind ever published in Bradford, it is an incredible historic record of Bradford and the surrounding area – from the air – back in the 1950s and 1960s. Next year, we have four new books projected – another aerial book, that encompasses a farther geographic range; a book on the 1909 Old Home Week Celebration. Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the Old Home Week, which was the first such celebration in the history of the city, and we are currently sifting through over 240 photographs of the marvelous parades that were held that year. We will also publish a book on Bradford houses again, not just the mansions this time, but a true look at homes that make up the architectural fabric of our city. And lastly, we are planning a book called *A Time Capsule*, which will be a collection of short stories about the various events, people or happenings that make Bradford so interesting. It promises to be quite a year, so enjoy the last few days of this year, and get ready for

NEW YEAR 2009!

Coming Lectures

at the Bradford Public Library
Sponsored by the Bradford Landmark Society

January 21, 2009 7:00 PM

***Looking Down from Above* by Mike Fuoco**

Mike Fuoco, author of the aerial photograph book, *Looking Down From Above*, will describe the path to publication of this one-of-a-kind book, covering such topics as acquiring the negatives, obtaining the copyright, identification and research required for each photograph. Selected aerial photographs of the Bradford area will be on display.

February 18, 2009 7:00 PM

***The Dresser Mansion* by Diann Hatch**

Local historian and researcher at The Bradford Landmark Society, Diann Hatch will give a history of Solomon Dresser's fabulous mansion. Built in 1903, but totally destroyed by fire on February 28, 1986, this wonderful house, which Dresser called "a splendid creation of rare charm and rich elegance", is still considered by many to be one of the finest mansions ever built in the oil region. Hatch, who worked at the mansion when it was the Dresser Home, will present her memories and show color slides of the interior of the mansion, as it appeared shortly before the disastrous fire.

March 18, 2009 7:00 PM

***Architects of Bradford* by Sally Costik**

Learn about the men that designed our city! Sally Costik, curator of the Bradford Landmark Society will present an overall look at Bradford architects with special attention to Thomas Hendryx, a local architect, who was the only registered architect in Bradford during the 1930s, and designed nearly every school in Bradford, as well as many houses and well known buildings. An exhibit of Hendryx's building designs will be on display.



Last Minute Christmas Shopping? Looking for
the perfect gift? Join us at a

Christmas Open House

At

The Bradford Landmark Society
(the old Herbig Bakery)

45 East Corydon Street

December 22, 2008

11 AM to 2 PM

Light Refreshments



As Time Goes By

For the past several years, the Bradford Landmark Society has compiled a special list and published it in our last yearly edition of *The Inkwell*. This list serves as a fitting tribute to those businesses that were opened or expanded in Bradford in 2008 as well as a farewell to those that have closed, whether it's due to retirement, relocation, or just lack of business. In addition, we also list those buildings that have ceased to exist, by destruction or demolition, and new buildings that were erected inside the city.

It has become one of our most popular features of the December newsletter, and once again this year, we are encouraged by the start of new businesses, saddened by the end of others, dismayed by the loss of some of our buildings, and yet heartened by the erection of others. We invite you to take a trip 'down memory lane' with us, as we say both goodbye, and hello, to history in the making.....

New Businesses (in no particular order): (And if we missed your business, we are sorry!)

- **Dynamite Stop Bar and Grill**, a small restaurant for air travelers, opened April 1, 2008 at the Bradford Regional Airport.
- **Cavallero Custom Picture Framing**, opened in August at 25 Main Street. Steve Cavallaro recently purchased the old Nickel Paint store building (Jensen's Paints to you really old timers) on Kennedy Street, and will be moving his painting business and picture framing business to that location in 2009.
- **Evolution Pool and Arcade**, 22 South Avenue, a family oriented pool hall and arcade, opened in February 2008. It is now closed.
- **Little Fabric Garden**, 12 Northgate Drive, opened in February as a fabric shop with the quilter in mind.
- **Jennifer McMillen State Farm Insurance**, 93 Congress Street, changed name in March 2008. New owner and new name since retirement of Cyrilla Koekler.
- **Lloyd Burkhouse Auctions**, 819 S. Kendall Avenue, opened for business in May, specializing in estates, appraisals, liquidations, farms, livestock, and real estate.
- **Yum-Yum's**, 56 West Washington, re-opened after being closed several years; it closed again by the end of the summer.
- **Michelle's Flair for Hair**, at 399 East Main Street, opened for business in June of 2008, promising hair treatments from conservative to "crazy fun".
- **Sirline's East Main Street Diner**, 940 East Main Street, opened for business in June 2008. It is now closed.

- **Roseart**, selling unique gift items of marble and wood, recently opened a new store on July 15th, at 119 Main Street, moving from its former location on Lincoln Avenue. Roseart is a partnership between Ralph and Judith Rose, and Mark and Kelly Platko.
- **Booth Family Corner**, at 79 Main Street is a thrift store owned by the Salvation Army. It opened in September.
- **Mascioni Catering**, in Limestone, NY opened its doors in October 2008. It offers full service catering to all groups.
- **Our World** declares that it's "something for everyone gift shop". This gift shop in Westline opened in September (2007).
- **Sportman's Outlet**, located at 570 Chestnut Street carries brand name outdoor sports gear and clothing for recreation or outdoor sports. It opened in November 2008.
- **Brenda's Furniture 'N More**, at 23 Pine Street, carries second hand furniture, household items, and next-to-new clothing. It opened in November 2008.
- **Madison's Neighborhood Eatery** at 585 South Avenue opened in November 2008. It offers a casual upscale menu.
- **Trico Interiors**, custom interior millwork and casework for commercial customers, opened at 57 Holley Avenue in November 2008.
- **Quality Care Internal Medicine**, an adult internal medicine practice, opened at 195 Pleasant Street. Dr. Greg Ambuske is the owner and physician.
- **Club Shock Wave**, a game room with video games, air hockey, and pool table, opened at 66 Main Street in August 2008. It is now closed.
- **Main Street Fitness** opened at 80 Main Street this past summer. It is an open gym, with cardio, circuit machines and free weights. Membership is required.
- **Lighter Side** Located in the old Charlie's Pub (the Star Restaurant to you old timers), this bar/restaurant features casual dining, "where everything is made with a Twist of Love".

Closed Businesses:

- Bradford Sub Shop, Congress Street
- Brauser's, Main Street
- La Herradura, Mexican Food Restaurant, Main Street
- Saint Vincent Diagnostic Testing, Davis Street

Buildings that ceased to exist in 2008:

- The former Sixth Ward Elementary School on South Kendall Avenue was demolished in April of 2008 after years of neglect created a public nuisance. An apartment complex is planned on the site.
 - The Arcade, a deteriorating building on East Washington Street, was razed last spring. Snow from the previous winter had caused partial collapse of the roof onto the top floor of the structure. Its close proximity to the street and Tuna Creek created a dangerous situation that forced demolition.
-

There were also some anniversaries in 2008 as well, and we offer our congratulations to the following businesses that celebrated birthdays this past year:

- **Bisett Building Center** celebrated its 125th anniversary on May 17, 2008. Started as a freight hauling company back in the early oil days, the company soon expanded into selling building supplies and concrete. The two large silos, still standing behind the Bisett property, were erected in 1927 to contain sand and coal.
- **Lang Surveying** marked 20 years in business, holding an open house on November 14, 2008 at their offices at 1059 Lafferty Hollow.
- **The Emery Towers** held a 25th Anniversary Celebration in the Community Room of the Emery Towers on November 8, 2008. Bob Costello was the master of ceremonies, followed by a presentation plaque from the PA Housing and Finance Agency that regulates the housing operation. A special added feature was a speech by high school senior Leah Costik, in her portrayal of Grace Emery, the woman who built the Emery as a tribute to her father, Lewis Emery, in 1929.
- **Futures Rehabilitation Center**, founded in 1968, celebrated its 40th year in Fall 2008. Futures provides vocational and social service resources for persons with disabilities, and is located at One Futures Way, Bradford.
- **The YWCA of Bradford** celebrated its 60th year at its current location at 24 W. Corydon Street in the Fall of 2008.

And finally, some miscellaneous items that deserved mentioning, too!

- A groundbreaking ceremony for a new **Pennsylvania National Guard Armory** was held on April 4, 2008 at the Bradford Regional Airport in Mt. Alton. The 28,000 square-foot, \$8.3 million facility will serve troops of Company C, 1st Battalion, 112th Infantry of the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team. Completion is expected in 12 to 18 months.
- **American Refining Group** erected a new, \$20 million hydrotreater, the single most expensive project in the history of the refinery and commenced operations on April 22, 2008. The new equipment will allow the refinery to provide low sulphur diesel fuel, and will process about 3,800 barrels per day of feedstock when running at full capacity.

- **The Soap Box Derby** returned to the city in late Spring. This non-motorized car race was held every year from 1951 to 1968, and once again in 1972, with the race taking place down North Center Street. This year's race saw both boys and girls competing for the first place award and a trip to the national races in Akron, Ohio.
- **Oak Hill Cemetery** was the scene of intensive cleanup, as a local group of volunteers began to restore and repair the cemetery grounds.
- **The Koch Chatley Gaeto Funeral Home and Cremation Services** changed owners in March of 2008, as Vince and Becky Gaeto sold the business to Michael and Olivia Mascho, due to poor health and planned retirement. Vince sadly lost his battle with cancer on April 13, 2008.
- A \$2.4 million **streetscape project** was initiated in April, and completed in time for Christmas in the Boylston, Kennedy and Davis Street areas. New decorative "acorn" streetlights, new curbing, and brick inlays on the streets and portions of the sidewalks have created bright and charming city streets.
- **The Bradford High School football field** installed a new artificial turf surface to its athletic field, and completed it in time for the Fall football season. Although there was much controversy over the cost, estimated to be \$1 million, the new field is a wonderful addition to the school system and our sports program. As an added bonus, *The Bradford Era* chose an aerial photograph of the field as the subject of next year's *Era Calendar 2009*.

The first day of winter is nearly upon us! December 21, 2008

In the United States and the rest of the northern hemisphere, the first day of the winter season is the day of the year when the Sun is farthest south (on December 21st or 22nd). This day is known as the Winter Solstice.

The declination of the sun on the winter solstice is known as the tropic of Capricorn (-23°27'). In the Southern hemisphere, winter and summer solstices are exchanged so that the winter solstice is the day on which the Sun is farthest north.

A common misconception is that the earth is further from the sun in the winter than in the summer. Actually, the Earth is closest to the sun in December which is winter in the Northern hemisphere.

The day of the winter solstice is the shortest day of the year. The length of time elapsed between sunrise and sunset on this day is a minimum for the year. In the United States, there are only about 9 ½ hours of daylight on this day.

At latitude 40° north, the earliest sunset of the year occurs around December 8, and latest sunrise occurs around January 5. The day with the least amount of daylight (the first day of winter), occurs around December 21.

But Don't Worry – the first day of Spring is March 20!

All I Want for Christmas is

As Christmas draws near, the stores become filled with toys, and remembering the toys that we played with as children is always a wonderful memory. In this edition of *The Inkwell*, we are taking a look at toys - toys of a hundred years ago, and toys of today. This year, one toy in particular made the headlines in November in newspapers across the county -- and you will be surprised to see which toy was so newsworthy!

Each year, the Strong Museum in Rochester, New York inducts several nominated toys into the National Toy Hall of Fame and this year one of those choices drew a combination of admiration, disbelief, and approval. The three toys inducted this year were: the baby doll, the skateboard, and the ... stick. Yes, a common, wooden, grows on a tree, easy to find - stick. Other nominees included the game of Yahtzee, the dollhouse, the Magic 8 Ball, the Game of Life, Hot Wheels, Rubik's Cube, Thomas the Tank Engine, Wiffle Ball, the game of Clue, and the Flexible Flyer Sled.

Toys nominated for inclusion into the Toy Hall of Fame must have the following characteristics:

- 1. Icon-status:** The toy is widely recognized, respected, and remembered.
- 2. Longevity:** The toy is more than a passing fad and has enjoyed popularity over multiple generations.
- 3. Discovery:** The toy fosters learning, creativity, or discovery through play.
- 4. Innovation:** The toy profoundly changed play or toy design. A toy must be inducted on the basis of this criterion without necessarily having met all of the first three.

The stick met all this criteria. In the words of the Strong Museum "Found in all sizes in nature, sticks inspire spontaneous, unstructured play and can be used in unendingly imaginative ways - to draw in the sand on a beach, or to use as a magic wand, slingshot, light saber, fishing rod, or walking stick; not to mention playing stickball, toasting marshmallows, or playing "fetch" with your dog.

Sticks are the original construction toys: children make toy buildings out of sticks and design toy boats with leaves for sails. Many an adult has picked up a driftwood souvenir from the beach, and artists and crafters use sticks in wreaths, chairs, and sculptures. The stick now keeps proud company with another untraditional "toy" - the Cardboard Box - inducted into the hall in 2005. After all, the best toy is often a plaything that's free, easy to get and a source of endless creativity.

The stick joins a well known list of toys in the Hall of Fame, and many of our readers will remember playing with almost every one of these famous toys:

Alphabet Blocks	G.I. Joe®	Play-Doh®
Atari 2600® Game System	Hula Hoop®	Radio Flyer® Wagon
Barbie®	Jack-in-the Box	Raggedy Ann and Andy™
Bicycle	Jacks	Rocking Horse
Candy Land®	Jigsaw Puzzle	Roller Skates
Cardboard Box	Jump Rope	SCRABBLE®
Checkers	Kite	Silly Putty®
Crayola® Crayons	Legos®	Slinky®
Duncan® Yo-Yo	Lincoln Logs®	Teddy Bear
Easy-Bake Oven®	Lionel® Trains	Tinkertoys®
Erector® Set	Marbles	Tonka® Trucks
Etch A Sketch®	Monopoly®	View-Master®
Frisbee®	Mr. Potato Head®	

But what of toys a hundred years ago? What did the children of the 1900s play with? Or were there other toys that children loved, and that are now, for some reason, forgotten? Let's find out.

Top Ten Toys of Yesterday: 1900-1920

1. Teddy Bears

Most people have heard the story about President Teddy Roosevelt being the inspiration for modern day teddy bears. The story goes that while on a hunting trip in November of 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt refused to shoot a helpless bear, spared its life, setting it free. A political cartoonist drew a cartoon of Roosevelt and the bear; the story then follows that a toy store owner in New York created a stuffed bear for his store to match the bear illustrated in the cartoon. Teddy Bears became famous across the Nation and by 1915 every child had to have their own Teddy Bear.

2. Erector Set

Created by former Gold Metal Olympian (Pole Vault in 1908) A.C. Gilbert, the *Erector Set* made its debut in 1913. Then, it was called *The Mysto Erector Structural Steel Builder*. Gilbert was taking the train from his home in Connecticut to New York City and was inspired by watching workers set and rivet steel beams for the electrical power line tower they were building. While watching these workers, he decided to create a children's construction kit that was more than a toy. It would be something they could use to create and build and add to.

3. Lionel Trains

Lionel Trains have been around since 1901. The first train was used to attract customers through the famous New York City window displays, but it was not long before consumers wanted them in their own homes.

The Electric Express, Joshua Lionel Cowen's first model train, was created in 1901 by fitting a small motor under a model of a railroad flatcar. The motor was powered by a battery and the *Electric Express* ran around thirty inches of track. By 1953, *Lionel Corporation* was the largest toy manufacturer in the world.



4. Lincoln Logs

After seeing how a hotel his father designed survived an earthquake in Tokyo, Japan, John Lloyd Wright (son of architect Frank Lloyd Wright) was inspired to create a building toy using interlocking pieces, similar to the hotel's design. *Lincoln Logs* were introduced to the market in 1916 and were a big hit. Lincoln Logs were the first toy to ever be promoted on television (1953).

5. Raggedy Ann

Newspaper cartoonist, Johnny Gruelle had this doll made for his daughter and decided to begin selling copies. Those copies have found their way into countless homes, even today.

6. Radio Flyer Wagon

Already known as a toy wagon maker, Antonio Pasin, chose to name his toys in a way to capture the spirit of the era he lived in. In 1917, the radio was the newest invention everyone was talking about. As a radio

worked by waves of sound, the idea of naming his newest wagon after flying radio waves, thus the *Radio Flyer* was born and became the icon of his company.

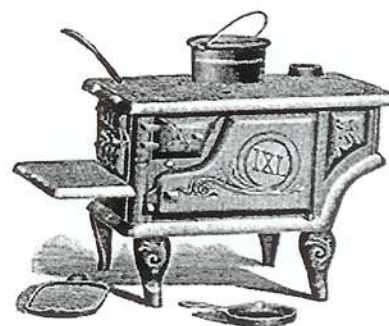
7. Tinker Toys

Designed for children too young for Erector Sets, Tinker Toys were made with little hands in mind. Creator, Charles Pajeau was actually inspired by watching young children poke sticks into empty spools of thread.

Pajeau designed the first set in his garage and took his toy to the 1914 American Toy Fair where nobody cared about his creation. That Christmas, he hired several little people to dress as elves and play with his toy in a Chicago department store window. Within one year, over a million sets were sold.

8. Crayons

Crayola Crayons debuted their first box of eight crayons in 1903 and have not looked back. Creators Edwin Binney and C. Harold Smith could not have imagined that their new product would become a necessity in every classroom in the Country.



9. Tin Toys

Even though tin toys were being produced in Germany for years, it was not until the 1900s before American companies began producing these toys, thus making them available wide scale. These toys were made from metal, covered with tin and painted and many were mechanical in nature. A common name is "wind up toys".

10. Tiddlywinks

Today, this classic child's game has become a professional sport. Tiddlywinks are still sold in stores and marketed to children, but most players today are adults who enter competitions held around the world.

Tiddlywinks is a simple game played with small discs, called winks. The winks lay on a flat surface and players use a large disc, called a squidger, to pop the winks into the air by pressing the squidger down on one side of the wink. The goal is to get your winks into the cup. Adult competitors also attempt to have their winks land on top of their opponents' winks, thus creating more difficulty for the other player.



Creator, Eugene Tiedler owned a clock making shop where his workers filled their spare time by playing simple games. The men would use disc shaped scraps of wood and try to flip them into their co-worker's drinking cup. As the discs were the scraps from making the eyes of owls for the clocks, one worker happened to call the discs the owls' winks and it soon caught on. After the game and the name caught on throughout the city of Cincinnati, Tiedler decided to quickly design a set of rules and began painting the discs in bright colors. He marketed the game as "*Tiddler's Winks*" and stopped making clocks by the year 1889. By the Turn of the Century, *Tiedler's Winks* had spread across the Country and in 1938, was renamed *Tiddlywinks* when *Parker Brothers* bought the rights.

Streets of Bradford

The Bradford Landmark Society

As you drive around this year, looking at all the Christmas lights, try to remember the names of the streets, then come home by the warm fire and try your hand at finding all the Streets of Bradford!

R R F S E S L W A O G B V O B E E K L T T
 . J M O N R I H L N O D Y R O C T S E W C
 H A E Y R L N A I J D N A L K C O R C H W
 B E C F L M A T N A V E W O O U Y E A N U
 O L H I F N A S I C E B K A T E R M L E O
 Y E A Y D E N N E K U C R H U U B O P N E
 L M N U K L R G R S N C A S S E R G N O C
 S N I I I S I S H O O V P S R A O N O T E
 T B C B I O N N O N E U E S N F R I S S E
 O I B V O N E K S N A L T A T C W D B E L
 N B A A B L S T U T L E A H S S L R O A E
 O D R E L I I E O B N V T D K T K A H W G
 R N E K D T A V L S E O S M E E M H J A O
 T I L E U N E V A N O I R A M S N A E R O
 H L L T C M D E U R O B E R V A O D I D I
 C P I M F . O E R T D H T C S S R R A N R
 E O M A R I L Y N H O R N E W A Y G W L L
 N P U C W E S T W A S H I N G T O N E S L
 T U N T S E H C O A E L E V B A R B O U R
 E M E R Y Y T T A L O N G F E L L O W U H
 R R H O O E J L A O H D N E I O L C L M U

Congress
 Mechanic
 Bolivar Drive
 Russell Blvd.
 Kennedy
 Boylston
 Nookside
 Edna
 Poplin
 Keating
 Longfellow

East Main
 West Washington
 Marion Avenue
 Interstate Parkway
 Amm
 Miller
 Emery
 Williams
 Harding
 Seaward
 Barbour

Rockland
 West Corydon
 Bushnell
 Chestnut
 Marilyn Horne Way
 Berva
 Jefferson
 Rosedale
 Hobson Place
 Forman

South Avenue
 North Center
 Lorana Avenue
 Chambers
 Davis
 Stone
 Jackson
 Nelson
 Constitution
 South Kendall



**Happy Holidays from all of us
at the Bradford Landmark Society!**



*Ally Costik Larry Richmond
Mike Snow Mally Lindsay
Tom Jones*