



The Inkwell



February 2024

PO Box 1021, 45 E. Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701

814-362-3906

www.bradfordlandmark.org

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Editor of the Inkwell

Sally Costik

By the time you read this, Punxsutawney Phil will have predicted – accurately or not – when spring will arrive. During the winter months, the Bradford Landmark Society and Crook Farm look forward to the coming year. And this year, since we now have a dedicated (and boy, is she dedicated!) Crook Farm Coordinator, the Landmark has all sorts of great events planned for the coming year including The Crook Farm School Program, the Patriotic & Popular Music Concert at the Farm, the Creative Women Workshop (and this year, we'll be hosting two versions – the traditional Creative Women, only this year in July, and a special "Holiday Creative Women" in October), the wonderful Crook Farm Old Time Music Festival in August and of course, the ever popular wreath making classes in the holiday season.

Tentative plans are also coming for an Eclipse Party on April 8 at the Farm, a Children's Theater Summer Camp in July, and an Apple Harvest Festival in October. These are new events, so watch for further information to be coming along.

As for the Eclipse, do you realize that Bradford will have 99.4% total coverage? A total solar eclipse won't come again for twenty years. Better get your special glasses early; I heard that they will sell out fast.

Here is a historic fact – UPB has a literary magazine called Baily's Beads. But what are Baily's Beads? Actually, they are an astronomical phenomenon. During an eclipse, as the eclipse edges towards the moment when totality begins the sun's light is almost completely blocked by the Moon. All that's left are small, receding points of light that shine through around the irregular shape of the moon's disk. These are known as Baily's Beads. These 'beads' were discovered during an eclipse in 1836 by Sir Francis Baily, an English astronomer. So, now you know a bit of history!

Inside this issue:

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Wreath Classes a Success

The Landmark Society is currently open on Friday mornings, from 9AM to 4PM, although special arrangements can be made for individual appointments. We can be contacted via email at info@bradfordlandmark.org or by calling 814-362-3906. Please visit our website at www.bradfordlandmark.org to learn more about the Society, the Herbig Bakery, The Crook farm, and interesting articles on local history.



Make 2024 the Year You Volunteer!

The Bradford Landmark Society is always looking for volunteers to help with various tasks at Crook Farm and the Herbig Bakery. This is a great opportunity to get involved in preserving local history and making a difference in your community.

At the Herbig Bakery

Willing to donate an hour or two of your time on Fridays? Come down to the Herbig Bakery on East Corydon Street to help catalog historical records, artifacts and organize photographs. (we have about 16,000 photographs, so you can see that it's a job that needs doing!) We specifically need someone who can help digitalize and scan photographs, documents, scrapbooks, etc. And don't worry – it's easy, and we will teach you. And think how much you learn!

At the Crook Farm

The Crook Farm is the Bradford Landmark Society's historical farmstead, offering a glimpse into Bradford's past through its restored buildings and engaging events. Volunteering at Crook Farm can involve:

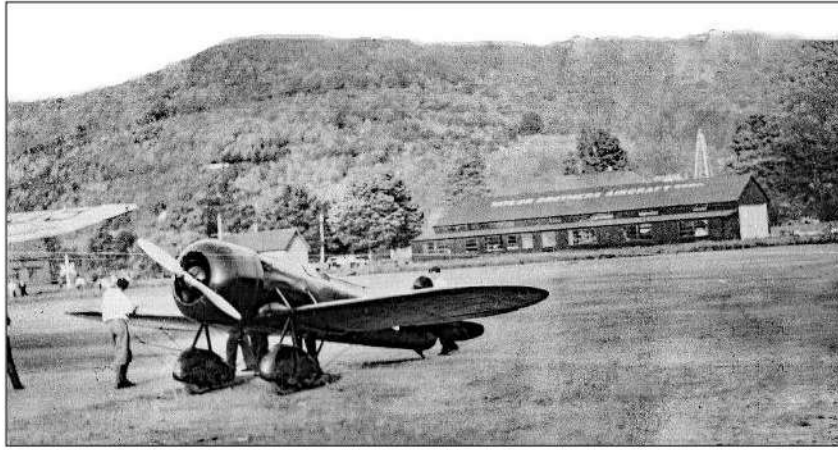
- **Guiding tours:** Sharing the farm's history and stories with visitors.
- **Assisting with events:** Helping out at this spring at the Crook Farm School Program, summer festivals, workshops, and other events planned throughout the year.
- **Groundskeeping and maintenance:** Preserving the farm's physical integrity through upkeep and repairs. Know how to swing a hammer? Weed whip? Paint? Weed flower gardens? We can use you!

If any of these opportunities pique your interest, don't hesitate to contact the Bradford Landmark Society. We are always eager to welcome volunteers who share our passion for history and community.

Remember, volunteering at the Bradford Landmark Society is not just about giving back; it's also a rewarding experience that allows you to learn new skills, connect with like-minded people, and make a lasting impact on preserving Bradford's heritage.

I hope this information helps you find the perfect volunteer opportunity at the Bradford Landmark Society! 814-362-3906 or info@bradfordlandmark.org or stop in at 45 E. Corydon Street for more information.

The Mystery Ship



The Mystery Ship in front of the hanger at Emery Airport. Taylor Brothers Aircraft factory can be seen in the background.

On June 24, 1930, at exactly 11:20AM, a mysterious airplane appeared in the sky over Bradford. Minutes later, it landed at the Harri Emery airport.

Piloted by Dale “Red” Jackson, a daring stunt pilot and barnstormer during the late 1920s and early 1930s, this was the “Mystery Ship,” a privately built racing airplane so secret that the windows of the Wichita, Kansas factory where the plane was built had its windows painted black so that curious reporters could not spy on its construction.

Trans-Continental Air Races were the rage in the 1920s and 1930s (Bradford’s own Harri Emery raced in two of them, coming in 5th in 1927, and 3rd in the race from New York to Los Angeles in 1928) but nearly all racing airplanes were based on US military designs. Two men, Herb Rawdon and Walter Burnham, decided to privately design and build a new type of plane that could out race them all. And they were successful.

Labeled as ‘Type R Mystery Ships’ (the R was for Rawdon’s name) these were a series of wire-braced, low-wing racing airplanes. The first three aircraft of the series (including the R614K which landed in Bradford) were built entirely in secrecy.

It was quite a coup to have the first of the Mystery Ships land at the Harri Emery Airport. Proof can be found in the Emery Airport Register, just one of the items that belonged to the late Joe Field which was recently donated to the Landmark Society.

Joe Field was an airplane mechanic, pilot, aviation enthusiast, and friend to Harri Emery and many other early Bradford pilots. His wonderful collection of aviation related documents, photos and plaques were donated by Thomas Lewis, son of Raymond Lewis, also a pilot and a good friend of Joseph Field who had inherited the collection after Field’s passing.

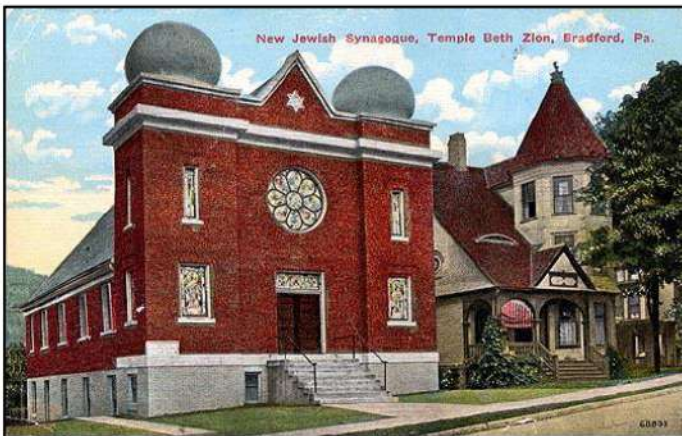
Red Jackson was just 23 years old when he piloted the Mystery Ship into Bradford but already had a reputation as a daring pilot. On January 6, 1932, at the age of 25, Jackson was killed while stunt flying over Miami.

2023 WAS A YEAR OF DEMOLITION

While sad to see buildings torn down, each of these six buildings had been vacant or unused for years and due to the high cost could not be rehabilitated or remodeled. Hopefully new use for these locations is projected for the future.



The old Cantwell Johnson, or Napa Auto Parts store, at **434-436 E. Main Street**, on the corner of East Main and South Kendall Avenue, was demolished in January 2023. Built in 1903, and designed by architect Eli Brickell, it was constructed by William Hanley. Over the years, businesses included the Home Bakery, Green Grocery, Ray Dempsey's Red & White Store, Readings Nation-wide store, and finally, Cantwell Johnson in May 1968.



Torn down in June, the old **Temple Beth Zion** building was located on South Avenue. It was built in 1910, and designed by architect Eli F. Brickell. It had a seating capacity of 240 people and was dedicated on Yom Kippur in October 1910. In 1962 the congregation joined the newly erected Temple Beth El on Jackson Avenue and the building was sold to the Assembly of God church, then sold again to the Bradford branch of the Latter-Day Saints in 1974. Recent years have seen a variety of owners, none of which remained here for long. It had been vacant for quite some time.



Both these buildings, **20 and 22 Congress Street**, were demolished in October to make way for the new ATA bus terminal and access onto Congress Street.

The red, two-story brick building at **20 Congress Street** was built by Albert Eiseman in 1923, as a meat market; in 1940 he sold the building to Firestone Home and Auto Supply Store. From 1940 to 1957 the offices of attorneys McDowell & McDowell were located upstairs and in July 1954, Greer & Aleci Jewelers moved here from the corner of Main and Chestnut Street. Later, a Montgomery Ward Catalog Store, Warner Cable, and a Paper to Pages Scrapbook store were located here, however, it had been vacant for a number of years.

22 Congress Street was built by Charles Zoeller as Zoeller's Bakery in 1922; he retired in 1923. In 1924, Frank Rossi had a shoe repair shop here, but moved to Pearl Street in January 1924; the New Style Hat Shop was here in July 1925; next was the Fannie Cake and Sandwich Shop, then the Appetite Inn in Nov. 1925, followed by a series of beauty parlors and/or barber shops (Princess Beauty Parlor & Barber Shop, Harriet Beauty Shop, the Personality Beauty Shop, Angelo Sica barber); the Marguerite Shoppe (clothing store for children) opened in May 1936 and closed May 1960. Dr Edgar Danny, optometrist, had an office here from 1964 until at least 1976. In recent years, Congress Street Antiques were located here.



The old

was torn down in November to make way for the new ATA building terminal. It had been vacant for several years.

It was built in 1911 as the Deal Garage by Lawrence Harris and John McAmbley of Bradford. Harris soon sold his interest in the business and entered the oil business, but McAmbley continued to work at the Deal Garage until his death in April 1917. The business was sold to Hire A Garage, Inc. in 1917 and sold again in May 1918 to the firm of William Sehman of Franklin, which owned similar businesses in Corry, Butler, and Franklin. Sehman's offered tire sales, repair, wheel alignment and tire balancing.



, and more recently St. Bernard Elementary School, was torn down this fall. Recently purchased by the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, future plans for this area are unknown.

Dedicated on September 30, 1962, the school was named "Central Christian" because it brought together Catholic high school students from three local churches – St. Bernard, St. Francis and Our Mother of Perpetual Help – into one central location.

The 1 acre plot had been purchased in 1900 by Msgr. David F. Hickey for future St. Bernard cemetery expansion, but by the late 1900s, with baby boomers increasing, the Archbishop of Erie announced plans to build six Catholic high schools within the diocese. Central Christian would be one of them. \$900,000 was set aside for the new school, although by the time it was completed, the total cost was over a million dollars.

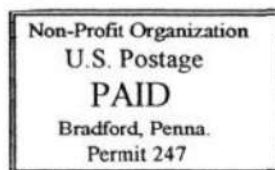
The high school closed in 2000 and for several years afterward, the building was used as St. Bernard elementary school. The building was purchased by UPB in 2022.

WREATH MAKING CLASSES A SUCCESS

Each year, the Bradford Landmark Society hosts “make your own holiday wreath” classes at the Bank building at the Crook Farm. The classes are held after Thanksgiving, and are scheduled for several weekends before Christmas. This year, we had six classes, and 85 women signed up to make beautiful wreaths of natural greens.



Bradford Landmark Society
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As I write this introduction to this month's Inkwell, I am sad to report that one of our devoted volunteers, Linda Brocius, who has served on the Board of Directors since 2012, has decided to step down. Linda has done so many things down at the Crook Farm – gardening, wreath making, a musician, school program volunteer, helping at the former Crook Farm Fair, Creative Women Workshop teacher...the list goes on, and always, her input during Board meetings to help make the right decisions was invaluable. But don't worry – she is still in charge of the wreath making classes this fall!

And on another, sadder note, one of our long-ago Board members, Ken Jadowiec, passed away in Florida on August 13. Ken had been a board member for seven years. Back in the day, Ken was always willing lend a hand, realizing that volunteers are priceless. Ken was 73 years old.

Here at the Herbig Bakery, we have been busy with a variety of 'historical' projects. We've had some great donations over the past months: several quilts including one made by a local Girl Scout troop, accounting books from an old department store in Bradford, photographs, a huge pile of Fortune magazines from the 1930s, over 200 blueprints of local businesses and houses, a fire alarm box, a nurses cape and pin, a large, framed portrait of a World War I soldier, a small jeweler's anvil, old newspapers, and of course, and what might be the best donation of all, the papers and personal items of Joe Fields, a pilot and aviation enthusiast, who was connected to the early days of the Harry Emery Airport.

Two more big events are planned for this October – the first annual (we hope) Creative Women Holiday Workshop, scheduled for Oct. 5 in the Bank Building, and the Harvest Apple Festival, scheduled for Oct. 19 at the Crook farm.

Inside this issue:

Summer Happenings
down on the Farm

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The 'Big Reveal'

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Summer Happenings “Down on the Farm”

That's the Crook Farm. It's been a fun couple of months, with all sorts of activities on the farm. Our new farm event coordinator, Chelsea Schwab, has done a wonderful job of scheduling programs, running events, creating interest, and basically making the Crook farm THE PLACE to go this summer. Just check out some of the great events that have been held down at the farm this summer. **The Barn Sale!** I bought some great stuff there. **The Eclipse!** Wow! A once in a lifetime opportunity. **The Museum & Market Day?** I was running the Country store and talked to people all day long and everyone loved the demonstrations and being allowed in the various buildings. **The Patriotic and More Band Concert?** You just had to be there to hear the Twin Tiers Community Band put on another great concert. The **Creative Women Workshop?** Another fun year, bringing women interested in crafts together, in a fun, festive and friendly way! And all the other events as well. Great job, Chelsea! And there are even more events planned for this fall and winter!





AND WHO COULD FORGET THE ANNUAL CROOKTOP MUSIC FESTIVAL?

You may have seen all the campers, tents and trailers parked at the Crook Farm and wondered what was going on. Well, it was Crooktop, the annual bluegrass/country music get-together. This year, it was held August 22-25 at the Crook farm. With workshops for musicians, jam sessions, square dancing, song tent, a pot luck dinner on Saturday, and a Gospel Sing Around on Sunday morning – it was a great three days and just keeps getting better each year!

An Update on the Bradford Landmark Society's Fire Alarm Box



You may remember that the Landmark Society was recently given an old Bradford Fire Department alarm box dating from the late 1950s. This box is number 315 which, according to an old fire alarm location map that we have, was located near the hospital on Interstate Parkway. This is one of about 125 or so Gamewell Fire Alarm boxes that were located throughout the city, and were the primary means of calling in a fire to the fire department.

You may also recall that it was in rather poor condition.

Well, we now have several people to thank for restoring it to its original glory.

You may not remember what it looked like when we received it, but here it is, as it would have looked when it was new.

First of all, thank you Mike Fuoco, who made it his mission to get this thing restored. First, he took it to Charlie Hancock, who 'glass bead' blasted it, getting rid of the old paint (what was left on the box) and bringing the surface back to a smooth finish.

Next, Mike painted it red, just like the original, and carefully painted the words "for FIRE" in white paint. Because the key to open the door to the inside was lost, we had to order a key off eBay and also bought a FIRE decal for the side.

John Costik made a wooden support for it using two boards. Tom Miller provided a special battery to make it work, and Mike Fuoco bought a small alarm to replicate the sound of the alarm being activated.

Looks amazing, doesn't it? Stop in sometime, and we'll 'fire it up' (that's a pun) for you!

And now an update on our scanning project...



Several months ago, following an urgent call for volunteers for the Landmark Society at 45 E. Corydon Street, Joyce Cline heard our plea, and volunteered to scan, well, almost anything we asked her to. She has been at it, nearly every Friday afternoon, since March. She is like a human scanning machine – it's amazing how fast, how accurate, and how many items she has scanned. It has been a HUGE help.

Keep going, Joyce!

Here is a list of what she has been doing for the past six months:

- Programs for the Big 30 Football games, from 1975, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- Bradford High School Football programs, 1936, 1952, 1953, 1954
- All the Bradford Era calendars. 1944-2024
- Meeting minutes booklet for "Bundles for Britain, 1940." Bradford Chapter, group of women, headed by Grace Emery, which organized a charity drive for Britain during World War II.
- Bradford Fire Department Record books, 1887-1897 and 1897-1909.
- McKean County Rifle Club minutes, 1934-1935-1936.
- Pulse magazine. A magazine published by the Bradford Hospital. 1953-1956
- VNA Vital Signs, Vol. IV, No. 2. Newsletter booklet published by the VNA. 1987
- Junior High Schools (School Street & Fretz) yearbooks. 1962-1990, various years
- St. Bernard grade school yearbooks, 1994-1995, 1998-1999
- Historical Data of McKean County, 1804-1970. Small magazine type booklet.
- Letterheads & bill heads of local businesses, dating back to the early 1880s
- Small booklet, Glimpses of Limestone, 1877-1977
- Folio 60 – Creative Writing examples from Bradford High School students 1960.
- Information on BRMC's East Wing, 1992
- The Home and School Visitor, 1931-1966. A magazine style report written about county schools.
- Census of Children in Lafayette Township, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935
- City Limits Magazine. 1947-1949. Magazine published in Bradford about social events in the city.
- Various, random calendars of other areas.
- The Opening of Casey's restaurant, 12-1-1986
- Bradford Answers Floods, 1947. An extensive, bound report of the flood of 1947 citing need for flood control following disastrous floods in 1942, 1946, and 1947
- Lifeline. A magazine for Bradford Hospital employees. 1971-1982
- Hundreds of Auerhaim Department Store credit report index cards, c. 1900. This large store on Main Street kept an index card report on credit worthiness of each customer.
- The Junior Hi-Lite, 1940
- Autobiography of a Valley, 1938

And now the ‘Big Reveal’

Last spring, the Bradford Landmark Society was lucky enough to be chosen as one of several non-profits to receive a grant from the McKean County Commissioners Community Foundation.

The grant was for the restoration and repair of the front of the Bakery building. If you had driven by 45 E. Corydon Street in the last few months, you saw that it needed it! The grant will be used for that purpose.



Before...

Repair of the front of the building began in August. Further work is scheduled for this October, and a new sign for the front is being ordered. We also hope to have gutters put on the building as well.

In the meantime, here are two photos of the Herbig Bakery, showing before and after.

It's an amazing difference.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000, the Herbig Bakery plays a unique role in collecting, researching, interpreting, and promoting the history of the city and the surrounding area. Built in 1876, the Herbig Bakery is the oldest building in Bradford's historic district. It has served as the headquarters and research facility for the Bradford Landmark Society since 1970.

It was built as “the French Bakery” by Celeste Gall, a Frenchman baker who made Bradford his home in the 1870s. Gus Herbig bought the building in the 1890s, and continued the bakery tradition. It is a two story, double boarded wooden building. Right now, it is nearly 150 years old! Its amazing that it survived all those years, since so many of the wooden oil boom buildings fell victim to the numerous fires that plagued the city in those early years.



After



Harvest Apple Festival

October 19 at the Crook Farm

We are gearing up for our inaugural Harvest Apple Festival on Saturday October 19th! Craft / Artisan Vendors, Food Trucks, historic demonstrations, music and more! Load up the family and enjoy a fall day in the late 19th century for only \$5 per carload!