



SPRING 2016
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WWW.PIONEEROILMUSEUM.COM

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

Pioneer Oil Museum of New York

Antique Shooter's Wagon Donated

This past fall the Pioneer Oil Museum was honored with the donation of a 100 year-old shooter's wagon from the family of John Bryner. Mr. Bryner was a long-time oilman in the Bolivar and Bradford areas. He began his career with Minard Run Oil Company and later joined the Pringle Powder Company. In 1952, the Pringle Company bought out the Independent Eastern Torpedo Co., making it the largest oil and gas well shooting company east of the Mississippi River. In 2014, Mr. Bryner was in-

ducted into the NYSOPA Wall of Fame.

The donated shooter's wagon, owned by the Pringle Powder Company, would have been driven from job to job by a team of horses. It carried all the tools needed by a "shooter," including nitroglycerin shells, as well as containers of highly-explosive nitroglycerin.

Many thanks to the Bryner family for this donation.



Unique Equipment Donated

The Pioneer Oil Museum is always on the look-out for unusual equipment and artifacts to acquire, and 2015 proved to be a lucrative year. A Waukesha drilling engine was donated by Paul and Mark Vossler of Wellsville. This machine was used to power a standard drilling rig of the Merritt and C.V. Oil Companies in the Wellsville and Allentown areas. This unusual four-cylinder engine probably was built in 1929.

Local oilman Joe Bucher donated a small Gould Triplex water pump that was used for flooding operations on the Pearsall Lease



on Horse Run Road just over the state line into Pennsylvania.

Other items of note from the past year are various pieces of equipment from John Tibbits. Included are some possible unique fishing tools.

From the historic Pink House in Wellsville came a collection of core samples recovered from drill holes. These samples were taken in many nearby locations, and some date back to the late 1800's.

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

Pittsburg, Shawmut, & Northern Depot Acquired

Recently local oilman Jim Reynolds of Shinglehouse donated the old Pittsburg, Shawmut, & Northern (PS&N) Railroad depot to the museum. This structure was built in 1900 and was eventually used by the PS&N during its existence in Bolivar from 1902-1947. The railroad carried oil drilling supplies into and out of town during the hey-day of the secondary recovery boom which transformed Bolivar into a bustling hub of job and wealth creation.

Plans for the depot's renovation are in the preliminary stages, but no work will begin on the building until grants and other sources of funding can be acquired. The front area that would have originally been the passenger waiting room and the station agent's

office are still covered with wainscoting which provides a great starting point for any restoration.



Imagine It!

Bradford-Allegany Oil Production Decreases

The daily average production of the Bradford Field for the week ending October 24, 1942, was 42,402 barrels and of the Allegany Field 10,578 barrels.

This compares with 42,766 barrels and 11,303 barrels for the previous week. (Bolivar [Breeze](#))

Average **daily production** in 1942

The Museum Desperately Needs Your Help!

Over the past two years or so, the museum has lost over a half dozen volunteers and substitutes, mainly due to health issues. More than ever, **we need help to 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 week-ends) 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 relate 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!

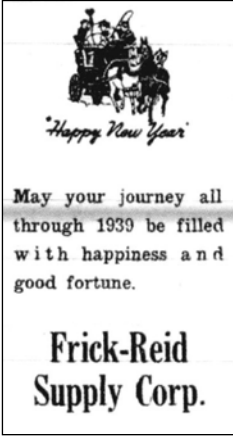
John Walchli Sr., Previous Wall of Fame Inductee

John Walchli Sr. was known to the citizens of the Wellsville area as a civic leader as much as an oil producer. A graduate of both Wellsville Central School and Syracuse University, John was a veteran of World War II. He served on the planning boards for both Wellsville and Allegany County. A 50 year member of the Wellsville Rotary Club, he was also active in local Boy Scouts.

John worked for Richardson Petroleum Corporation from 1948-1986 and was at one time the president of the company. For over 50 years he was a member of the New York State Oil Producers and was named chairman emeritus in 1986. The professional organizations of which he was a member include the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, Society of Petroleum Engineers, the American Petroleum Institute, and the Pennsylvania Grade Crude Oil Association. For this organization he was chairman of the Secondary Recovery Study Group.

New Main Street Sign

Thanks to a very large donation by one of the museum supporters, a new sign was purchased and installed at our Main Street location. Due to its construction, it should really attract attention and last for many years. The sign was designed and built by Jerry Robinson of RAD Grafix in nearby West Clarksville.



Frick-Reid was an oil supply company with a store at the corner of Railroad Avenue and Liberty Street.

Museum Facebook Page

Make sure to keep up with the Museum's new Facebook page ("Pioneer Oil Museum of New York"). We will try to keep everyone informed of the museum's progress and activities during the course of the year. If you are looking for photos of the oil industry, go to the "Bolivar, New York Fan Page" on Facebook which has several albums of nostalgic photos.

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 19-26, 2016

Historic Oil Can Sponsorship Program

Last summer the Pioneer Oil Museum placed on Main Street the first two examples from its "Garbage Can Sponsorship Program." These cans are exact replicas of the smaller oil cans which were produced and sold by the Allegheny Refiners which was located outside of Bolivar and ran from 1933 – 1947. The refinery was built to process "black oil" which was produced locally. Today the refinery, located on Refinery Road, is the home of Klein Cutlery.



The Pioneer Oil Museum is starting this program to place these replica oil cans on Main Street in Bolivar as a means of supporting our local heritage as well as beautifying our community. The museum is inviting businesses, families or individuals to sponsor these cans for a price of \$200. The sponsor will have his name placed on the can, and the cans will replace those in various locations on Main Street. This program is the only way to purchase these replica cans.

If interested, please contact the museum via phone or e-mail.

Special Thanks

The Museum would like to thank two local individuals for their fantastic support. Robert Mountain, retired superintendent of Bolivar-Richburg Central School and widowed husband of former Museum board member Diane Mountain, has for many years paid to have the lawn mowed and trimmed at our Main Street location. With our rainy weather, this support can become very costly.

Local computer guru, Forest Shaner, designed our new Museum website several years ago, and to this day he continues to update it based on our suggestions and ideas. Although he has spent many hours on the site, he has never charged us a cent for his efforts.

The Museum Board of Directors can't begin to say thanks enough to these two men.

Cynthia Lubricating Oil Works

The Cynthia Oil Works, the first refinery in Bolivar Township, was erected on the flats at the north end of Bolivar village in 1882. The first run of crude oil was made the last day of September of that year at a location just south of Salt Rising Road. The plant, owned by B.W. Baum & Son, dealers in oil leases and managers of the first opera house in Richburg, was designed as a lubricating oil works. The capacity of the stills was 85 barrels a day.

When the plant was completed, Baum & Son had nearly 10,000 barrels of high grade crude in storage, oil that had been salvaged or dipped from a dam on Little Genesee Creek near the works - the overflow from tanks up the valley. The remainder of the oil was purchased from "dippers." Before the refinery was built, an apparatus had been invented that recovered 90 barrels a day of overflow crude from the creek dam for shipment to a Buffalo oil works.

(*Empire Oil*, 1949, pp. 261-62)

If the Baum name sounds familiar, it is because the Baum "Son" was L. Frank Baum, later to become better-known as the author of The Wizard of Oz.

Museum Receives Manley Grant

Last spring the museum received a Manley Grant in the amount of \$4000. These funds were used to upgrade and reprint three museum publications. The museum's children's activity book entitled "Yellow Dog's Great Adventure" was edited and redesigned by BR High School art teacher Jeff Margeson and students in his digital media class. Recent BR graduate and graphic artist Sean Lounsberry designed a new version of our visitors' brochure, "Pioneer Oil Museum of New York." Lastly the brochure "The Bolivar Story" was upgraded and colorized.

The Manley Grant was started by former Bolivar residents Fred T. and Anna C. Manley. After Mr. Manley retired from the Texas Oil Company, he and his wife moved to Bolivar in 1939. Mrs. Manley established this charitable trust to assist non-profits in Allegheny and Cattaraugus counties.

Museum Added to State Tourism Website

Recently the Museum was added to New York State's primary tourism resource, "Pathway Through History." The website (listed below) can be searched by

theme, attraction, region or event. Hopefully the number of visitors who visit us each year will increase greatly.

Check it out - "paththroughhistory.iloveny.com"

Memorials 2015

In memory of Joseph McArdle
by Robert Mountain

In memory of Forest J. Wilson and Keith Wilson
by Virginia Wilson Powell

In memory of Tom Hungerford
by Jim and Molly Euken

In memory of Francis Maher
by Robert Mountain

In memory of Patricia Hungerford Smyke
by Camela and David Moskin

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Bucher
by Joseph J. Bucher

In memory of Frank Hungerford
by Camela and David Moskin

In memory of Michael Fitzsimmons
by Mary Fitzsimmons family and children

In memory of Bill Acker
by Kris and Rick Gould

In memory of Robert MacDonell
by John and Alice Dunbar

In memory of Ray Payne and Dick Fitch
by Barry and Joan Jordan

In memory of Steve Robinson
by Robert Mountain

In memory of Francis Reesher
by Louie and Barbara Schiralli

In memory of Jon Lindquist
by Sue Lindquist

In memory of Doug Fitzsimmons
by Joseph Quinlan

In memory of Camela and David Moskin

In memory of John Bowen
by Mary Bowen and family

In memory of Joseph Dempsey
by John and Alice Dunbar

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
Jim Gabriel (Bulldog Oil)
Energy Rentalls LLC

Silver - \$500.00

Dorchester Minerals Operating, LLP
James Kinley

Bronze - \$200.00

Seneca Resources Corp. East
Bradford Pipe & Supply
Root Water Specialists
James Ingalls

Cline Oil Co.
Root Contracting
Allen Oil Corp.

Other

Joseph Quinlan Nunda Auto Parts
Rinker Oil Penn Gold Well Services
James McAndrews Richardson & Stout

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 an antique oil tanker truck. Limited space impacts what we can accept, but we are on the look-out for unique oilfield equipment.

DONATIONS 2015

OIL BARON - \$501 or more

John Bradley
George Bradley
Village of Bolivar
Bolivar-Richburg Central School

WILDCATTER - \$51-100

Chuck Thompson	Bob & Kelly Ingalls
Jim Hungerford	Joe & Eileen Schaffner
Ron Stabley	Bob & Fran Dean
Karen Sarrafian	Fred & Mimi Shaner
Beatrice West	Dan & Julie Baldwin
Tom Dunn	
Rich & Michele Dunbar	
Steve and Terrie Morrison	
Joan Gollaher	
Jeff Bradley	

WELL PLUGGER—\$25 or less

John and Anna Boll
Edith Freaney
Janet Herne
Miriam Gray
Diane Glintz
Donna Petzen
Norene Ferris

New York Glycerin Co. Inc.

EXPLOSIVE MANUFACTURERS
OIL AND GAS WELL SHOOTING
Home Owned and Operated
PATRONIZE ALLEGANY COUNTY INDUSTRIES

Phone 115 _____ Bolivar, N. Y.
Phone 594 _____ Wellsville, N. Y.

BR Education Foundation Makes Second Donation

For the second time in the last few years the Bolivar-Richburg Central School Educational Foundation has made a donation to the museum in the amount of \$5000. This program provided hands-on learning and carpentry skills for local students. Some of the previous donation was used to purchase technology and computer equipment. The Museum greatly appreciates this support.

Above - ad for New York Glycerin Company from 1941 Bolivar Breeze;
Right - ad for Empire Gas and Fuel Company from 1943 Bolivar Breeze

SHOOTER - \$101-500

Wilber & Bev Dawson	Joe Yehl
Donna & Dominic DiGirolamo	Rick & Lois Whitney
Denny Griesbaum	Barb Claire
William & Rebecca Coleman	Robert Mountain
Kelly & Lois Lounsberry	
Madison Community Foundation	

ROUSTABOUT - \$26-50

Wayne & Jean Milliman	Irv Shelp
Barbara and Lou Schiralli	Betty Ferris
Bob and Charlotte Meade	David Dean
Phyllis Sexton	Sean Lounsberry
Dave & Chris Evans	Nancy & Bill Walsh
Jerry and Laverne Chadderdon	
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Dick	
Little Genesee Garden Club	

GAS *Has Gone To* WAR



To help make the Planes and Tanks and Guns your sons and brothers need to win . . .

And Now

Uncle Sam

Makes

An Important Request
To
Gas Consumers

VICTORY

**Conserve All The Natural Gas You Can
For The Rest Of The Winter Season!**

Why?

Because there is a serious shortage of natural gas in many parts of Western New York—a shortage that threatens to interfere with the production of vital war materials—a shortage that can be avoided only with the help of **all** natural gas consumers in the whole area. Reserves must be conserved to meet the demands that always come in February and March.

How You Can Help

Any gas conserved by our customers can be made available through existing connections to relieve shortages in other parts of Western New York. We pledge our best efforts to see that the savings you make will be used where they will help the war effort the most.

Methods

You know best how you can save natural gas. We can only suggest some possible ways—

1. Heat only those parts of your home you use regularly.
2. Reduce temperature when you are not at home, and at night.
3. Keep shades drawn, particularly at night.
4. Keep use of hot water to minimum.
5. Close fireplace flues when not in use.
6. Shut off heat in garage.

Several other suggestions for those few extremely cold days—

1. Delay home laundering.
2. Economize on gas for cooking by your choice of foods.
3. Avoid use of ovens.

A Small Sacrifice On Your Part— And — A Chance To Really
Help Win The War!

Empire Gas And Fuel Co., Ltd.



Checking out an old engine that powered a bandwheel power on the Vosburg Lease



Not even a downpour could stop the Rushford Cornet Band



The Shaner family in attendance as their ancestor Albert (A.L.) Shaner is honored



The Southport Senior Citizens group (from Elmira) toured in late September



A Gould Triplex water pump donated by oilman Joe Bucher



One of the pieces of oil field equipment on display on parade day

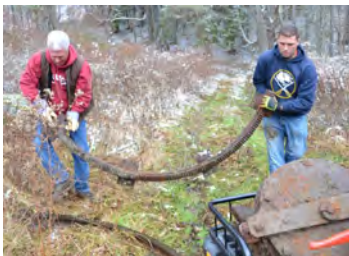


Gary Herne accepts the Wall of Fame plaque for his great-grandfather Frank Putnam

2015 -
Parade Day may have been a wash-out, but it was still a busy year for the museum



Installation of the new Main Street sign



Museum board members retrieve a variety of pieces of equipment near Bradford



The family of Robert "Tubby" Murphy the night of the Wall of Fame inductions



Neither men nor women drivers were intimidated by the weather at the tractor pull



It was difficult to keep dry on parade day.



The passenger waiting room and ticket agent's office in the PS&N depot

NYSOPA TO Honor Wall of Fame Inductees

WINE-AND-CHEESE TASTING TICKETS

Friday, June 24, 2016

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: 9:30-4:30

Friday: 9:30-4:30

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 2016 class of inductees includes Jim Kinley, Les Grover, Earl Harriger, and Howard Compton.

Last year's class included Albert (A.L.) Shaner, Frank Putnam, Glen Benson, Robert "Tubby" Murphy. 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 24, at **6:00** immediately before the wine-and-cheese tasting that is described in the column to 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 family of Glen Benson in attendance at his induction into the NYSOPA Wall of Fame