

Pioneer Oil Museum of New York, Inc.

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www.pioneeroilmuseum.com

Pioneer Oil Museum of New York
Box 332
Bolivar, NY 14715

Hahn & Schaffner Site Continues to Take Shape

The Hahn & Schaffner site (recently purchased by the Pioneer Oil Museum) originally housed the M.C. Bascom Pipe Supply Company, started in 1920. Over the years the location housed the Bradford Supply Company and later the Hahn & Schaffner Pipe Supply Company. During this past summer, renovations were begun on a large building at the site that originally held an air compressor, pipe threading machine, and storage area. The foundation of this structure had begun to settle and crack which allowed sections of walls to break. Due to the generous donations the museum received last year, we were able to begin vital improvements. Among these was installation of a brand new foundation around much of the building. A new wall and structural supports were also built over that part of the foundation. New exterior support beams underlain by concrete abutments helped to provide support to an overhanging area of the building. Finally several sections of new sill were placed on an old section of the foundation. Even with your donations last year, the museum was forced to borrow approximately \$10,000 to complete that phase of the project.



All of these improvements will eventually provide an exhibition building in which the museum hopes to display engines and other oil and gas-related exhibits. This location will provide a secure venue in which to display a multitude of artifacts. This enclosed area will provide protection from the elements for many different types of equipment that have been promised to the museum. Some of this equipment may still be in working condition.

The next phase of work on this building will focus on exterior improvements and security. It will cost nearly \$10,000 to enclose the building in board and batten siding. The lumber for this project will be donated by Bob Mallory of Ram Forest in Shinglehouse. The labor to cut the siding will be provided by AJ Plants of Shinglehouse. (The work to cut the siding will be supported financially by museum president, Paul Plants.) Also, security windows need to be installed and a section of concrete flooring needs to be torn out and replaced. The preliminary costs for this project total \$20,000. This is in addition to the money that needs to be repaid from the loan obtained to finish last summer's project. **The museum is in serious need of your support for this endeavor.**



Preserving the
Oil Heritage of
Southwestern
New York and
Northwestern
Pennsylvania

John Bassett's Rifle

Many people know personally or by reputation, Herbert Leon MacDonell, he of more recent fame, a noted forensic scientist. Herb is known throughout the world for his expertise in blood spatter analysis, as well as his patents for fingerprint detection and identification. Yet on a local level the MacDonell name is also associated with the area's oil fields. Herb's grandfather started a family business (MacDonell Oil Company) and had a lease on Beer's Hollow outside of Bolivar. His grandfather's uncle was owner of MacDonell and Brannon, a manufacturer of oil field engines.

Herb recently donated to the museum a rifle originally owned and built by his great-grandfather, John Franklin Bassett, a master machinist who worked in the oil industry and invented the "go-devil." He was good working with his hands, thus leading to the ability to build such a rifle, a lever-action repeater with a 10-shot capacity. The barrel appears to have been bored and rifled by Bassett.

More interesting is the history of the rifle. Bassett probably built this piece in the late 1800's. Herb's father had died in 1965, and he had presumed the gun to be lost or stolen because he had not seen it for some forty years. In 1977, the 13-room family home on North Main Street in Bolivar was to be cleaned out and sold as there were no members of the family living there any more. In the garage, hidden away in the most remote of areas, the gun was found between the foundation and the exterior wall, exposed to the weather for all those years.

After this discovery, Herb set upon cleaning and refurbishing the rifle. Interestingly, Herb's most important find was a set of two letters, "JB," his great-grandfather's initials on the side of the wooden magazine. These initials, along with the long-hidden location of the gun, confirmed that this was indeed the family heirloom that had been lost for so long.

Local retired teacher and carpenter, Dave Evans, built a beautiful case in which to display the rifle. Along with a collection of photos and a magazine article related to this rifle, the rifle is on display at the Hahn & Schaffner complex. The museum thanks Herb greatly for his donation to and support of the museum.



Bolivar's Bill Gray

Former resident Bill Gray, a 1952 graduate of Bolivar Central School, passed away last spring in Texas. Bill is remembered at the museum as the author of a book entitled Growing Up in Bolivar, NY in the 1940's and 1950's. Bill spent several years researching this book before having it printed in 2008.

In addition to his memories of growing up in the local oil fields, this book contains a treasure trove of technical information about early oil drilling techniques and tools. From cable tool drilling to fishing tools, Bill includes it in this book. With research assistance and help from deceased museum volunteers Dick Fitch and Ray Payne, Bill wrote a book that can serve as both a reference tool, as well as a trip down memory lane for those who grew up in the oil fields of this area. When you visit the museum, ask to take a look at the book, and you will be amazed by its interesting content and huge volume of information.

Bill's sister, Miriam, has been a dedicated long-time volunteer at the museum. Bill provided copies of this book to the museum for its research department, and for this, we appreciate his support and honor his memory.

Jean Marie Gorton Bianco, formerly of Alma, NY and now living in Rochester, donated this old model rig to the museum. Her grandfather, Nilie, was a driller, and her father, Leslie "Jack" Gorton,



purchased the rig many years ago. Local oilman Will Burdick is currently restoring the rig to its former condition. Thank you, Jean Marie.

In Remembrance

This past year the Pioneer Oil Museum lost one of its hard-working and dedicated Board members, Diane Mountain, who passed away after a long illness. Diane is remembered for her efforts in making both the community and Museum more attractive and inviting. She was easily recognized hard at work on one of her many outdoor endeavors. She will be greatly missed.

DONATIONS 2011

OIL BARON - \$ 501 and more

New York State Oil Producers' Association
Kelly & Lois Lounsberry
Bolivar Lions Club
Village of Bolivar
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Plants

SHOOTER - \$101-500

Roxanne & Joe Yehl
Wayne & Jean Milliman
Jon & Sue Lindquist
Bob Mountain

Dan Dempsey Sr. & Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Bucher
Ronald Stuck

WILDCATTER - \$51-100

Rick & Kris Gould
Jim Hungerford
Chris Perkins Contracting

ROUSTABOUT - \$26-50

Bob & Kelly Ingalls
Barb & Louie Schiralli
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Schaffner
Karen Sarrafian

Anne Thorwart
Jerry Chadderdon
Bob & Charlotte Mead
Ed Macketter

WELL PLUGGER - \$25 or less

Janet Herne
Marilyn Lee
Nancy & Bill Walsh
Mr. & Mrs. John Boll
Bob Yehl
Diane Glintz
Peg Guinnip
Edith Freaney
Star of the East #109, Eastern Star

New York State Oil Producers' Association

Platinum - \$5000.00

Gold - \$1000.00

Jim Walchli
Potter-McKean Resources

Silver - \$500.00

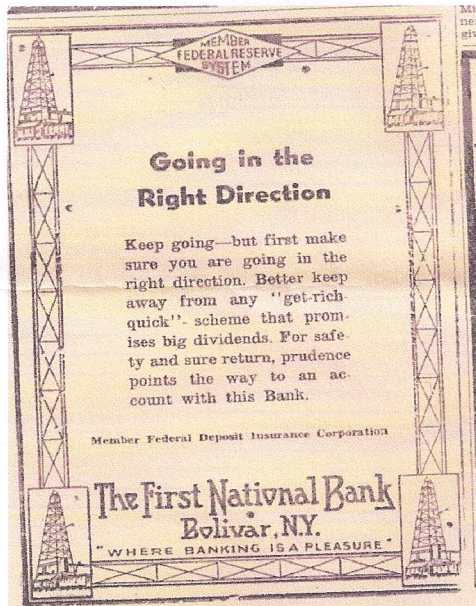
Hornet Oil
Alma Gas

Bronze - \$200.00

IOGA
Cline Oil Co.
Gollaher Oil
Penn Gold Well Services
James Day Contracting
Lang Surveying
Hydrocarbon Generation
Northern Tier, Inc.

Other

PM Research
Richardson & Stout
Highpointe Oil & Gas
James McAndrews
Nunda Auto Parts, Inc.



An advertisement from an edition of the 1939 Bolivar Breeze. Notice the derricks in the corners. Much local advertising during the first half of the 1900's had some relevance to the local oil industry which was still going so strong. Today the Community Trust Bank is located in the same building.

A memorial to the museum is a wonderful way to preserve the legacy of a loved one, especially one with ties to the local oil/gas industries or a member of the community. The museum thanks you for thinking of us, especially in your time of grief.

Memorials 2011

In memory of John C. Bradley
 by Madison Community Foundation (Marcia Bradley)

In memory of Dick Smith
 by Kelly & Lois Lounsberry
 by Joyce Grabow

In memory of Al Weimer
 by Joan Jordan

In memory of Louis Claire and Bonnie Claire Nitsche
 by Barb Claire

In Memory of Ray Allen and Ruby Allen
 by Karen Sarrafian

In memory of Burdett West
 by Robert Giardini

In memory of Richard Howard
 by Jean Howard

In memory of Phyllis MacDonell
 by Herbert MacDonell

In memory of Joseph W. Bucher
 by Joseph J. Bucher

In memory of Gail and Gordon Hahn
 by James Hahn
 by Tauck World Discovery

In memory of Burdett and Loyd West
 by Dean Phillips

In memory of Bill Gray
 by Kelly & Lois Lounsberry
 by Ray Payne family
 by Madelene Harrington
 by Margaret Visseau
 by Thomas Dunn
 by Mr. & Mrs. John D. Bradley
 by Anne & Bob Wainman

In memory of Dick Fitch
 by Robert and Joan Jordan

In memory of Thomas Hungerford
 by Mary Hungerford

In memory of Gil and Ginny Brinnier
 by Mary Hungerford

In memory of Bruno Codispoti
 by Jim and Lois Codispoti

In memory of Frank & Amelia Hungerford, Gail Hahn,
 Tom Hungerford, & Barbara Sallazzo
 by Michael and Mary Fitzsimmons

In memory of those associated with oil, gas, & water
 drilling industries
 by Sunrise Drilling Supply, Inc.

In memory of Jim, Mike, & Bill Gray
 by Miriam Gray

In memory of Diane Mountain
 by Nora & Michael McArdle
 by Joe & Ruth McArdle & Patti Ludwick
 by Darrell & Pam Bump
 by Kelly & Lois Lounsberry
 by David & Barbara Mountain
 by Wellsville High and Middle School
 by Tracy & Ben Memec
 by Ricky & Lois Whitney
 by James & Mary Lubas
 by Bob & Cindy Mountain
 by Dale & Rose Feenaughty
 by Lewis Johs Avallon Aviles LLP
 by Matthew & Jayne Vizzini

Nitro-Glycerine Factory Blown Up

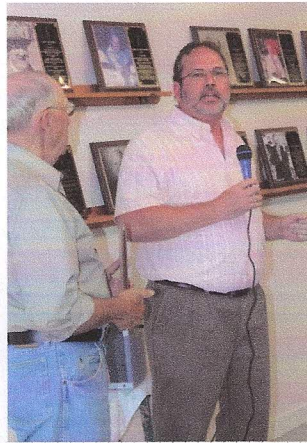
The Rock Glycerine Co., No. 2, factory located in the gully on the Kilbury farm, a mile southwest of Bolivar, was wrecked by an explosion at noon Monday. Edward Cartwright, a shooter employed by the firm, had just unloaded a lot of empty cans a short distance above the factory. The shock knocked him down and stunned his team [of horses] for a minute or more. He hastily drove to town and informed G.W. VanCuren, a member of the firm. VanCuren drove to the factory with all possible haste. He left the rig at the Kilbury farm house and ran toward the factory. The debris was burning fiercely but by quick work he saved the agitator and other expensive machinery from total wreck. Some of the roof boards were blown 500 feet away. Although the shingles

were scattered in every direction, scarcely one of them was split or injured, which is regarded as an odd circumstance. Two hundred fifty feet away stands a powder house with 1000 pounds of powder stored in it. Luckily the fire did not reach it. No nitroglycerine is kept in the factory. The explosion was caused, so VanCuren thinks, by a cigar stub thrown in the brush below the factory by a passer-by. The fire ran over the dry brush to the factory and touched off a small amount of nitroglycerine that had dripped from the agitator in the washing process. Had Cartwright been fifty feet nearer the factory, both he and the team would have met death. The noise of the explosion scarcely reached Bolivar. The damage to the factory amounted to \$300. It is being rapidly repaired, and the factory will be in running order again tomorrow noon.

April 17, 1896 Bolivar Breeze



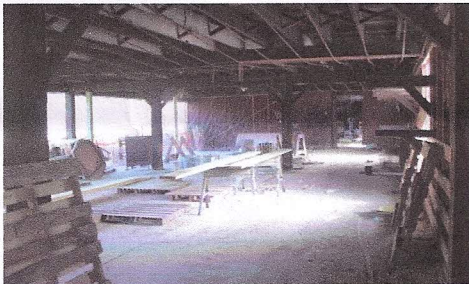
Mrs. Paula Williams competes in the women's division of the tractor pull held the weekend prior to Pioneer Oil Days at the Hahn & Schaffner site.



John Walchli, Jr. speaks at his late father's induction into the Wall of Fame.



Every "oil parade" needs some oilfield equipment in it.



Renovations and improvements never cease at the museum. Refer to the story on page one.



The BCS bicentennial Class of '76 celebrates its 35th class reunion.

**SUMMER
2011-
Things are
always
happening at
the Pioneer Oil
Museum**



The wives of Burdett and Loyd West, from left to right, receive their husbands' plaques.



The first annual antique tractor competition was held the day of the tractor pull.



Local oilman, Earl Harriger, leads fifth-graders on a tour of the museum. His father will be one of the inductees into the Wall of Fame this June.

**BRAD PENN-GRADE™
PENN LUBRICANTS
100% MADE IN THE USA
Bolivar Oil Museum**

This sign, now hung on the side of the welding shop, was donated by former Bolivar resident and current owner of Sandburg Oil in Olean, Dick Sandburg.

NYSOPA to Honor Wall of Fame Inductees

WINE-AND-CHEESE TASTING TICKETS

Friday, June 22, 2012
6:30-8:00 Hahn & Schaffner Site

\$15 - Single Ticket
\$35 - Two tickets and designation as Bronze Patron
\$65 - Four tickets; Silver Patron
\$125 - Eight tickets; Gold Patron
(business and corporate sponsors, as well as for individuals)

Tasty Snacks and a variety of cheeses along with a wonderful sampling of different wines - all available that evening!

Tickets may be purchased by writing to the museum at the address below, at the Bolivar Free Library during regular hours, or at the museum once it opens for the season in June.

Tickets available June 1

Checks can be made payable to:

Pioneer Oil Museum of New York, Inc.
PO Box 332
Bolivar, NY 14715

Bolivar Free Library hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 6:00-8:00
Tuesday: 12:30-4:30
Friday: 9:30-4:30
Saturday: 9:00-12:00

The Pioneer Oil Museum is pleased and honored again to announce the newest class of inductees into the New York State Oil Producers' Association "Wall of Fame," which is located at the Hahn & Schaffner site of the Pioneer Oil Museum. The 2012 class of inductees includes Wade Harriger, Carl Childs, Ralph Root, and John Messer.

Last year's class included Burdett West, Loyd West, John Walchli, Sr., and Arthur Yahn. A huge audience turned out that evening to witness the induction ceremonies. If you have any interesting anecdotes about this year's inductees, please feel free to forward them to the museum.

Each man will be honored for his contributions to the local oil and natural gas industry with a plaque in his honor. This plaque includes a photo, biographical data, and contributions to the local business. Induction ceremonies will take place on Friday, June 22, at 6:00 immediately before the wine-and-cheese tasting that is noted elsewhere in this newsletter. This ceremony will take place at the Hahn & Schaffner site.

Those in attendance for the Wall of Fame induction ceremony are invited to stay and participate in the Wine-and-Cheese Tasting as well as tour the museum. Spend some time touring the facility to learn about the amazing heritage of the local oil fields.



Family members of each of the inductees share in the memory of their relative's accomplishments.

Fund Drive 2012

The Pioneer Oil Museum needs your help! For the last few years we have been working on the renovation of the old Hahn & Schaffner Pipe Supply Company site. In 2009, we were able to complete Phase I of our master plan with the help of a state grant, as well as with donations. This past year we were able to complete only part of Phase II, the refurbishment of an old supply building into an exhibit structure. Unfortunately we had to take out a loan to finish that part of the project.

This year we hope to raise enough money to accomplish several different goals. First, we would like to have sufficient funds to complete the work on the red exhibit building. This would allow us to cover the building with board and batten siding (which will be donated) and install new windows. Second, we need enough money to demolish one section of old concrete floor in that building and pour a new floor in its place. These two goals total almost \$20,000. Finally, we would like to raise enough money to pay back the loan that we needed last summer. Thus, you can see why we need your support so much.

As we look to completion of this phase of the renovation and eventual work on later phases, we are also in the process of looking for and accepting old oil and gas field equipment to put on display at this site. We have had individuals offer to donate such items, but we still need more funding to adequately and securely display such artifacts. Demolition of a couple of old buildings will provide venues for exhibit areas, and that will take money.

Over the past few years we have seen an increase in the number of visitors to the museum. There is an ever-growing interest in the local oil and gas fields. Part of the reason is the current discussion over Marcellus shale drilling. It is easy to see that your donations are being put to good use with positive tangible results.

In order for these goals to be realized, we ask for your support. Our plans require consistent and substantial financial support. As the economy improves and job growth looks positive, we ask that you support the museum. All donations are tax-deductible as the museum maintains its 501(c)(3) status.

Also, making a donation in the memory of a loved one is a wonderful way to treasure that person's memory. Thank you for your support.

Oil Baron	\$501 or more	_____
Shooter	\$101-500	_____
Wildcatter	\$51-100	_____
Roustabout	\$26-50	_____
Well Plugger	25 or less	_____

Checks may be made payable to:

Pioneer Oil Museum of New York, Inc.
PO Box 332
Bolivar, NY 14715

The Museum maintains its 501(C)(3) status, so all contributions are tax deductible.

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Amount of Donation: _____

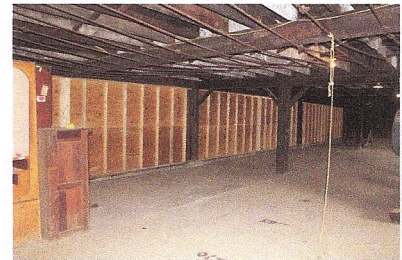
Pioneer Oil Museum Renovation Phases

Phase I – Museum interior; completed summer 2009; \$60,000 raised through state grants and local contributions



Phase II – renovation of red storage building; to be used for exhibits; summer 2011 (or as finances allow)

- A. structural and foundation renovations: \$24,000 (completed 2011)
- B. exterior siding and protection: \$15,000 (goal: completion in 2012)
- C. interior renovations (including lighting and electrical): \$5,000 (goal: completion in 2012)



Phase III – renovation of large pipe threading building; to be used for exhibits; summer 2012 (or as finances allow)

- A. exterior siding and protection: \$7000
- B. interior work to construct exhibits: \$7000



Phase IV – renovation of small pipe threading building; to be used for exhibits; summer 2012-2013 (or as finances allow)

- A. exterior siding and protection: \$4500
- B. replacement of windows: \$1700
- C. interior work to construct exhibits: \$4500

