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WWW.PIONEEROILMUSEUM.COM

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

Pioneer Oil Museum of New York

Large Donations Pave Way for Museum Work

This past fall the museum received the two largest private donations in its history. Former Bolivar resident, Lance Shaner, donated funds to allow for completion of the red exhibit building. Included in this work will be a new steel roof, installation of glass block windows for protection and lighting, increased security lights, as well as some other work. Mr. Shaner is the founder of Rex Energy, a leader in the oil and gas in-

dustry, as well as Shaner Hotels, one of the largest hotel chains in the country. Both his father, Alyn (2010), and grandfather, Fred (2009), were previously inducted into the New York Oil Producers' Association Wall of Fame. This building will eventually be named in honor of the Shaner family. The second donation was from the family of Charles H. Joyce, who passed away this past June. This donation

was comprised of two donations: one from his surviving spouse, as well as another from the family business, Otis Eastern, one of the largest pipeline contractors in the country. These donations will be used for the construction of a pavilion in which antique oil field equipment will be housed and displayed. This building will be named in honor of Charles H. Joyce.

PRESERVING THE
OIL AND GAS
HERITAGE OF
SOUTHWESTERN
NEW YORK AND
NORTHWESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA

Oil & Gas Field Artifacts Donated

Over the past year the museum was pleased to receive a variety of unique donations. Jim Moser of Canisteo donated a Moser oil jack with an unusual Myrick engine built in Olean, NY. With Mr.



Moser securing workers and equipment from the Steuben Gas Storage Company to help with the move, the museum acquired this piece. Chris Messer, the great-nephew of Wall of Fame inductee John Messer (2012), has begun to donate his collection of antique oil field engines and equipment to the museum. This past fall he already delivered the first five engines with more com-

ing our way this year. Chris is also an expert in repairing and restoring these engines. The estate of the late Steve Gollaher donated a variety of documents and artifacts from the family business, Gollaher Oil and Drilling Co. He will be inducted into the Wall of Fame this coming June. Thanks to everyone who continues to support the museum with donations of artifacts and/or documents.

The Museum Wants You!

As always, the museum is looking for “a few good men” (or women) to help stay open for our visitors. Each volunteer works just one three-hour block of time per week . The museum is open only weekdays (unless one would like to open up on weekends) from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. That means volunteers work the “early shift” from 10:00-1:00 or the “graveyard shift” from 1:00-4:00.

No advanced degree in petroleum engineering is required!. You don’t even need to know anything about the history of this area. You

just need to have a key to open the front door, so that visitors can be amazed by what life was like in a



“Pioneer Oil Boomtown.” If you have any knowledge or experience in the local fields, even better. If you re-

late to people and just want to talk to them as they wander the museum, that would be fine. If you just want to get out of the house on a sunny summer day, that’s fantastic as well.

Please call Barb Webb at 585-928-2377. We REALLY need your help!

Don Case, Previous Wall of Fame Inductee

Don Case spent over 70 years working in the local oil fields of Pennsylvania and New York. In fact he was still driving his bulldozer until his death at the ripe, old age of 95.

A talented man, Don was known for welding, repairing, and inventing oil field equipment. He could fix nearly anything. He handled any of the jobs as lease foreman, including supervising the crew, running the pressure plant, keeping records, and plowing the roads.

He worked for the Bradley Producing Company around 1930 mainly on their leases between Allentown and Bolivar.

Don was a member of St. Theresa Catholic Church in Shinglehouse and a former member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Bolivar. He was a former parish council member.

Visit from Congressman Reed

Last June the museum was honored to have a visit from U.S. Congressman Tom Reed who represents the 23rd District of New York. The Congressman was here to learn about the history of the oil and gas industry in this state, which began in his own district. He also discussed his thoughts on the unlimited potential of hydrofracking and the exploding growth of the natural gas industry in this country.



Members of the Albert Howe family are honored at the Wall of Fame induction.



From left: Congressman Reed, Museum president Paul Plants, board member Kelly Lounsberry

Hours of Operation

- Memorial Day - Labor Day
- Monday-Friday 10:00 - 4:00
- Saturdays and Sundays by appointment only. Call Barb Webb (585-928-2377) or Rose Feenaughty (585-928-1796) to schedule a tour. We love to entertain groups of people as long as we have advance notice.
- E-mail: bolivaroil@yahoo.com Pioneer Oil Days: June 22-29, 2014

Museum Celebrates 50-Year Anniversary, 1964-2014

The Pioneer Oil Museum of New York, Inc. was the creation of the New York State Oil Producers Association (NYSOPA) in the mid-1960's. The goal was to "house in a readily available, central location, articles and information of historical value or interest pertaining to the New York State Oil Industry." A secondary goal was to accumulate and display artifacts related to the local petroleum industry. Also the promoters hoped to honor the men who had been pioneers in the local industry.

Among the main organizers of the museum were Bill Hogan and Clarence (Mike) Schaffner. Schaffner, the mayor of the village of Bolivar, became the chairman of a NYSOPA museum committee. In 1964 at the annual NYSOPA clambake, Hogan told his fellow attendees, "If we don't do it [create a local museum], nobody will." Consequently the NYSOPA contributed \$1000 toward the creation of the museum. Hogan volunteered the use of a building on Main Street. On behalf of the committee the former Colegrove and Wood Hardware Store was purchased for \$2500 by the firm of Hahn and Schaffner. Previously this building had housed the McEwan Supply Store which sold oil field equipment. Other former uses of this building built in 1851 include a cigar factory, a cobbler's shop, a broom factory, a Chinese laundry, a grocery store, a dry goods store, an upstairs business in which magnetos were repaired, and a glove and mitten factory. In 1931 the large front plate glass windows were installed.

During 1965-66, further plans took place toward opening the museum. Letters were sent to potential contributors to send money and/or artifacts which would be suitable for placement in the museum. In 1965 the museum organizers petitioned the Village of Bolivar for permission to drill a real, working well which would serve as a tourist attraction, as well as a possible source of revenue for the museum. Village ordinances at that time (and to this day) prevent anyone from drilling a gas or oil well in the village within 100 feet of any residence or village lot. No well was ever drilled.

Also in 1966, NYSOPA agreed to increase the cost of an annual membership from \$5 to \$10. This increase was designed to cover the cost of the building purchase as well as other expenses the organization would incur in running the museum. During the early 1970's, the group funded two significant improvements: the addition of a vertical "board and batten" siding to restore the late-1800's original look and the installation of a large, colorful sign for the museum's front.

For the next few years artifacts, photographs, and other written documents were collected, but there was no official grand opening of the museum. By 1973, plans were in the works for the Village of Bolivar's Sesquicentennial to be held two years later. Local residents Tom Manning, George Bradley, Art Burdick, and others decided to refurbish the museum with hopes of opening it up for visitors during the Sesquicentennial celebration. They improved the building's interior so that donated materials could be displayed. Many exhibits commemorating the area's oil story were organized, and a large number of old, irreplaceable photographs were displayed. Other aspects of local history were developed in order to tell the story of the town. The museum was a hit during the Sesquicentennial celebration, so plans were made to keep the building open on a limited full-time basis in the future.

Interest escalated when the original Pioneer Oil Days were held in the early 1980's. During the annual celebration numerous events took place. Among these were a working forge as well as bit-dressing demonstrations. A competition between "roustabout" teams entailed coupling of joints of "sucker rods" and then slinging them into the hooks of tripods.

During the 1980's, Tom Manning took over primary custodianship of the museum and helped organize staffing. Gordon and Ethyl Burdick were employed through the federally-sponsored Green Thumb program which utilized senior citizens in a variety of ways. They worked in the museum during the day, keeping it open for visitors. Another local resident and retired oil field worker, Max Richardson, worked with Gordon Burdick to retrieve and refurbish artifacts, as well as to maintain the property.

In 2000, Manning asked several local residents if they would be interested in joining a newly-formed Board of Directors for the museum. He was leaving the area and wanted to place the museum in the hands of a small group with ties to area government, the local school district, and the local oil industry who would perpetuate this valuable local institution.

Memorials 2013

In memory of Robert MacDonell

by Thomas Pollock

by John D. Bradley

by Margaret Riggs & Nancy Reeland Gross

by Barbara and Ralph Hollis

by Kay and John Nicklas

by Jack and Sara Matheny

by Richard and Mary Ann Gilman

by Kelly & Lois Lounsberry

In memory of Ray Payne and Bob Jordan

by Barry and Joan Jordan

In memory of Charles H. Joyce

by John D. Bradley

by Kelly & Lois Lounsberry

by Lorraine Joyce

In memory of Alyn Shaner

by Fred and Mimi Shaner

In memory of Herbert Rhodes

by Diane Glintz

In memory of Henry Pruch

by Bolivar-Richburg Faculty Association

In memory of Charles Giardini

by Robert Giardini

In memory of Mary Schaffner

by Rick and Kris Gould

In memory of Douglas Wightman

by Jerry and Vern Chadderdon

by Cynthia Maxwell, Amber Taylor, Maureen

Riordan, Lisa Gajdos, and Frank Mausolf

In memory of Patricia Hungerford Smyke

by Mary Hungerford

by Kelly and Lois Lounsberry

In memory of Jon Lindquist

by Susan Lindquist

by Kelly and Lois Lounsberry

by Karen Sarrafian and Kris Gould

New York State Oil Producers' Association

Platinum - \$5000.00

Charles H. Joyce (Otis Eastern)

McCracken Oil & Gas LLC

Gold- \$1000.00

NYS Oil Producers' Association

Jim Walchli

Charles P. Joyce

Silver - \$500.00

James Gabriel (Hornet/Bulldog Oil)

Dorchester Minerals Operating, LLP

James Kinley

Bronze - \$200.00

Allen Oil Corp.

Sunrise Drilling Supply

Penn Gold Well Services Inc.

S. W. Neilly Corp.

International Waxes, Inc.

Minard Run Oil Co.

Hogan Energy Co.

Lenape Resources

Hill Drilling

Root Contracting

Other

Woods Oil Co.

Lang Surveying

Joseph Quinlan

Dirt Excavating, LLC

NOTICE - If you do not desire to receive this newsletter, please e-mail the museum (bolivaroil@yahoo.com) or drop us a line at our postal address. This will allow the museum to save much-needed money. Thanks!

The museum is currently looking for donations of any unusual equipment or machinery. This would include one-of-a-kind jacks, engines, etc. We are also looking for a nitroglycerin shooter's wagon and possibly an antique oil tanker truck. Limited space impacts what we can accept, but we are on the look-out for unique oilfield equipment.

DONATIONS 2013

OIL BARON - \$501 or more

New York State Oil Producers' Assoc.
Bradley Empire Group
Joseph Bucher
Paul & Eloise Plants
Otis Eastern Service, Inc.

SHOOTER - \$101-500

Mark Rumsey
Kelly & Lois Lounsberry
Jon Lindquist Garage
Rick & Kris Gould
Joe Yehl
Daniel Dempsey, Jr.
Village of Bolivar
David Palmerton, Jr.
Robert Mountain
Anonymous
James Hahn

WILDCATTER - \$51-100

Allegheny County Federation of
Snowmobilers, Bolivar Chapter
Beverly and Wilber Dawson
Richardson & Stout
Robert Ingalls
Herbert MacDonell
Beatrice West
Dan & Cathy Fuller
Thomas Dunn
Dan & Julie Baldwin
Elizabeth Schiralli
Kenny's Friendly Service
Jeffrey Bradley

ROUSTABOUT - \$26-50

Marilyn Lee
Mattress City Furniture
Louie & Barb Schiralli
Bob & Fran Dean
Bob & Charlotte Mead
Joe & Eileen Schaffner
Friendship Senior Citizens Club
Barb Burdick
Irv Shelp
Ann Thorwart
Karen Sarrafian
Jerry Codispoti

WELL PLUGGER—\$25 or less

John and Anna Boll
Barbara Claire
Edith Freaney
Janet Herne
Star of the East, #109 Eastern Star
Wayne & Jean Milliman
Bill & Nancy Walsh
Kathy Cawley

Ads in the Bolivar
Breeze from the late
1930's - early 1940's;
most are from the
Allegheny Refiners in
Bolivar



Allegheny Refiners, Inc., Announce

Two Great Gasoline Products

Giving You

**BETTER PERFORMANCE
MORE POWER -- INCREASED ECONOMY**

The New **Bolivar GAS** and **Bolivar - ETHYL**

... Blended with Tetraethyl (lead) is a really superior gasoline giving you greater mileage, efficiency and economy.

... the highest quality Ethyl gas you can buy. For top-performance all the time, use Bolivar Ethyl—it's got everything!

Get Going with the New Bolivar Gas!

- Mileage**
The new Bolivar Gas will give you greater mileage per gallon. Whether it's ordinary stop and go driving, rugged hill climbing, or a long grinding run, we promise you added miles with Bolivar Gas.
- Economy**
The new Bolivar Gas is economical. You can buy Bolivar Gas blended with Tetraethyl at no increase in price. And you save also with greater mileage, lessened motor repair bills.
- Smoother Performance**
The new Bolivar Gas gives you smoother performance than you get in any other similar gasoline. Enjoy the quick starting, the new surge of power as you press the accelerator, the smooth, effortless run of your motor on a long drive. You'll get all this with the new Bolivar Gas. Try it today. You'll "get going quicker" with Bolivar Gas.

Anti-Knock
"When your motor knocks," say our dealers, "Get Ethyl." The new Bolivar-Ethyl gas is guaranteed anti-knock.

Quick Starting
Your motor will start instantly with the new Bolivar-Ethyl gas on the coldest mornings. You will save time, money and annoyance if you use quick-starting Bolivar Ethyl.

Efficient
Your motor will work at maximum efficiency all the while if you use Bolivar Ethyl. For smooth performance and extra power, we invite you to use Bolivar Ethyl gasoline.

Allegheny Refiners, Inc. is pleased to present these two great gasolines to the people of Bolivar and vicinity. We are available now. "There is no better gasoline on the market and these Bolivar Gasolines from crude produced right here (the highest grade in the world, manufactured in Bolivar and its vicinity) make the Bolivar products you buy the best."

Lead the Rest with

BOLIVAR GAS

and BOLIVAR-ETHYL GAS
Blended with TETRAETHYL for Greater Performance

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New York Glycerin Co., Inc.

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Outgrowth of an Emergency to Save an Important Segment of the Allegheny Field, the ALLEGANY REFINERS, INC., have devoted all their resources, for seven years, to keeping oil leases on tax rolls, to providing lease and refinery employment and to building up a new industry.

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HOME OWNED AND OPERATED



An unusual oil field jack in working condition donated by Joe Bucher



All the young ladies have fun at the wine-tasting



Some of the oil field engines donated by Chris Messer



Parade Grand Marshall, Earl Harriger



Noted local geologist, Art Van Tyne, at the Wall of Fame ceremony



Museum president Paul Plants presents Wall of Fame plaque to Herbert MacDonell, son of Leon MacDonell



Dan Baldwin, Sr., master tractor puller

2013 - Great Times at Pioneer Oil Days and at the Pioneer Oil Museum



The family of Fred Dick, inductee into the NYSOPA Wall of Fame



The POM float on display



The Joyce Family attends the Wall of Fame ceremony



Left: loading the Moser jack to transport to Bolivar (refer to story on page one); right: a portion of the Wall of Fame on display



NYSOPA TO Honor Wall of Fame Inductees

WINE-AND-CHEESE TASTING TICKETS

Friday, June 27, 2014

6:30 - 8:00 Hahn & Schaffner Site

\$15 Single Ticket

\$35 Two Tickets and designation
as Bronze Patron

\$65 Four Tickets & Silver Patron
Status

\$125 Eight Tickets & Gold Patron
Status

(for 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 may be made payable to:
Pioneer Oil Museum of New York
PO Box 332
Bolivar, NY 14715

Bolivar Free Library hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 6:00-8:00

Tuesday: 12:30-4:40

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 2014 class of inductees includes Charlie Joyce, Steve Gollaher, Harold Benson, and John Bryner.

Last year's class included Fred Dick, Ed Bartlett, Albert Howe, and Leon MacDonell. 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 27, at **6:00** immediately before the wine-and-cheese tasting that is described in the column at the left. 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 site. Spend some time touring the facility to learn about the amazing heritage of the local oil fields.



The children of Ed Bartlett take pride in their father's induction into the Wall of Fame.