



The Inkwell

45 E. Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701

814-362-3906

MARCH 2011

Looking Forward to Summer

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- The Evening Star & Daily Record delivered to the Herbig Bakery.

- Petrolia Street, 1951.

- A silent movie filmed in Bradford. *The Manhatters*.

By the time that you read this newsletter, Bradford will know if we have been chosen by the Weather Channel at weather.com as the country's toughest weather city. The contest has been running for a few weeks, and so far we've beaten Philadelphia, Cleveland, and Caribou, Maine as one of the worst places to live, winter weather-wise, in the Northeast. As they say, one doesn't know whether to be happy, or to cry about it. Either way, Bradford has been getting the votes, and while we will only win bragging rights, still, Bradford deserves the honor.

Summer lies ahead. Just the words sound nice. It's been a rather long and snowy winter. The Crook Farm Country Fair has already started gearing up for the festival in August. The School Program is getting organized; they will be starting in May and continuing through June.

And we have two new programs tentatively scheduled for this summer as well. One is a Summer Ecology Camp, which will be held July 12 through July 15, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Under the direction of Fawn Miller, a teacher at Otto-Eldred School, the program will teach kids about the outdoors. It will be held at the Crook farm.

Another workshop planned this summer is a Genealogy Workshop. Titled, *Puzzles of the Past*, it will be held July 30 (that's a Saturday) at the Crook Farm. Topics such as Military Records, Courthouse Research, Scrapbooking Your Family Tree, Gravestone Rubbing, Census Records, and a Keynote Speaker PLUS a free lunch will round out the day. It looks like a lot of fun.

Watch for further information to come your way as more definite details about these two new events shape up.

Our annual meeting was held in February. Since we no longer will be hosting a Patron Party at the Crook Farm Fair, we have moved the annual meeting and election of officers to February. Our membership drive will start in July as always, however, and this year our goal is 50 new members! Watch for your membership packet in the mail.

And finally, the Bradford Landmark Society had a booth at the Kinzua Outdoor and Travel Show, held February 26 & 27. This is our third year at the show, and each year gets better and better. We had dozens and dozens of people stop by our booth and pick up literature, buy books, and inspect our display of old hunting and fishing photographs from the Bradford area. We're already planning on next year's booth to be even more entertaining!

Does Anyone Really Know What Time It Is?



A few weeks ago, we all switched over to Daylight Savings Time. In other words, we set the clocks ahead an hour, and lost an hour of sleep. I asked anyone if they knew the history of Daylight Savings Time (DST), or if anyone knew the reasons we did it. No one did. Some thought it was a government thing, passed during the Depression so that farmers could work longer in the fields. One woman thought it was so that school children wouldn't have to come home in the dark. No one really knew – but everyone did know the little saying "spring ahead, fall back." Do we really "save daylight?" Let's find out!

Daylight savings time has caused controversy since it began. Daylight savings time decreases the amount of daylight in the morning hours so that more daylight is available during the evening. Not everyone benefits from the change. Farmers and others who rise before dawn may have to operate in the dark a while longer before daybreak. Pundits have dubbed it "Daylight Slaving Time."

Daylight saving time, however, can bring many benefits. Research has shown that more available daylight increases energy savings while decreasing the number of traffic accidents, traffic fatalities, and incidences of crime. Retailers, sporting goods makers, and other businesses benefit from extra afternoon sunlight, as it induces customers to shop and to participate in outdoor afternoon sports.

Most U.S. residents set their clocks one hour forward in spring and one hour back in fall. However, residents of Arizona and Hawaii – along with the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, among others – will do nothing. Those locales never deviated from standard time within their particular time zones.

Contrary to popular belief, no federal rule mandates that states or territories observe daylight saving time.

Daylight Savings Time is often credited to Benjamin Franklin, when, as an American envoy to France in 1784, suggested that the Parisians get up an hour earlier each day and proposed taxing shutters, rationing candles, and waking the public by ringing church bells and firing cannons at sunrise. But the real concept of actually setting the clocks ahead, or behind, was the idea of a New Zealander, entomologist George Vernon Hudson, who simply thought that longer daylight hours would help him in his hobby of studying insects. The idea slowly spread throughout the world, and starting on 30 April 1916, Germany and its World War I allies were the first to use DST as a way to conserve coal during wartime. Britain, most of its allies, and many European neutrals soon followed suit.

In the United States, things were a little different. Each town and community set their own clocks; and times could vary from place to place. These clocks were like many Americans themselves: individual and conforming to their own notions. There were hundreds of local times, each city setting its city hall or courthouse clock to match its own solar noon. When it was 12 p.m. in Chicago, it was 11:50 a.m. in St. Louis and 12:18 p.m. in Detroit. But that wasn't a problem because local time was all that mattered.

That changed when the railroads began unifying the country. The railroads ran by their own time, which vexed travelers trying to make connections. Many stations had two clocks, one for railroad time and one for local time.

To eliminate the confusion, railroads took it upon themselves in 1883 to divide the country into four time zones, with one standard time within each zone. To resist



could mean economic isolation, so at noon on Nov. 18, 1883, Chicagoans had to move their clocks back 9 minutes and 32 seconds. "It's as if the railroads had commanded the sun to stand still", *The Chicago Tribune* wrote. Louisville was set back almost 18 minutes, and *The Louisville Courier-Journal* called the change a "compulsory lie". In a letter to the editor, a reader demanded to know "if anyone has the authority and right to change the city time without the consent of the people?" In an 1884 referendum, three-quarters of voters in Bangor, Me., opposed the 25-minute change to "Philadelphia time".

By 1916, as Daylight Savings Time was becoming common in the European nations, it was still hotly debated here. The *Literary Digest* saw it as a trick to make "people get up earlier by telling them it is later than it really is." *The Saturday Evening Post* asked, in jest, "Why not 'save summer' by having June begin at the end of February?" And an Arkansas congressman lampooned the time reformers by proposing that we change our thermometers: move the freezing point up 13 degrees and a lot of folks could be tricked into burning less fuel to heat their houses.

Still, in 1918, we adopted the Daylight Savings Time plan.

World War I's end swung the pendulum back. Farmers continued to dislike DST, and many countries repealed it after the war. Britain was an exception: it retained DST nationwide but over the years adjusted transition dates for several reasons, including special rules during the 1920s and 1930s to avoid clock shifts on Easter mornings.

The U.S. was more typical: Congress repealed DST after 1919. President Woodrow Wilson, an avid golfer who liked to golf and supported more daylight hours, vetoed the repeal twice but his second veto was overridden. American farmers rejoiced as the clock was set back to "God's Time". Only a few U.S. cities retained DST locally thereafter, including New York so that its financial exchanges could maintain an hour of arbitrage trading with London, and Chicago and Cleveland to keep pace with New York.

Wilson's successor Warren G. Harding opposed DST as a "deception". Reasoning that people should instead get up and go to work earlier in the summer, he ordered District of Columbia federal employees to start work at 08:00 rather than 09:00 during summer 1922. Many businesses followed suit though many others did not; the experiment was not repeated.

In 1930, Bradford had heated debates on the necessity of "fast time", but finally the Board of Commerce (now the Chamber of Commerce) and the Bradford Businessmen voted to accept Daylight Savings Time for the months of June, July, August and September. At least most businesses did, but in June 1930 it was announced that the Producers Bank and McKean County Trust banks would adopt Daylight

Savings Time, but the Bradford National Bank and Commercial Bank of Bradford would not – they would stay on Eastern Standard Time, explaining that their bank system required it.

For the next several years, some businesses in Bradford ran on Eastern Standard Time, and others on Eastern Daylight Savings Time. Announcements in the newspaper were always careful to list both times.





Daylight Savings Time was adopted again during World War II. Called War-Time, the U.S. enacted FDR's year-round DST law just 40 days after Pearl Harbor. All combatants on both sides quickly adopted DST to save vital energy resources for the War.

Following the war, it left it up to the states and localities until 1966, when Congress once more decided it was a national concern.

In 1973, an oil embargo by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries led Congress to enact a test period of year-round daylight-saving time in 1974 and 1975. The test period was controversial; it ended after complaints that the dark winter mornings endangered children traveling to school. The U.S. returned to summer daylight-saving time in 1975.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 changed both the starting and ending dates. Beginning in 2007, daylight time now starts on the second Sunday in March and ends on the first Sunday in November. This year, we will revert back to Standard Time at 2:00 AM, on the first Sunday in November, the 6th.

At present, Day Light Savings time will now be in effect for 238 days, or about 65% of the year. So enjoy the sunshine. It's been a long, long winter.

Pie Plates Wanted!

Do you have any old pie plates, or pie pans that you just don't need anymore? The Bradford Landmark Society is looking for donations of pie plates. Each year, the Baked Food Tent at the Crook Farm Country Fair has delicious pies baked by volunteers. Pieces of pie, or whole pies, are sold. And each year, we need extra pie plates. Glass would be preferable, but we will take any spare pie plate that you might have. Just give us a call at the Herbig Bakery, 362-3906, email us at info@bradfordlandmark.org, or stop in and drop them off. We'd appreciate it!



Recently, the Bradford Landmark Society received a letter from Dianne Herold Warner, a former Bradordian now living in Washington State. She had been cleaning out some things, and had discovered an old Civics paper that she had written in ninth grade, at School Street Junior High School. Her teacher was Desta Cole, and the paper is dated 1951. It is such an interesting report that I called Dianne, and asked her permission to reprint her delightful report in this issue of The Inkwell. Please read her words and enjoy!

Enclosed is a copy of a Civics paper I did on Petrolia Street for Desta Cole 's Civics class in 1951 at Bradford Junior High. I found the report in a collection of high school photos and memorabilia. I have a lot of it as I am Class Historian for the BHS Class of '54 and because we Herolds, Downs, and Bovairds tend to collect everything.

For the record, I am a compulsive counter. I count train cars at intersections, steps to the mail box, and people assembled at gatherings. Counting has served me well. I 've been a teacher of very young children and I never lost a kid. Some of my professional friends cannot say that.

I am not sure what prompted me to count the bricks on Petrolia Street, but I remember it took a while. I spend several days at it. I resorted to chalk to mark counts up the hill on the curb after losing count a couple of times. Then, when I had the information, what to do with it? Hence, the Civics Report, though I suspect I had to wait a while for an opportunity to freeform the article. I kept the card with the vital information of the count on it in a wooden jewel box. A true treasure.

Petrolia Street, 1951 by Diane Herold Warner

One of the minor streets in Bradford, but a very important one to those who live there, is Petrolia Street. Because of being a hill, the city has much to do to keep it in satisfactory conditions for driving, especially in winter when the cinder trucks and snow plows are the main part of its traffic.

The street consists of 641,376 bricks, 32 across and 20,043 rows upward. The houses, ranging from Dresser's huge mansion at the corner, to Taylor's small cottage two thirds of the way up, are well taken care of and most are well built.

There are 16 houses, 10 driveways with 23 families and two boarders. Also are six children not within school age, two of which are still babies. There is one fire hydrant halfway up, five telephone poles, two of which serve also as street lights, and six different types of sidewalks. The fire alarm box stands at the foot of the hill. Many of the members own and farm small gardens and grow flowers and vegetables.

The children attend Fourth Ward, Junior and Senior High School. The occupations range from Allegheny State Park electrician, nurse, newspaper worker, to an architect. As mentioned before, the street serves this community well.

* * *

Diane concluded... "There is no grade on it, though I am not sure what that means...It has Desta Cole 's initials on top. She may not have thought the report worthy of a grade ".

We don't care that it never got a grade – we think it's an entertaining report and thank her for sharing it.

The Evening Star and the Daily Record Comes Home

Last October, the Bradford Landmark Society was contacted by the Archives at the Pennsylvania State Historical and Museum Commission in Harrisburg. They had recently de-accessioned some old newspapers that had originally been published in Bradford, and asked us if we thought that we would like them. The papers were *The Evening Star and Daily Record*, and the *Sunday Herald*, dating from 1888 to 1943. You bet we did!

They told us that these particular newspapers had been stored at the Drake Oil Well Museum in Titusville for a number of years, but that museum had undergone renovation, and while construction was ongoing there, the newspapers had been sent to Harrisburg for microfilming. When the project was done, the Oil Museum did not want the original newspapers back; the PSHMC thought about it, and decided to offer them to us, sort of like sending them home again. It turned out to be 125 volumes of bound newspapers, all boxed up and sitting on two pallets in the shipping department of the state museum. And, oh yeah, each pallet weighted 1000 pounds.

Microfilm of these newspaper had never been done before and there are no paper copies (well, a few random ones here and there) in our area. We had thought that the rest were lost and destroyed over the years, so were thrilled to have the opportunity to lay our hands on the real thing. *The Evening Star* in particular, which was published until the 1940s, seems to be a much more “community”oriented paper; more photographs, more news about the city and its citizens, more social comment.



Negotiations followed concerning shipment details; but the state finally agreed to pay 75% of the costs. All we had to do was find someone with a forklift, and a place to store them.

Preparations on our end began around Christmas, as we cleared off shelves, moved boxes, and basically made enough room to hold 125 bound newspapers, weighing a total of 2000 lbs. We contacted Doug Wingard at Bradford Pipe, and asked nicely if one of their men could forklift off the pallets, and store them inside one of their buildings down on Chestnut Street. They were very agreeable and pleased to help the Landmark. This photo shows the first pallet coming off the truck.

At 8:30AM, last Wednesday morning, in six inches of snow, the papers arrived. Bradford Pipe did a great job unloading the pallets, and we had the state delivery truck back on its way to Harrisburg in a matter of minutes. We then unwrapped the pallets, and took several boxes at a time, shuttled back and forth, between the Herbig Bakery on East Corydon Street, and Chestnut Street. By 9:20 AM, all the newspapers were safe inside the Landmark, all stowed away on shelves. We even amazed ourselves how fast and easy it was. And now the fun starts!



Here is a photo of the shelving that holds about half of the shipment. The newspapers are still in their boxes at this point. We will unbox, sort, and index each one. A preliminary inspection shows us the earliest one is dated 1888; the years follow consecutively until 1929 – the 1930s appear to be all missing; and then a few random volumes from 1942 and 1943. That's it. Most years come in four bound volumes; each quarter of the year bound together, i.e., January through March, April through June; July through September, and October through December.

The Evening Star was originally owned by Rufus B. Stone. Robert P. Habgood bought the newspaper from Stone in 1902. *The Daily Record* was owned by Lewis Emery; Habgood bought that newspaper in 1908 and merged it with the *Star*. In 1922, he purchased the *Sunday Herald* from the estate of Ada Cable, Bradford's pioneer newspaper woman. In 1939, the *Herald*, *Star*, and *Bradford Era* merged into one company, titled Bradford Newspapers. Habgood died four years later in 1943, at the age of 74.

The Man Haters

A silent movie filmed right here in Bradford!

In July of 1916, the city of Bradford was thrilled to watch a real movie filmed on the streets of Bradford. A “silent” movie – talkies won't make an appearance until the mid 1920s – *The Man Haters* was filmed in conjunction with a Bradford Era contest to find the perfect leading lady. And boy, was it action packed!

Every scene was filmed in Bradford or vicinity, and every member of the cast was local. Filming took two weeks. The plot involved Ruth, the leading lady (Marion Holbrook), who elopes with Henry (played by Harold Osborne) and a merry mix up cast of characters as they are chased throughout the town. Even H.H. North, mayor of Bradford in 1916, gets a cameo role at the end of the movie as he marries the young couple.

The scene opens at Ruth's home on Congress Street (filmed at Lewis Emery's mansion). Ruth is depicted escaping from an upper story window of her home by a convenient ladder placed there by Henry. The couple is intercepted by Heinie (Vincent Roy), a would-be-detective, and Ruth's maid (Lucile Friday). During a confrontation, Ruth's sister Edna (Agatha Gillen), enters and throws Heinie down the steps. Henry's sister Alice (Mary Williams) appears in this scene as well.

On Main Street, three scenes were enacted, one at Thompson & Woods drug store, one before the Greenwald Store, and the other in front of and inside the Johnston store. The filming attracted a large and interested crowd of spectators which at times blocked the street and seriously interfered with traffic.

East Main Street was chosen for the car chase, as the eloping couple flees. Director Donald Ryan and Frank Bender of the McHenry Film Corporation rode in front with a megaphone shouting directions to the actors following in the getaway cars. In another scene, Heinie, the detective, has bundled Ruth's maid into a push cart before a fast moving trolley car. Ryan and Bender again rode in a car ahead of the trolley, with the camera trained on the action behind them.

Half a dozen scenes were made at the Mallory residence on School Street (Henry's home), behind Thomas Kennedy's home on Walker Avenue in the garden and under the pergola, May's Grocery Store, the Women's Club House on Chautauqua Place, the woods behind the Children's Home, and the Public Square.

One of the most exciting chase scenes was filmed in Derrick City, Henry and Ruth, still trying to elope in an auto, drive right through the water near the bridge over Foster Brook. The entire cast of pursuers follow.

The finale "rivaling in daring the most thrilling Scenes in the Perils of Pauline", the entire cast is trapped on the upper floor of the St. James Hotel at the head of Main Street. Dense clouds of smoke pour out of the windows as Bradford's finest firemen dash through the crowded streets to the rescue. With hoses at the ready, they storm into the building, followed by Henry. He soon appears at a window, carrying Ruth, who has fainted, and just like a hero, carries her to safety.

And of course, yes, Henry and Ruth "elope" successfully. Mayor H. H. North performs the ceremony, and concludes by kissing the new bride, to the great amusement of the assembled multitude. The pursuers arrive too late to prevent the marriage but in the excitement, Heinie, the detective, and Edna, Ruth's sister, faint dead away. The movie opened on Wednesday, July 12. *The Era* wrote: The Manhaters Score Tremendous Triumph.





THE BRADFORD LANDMARK SOCIETY

The Inkwell

45 E. Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701

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July 2011

www.bradfordlandmark.org

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Inside this Edition of The Inkwell

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Johnny J. Jones Show, 1909
Membership Drive time

It's July. Already.

Where did the time go? The 4th of July has come and gone, and now the real summer begins. Don't forget our annual Crook Farm Country Fair, this August 27 & 28, out on Seaward Avenue. Last year was great, and this year will be even better. And remember, it supports the Bradford Landmark Society!

Now, with sadness, we report the passing of our founder, Marian Bromeley, who died April 8, 2011 at the age of 104 at her home in Belvidere, NY. Marian was the spark that began the Bradford Landmark Society; she realized, over 40 years ago, that the history of the city was being lost; stored away in attics and basements and fading away. She and a group of friends were convinced that the city needed its own historical society to preserve Bradford's unique history, and in 1969, such an ideal became reality.

Those first few years were busy ones, finding a permanent home for the Society and establishing a financial base from which to operate. An annual antique show was held, a Heritage Days tour of houses, cooks tours, and the Firemen's Museum on the second floor of the Fire Department were all activities sponsored by the Landmark. In 1970, the Herbig Bakery was given to the Landmark, and became our permanent home. We are still there today. But Marian's dream was not to just found a historic society; she dreamed of establishing an oil heritage village. To that end, the Society purchased a farmhouse and land on Seaward Avenue in 1972, and through its restoration efforts, saw the farmstead nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. Marian called it The Crook Farm after the original owners (c. 1840), and today many people associate that historic site with her name. In 1979 the first Crook Farm Country Fair was held, a successful and fun event that has been held every year since.

I knew Marian Bromeley; she would often stop into the Bakery on her way to lunch with her good friend June Pfister Gray, and the two of them were always fascinated with any activities or projects that were going on at the Society. A truly wonderful woman, we will miss her.

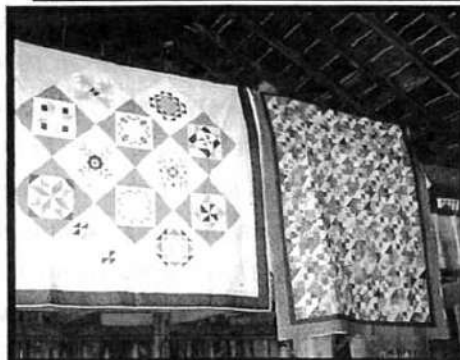
Join us at the 32st Annual **CROOK FARM** COUNTRY FAIR 2011

August 27th & 28th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Old Time Country Music Festival

Crafts & Vendor Show

Sponsored by The Bradford Landmark Society



Mnemonics

Mnemonics. (ni-mon-iks). Noun. The process or technique of improving or developing the memory.

We were just talking about mnemonics the other day at the Landmark. You know, the memory trick used by all of us to remember how to spell certain words, or to remember the names of certain things.

I remarked that it took me years to be able to spell "geography" without silently repeating "**George Elliot's Old Grandfather Rode A Pig Home Yesterday**". In short, a memory trick. Or crutch, actually. And it got us to thinking - how many other "tricks" or mnemonics are there to remember certain things? A little search on the Internet brought up some interesting mnemonic (or is that mnemonical?) phrases that are sure to be useful.

Just about everyone remembers that the first letter of each word in the phrase *A Rat In The House May Eat The Ice Cream* spells Arithmetic.

And remember "Roy G. Biv"? His name spells out the colors in a rainbow. (*Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet*).

But there are many, many more mnemonics.

Here are a variety of mnemonics for remembering the names of the great lakes:

"HOMES" - Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior" or if you want to remember them in order, west to east, then "*She Made Him Eat Onions*" OR *Super Man Helps Every One*. (Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, Ontario)"

How about learning the points of the compass?

"*Never Eat Soggy Wheaties*" OR "*Never Eat Sour Watermelons*" for North, East, South, West, going clockwise.

**Want to remember some scientific or mathematical things?
How about:**

"*Tropical Sunlight May Irritate Eyes*" (Troposphere, Stratosphere, Mesosphere, Ionosphere, Exosphere).

"*King Phillip Came Over For Grape Soda*" OR "*Kevin's Poor Cow Only Feels Good Sometimes*" to remember the biology classification of Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Orders, Family, Genus, Species.

"*Real Men In LIGHT Underwear eXcite Grandma*" which is the order of wavelengths - radio wave, microwave, infared, the light spectrum (like ROY G BIV), ultraviolet, x-ray, and gamma.



"Please excuse my dear Aunt Sally" for correct order of mathematical problem solving - Parentheses, exponentials, multiplication, division, addition, subtraction.

"King Henry Died Drinking Chocolate Milk" The prefixes of metric measurements, Kilo - Hecta - Deca - Deci - Centi - Milli.

And want to remember the correct order of Roman Numerals?

Try **"I Value Xylophones Like Cows Dig Milk"**, that is, I for one, V for five, X for ten, L for fifty, C for hundred, D for five hundred, and M for one thousand.

How about hard to remember elements in the periodic table?

Pb- Peanut butter feels like *lead* in my stomach

Au- A U! (hey you!) get back here with my *gold*!

Hg- Hot guys raise the *mercury* in the thermometer

Na- Na...I don't need any more *sodium* in my diet

K- K(Kay) eats lots of bananas to increase her *potassium*.

Ag- My jewelry bag sags with "Ag" (*silver*)

Cu- See (C) you (u) can see Abe Lincoln on a copper penny!

And don't forget Sunday school. These mnemonic phrases have helped many a bible scholar:

"God Eats Pop Corn Too" - for the books of the Bible. Galatians, Ephesians, Phillipians, Colossians and Thessalonians.

"Wasp Leg" - The Seven Deadly Sins. Wrath, Avarice, Sloth, Pride, Lust, Env, Gluttony

How about some geography mnemonics?

"Great Big Elephants Have Nice Comfy Pajamas" for the countries of Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama.

Or the ruling families of England?

"No Place Like Yours To Study History Well" - Norman, Plantagenet, Lancaster, York, Tudor, Stuart, Hanover, Windsor.

Or the proper way to fire a rifle?

BRASS - **B**reathe, **R**elax, **A**im, **S**ight, **S**queeze

And the one that everyone knows:

"My very energetic mother just served us nuts". - The eight planets - Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune. No more Pluto, remember? Even mnemonics couldn't help him!

32nd Annual Crook Farm Country Fair
Saturday & Sunday, August 27th & 28th, 2011
10 am to 5 pm



★
Rolling Stars ★
★ *Quilt Raffle*



Tickets: \$1.00 each
or \$5.00 for six

68" x 78"

Tickets may be purchased at the *Bradford Landmark Society Headquarters*,
45 East Corydon St., Bradford, PA, the *Bradford Area Public Library*,
67 West Washington St., Bradford, PA, during the *Crook Farm Fair* at the barn,
and at other participating locations.

Drawing Sunday, August 28, 2011 at the Crook Farm Fair
Need not be present for drawing

Quilt by:

Nancy Bucheit - Piecing & Binding
Barbara Haas - Quilting, owner *Quilting for Joy*
Judy Brown - Material, owner *Little Fabric Garden*

Painting the Herbig Bakery

We're painting the Herbig Bakery! We estimate that it's been about 40 years since it was painted, so last year, we applied for a Bradford Downtown Merchants Association facade grant to help with the financial aspect, and received one which was approved in September. We thought it was too late in the year to start a big project like this, so we waited until this summer to get started. Now, it's full speed ahead!

All of us are pitching in. Dale Thurston, one of our Pathstone workers, owned his own painting company, so he is our expert in that area; Tom Jones has been working on the windows; Molly is painting, cleaning off mold, and helping Dale; Sally is painting windows and rusty pipes; John Costik, Sally's husband, is a wood worker, so he is helping with some of the repairs to the building; and Ben Palagonia, a college kid who lives up the street comes by and lends a hand whenever he can.



Dale adjusts the power washer while Tom and Molly look on – it took five hours to wash the building with ammonia and water.

The Herbig Bakery dates from 1878, so like any old, wooden building, there is lots of maintenance. Wooden clapboards were used originally as siding, but many years ago (late 1940s, we figure), the building was re-covered with shingles. Several of the shingles on the alley side (which the Bakery shares with Beefeaters) had either cracked or fallen off and had to be replaced. The shingles are asbestos; with a wavy bottom, and stamped with a woodgrain pattern - a man walking by one day saw us painting and told us that he used to work in a factory in Bradford that made shingles like the ones on the Bakery. It's nice to think that the Bakery is covered with Bradford-made shingles. But they are very brittle, and hard to find. Fortunately, Tom Jones, another one of our Pathstone workers, has some spare shingles from an older house that he owns; and brought them down to the

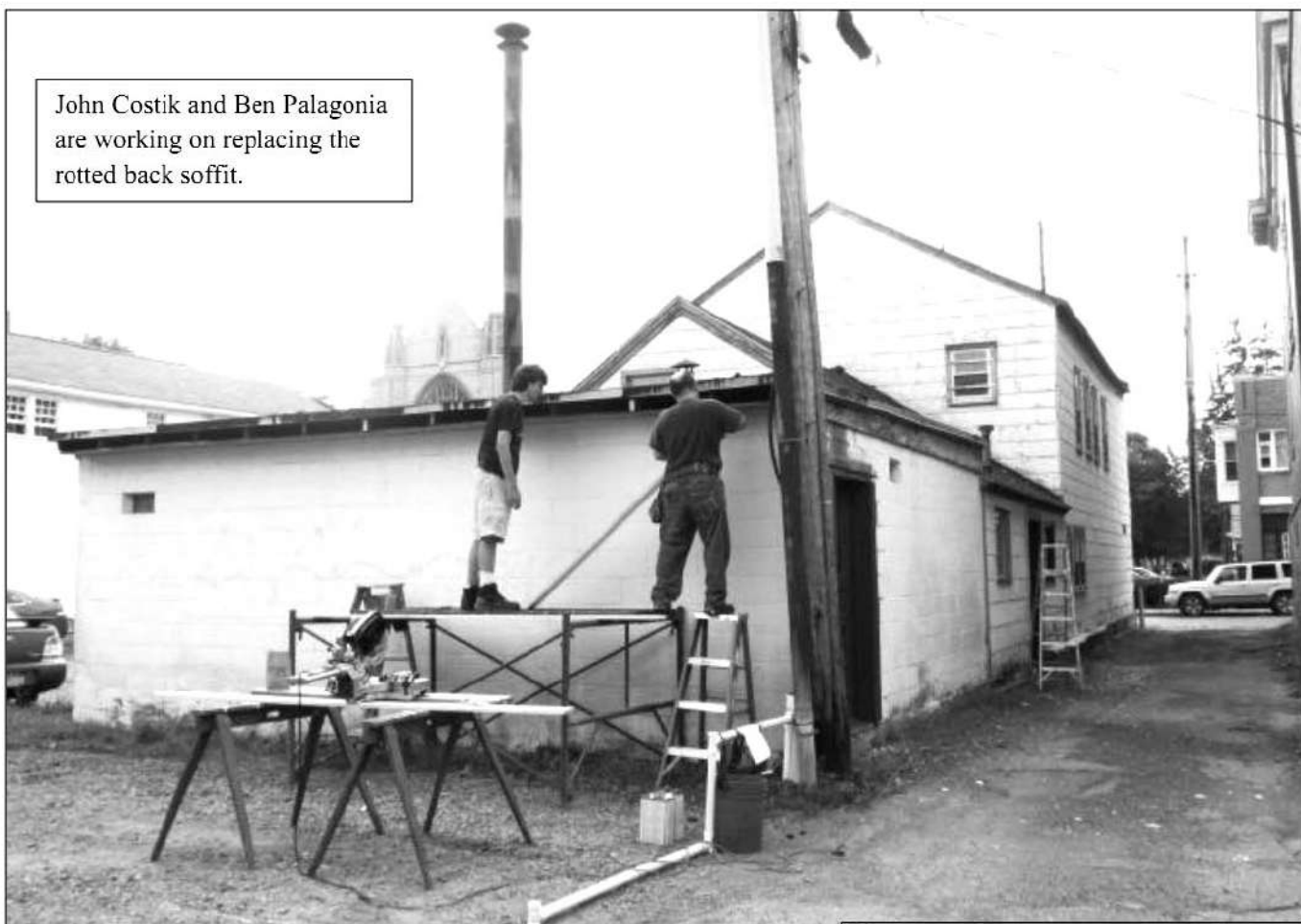
Landmark. Dale and Molly gingerly pried off the broken shingles, pre-drilled the holes for the new ones, and nailed them back on. Once painted, they will look just like the other ones.

Power washing was the first step. Sally rented a power washer, and one cloudy Sunday morning a few weeks ago, Dale, Molly, and Tom cleaned the whole building. Sally recorded it all on camera.

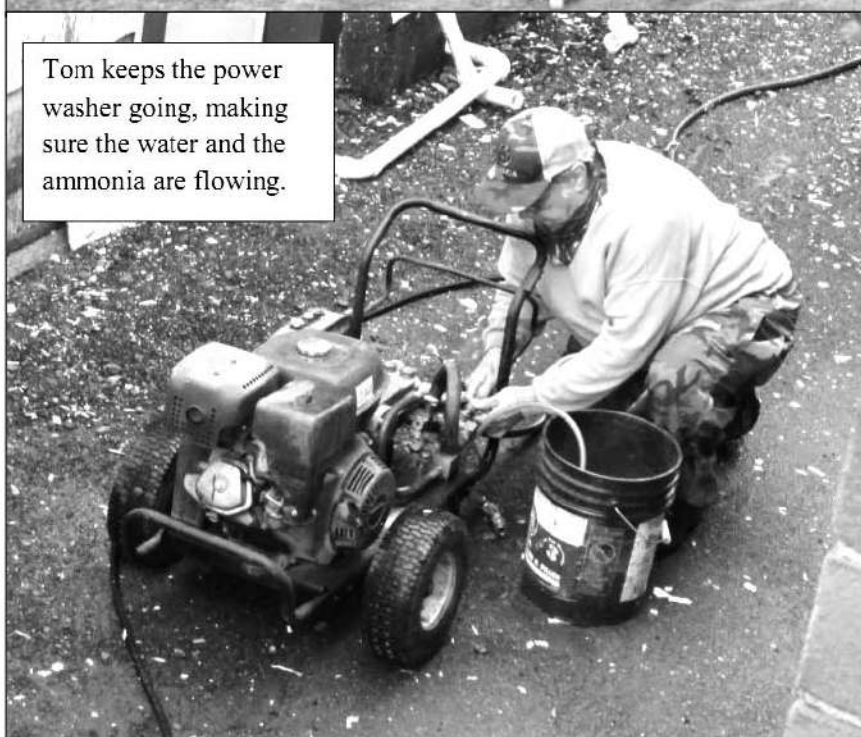
Here is Dale, working on the side of the building next to the parking lot. The chalky dust washed off, and loose paint as well. Dale ran the spray wand, while Molly and Tom kept the power washer in operation.



John Costik and Ben Palagonia are working on replacing the rotted back soffit.

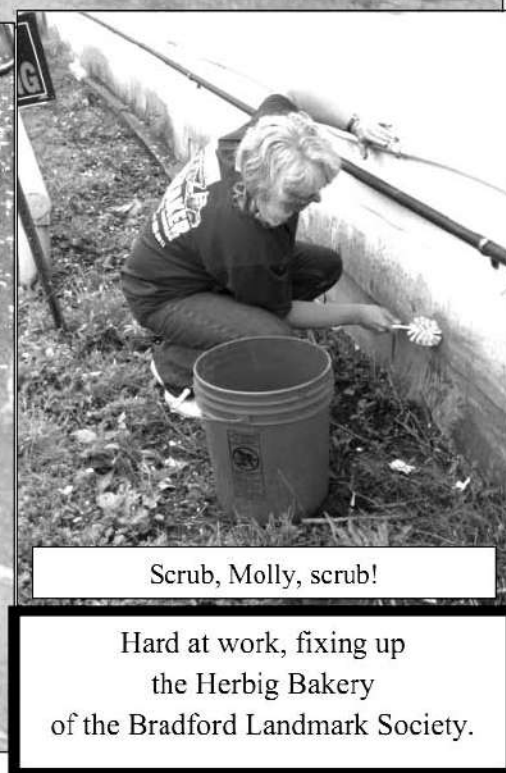


Tom keeps the power washer going, making sure the water and the ammonia are flowing.



Scrub, Molly, scrub!

Hard at work, fixing up the Herbig Bakery of the Bradford Landmark Society.



Seven daily parades, three night parades including a masked Mardi Gras, fireworks, dances, band concerts, lectures, and a city filled to capacity with 15,000 visitors from all over the United States as well as a popular carnival helped to make the 1909 Old Home Week an event to remember.

Old Home Week, 1909

The Johnny J. Jones Exposition

This August is the 102nd anniversary of Bradford's first Old Home Week celebration. It was such a wonderful event that the Bradford Landmark Society decided that a book should be written, describing exactly what happened during the summer of 1909. Tom Jones, one of our staff members, offered to author the book; it took nearly two years to research, collect, scan, examine, verify, write, compile, and publish, but in the end, the book **Welcome Home Old Home Week 1909** succeeded in being educational, visually interesting, and a lot of fun to read. In tribute to that wonderful celebration, this edition of the Inkwell presents an excerpt of that book, looking at the carnival that was in town that week, the Johnny J. Jones Exhibition.

Aware that each August usually brought a traveling circus to the city, the Entertainment Committee arranged for The Johnny J. Jones Exposition to schedule their yearly show in Bradford the same week as Old Home Week. The Johnny J. Jones show was well known on the east coast and played a circuit from Florida to Canada. Not really a circus or carnival, but more of a midway, the show boasted that it had "300 performers, 18 Big



Feature Attractions, 4 Magnificent Riding Devices, 2 Sensational & Thrilling Free Acts, 8 Grand Concert & Military Bands, and a \$10,000 Trained Wild Animal Act, which traveled by Special Train in their own Magnificent Palace Cars and carrying their own Electric Light Plant." The show promised to be "as unlike the old worn-out Street Fair and Carnival as Radium is unlike Brass." It opened every day at 1:30PM and closed each night at 11:30PM.

Twelve railroad cars filled with equipment, animals, roustabouts, performers, and Johnny J. Jones workers arrived on Sunday night, August 8. The crew set to work, pitching tents on vacant town lots on Kennedy Street, Chestnut Street, Corydon Street, and Chambers Street.

Each street had its own particular and peculiar set of sideshow attractions. "Colonel Fred, the Talking Horse," lady boxers, the "Human Laundry," and a Ferris wheel could be found on Kennedy Street. The trained horse was described as "one of the most intelligent equine performers in the country." Colonel Fred could play "Home Sweet Home" on a set of bells, do mathematical problems with a slate and a piece of chalk, and perform many other wonderful tasks. The "Four in One Show" featured two 500-pound women in a short boxing match.

Jumbo, a huge water python, was the featured attraction in a tent pitched along Chestnut Street. The snake was alleged to be 28 feet in length, weighed 290 pounds, and was said to be the largest snake in captivity.

The Ferris wheel was set up in the street near the intersection of Kennedy and Boylston streets. Johnny J. Jones claimed it was the actual Ferris wheel that had been part of the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. This was a complete fabrication on the part of the Johnny J. Jones show since that Ferris wheel had been 256 feet high, 250 feet in diameter, and could hold 2160 people at one time. It made great publicity however, and drew large crowds to Kennedy Street.

A midway was originally planned for Chambers Street and East Corydon Street. Strenuous objections from the merchants and churches on those streets promised injunction proceedings if such carnival acts were permitted there. This caused the Johnny J. Jones Company to change its original setup to something more refined. The "Girls in Red," a clever vaudeville act, were subsequently located on Chambers Street, and played to a good-sized crowd every afternoon and evening. The Majestic Theater was also set up nearby and did a brisk business exhibiting silent movies. Also found on Chambers Street was a merry-go-round along with the "Ocean Wave," which was a sort of large swinging ship that drew in the thrill-seekers.

"Verno, the Human Skeleton Man," weighed just 55 pounds and stood over six feet in height. His emaciation was blamed on deadly cigarette smoking, which according to "eminent medical authorities," had caused Verno to lose 125 pounds in just 15 years. *The Bradford Era* assured readers that Verno, now 33 years of age, "is not a freak of nature or repulsive in appearance. He walks, talks, eats, and apparently suffers no inconvenience, despite the fact that he is a mere shadow."

Other attractions scattered among the Johnny J. Jones tents included "The Ghost Show," "Aga," "Hopp, the Frog Boy," "The Boy Giant," a Jungle Show, the Plantation Show (a Negro Minstrel Show with dancing and singing) and a wild variety of animals, including lions, tigers, leopards, a wolf, polar bears, and monkeys.

And in a strange occurrence, a "prominent Bradford family living in the central part of the city" (probably Congress Street) was eating dinner Thursday night at their home. Suddenly "a long tailed animal, which at second glance proved to be a monkey, jumped on the table and so frightened the family that with one accord they all ran out into the street." "The animal, of course, had escaped from the Johnny J. Jones show.

Interested in learning more about the 1909 Old Home Week? **Welcome Home, Old Home Week 1909** will be available this summer at the Mercantile (downtown Bradford), the Bradford Landmark Society's Herbig Bakery at 45 East Corydon, and at "Ye Old Bookstore" in the bank building during the Crook Farm Country Fair this August.

It Happened in August “Way Back When”

Mrs. Courtney E. Hazelton, Mrs. Ellsworth Greene of Lockport and Clarence E. Weaver of Philadelphia have presented a magnificent marble altar to the Church of the Ascension, in memory of their mother, Helen A. Weaver.	August 12, 1920
Niagara Oil Corp. strikes Bradford’s first gusher in many years at Music Mountain.	August 25, 1937
Announcing the grand opening of the Venice Spaghetti House at 2 River Street.	August 20, 1929
Corporal Thomas Albert of Company C was “shot through the heart” at the company’s range on January 8, 1895	August 11, 1925
City orders graves removed from the old Bradford Cemetery (Littleton Cemetery).	August 5, 1924
Old trolley office building at the head of Main Street will be remodeled by Bradford Building & Loan	August 25, 1923
Ku Klux Klan burns cross on Mt. Raub at foot of Main Street.	August 7, 1922
A.J. Olsen’s Dept. store will occupy building at 118-120 Main Street – 10 year lease signed. Grand opening Saturday, Aug. 3, 1935.	August 1, 1935
Food station to close; aided the unemployed who came here for food during the Depression.	August 10, 1933
Bradford Hospital’s new maternity ward opens for public inspection.	August 25, 1926
Plans announced for a modern airport to be located at Duke Center/Rixford; currently being used as an emergency landing field.	August 17, 1928
Recreation Park to be dedicated Aug. 23, 1939; bands, speeches, christening of the pool by Grace Emery, etc. Park later renamed Callahan in honor of councilman John B. Callahan who first promoted idea; he was killed in traffic accident 9/17/1951.	August 8, 1939
Congress Street Diner opens to the public this morning.	August 16, 1940

It's Membership Dive time again. The annual membership drive letters will be going out shortly, but in the meantime, if you would like to renew your membership now, please fill out and send this page.

The Bradford Landmark Society

As a member of our society, you . . .

- Help support the preservation of the history of the Bradford area.
- Get advance notice of programs, events, workshops, and special events.
- Receive a free subscription to our quarterly newsletter, ***The Inkwell***, outlining the news of the society and offering entertaining and educational articles on local history.
- Are entitled to vote at our annual meeting, and are eligible to serve on the board of directors.
- Can choose volunteer opportunities at the Herbig Bakery, or at the Crook farm.

Level of Membership	Dues	Type of Membership (please check one)
Single Membership	\$10.00	
Family Membership	\$25.00	
Patron Membership	\$50.00	
Silver Membership	\$100.00	
Gold Membership	\$150.00	
Business & Sponsorship Membership	\$250.00	

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

- ☐ Renewal
☐ New Member
☐ Gift Membership

Want to stay a member? Just mail this application form to The Bradford Landmark Society (or stop in).

We accept cash, check, money order, or PayPal (info@bradfordlandmark.org), payable to

The Bradford Landmark Society, 45 East Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701

Thank You

The Bradford Landmark Society often depends on the generosity of our community, and we would like to thank two recent contributors who are making our jobs a whole lot easier. First of all, much thanks to Ralph Rose of Wright Monumental Works, who is lending us his scaffolding to paint the Herbig Bakery. It's one of those items that you just don't have laying around; especially a historical society, and Ralph was kind enough to offer us the use of his ladder, scaffolding, planks, AND the big truck to haul them down to 45 East Corydon Street.

And, we would like to thank CNB Bank, who donated four lateral filing cabinets, two visitor chairs for the front of the bakery, and three desk chairs for the Herbig Bakery. So much appreciated, we can't tell you. We managed to shuffle things around to find a home for them (we are always strapped for space), and the new files will help us tremendously. The two new side chairs, which are now in the front of the building, will fill a need for tired visitors. Because of the very nature of our business, some of our visitors are elderly, and they always appreciate a soft chair to sit in. Thanks again, CNB!

And finally, thanks to Beefeaters, with whom we share an alley between us. With scaffolding, ladders, and people busy painting the walls, the Beefeater delivery trucks sometimes have to park out on the street, not alongside the Beefeater building like they normally do. Thanks for not making a fuss about that, and also for your words of encouragement as we work on the Herbig Bakery.



Blue Grass Music and more at the annual Crook Farm Country Fair Aug. 27 & 28th

December 2011

www.bradfordlandmark.org

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The End of the Year

I feel like I should have some words of “historic” wisdom, now that the year is nearly over. But here are the words of Edgar Guest (the “People's Poet”) who says it best

A happy New Year! Grant that I
May bring no tear to any eye
When this New Year in time shall end
Let it be said I've played the friend,
Have lived and loved and labored here,
And made of it a happy year.

The Bradford Landmark Society had a very good year in 2011. The Herbig Bakery staff and volunteers painted the building – first time in approximately 39 years, and it looks great. We had some interesting donations to the Landmark, too – including a real 1959 Soap Box Derby car. Recent donations include a group of interesting Bradford bottles, some very early Library Board minutes and accession books dating from 1901, books, photographs, and even the original brass key from the old Bradford House which burned down in 1868. Great stuff.

We received the collection of *The Bradford Evening Star and Daily Record* in early spring – nearly 120 volumes – and we've been having a wonderful time indexing them. Reading old newspapers can be quite addictive.

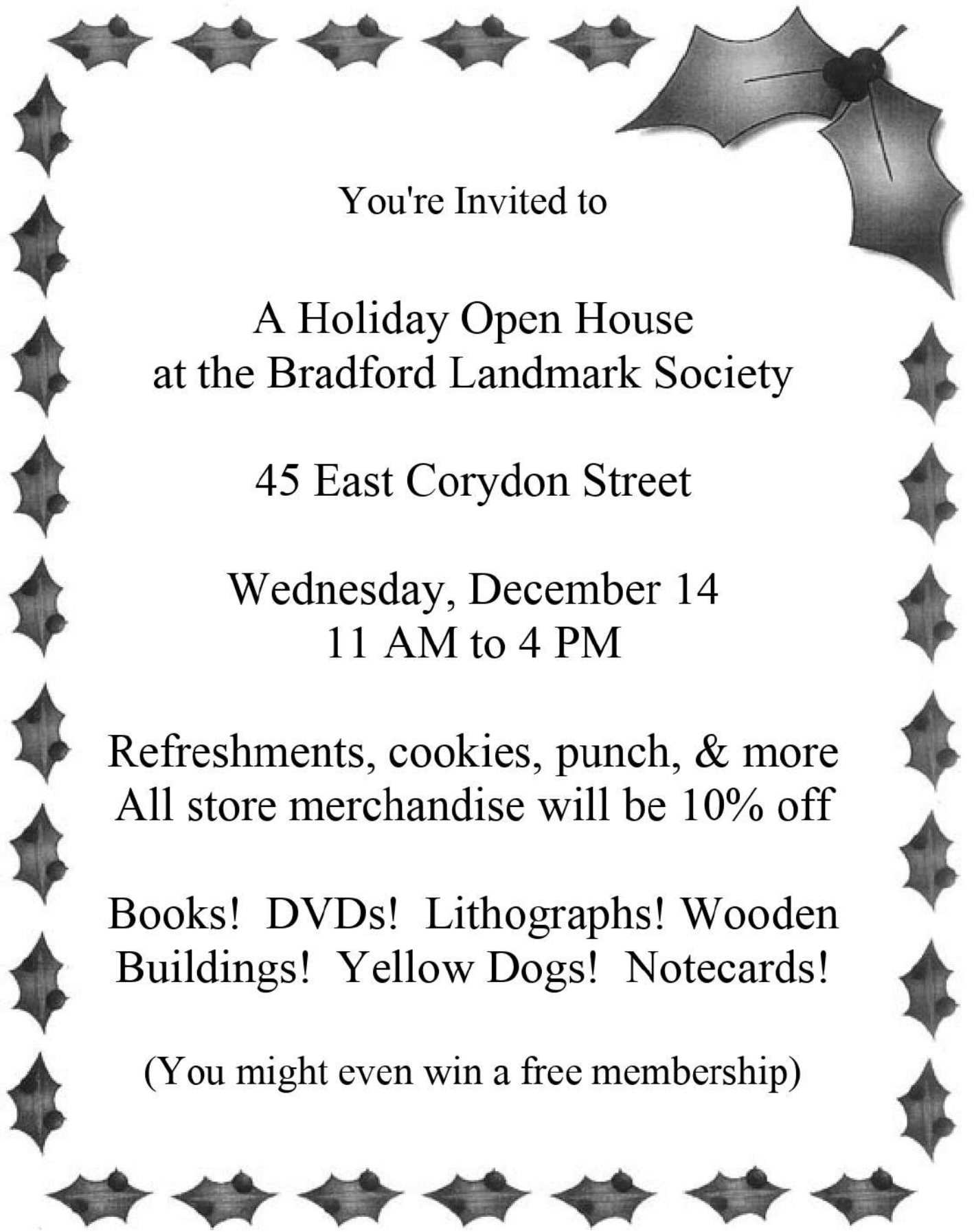
The Crook Farm Fair was a huge success, with lots of great music, food, and interesting crafters and vendors.

We repaired several of the roofs at the Crook Farm, too – the schoolhouse, carpenter's shed, and weaver's buildings all got needed repairs.

And welcome to several new members of our Board of Directors, Patti Neidich, Linda Brocius, Sam Heyler, Colette Roessler and Tony Clark. You will find that it is very rewarding – and fun – to be part of the Landmark, the city's only historical society dedicated to preserving our past.

Inside this Edition of The Inkwell

Holiday Open House
New Book Announced
Hall of Fame Toys
It's a Wonderful Life
Pennsylvania Census Facts
When the Creek Caught Fire
Necrology of the Businesses



You're Invited to

A Holiday Open House
at the Bradford Landmark Society

45 East Corydon Street

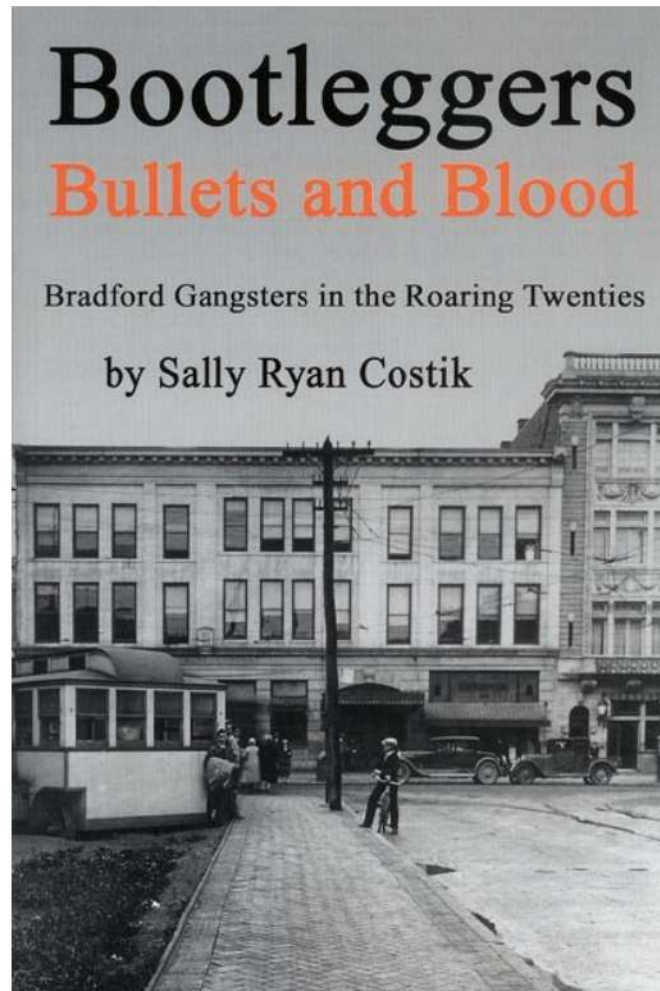
Wednesday, December 14
11 AM to 4 PM

Refreshments, cookies, punch, & more
All store merchandise will be 10% off

Books! DVDs! Lithographs! Wooden
Buildings! Yellow Dogs! Notecards!

(You might even win a free membership)

Introducing a new book by Sally Ryan Costik



\$20.00

Nearly everyone who knows even a little about the history of Bradford remembers the name Al Ritchie – the famous gangster, reputed to have ties to Al Capone, who was shot down in the street in front of Colella's Bakery on River street in 1931. But some of the best parts of the Prohibition story in Bradford have never been told: gangsters, bootleggers, gunmen, raids by Federal Dry Agents, women, policemen, and nearly 50 murders.

And you might even find out that your grandparents were bootleggers!

Book Signings will be held at the Main Street Mercantile, December 10, starting at 10 AM, and at the Bradford Landmark Society's Holiday Open House on Wednesday, December 14, 11 AM to 4 PM. **Bootleggers, Bullets and Blood** is available for purchase at both locations.

National Toy Hall of Fame Inductees 2011

Each year, we announce the toys that have been inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame at the Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester, NY. This year, three toys have been selected: the dollhouse, Hot Wheels, and the blanket. Read on, for the reasons why these toys were selected, from www.museumofplay.org.

The Dollhouse.

The first dollhouses were developed to display the miniature possessions of very wealthy Europeans in the late 1500s. These diminutive “baby houses,” as they were known, consisted of cabinets divided into compartments to display miniature furniture and household accessories. Exclusively the playthings of adults, baby houses not only showcased finely made furnishings of exotic woods, metals, fabrics, and other materials, they also served as symbols of a lady's wealth and refined tastes.

Miniatures, however, fascinate children as much as adults, and by the 17th and 18th centuries, German toy makers produced a variation of the baby house – now called a dollhouse – for youngsters to furnish with tiny chairs and tables, beds and pallets, and tapestries and floor coverings. Mass-production methods of the 19th century allowed toy manufacturers to offer dollhouses cheaply, and more children of the growing middle class played with these miniature houses in their playrooms. By the turn of the 20th century, companies in Germany, England, and the United States supplied dollhouses and furnishings of varied scales to suit every taste and pocketbook. Dollhouses continued to be a favorite plaything of American girls throughout the 20th century and remain popular today.

Dollhouses help children learn about interior design and household management. Small hands develop manual dexterity in placing furnishings in the tiny rooms just so. While playing with their dollhouses, children begin to discern architectural styles and furnishings of varying designs and functions. Dollhouse play encourages kids to make up their own stories about families and activities as they move tiny figures from room to room and prepare the rooms for meals, clean-up, parties, bedtime, and other familiar routines.

Hot Wheels.

In the 1960s, Elliot Handler, a co-founder of Mattel, Inc., envisioned a die-cast car to surpass the popular English Matchbox brand. He wanted a line of toy cars to dominate Mattel's boys' division just as its Barbie doll had become the strongest brand in its girls' division. Handler insisted that the toy cars look authentic, so the project enlisted Harry Bradley, a top auto designer from Chevrolet, to lead the toy design team. What Handler really wanted was not the cars of Detroit, but the radical versions altered by custom-car shops – like vehicles he often saw on California's highways. And Handler wanted his little cars to zoom. So, Mattel engineers produced “muscle” cars with thick, plastic mag wheels built for speed and minimal friction axles that featured “torsion-bar suspension,” which gave the cars shock absorbency and wheel bounce. Kids coveted the 16 muscle models – custom Barracudas, Camaros, Corvettes, Cougars, Firebirds, and others – that Mattel first offered in 1968. Mattel's designers enhanced the cars' appeal with the candy colors of Spectraflame, a painting process that revealed the shiny metal beneath the colors. The toy company developed flexible, plastic tracks for racing Hot Wheels, complete with the famous loop that became the symbol of the brand to several generations of kids.

Hot Wheels' success increased with each year's new models. Combining popular models with speed made the miniature cars even more appealing than Mattel or Handler could have imagined. Sales topped 16 million in the first year and have hardly slowed since. Mattel has produced upwards of three billion cars, outdistancing the combined output of the Big Three automakers. More than 800 models and 11,000 variations of Hot Wheels have been manufactured, and these days – according to Mattel – eight cars are sold every second.

The Blanket.

Children have played with blankets ever since ancient agrarians domesticated woolly animals and spun their coats for fabrics. In imaginative play and make-believe, kids have discovered the many playful uses for the blanket. It fills in for a king's robe, a bride's veil, a superhero's cape, a Roman soldier's cloak, a princess's flowing gown, and a wizard's flying carpet. Thrown over a table, it forms a tent; draped around two chairs, it becomes a fort; on top of the carpet, it serves as a safe island surrounded by sea monsters. In puppet shows, the blanket substitutes for theater curtains; for a magician, the blanket conceals the secrets of the show. And in tug-of-war, the blanket gets top billing. It is also suitable for tossing toys in the air or for parachuting them back to earth.

And best of all, blankets give cover to legions of kids who read by flashlight long into the night.

Inducted toys are selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- **Icon-status:** The toy is widely recognized, respected, and remembered
- **Longevity:** The toy is more than a passing fad and has enjoyed popularity over multiple generations
- **Discovery:** The toy fosters learning, creativity, or discovery through play
- **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.

Anyone can nominate a toy for inclusion into the Toy Hall of Fame, just go to their website. Each nomination must meet the criteria above. The 2011 toys in this year's competition included Transformers, Star Wars action figures, Jenga, the Simon electronic flash game, Dungeons & Dragons, the dollhouse, Twister, Rubik's Cube, the pogo stick, puppets, radio-controlled vehicles, and Mattel's Hot Wheels.

And for those toys that didn't make it yet, here is a little poem from 1927 for encouragement . . .

I'd like to be a could-be
If I could not be an are,
For a could-be is a maybe,
With a chance of reaching par.
I'd rather be a has-been
Than a might-have-been by far.

As a tribute to one of the most beloved Christmas movies of all time, we offer this article which we found on the Internet, regarding the inspiration for the town of Bedford Falls. Hee Haw and Merry Christmas!

It's a Wonderful Life

The Real Bedford Falls . . .

Was the Upstate New York village of Seneca Falls Frank Capra's inspiration for the design of Bedford Falls in *It's a Wonderful Life*?

Karolyn Grimes, the actress who played Zuzu, one of the children of George and Mary Bailey (James Stewart and Donna Reed) in the American movie classic, thinks it was.

"When I came around the corner and saw [Seneca Falls'] main street, I gasped and said, 'This is Bedford Falls!'" Grimes then saw the steel bridge that flows over the canal: "It is nearly a replica of the same bridge that George Bailey had grown up with all his life."

Physical similarities between Seneca Falls and Bedford Falls are striking. In addition to the architecture along the main street and the steel truss bridge, Seneca Falls has many Second Empire Victorian homes (like the large, old house George and Mary owned in the movie). Both towns have a canal. In 1945, when the movie was shot, Seneca Falls was a mill town, just like Bedford Falls. Seneca Falls had the globe street lamps seen in the movie and even had a median on a portion of its main street.

There were also similarities in the towns' characters. Both had a large Italian community and both had a neighborhood where people of modest means could live comfortably, courtesy of the generous terms of a community leader. In the movie it was "Bailey Park," named in honor of George Bailey's family building and loan; in Seneca Falls it was "Rumseyville," named after the owner of one of the town's large pump manufacturers.

Seneca Falls' town leaders are so sure it served as Capra's inspiration that they have created an It's a Wonderful Life festival. This year's event is December 7-9 and will include a screening of *It's A Wonderful Life*, during which featured guest Karolyn Grimes will discuss her experiences shooting the movie. (Her character closes the movie with the famous line, "Look, Daddy; teacher says, 'Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings.'") The downtown will be decorated with replicas of the Christmas lights of Bedford Falls, and the shops and restaurants will serve up *It's A Wonderful Life* fare.

So why does Seneca Falls think it is Bedford Falls? After all, Bedford Falls strikes a chord with millions of people in small towns across the country. Jimmy Stewart said the set reminded him of his hometown of Indiana, Pennsylvania. Many towns have similarities to Bedford Falls. Why isn't the movie set just an excellent depiction of the look and feel of small-town America?

Seneca Falls' claim begins with geography. It's hard to dispute that Capra set Bedford Falls in New York State. Rochester, Buffalo, and Elmira are mentioned in the script and referenced as being relatively close. All three are an easy drive from Seneca Falls. And, a reference to Cornell University in Ithaca, just 40 miles south, was taken out of the script by the studio's rights clearance lawyers.

There are road signs in the movie pointing to Katonah and Chappaqua, both of which are in Westchester County and near the towns of Bedford and Bedford Hills. Maybe they were Capra's inspiration?

But Bedford is a very affluent community of Colonial-era homes and sprawling horse farms, not like the humble Bedford Falls in the movie at all. And Bedford has just a few buildings on one side of its main street, nothing at all like the center-of-town feeling in the movie.

Bedford Hills comes closer; it was populated by a large Italian immigrant population in the '40s, and its main street has buildings on both sides, some of which are same-era architecture as Capra's Bedford Falls. But the town is much smaller and doesn't have the same physical layout as that in the movie, and there isn't a steel bridge over water.

There's something else against the Bedfords being Capra's inspiration. Both of these towns are just 45 miles from New York City. Even in 1945 train and automobile travel times, neither Bedford nor Bedford Hills resembled the remote spot that has Jimmy Stewart's character feeling hopelessly isolated from the world. (A check with the local historian and townspeople revealed no evidence or local legend of Capra visiting the area or any knowledge of the towns' connection with the movie.)

Capra's Bedford Falls has a Genesee Street, and that is a common street name in Upstate New York. Seneca Falls has a Genesee Turnpike.

A check of the map of New York reveals half a dozen towns with "Falls" in their names, but each lacks significant characteristics of Bedford Falls.

Comparing Seneca Falls to other towns in the state gives more evidence in its favor. When *It's A Wonderful Life* was made, New York State had many towns the size of Bedford Falls. Some had similar architecture, some were mill towns, some had a large proportion of immigrants, and some had a steel bridge.

But none of them had as many similarities to Bedford Falls as Seneca Falls.

The final proof offered for the town's claim is the story that Frank Capra visited the town in late 1945. He was going to visit an aunt in nearby Auburn and stopped in Seneca Falls and had his hair cut.

Barber Tommy Bellissima didn't know who Frank Capra was at the time, but when the movie came out, he recognized the name of his famous patron on the poster. He remembered Capra because the two had talked at length about their lives in Italy and common experiences as immigrants. The name stuck with Bellissima because *capra* in Italian means goat.



But Capra never mentioned Seneca Falls in his memoirs, and nothing about the town is found in his archives. No definitive proof has been found that Frank Capra visited Seneca Falls and brought the image of the town back with him to Hollywood.

So is it just a coincidence that Seneca Falls is practically identical to Bedford Falls, or did Capra deliberately keep the Seneca Falls connection to himself? After all, he wanted the town of Bedford Falls to appeal to everyone. Making it known his set design was based on one place would have compromised its universal appeal.

Consider this scenario:

It is documented that Capra was in New York City in November 1945 trying to talk Jean Arthur into the female lead in *It's A Wonderful Life*. A check of historical maps shows the most direct route in the '40s from New York to Auburn, where his aunt reportedly lived, would have been west across NY Route 17 and then north when he got to the southern Finger Lakes region – a route that would have taken him through Ithaca and then Seneca Falls.

Leaving Bellissima's barbership, Capra would have gone over the steel truss bridge on Bridge Street to get to the main part of town. On that bridge was a plaque honoring Seneca Falls resident Antonio Varacalli, who had leaped into the icy waters of the canal in April 1917 to rescue a girl who had just attempted suicide by jumping off the bridge. Varacalli saved her but he was overcome by fatigue from the rescue and drowned.

Varacalli's "guardian angel" sacrifice would have certainly captured Capra's attention. *It's A Wonderful Life* was based upon the short story "The Greatest Gift" by Philip Van Doren Stern. The movie is remarkably true to the story: A man frustrated and beaten down by life contemplates suicide by jumping off a bridge, a guardian angel intercedes and grants him his wish that he had never been born, the man gets to see how terrible things in his small hometown would have turned out if he had never lived, then he frantically goes back to the bridge and pleads to get his life back. His wish is granted and the man rushes back into town in euphoria to celebrate his life with his wife and children.

Here on the bridge in Seneca Falls was a real story similar to the opening incident in his upcoming movie; Capra certainly would have been inspired.

Capra was still in the early planning stages of *It's A Wonderful Life* when he visited Seneca Falls, having just signed the contract a few weeks before. Not only did the bridge over the canal and the guardian angel match the plot of "The Greatest Gift," but Seneca Falls also had the size, look, and personality of the town depicted in the story. It's not hard to imagine that he would have wandered into town and started taking notes . . . And while the movie closely follows the storyline of "The Greatest Gift," there is no mention of location in the short story. Capra on his own placed Bedford Falls in Upstate New York.

Bedford Falls might just be a composite of small towns across America, set in Upstate New York. But the fact is no town in Upstate New York has as many similarities to the town in *It's A Wonderful Life* as does Seneca Falls.

Either by design or extraordinary coincidence, when Frank Capra created Bedford Falls, he replicated Seneca Falls.

Some Famous Quotes from "It's a Wonderful Life."

Clarence: Strange, isn't it? Each man's life touches so many other lives. When he isn't around he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?

Clarence: You see George, you've really had a wonderful life. Don't you see what a mistake it would be to just throw it away?

Harry Bailey: A toast to my big brother George: The richest man in town.

Zuzu Bailey: Look Daddy. Teacher says, every time a bell rings an angel gets his wings.

Clarence: Remember, George: no man is a failure who has friends.

When the Creek Caught Fire

Bennett Brook creek runs down alongside Interstate Parkway, through Callahan Park, behind the High School, crosses under Willard Avenue, flows past Edward Street, crosses under Hobson Place bridge, crosses again under Campus Drive, and finally spills into the Tuna Creek. It's a pleasant little stream, not very wide, and certainly not considered dangerous. But in September of 1946, that pleasant little stream caught fire, burning at least three homes, a garage with an automobile inside, and badly scorching three other residences.

Oil, on the surface of the water of the creek caused by an abandoned oil well leaking oil into the water, created a roaring inferno from a point behind the High School to Edwards Street, the flames leaping nearly 50 feet into the air, burning shrubbery and trees.

The fire was first noticed on the morning of September 19th. A very strong odor of gas was first detected around 7 AM by a fireman, Sidney Huff, who lived at 44 Willard Avenue. Huff took a quick look around his house, looking for leaks and checking all the gas jets then went outside where he noticed that the gas odor was much stronger. He asked his wife to call the gas company to report the strong gas smell and to ask them to send a gas man to come investigate. Then he went off to work at the fire house, where a short time later, the fire alarm was sounded.

Meanwhile, Edward Bittner, who lived at 11 Edwards Place, just 150 yards away, was sleeping in a rear bedroom of his home, closest to the creek. He also smelled a strong gas odor, and checked out his house as well, then called Harry White of the Bradford Transit Company, to report the possibility of a leak in their line when he suddenly looked out his window and saw that the creek was on fire, and flames were flowing down the creek.

By then, one side of his house was on fire, and believing himself trapped, he kicked out a window and with the help of his neighbor, Harry Olson, managed to escape from his home.

Neighborhood boys, attracted by the novelty of the situation, raced along the creek, watching as it traveled along.

When Fire Chief Larkin, summoned by the fire alarm, arrived on the scene, he immediately called out all the men in the fire department, both the day crew which was already on duty, and the night crew. Seven fire lines were opened, from hydrants on Edwards Place, Edwards Street, Willard Avenue, West Washington Street, and Fairbanks Avenue, to check the fire.

Each fireman responded to different sections of the creek; in addition to water, the firemen also used foamite to control the oil fire.

After the damages were assessed, it was discovered that two of the properties that were considerably damaged belonged to City Councilman Edward Bittner and City Fireman Sidney Huff. The Huff home and greatest portion of his furniture and personal belongings were destroyed either by fire or water damage. The Bittner home was badly damaged and a large loss of household goods and personal belongings.

The garage was owned by Mrs. Anthony Onuffer of 33 Willard Avenue; the automobile inside was owned by Oscar Stromberg. The rear and side of the residence of Joseph Frantz of 40 Willard Avenue, across the creek from the Huff house, was badly burned along the side bordering the creek. Across the street from the Huff house, the residence of Carmen Rizzo, which had been recently painted, had the paint blistered. All the shrubbery along both sides of the creek was burned and the iron girders of the Willard Avenue bridge buckled because of the heat. The firemen fought the blaze for four hours, and stayed on the scene until nightfall.

Later, it was reported that the cause of the fire was unknown, although abandoned oil wells in the area might have been the source of the oil.

Pennsylvania

The Bradford Landmark Society receives a newsletter every two months from **The Center for Rural Pennsylvania**. The newsletter is always quite interesting, and the latest issue looks at the 2010 population statistics for the state. We thought it was very enlightening.

Did you know that there are now 12.7 million people in Pennsylvania? The majority, 73% are located in urban areas, such as Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, but the 48 counties considered “rural” also gained in population, about 2% increase. To date, Pennsylvania has the third largest rural population in the United States.

Some counties had decreases, of course; the three counties with the largest decline in population are Fayette County (-8%), Elk County (-9%), and Cameron County (-15%). The three counties that grew the most in population are Monroe County (+22%), Pike County (+24%) and Forest County (+56%). Way to go, Forest County! I guess that the old joke about there being more deer than people in Forest County doesn't hold true anymore. Actually, though, the Forest County population growth can be directly attributed to the opening of a 2,300 bed maximum security prison near Marienville in 2004. (By the way, did you know that Forest County is the only county in Pennsylvania without any traffic lights?)

Rural Pennsylvania's total land area is 33, 394 square miles and rural Pennsylvania is bigger than New Jersey, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont combined. The largest county, in land area, is Lycoming County, with 1,228 square miles, and the smallest is Montour County, with 130 square miles. McKean County has about 984 square miles, of which 3 square miles of that are water.

The least densely populated counties are Cameron, Potter, and Sullivan, with less than 17 people per square mile (McKean County has 22 people per square mile). The most densely populated counties are Allegheny, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia, each having more than 1,600 per square mile.

Among the rural Pennsylvania population of 3.4 million, 21% are children under the ages of 18; 62% are working adults (18 to 64 years old), and 17% are senior citizens. In urban counties, 22% are children, 63% working adults and 15% senior citizens.

Rural Pennsylvania has slightly more females (1.74 million or 50.3%) than males (1.72 million or 49.7%), but in urban areas, females make up 52% of the population, and males make up only 48%.

Here are some interesting statistics about our home state:

Which has the highest percentage of children under 5 years of age? Lancaster County, 7 percent.

Which has the highest percentage of people age 85 and older? Cameron County, 4 percent.

Which has the highest percentage of single person households? Forest County, 36 percent.

Which is most populated? Philadelphia County, with 1.52 million residents.

Which is least populated? Cameron County, with 5,085 residents.

Which has the youngest median age? Centre County, at 28.7 years of age.

Which has the oldest median age? Sullivan County, at 49.9 years of age.

Necrology of the Buildings 2011

There were lots of changes in the commercial district of Bradford. Some new businesses moved into Bradford, some businesses closed their doors, still others either changed their owners, their names, or their locations. The Bradford Landmark Society keeps track of such things – they are all part of the history of our city. Here is this year's list:

New Businesses:

- Rookies Sports Bar, 211 Main Street
- Timeless Treasures/Keeping Ewe in Stitches, 10 Chestnut Street
- Café 6IX, 17 Kennedy Street
- Kristen's Consignment, 4 Boylston Street
- Janet's Boutique, 125 Main Street
- Foster Brook Market, 1 Bradford Mall, Foster Brook
- Almost 10 Below, 117 Main Street
- Joelle Walters Photography
- Wise Guys Tattoo, 36 South Avenue
- Inferno Tattoos & Piercing, 21 Main Street
- The Aud, 30 Boylston Street
- Cellular Connection, 1001 East Main Street (old Bradford Mall), Foster Brook
- Bradford Chiropractic Center, 119 Main Street

This business changed its name:

From Tortugas Mexican Restaurant
to Tortugas Western Bar and Grill,
Main Street

These Businesses Moved:

- Main Street Mercantile, now at 45 Main Street
- Little Power Shop, now at 70 Minard Run Road
- Peggy Johnson Dance Studio, now at 21 Kennedy Street
- Between Four Walls, now at 550 East Main Street

These Businesses Changed Owners:

- The Broaster & More, 89 Main Street
- Franco's Texas Hot, 1020 East Main Street
- Kimberly's Cool Beans, 30 Boylston Street

These Businesses closed in 2011:

Charlie's Cycle Center, Limestone, NY and Minard Run Road, Bradford, PA

Main Street Antiques, 86 Main Street

The Sports Café, 48 Davis Street

Bradford Furniture & Carpet Gallery, 45 Main St.

Cow Palace, Limestone, NY

Moose Lodge, Pine Street

East End Presbyterian Church, 18 Welch Avenue

What about the North Pole?

We all know that Santa Claus lives at the North Pole, but what is the North Pole really like? Actually, there are two North Poles – a geographic one, and a magnetic one. The northernmost point on the earth's surface is the geographic North Pole, also known as true north. It's located at 90° North latitude and all lines of longitude converge at the pole. The earth's axis connects the north and south poles, as it is the line around which the earth rotates. The North Pole is about 450 miles north of Greenland in the middle of the Arctic Ocean.



SEASONS GREETINGS
NORTH POLE STATION
NORTH POLE, AK 99705

The North Pole experiences six months of daylight and six months of darkness.

Robert Perry, his partner Matthew Henson, and four Inuit are generally credited with being the first to reach the North Pole on April 9, 1909 but many suspect that they missed

the pole by a few miles. In 1958, the United States nuclear submarine Nautilus was the first vessel to cross the North Pole. Other attempts to reach the North Pole have been quite interesting. Today, dozens of planes fly over the North Pole using great circle routes between continents.

Located hundreds of miles south of the geographic North Pole lies the magnetic North Pole at approximately 82.7° North and 114.4° West northwest of Canada's Sverdrup Island. However, this location is not fixed and is moving continually, even on a daily basis.

If you really want to visit the “North Pole”, Alaska, New York, Oklahoma, and Idaho all have towns named North Pole and they would be happy to see you. Merry Christmas!

