



The Inkwell

45 East Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701

April 2015

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*The Bradford
Landmark Society is
501c3 non-profit
organization.*

It's been a rough winter, more than just snow and cold. It is with sadness that the Bradford Landmark Society announces the passing of three of our members, Ann Delucia, Pat Schessler, and Dick Robertson. Each of them contributed to the success of the Landmark in their own way, and will be sincerely missed.

Anna Delucia (2/6/2015) was one of those volunteers that were willing to pitch in and help where needed. She was especially good at organizing our files, judging what was worth keeping and what was superfluous, and what other information should be added. She and her husband, Elmer Delucia were huge community supporters, and Ann graciously donated programs, reports, flyers, pamphlets, tickets, and papers from various organizations and events that she and Elmer had attended, and fortunately for the Landmark, had kept. They are and will continue to be a great historical resource. Thank you, Ann.

Pat Schessler. Ah, what can I say about Pat? Pat loved history, especially Bradford; was an accomplished writer, and had published several articles on the oil history of western Pennsylvania. But Pat's greatest strength was in her ability to know small nuggets of history; I can't tell you how many times we would be at the Landmark, puzzling over a piece of a puzzle, trying to figure out how a person, place, or thing related to each other, when Pat would pipe up. "Oh, that's....." fill in the blank. She always had the key to the puzzle and amazed us every time. Pat died on March 21, 2015 in Allentown, near many of her children. We miss you Pat.

And then there's Dick Robertson (March 27, 2015). A local expert on so many historic things: the BB&K Railroad, McKean County railroads, Bradford's beautiful houses, local architecture, Main Street, trolleys, oil fields, Bradford bricks, the Genesee Valley Canal, and, particularly, the Kinzua Bridge. We never met a man so interested in so many things and we often told people to "go talk to Dick Robertson, he'll know."

He knew the relationships between so many of Bradford's founders, families, and businesses. How he kept all that information in his head was remarkable. He once told us "I know more dead people than alive ones." And did! Who married who? And why? Dick knew. Who lived in that house and when? Dick could tell you who built it, what they did for a living, and who the neighbors were. Wonder where a particular railroad was, when it began, and who owned it? Easy, Dick was an expert. And more than willing to share that information.

Dick often ended his slide shows with a photograph of him on the back of a caboose, waving goodbye. Dick, we hope you are waving at us now.

Ann, Pat, Dick. We miss you already.

Mark Your Calendars **UPCOMING EVENTS**

The Crook Farm School Program will be held in May and June at the Crook Farm on Seaward Avenue. The Bradford Landmark Society created the School Program at the Crook Farm 36 years ago to create a unique learning experience for 4th and 5th graders in the

Bradford school district and surrounding PA/NY state elementary schools. Its goal then and now is to bring history to life for school children by having each child participate in actual “hands on” activities on the farm and attend a one-room school house that demonstrates how children were taught over a hundred years ago. Since we began, over 25,000 children have gone through our program.



The **Tuna Valley Trail Association “We Gotta Regatta”** will be held May 16 at the Crook Farm, from 2:00PM to 6:00 PM. For the past four years, the Regatta has invited anyone to float down the Tuna Creek to the farm via canoe, raft, inner tube, kayak, etc., where a delicious pig roast and liquid refreshments await! Or, take part in the Tuna Trot, a 5 K, two mile run around the Crook Farm trail loop, or just come and enjoy the day and support the Tuna Valley Trail Association! Cost is \$20 for the pig roast; floating is free – come and have fun!

The 2nd annual Creative Women’s Workshop will be held July 25th at the Crook Farm. Last year was so successful that we can’t wait to do it again. One woman wrote on her Facebook “it was more than fun!” And it was. The goal is to give women a chance to try something new: quilting, candlemaking, photography, calligraphy, and woodburning are just a few of the classes that will be offered (last year we had 16 different classes). There will even be blacksmithing at this year’s event! Each woman gets to choose 4 different classes, and Cost is only \$30 FOR ALL 4 CLASSES! And a free lunch! Watch for further information in the newspaper. Classes are limited, however, to those 16 years of age and up.



As many of you may know, the United States Army once tried to utilize camels in the American Wild West thinking that they would be perfect for the western territories. The “Camel Corps” never really did work out; horses were frightened of the unfamiliar animals and their unpleasant dispositions made them difficult to manage. This article, which appeared in the Bradford Era on June 15, 1915, tells a humorous story of what really happened.

Our Army Camels

The Festive Orientals Uncle Sam Once Tried to Adopt

A Brief and Unruly Career

Their Deadly Hatred towards Mules, Their Craving for a Taste of Soldier and a Few Other Eccentricities Proved Their Inglorious Undoing

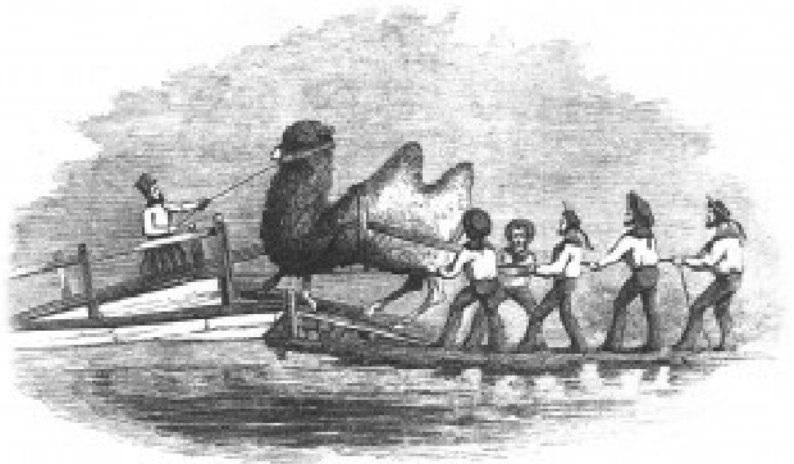
The United States government’s first and only venture into the use of camels as army transports on the south west frontier was sanctioned by congress through the efforts of Jefferson Davis, then a member of the military commission and later secretary of war. Davis had commanded troops in the southwest in the Mexican War and knew what it was to march for days over a dry, barren country in a scorching heat, with nothing to drink but hot, dry air and nothing to greet the eye except cactus and rattlesnakes.

The rapid development of California after a gold strike of 1848 made necessary provision for the transportation of troops and supplies to the new country over a desert trail, which was a task that set patriotism at a premium. Jefferson Davis asked for camels, and congress finally authorized an expedition to the orient to buy them. On March 3, 1855, the US Congress appropriated \$30,000 for the project and sent a ship to Tunisia, Greece, Turkey, Malta and Egypt to obtain the camels.

The expedition brought back nearly 100 animals, which were added to from time to time until the number grew to 128. They were stationed at El Paso, Yuma, Arizona, San Antonio, and other points on the frontier.

The return trip across the ocean with the camels is recorded in amusing detail by Lieutenant D. D. Porter, who was in charge. Each animal was provided with a competent chauffeur, who was caretaker, interpreter, and baggage master in one. Most of the animals got seasick, and so did the drivers and both complained bitterly of the arrangements. The camels wished they hadn’t come and showed it by kicking and biting pieces from various officers, who were not to blame.

After landing in Texas, the camels did not improve perceptibly in their natures. Their particular aversion was the army mules. Even the younger, inexperienced camels learned quickly to kill a mule



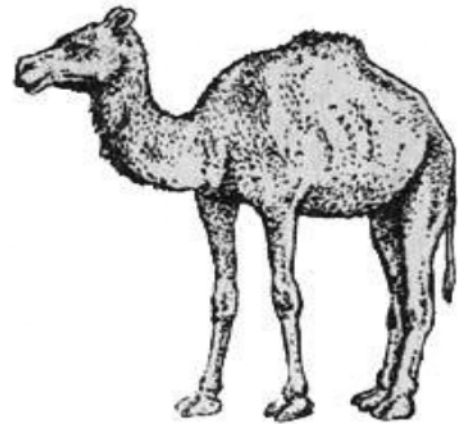
with one blow of the hind foot and indulged in that pastime frequently. Their taste for army officers remained undiminished and the chauffeurs got the blame every time a captain lost some of his anatomy.

The soldiers took to the camel with reciprocal affection. In the first place, they didn't like his looks, contending that the soft, faraway look in the camel's eye indicated that he mind was not on his business. Then the soldiers couldn't get used to the odor radiated by the oriental beast- circuses not being in vogue – and many of them said that Kipling was correct in his opinion that a camel smelled most awful vile. Kipling hadn't said it yet, but soldiers are farseeing and knew that he was going to say it.

Besides, the camel was no good to ride, the soldiers agreed. His ambling, rapid stride made them seasick, and they wanted no animal which it took ten minutes to awaken when the Indians attacked them in the night. No American had lived up to that period who could tie a cargo on one of the beasts so that it would stay one. The camel is not constructed flat on top, it is remembered, and only a clever Arab chauffeur could load one to travel any distance without losing the supplies.

The high record in dead mules was made, it is said, by a camel in San Antonio whose name was Major. Major kicked seven valuable mules into eternity and one day some soldiers, friends of the late mules, took Major off up on a high cliff and came back and said that he had fallen off "accidentally." No exhaustive probe was made of Major's disappearance.

A caravan loaded with supplies went into the city of Sutherland Springs on one occasion, and the camels were watered at the town well. It was the boast of the city that the well had never gone dry. About half the camels took a drink and the well was dry. The disturbance caused by the remaining thirsty camels set the population into a panic.



But the endless feud between the camels and soldiers soon convinced the government that railroads would do just as well. The rush to California was well over and frontier troubles were well under control by the time the war broke out. The government withdrew the foreign camel agents and closed the foreign offices. By the time the war was over the camels died and some were stolen. Others escaped into the desert, and even today a hoary wild camel, white with age, terrifies Sunday newspaper feature writers into writing something about it. Very likely the ones which didn't go to the desert swam back to Egypt. Both reports are authenticated in the same degree.

* * *

The advent of the Civil War a few years later more or less ended the camel corps experiment. After the war all 66 camels were sold for \$31.00 apiece. Five of them wound up going on tour with the Ringling Brothers Circus, others roamed freely till their dying days. Feral camels, remnants of the original Camel Corps, continued to be sighted in the Southwest through the early 1900s, with the last reported sighting in 1941 near Douglas, Texas.

We invite you to try your hand at these questions – and yes, they are all true!

History Quiz Time! How Much Do You Know?

1. Rock Ledge Ranch, consisting of 93 acres between Bennett Brook and West Branch, was founded in 1916 by Dr. T. O. Glenn, E.L. Jones, and Walter G. Hall for the following enterprise:

- a. Trophy deer hunting*
- b. Breeding trotter horses for the local race track*
- c. Raising pedigree hogs for market*
- d. A health and wellness resort*

2. An article in the Bradford Era in 1893 offered a good way to prevent bee stings. It suggested:

- a. Holding your breath so that the sting could not penetrate your skin.*
- b. Dab crude oil on your wrist. Bees hate the smell.*
- c. When a bee comes near you, wave your hands around in a circle until the bee becomes disoriented.*
- d. Make a buzzing noise. Bees will think it's another bee and stay away.*

3. In 1910, a man began attacking women in various hotels and apartment houses in the city for an unusual reason, but ceased his activities when a woman named Maude Skinner fired a pistol at him when he approached her. What did the police name this intruder?

- a. Jack the Hugger*
- b. The Petroleum Pest*
- c. Bradford Bounder*
- d. Creeping Charlie*

4. Eight polar bears arrived by train to perform in a vaudeville show at the Grand Theater in February, 1912, but the show was cancelled because:

- a. One of the bears escaped, only to be captured on Boylston Street.*
- b. The owner of the bears became ill with appendicitis.*
- c. There was a law against 'foreign' animals performing in Bradford.*
- d. Too many people were afraid of that many bears in one place.*

5. In 1928, Dunn's Cigar store at 163 Main Street was asked by the Bradford Era how many cigars it sold in a month. The answer was:

- a. 150 cigars*
- b. 300 cigars*
- c. 1000 cigars*
- d. 5600 cigars*

6. The Bradford High School yearbook wasn't always called "The Barker." Several other names were used in the 1920s. Which was NOT a Bradford High School year book name?

- a. The Blue and White*
- b. The Senior Yearbook*
- c. The Tunungwant*
- d. The Owler*

7. In 1923, a new high school building was proposed. It was finally built and opened in September 1925 on Interstate Parkway, but at first there were several other locations considered. Which was one of the proposed locations?

- a. The old Bradford Cemetery on Kennedy Street*
- b. At the intersection of Bolivar Drive and East Main Street*
- c. At the end of Race Street (Zippo Manufacturing there now)*
- d. At the old circus grounds (now UPB athletic fields)*

8. Job Moses, who is credited with drilling the first successful oil well in the area (and has a memorial located across from Bylle Lanes Bowling) earned his initial fortune in a totally different manner. What did Job Moses do before he struck oil and began the Bradford Oil Boom?

- a. He made and sold wooden bicycle tires.*
- b. He invented a vacuum cleaner*
- c. He sold patent medicines*
- d. He was an evangelist preacher.*

9. In January 1931, a soup kitchen was opened on Pine Street to help feed the poor and unemployed during the Depression. How many people were served from January to June, the five months that the 'kitchen' was open?

- a. 19,753 people*
- b. 25,259 people*
- c. 45,387 people*
- d. 87,957 people*

And now, the Answers!

1. C. Raising pedigree hogs for market. The new enterprise purchased 93 acres, and bought registered Berkshire swine. While a breeding house (1000 x 26 feet) was built, it is unknown if the ranch ever really went into business.
2. A. Holding your breath so that the sting could not penetrate your skin. Again, not sure if this would really work. Why don't you try it and let us know?
3. A. Jack the Hugger. 'Jack' would run up to women and hug them, usually at night time when they were walking home or in the hallway of boarding houses or hotels. He was never identified and ceased his activities after Maude took a pot shot at him.
4. B. The owner of the polar bears, Ernest Alber, became ill with appendicitis and was taken to Bradford hospital. The bears were housed in a local barn until Alber was well enough to travel again.
5. D. Hard to imagine, but this little cigar store sold an average of 5600 cigars a month. Now, that's smoking!
6. D. The Owler. While the Bradford High School athletic teams are named "Owls" (so named by Johnny Nelson, Era sports writer, when the football team was the first in the area to get lights on the playing field thus being able to play at night, like "owls") the yearbook was never called the Owler. The yearbook was named "The Barker" in 1928. It's been that name ever since.
7. A. The old Bradford Cemetery on Kennedy Street was considered as the perfect spot for the new high school for several reasons: it was close to the main business district, the cemetery was going to be moved anyway, and it was affordable. It was later determined that the area was too small and had no potential for further expansion.
8. Moses sold patent medicines, and made a fortune by selling **American Medicinal Oil**, advertised as a cure-all but was in actuality crude oil from Kentucky, packaged in a glass bottle with a fancy label and **Sir James Clarke's Female Pills**. Moses' female medicine was sold all over the east coast for almost \$8 a bottle but pills were later identified – and banned - by various state Boards of Health as abortion pills. He went on to make even more money from drilling oil.
9. Total amount of meals served was an amazing 87,957 during those five months. Total expense was \$6,186.17. All food and milk was donated, as well as the gas to help run the stoves, electricity to run the lights, soup bones from local meat markets, bread from local bakeries, grocers donated groceries, and local organizations donated money. A huge success.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 1915?

Locally

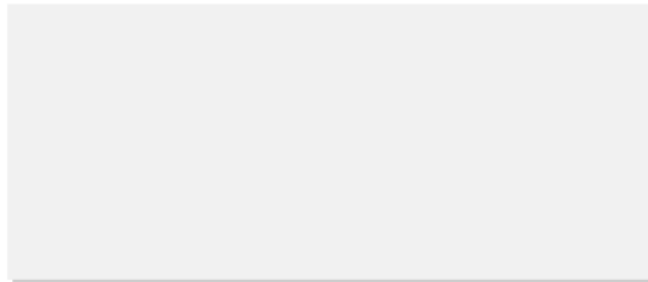
In May 1915, the YWCA was founded; in June, 1915; the Kendall Creek Post Office was closed, and in the same month, the cornerstone of the new Knights of Columbus building was laid; Beacon Light Mission burned on December 30, 1915. The Community Mausoleum was dedicated up on Oak Hill Cemetery in April 1915; the Rev. William Coonan of St. Bernard's Catholic Church died after 38 years as priest in November 1915.

Nationally

The RMS *Lusitania* is sunk by a German U-boat, killing 1,198 on May 7, 1915. In January 1915, The United States House of Representatives rejects a proposal to give women the right to vote. The one millionth Ford automobile rolls off the assembly line. The cost of a first class stamp was 2 cents. The Liberty Bell traveled by train from Philadelphia to the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco at the request of 500,000 California school children. D. W. Griffith's silent film "The Birth of a Nation" opens at Clune's Auditorium in Los Angeles - first 12-reel film in America on February 8, 1915. In March, 1915 Typhoid Mary [Mary Mallon] is arrested and returned to quarantine on North Brother Island, New York after spending five years evading health authorities and causing several further outbreaks of typhoid. "Of Human Bondage" by William Somerset Maugham, published. Woodrow Wilson becomes first US President to attend a World Series game on October 9, 1915.

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45 East Corydon Street
Bradford, PA 16701

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The Inkwell

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John Place
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Herbig Bakery **Curator** Sally Costik

Crook Farm **Director** Judy York

Genealogist Molly Lindahl

Inkwell Newsletter **& Facebook Editor** Sally Costik

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Crook Farm School Program

We welcomed 425 students from five different area schools this spring, during our 36th School Program. Schools included St. Bernard's Elementary School, School Street, Ellicottville, Portville, Allegany-Limestone, home schooled children from Warren and one cyber student. The school program is run by local community volunteers, many of them retired teachers, who happily donate their time each spring to ensure its continued success.



The 2nd annual Creative Women's Workshop was held August 1 at the Crook Farm, and was very successful. We had 63 women enjoy a day of learning various crafts, such as blacksmithing, basketmaking, cards, quilting, candle making, Tai Chi, Archery, and more. Next year will be even better!

Beaver Day

Our 5th annual fix up and cleanup day at the Crook Farm held September 26th, saw almost 50 people volunteer their time to rake, weed, prune, shovel, chip, dig, paint, and roof to make the Crook Farm property better! Thanks everyone!

To all Bradford Landmark Society Members

Our 2016 Membership Drive in Underway!

We invite all those who are interested in Bradford history to become a member of the Society or, if already a member, to join once again in support of our efforts. All funds received will be put to good use, preserving and interpreting the history of Bradford and the Tuna Valley.

Founded in 1969, The Bradford Landmark Society is the city's only historical society. We maintain a research facility at our headquarters at 45 East Corydon Street, and operate the Crook Farm, a National Historic Register farmstead at 476 Seaward Avenue.

The continued growth and development of the Landmark Society depends on the support of people like you who share an interest in the rich heritage of our city. The Bradford Landmark Society is a private, non-profit organization which derives its support from the community it serves.

Dues are only:

- ☐ \$15.00 (Basic)
- ☐ \$25.00 (Family)
- ☐ \$50.00 + (Business)
- ☐ \$500.00 + (Patron)

Every dollar counts!

Here are some of the great benefits to joining the Bradford Landmark Society:

- The opportunity to preserve the history of the Bradford area
- Advance notice of programs, events, workshops, and special events.
- A quarterly newsletter, The Inkwell, outlining the news of the society and offering entertaining and educational articles on local history.
- Members are entitled to vote at our annual meeting, and are eligible to serve on the board of directors.
- Volunteer opportunities at the Herbig Bakery, or at the Crook Farm.

Name _____

☐ Renewal

Address _____

☐ New Member

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ Gift Membership

If a gift membership, please include your name, and to whom you wish to have us send a membership card.

Please mail this application form to The Bradford Landmark Society using the enclosed envelope.
We accept cash, check, money order, or Paypal, payable to The Bradford Landmark Society.

Send payment to: 45 E. Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701 www.bradfordlandmark.org

Long Time Volunteers Trudie and Lynn Ostrander Retire from the Crook Farm



Trudie and Lynn Ostrander

The Crook Farm just won't be the same without Trudie Ostrander. By the time you read this, Trudie Ostrander and her husband, Lynn, long time volunteers at the farm down on Seaward Avenue will have moved to live with their son in Syracuse, NY. The Bradford Landmark Society is sure going to miss them.

In many ways, Trudie was the ultimate historian of the Crook Farm. To say that she was an expert on late 19th century farm life is an understatement. She knew the history of the Crook family better than anyone else. She and Lynn volunteered thousands of hours to the Farm. She ran the school program, weaving, candle dipping, leading tours, and explaining the life on the Crook Farm to all those who stopped by. Lynn led a popular "Breakfast with the Bird" bird watching tours early in the morning along the Tuna Valley Trail, which winds through the Crook Farm and along the Tuna Creek. Lynn helped with carpentry displays during the Landmark's annual Crook Farm fair each August.

Together, they devoted nearly 30 years to the Landmark Society through their work at the Crook Farm. Thank you, Trudie and Lynn. In no small part, the Crook Farm became what it is today because of your efforts.

Just 24 Years Ago in 1991

I found an article, recently, that listed the “3 P’s – positive, productive, and progress” of Bradford. It was so interesting that I am including it in this edition of the newsletter. Just look how many things have changed in just 24 years!

January

- The Guidance Center announces plans for a \$1 million construction project on Campus Drive
- Ask Design Jewelers, owned by Martin and Mary Maynard, opens in the Bradford Mall.
- The Camera Shoppe and Picture Pretty move to 1006 E. Main Street
- The Diet Center/Nature Works opens at 22 Main Street.

February

- Vince Gaeto, Jr., becomes the new owner of Koch-Chatley-Gaeto Memorial Chapel at 75 Kennedy Street.
- Eye Care Professional Associates opens at 20 Main Street.
- Jerry Reese acquires Kinzua Vending.
- Control Chief acquires the 20,000 square foot Dresser Manufacturing building on Williams Street for relocation.
- Morgan Optical, a 25-year area firm, relocates to 24 South Avenue.
- Breaking a 100-year, all-male tradition, the Bradford Club opens its doors to women.

March

- Joel Gravitz, of Gravitz and Associates goes online with Bradford’s Information Line
- Kay’s Klassic hair salon opens at 37 Bolivar Drive under the direction of Kay Wheaton.
- The Bradford area remains virtually without water in the aftermath of two main water line breaks which Kim Benjamin, water utility manager, calls the "single largest system-wide break" in the city's history.

April

- Vic Kelley renovates the former Star Garage where he plans to provide mini-storage, vehicle storage and office space.
- Bradford Sales and Service, which specializes in chain saws, opens at 40 Rutherford Run, under the ownership of Curly Walters.

May

- Gregory Gee opens Tuna Valley Printing & Graphics at 693 S. Kendall Avenue.
- Movie Magic, owned by Marsha Nelson, relocates to 20 Congress Street.
- The Subway, owned by Tom and Patti Arrowsmith, opens at 88 Main Street.
- The Bradford Mall welcomes the All for a Dollar store.
-

June

- Pools N More opens at 219 Main Street, owned by J.L. Lucarelli.
- Mom & Pop’s Place in Derrick City changes name to Freddy’s. Owners are Fred and Gracie Kemick.
- Custom Woodcrafts begins operations at 693 S. Kendall Avenue under the direction of Larry Yeager.
- The Great Wall, a Chinese restaurant. Opens at 54 Main Street.
- Balloon Bix makes its colorful mark at 5 Mechanic Street

- D & K Drapery opens at 6 Boylston Street.

July

- Celebrations BVBQ Shop opens at 20 South Avenue under the ownership of Janet Grassi.
- Grove and Yeager, an electrical automotive repair shop, opens next to Stateline Pipe Supply on East Main Street.
- The Bovaird Company buys Zeltwanger Radiator Shop and moves operations to 181 Main Street.
- S.M. Gleason & Co. begins to tear part of the old facing off of the Zippo Manufacturing Co building on Barbour Street, preparing to replace the black glass with marble and granite.

August

- Bradford Boarding Kennels opens at 969 W. Corydon Street.

September

- A Bit of Heaven, a Christian book store at 101 Main Street, is purchased by Phil and Merry Parker.
- McKean County salutes all its veterans with a four hour celebration featuring a mammoth parade followed by ceremonies at Bradford's Parkway Field.
- Bradford Area High School Marching Owls prepare for the 12th annual Autumn Classic competition.

October

- Powell's Pharmacy, 200 Main Street, is purchased by Greenwood Pharmacy, Inc.
- A Crosby Mini-Mart opens in Lewis Run.

November

- McKean County officials begin a plan to set up a county-wide 911 system.

December

- Zippo Manufacturing Co. hopes to mark its 60th year in Bradford with an expansion, possibly housing a new line of merchandise, as well as a 5,500 foot access road to its Congress Street facility.

What else was happening in the United States in 1991?

- The cost of a US Postage stamp rose from 25 cents to 29 cents.
- Baseball's Hall of Fame's board of directors vote 12-0 to bar Pete Rose.
- Exxon pays \$1-billion dollars in fines & cleanup of Valdez oil spill
 - Microsoft releases MS DOS 5.0
- The body of Zachary Taylor, 12th President of the USA, is exhumed to test how he died; rumors had persisted since his death in 1850 of arsenic poisoning - no evidence of this was found.
 - 750,000 attend Paul Simon's free concert in Central Park
 - "Star Trek VI-Undiscovered Country" premieres

It was quite a year!

Bradford Blueprints Donated

A few weeks ago, the Bradford Landmark Society was thrilled to receive nearly 350 original blueprints drawn by Thomas K. Hendryx and his son, Robert Hendryx. Both architects, it is a wonderful collection of blueprints, drawings, and sketches of many of Bradford's buildings, homes, and businesses.

Thomas's daughter in law, Lois Hendryx, kindly donated these blueprints – some dating back to the late 1920s - which had been stored in her late husband's drafting office. All of them are in excellent condition, helped no doubt, by the manner in which they were stored –rolled up and placed inside World War II 105 mm howitzer shell canisters. We received 97 of these canisters.

Thomas Hendryx, in particular, was an incredibly prolific architect and the majority of our new collection are his work. During the 1930s, as the only registered architect in Bradford, he was chosen by the WPA to design many of the local elementary schools in Bradford and the surrounding area. He designed the courthouse, School Street Junior High School, West Branch School, Lincoln School, M J Ryan School, Hobson Place School, Custer City Schools, Rew School, Cyclone School, Lee Driver School, the aluminum Bradford High School, the Seneca Building, the Miles Bradford building, E.W. Bissett & Son office building, the Kubiak building, and many others. Thomas Hendryx died in 1970.



Robert Hendryx also graduated from Cornell University and had a career as an architect. He designed GGB School, the SPCA, and many local houses here and in surrounding communities.

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