



SPRING 2021  
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WWW.PIONEEROILMUSEUM.COM

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

# Pioneer Oil Museum of New York

## Pandemic Closed Museum for Summer

As with every other individual, business, and organization around the country, the Museum was greatly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. After much discussion, by late March last year's week-long Pioneer Oil Days celebration was cancelled. After similar soul-searching, it was decided to keep the museum closed all summer. All of our volunteers are older, and the Board didn't feel that it was prudent to put them into situations where their health may have been compromised. At this time, we are not sure

if the museum will open for summer 2021, although we are cautiously optimistic.

The pandemic impacted us in several ways. First, the Museum was unable to accomplish many planned projects. Second, visitors always spread the news of their visit by word-of-mouth, and of course, we didn't get any of that positive publicity. Finally, many individuals and businesses were hurt by the economic collapse and were unable to support us financially. This loss of support will be VERY difficult to make up.

## Joyce Building Exhibits Upgraded

Although the museum was technically closed for the summer, lots was still happening, and several projects did get completed. Perhaps the largest project accomplished was an overhaul of the Joyce Exhibit Building. In order to get more space to move equipment around, the Wesche exhibit had a "boat" built underneath it. Constructed on casters, it allows for that large exhibit to be moved around in the building providing room for fork lifts and tractors to move newly-

donated equipment. Museum Board member and railroad aficionado, Robert Richards, then spent numerous hours painting the railroad section of the exhibit, as well as installing "ballast" under the rails to make them look more authentic.

The engines in the Rumsey collection were also moved to help provide more space. The oilfield engine collection was re-organized, and all engines in working condition were started to keep them in shape for next summer.

## Historic Triangle #1 Site Restored and Re-Dedicated

Last fall, the museum celebrated the "re-dedication" of the Triangle #1 monument and associated New York State Historic Marker. These two items commemorate Orville P. (O.P.) Taylor and his drilling of the first major oil well of the Allegheny County field in 1879.

Upon inspection of the site, it was found that the concrete monument was badly eroded, thus necessitating its restoration by reforming

and repainting for future protection. The New York State Historic Marker was also sandblasted, painted, and clear coated, so it will last for many years.

The museum board decided to further protect the historic stonework for future generations. Using materials donated by Cummins Construction of Cuba, a pavilion was built over the monument. On the inside of the pavilion, numerous pho-

tographs and documents related to the drilling of Triangle #1 and the life of O.P. Taylor were placed in weather-proof, exterior picture frames mounted on the wall. A section of artificial turf, originally part of the BRCS football field and donated by Evingham Site Excavation, was installed on the ground inside the pavilion providing a completed walking surface for visitors.

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

### Other Happenings at the Museum

In addition to the work accomplished at Triangle #1 and the Joyce Exhibit Building, lots of other exiting events took place.

The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce and Office of Tourism visited the museum in September and filmed the tour. A series of short videos they produced may be viewed on our Facebook page.

Last fall our two state representatives, Senator George Borrello and Assemblyman Joe Giglio, took an in-depth visit to each museum venue. Both men learned a great deal about our local heritage, and as Senator Borrello noted, "The American oil industry was born in our region and our communities grew with it. Most of the grand old homes lining the streets of Bolivar and Wellsville were built by early oil titans."



Some board members spent time searching the woods looking for equipment that still may be restored into working condition. This can be quite a chore because much of this equipment has been idle for many years, subjected to the ravages of our weather. These members looked not only for oilfield engines, but also for any other unique pieces that were used in the local industry. We realize that much of this equipment will never run again, but they can provide more information and a unique perspective on the infrastructure that built the oil and gas empire that developed in this region.

Several local oil and gas field veterans passed away during the past year. Included in this group were Norm Mesler, Will Burdick, Dean Phillips, and Jim Euken. An anonymous donor established a foundation in Euken's name through the Allegany County Area Foundation. This will provide funding to the museum each year. Those interested may donate to the ACAF in Jim's name, or directly to the museum.

Plans are underway to install a new roof on the Pittsburgh, Shawmut and Northern Railroad depot in the spring. Combined with the nearly \$25,000 spent to stabilize the floor and foundation over the past few years, the new roof will protect the building (built in 1900) until funding to renovate the structure can be acquired.

### Wall of Fame Nominations Needed

The New York State Oil Producers' Association is looking for names for prospective inductees into its Wall of Fame. These individuals should have made significant contributions to the oil/gas industries in either New York or Pennsylvania. Please contact the museum with your nominations.

## **Bayard Haskins, Previous Wall of Fame Inductee**

Bayard Haskins served in the U.S. Army in France for two years during World War I. He also graduated from Columbia University where he played varsity baseball for two years.

Bayard followed his father into the oil business.

He was an officer of Ebenezer Oil Company for 60 years including chairman of the board for ten years.

During that time he was also a partner in four local oil companies.



He was a board member of First Trust Union Bank for 30 years and chairman for 12 years. In the Wellsville area he also served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Air Preheater Company. He was a trustee of both the David Howe Library in Wellsville and Alfred University board.

## **Hours of Operation**

■ Memorial Day (June 1) - October 3

■ Monday-Friday: 10:00 - 4:00

■ Saturdays: 12:00 - 4:00

Sundays: 1:00 - 4:00

■ Call the museum at 585-610-2038 and leave a message 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 20-27

SUBJECT TO  
CHANGE!

## Arthur E. Yahn, Jr. Previous Wall of Fame Inductee

Arthur E. Yahn Jr. followed in his father's footsteps as a leader in the local oil and gas industry. Like his father, he was an officer and director in the Messer Oil Corporation as well as DYMO Oil Corporation.

Arthur was a graduate of Princeton University, and he attended Wharton Business and Harvard Law Schools. He served on the Olean Board of Education for nearly ten years, and he was president of that group at one time. He was a member of the Olean Kiwanis Club, the Olean Trap Club, and a director for Columbia Gas.



He was also a member of the St. Vincent DePaul Society, and he attended St. John's Church.

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.

## Ray Collins And His Gang

Ray Collins and his boys are still pushing on the home front to get that oil out of the ground that Uncle Sam needs so badly. Probably his newest headache is the development started on the mountains of California Hollow. The flood pattern has been laid out and, from the conversation and remarks of "Pop", each one is worse than the last, but knowing "Pop" and his gang, they will all be brought in some time. "Whitey" Johnson seems to have drawn the job of supervising the pulling of the old natural wells on this property, some sixteen of which are being junked and old oil and gas lines taken up to make room for the new development. Three core wells have been drilled and things will move soon.

The oil field is still handicapped for want of men but everyone is digging in a little harder. Harold Emery is keeping track of material in addition to other work and Carlyle Myers is all over the field.

Between September 13th and October 17th the Wellsville end has completed seven wells on the McBride, two on the Rolls, three on the Simerson and one on the Angel. On the Bolivar end, three wells have been brought in on the Smith Gray and two on the Koehler. Two wells have been finished on the Sage.

November 1944 article from the "Beacon" published by Bradley Empire Appliance Co.; note the items related to WWII (lots of oil production needed, but not enough workers); also the large number of new wells drilled on these water-flooded properties

## "Amazon Smile" Support the Museum

One great way to support the museum while you shop online at Amazon is to use the "Amazon Smile" feature.

When you use this feature, Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to the museum. Amazon Smile is the same Amazon you know with the same products and same prices.

Just remember that you must always start at

"smile.amazon.com" to support the museum. Just type the phrase "pioneer oil museum" when asked which charity you wish to support. Many thanks for your assistance!

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

## New York State Oil Producers' Association

### Platinum - \$5000.00

Mr. & Mrs. Dean Phillips  
Otis Eastern Service/Charlie Joyce

### Silver - \$500.00

Joe Bucher

### Other

Jim Hungerford  
Woods Oil Co.  
James Walchli  
James McAndrew  
Pennsylvania Independent Petroleum Producers

### Gold- \$1000.00

Hill Drilling  
Charles B. Giardini, Inc.  
John Allen  
McCracken Energy  
Thomas Halloran, Jr. (Aqua-Clear Inc.)  
Benson Construction & Development  
Dorchester Minerals Operating L.P.

Ronald Stuck  
Cline Oil Co.  
Rinker Oil Co.



## Memorials 2020

In memory of Dean Phillips  
 by John and Carol Potter  
 by Gas Feld Specialists, Inc.  
 by Maureen Kelley  
 by Beatrice West  
 by Tom and Kay Allen  
 by Kelly and Lois Lounsberry  
 by Nathan Way, Novity Wealth Solutions  
 by Jim and Sandy Arthur

In memory of Will Burdick  
 by Barbara Schiralli  
 by Karen and Stephan Sarrafian  
 by Kelly and Lois Lounsberry  
 by Kris and Rick Gould  
 by Joe Bucher  
 by Paul and Eloise Plants

In memory of Jim Euken  
 by Charles Thompson  
 by New York State Oil Producers' Association  
 by Rick and Lois Whitney  
 by Paul and Eloise Plants  
 by Kelly and Lois Lounsberry  
 by Margaret Bryner  
 by Judith Carr  
 by Terese Kelly  
 by Pete and Margaret Bowen  
 by Jim and Sandy Arthur  
 by Karen Perrigo  
 by Roger and Julie Hoshal  
 by Joe Bucher

In memory of Betsy Bucher  
 by James Pizzolanti

In memory of Lee Evans  
 By Jamie and Bonnie Foster



One of the museum's long-range goals is to rescue old oil/gas field equipment such as this 30 HP Cooper-Bessemer engine (still in a power-house) and give it a new home at the museum

### Collecting Oil and Gas Field Memorabilia

The museum is always on the lookout for cans, signs, or any other memorabilia from the local fields in New York and Pennsylvania. In fact we will accept "petroliana" from just about everywhere. Check your old barns, cellars, and garages, and then head to the museum to give your treasures a new secure home where they can be enjoyed by many people. Why just keep them to yourselves when others can enjoy them? Just think of us as this oil region's "American Pickers."



### Bolivar's Industries

(One A Week)

The Stinson & Bell Torpedo Shell factory is a going concern. It was established in 1914 by Hills & Bell and is still furnishing shells for glycerine companies operating in the Allegheny oil field.

W. R. Maxson, a Bolivar boy, is shop foreman and at present, besides the office force, four or five men are employed in factory work.

They also handle the Eternit and Johns-Manville roofing, Oil-O-Matic heating, Pennsylvania fuel oil, specializing in copper, galvanized work and electrical installation.

The firm is always optimistic and interested in keeping Bolivar growing and on the map.

Above - two photos showing the revamped Wesche exhibit and reorganized engine collections; refer to the article on page one  
 Left - from April 23, 1931: one of a series in the Bolivar Breeze entitled "One A Week" highlighting Bolivar businesses; this business made torpedoes that held nitroglycerin for shooting wells

## DONATIONS 2020

### **OIL BARON - \$501 or more**

Mr. & Mrs. Lew Barnes  
Heritage Aflame  
Madison Community Foundation  
- (Marcia Bradley)  
Jim Ingalls  
Bolivar Lions Club  
Lorraine Joyce  
James Hahn

### **WILDCATTER - \$51-100**

Dan & Judi Dempsey	Tom Miller
Chuck Thompson	Tom Manning
Dave & Chris Evans	Dennis Griesbaum
Jim & Sharon Leonard	Beatrice West
Robert Selden	Sarah Kinley
Cheryl Wesche	Robert Harriger
Kenny's Friendly Service	Crelly Nagle

### **WELL PLUGGER—\$25 or less**

Edith Freaney  
Mr. & Mrs. John Boll

### **SHOOTER - \$101-500**

Stiles Bradley	Joe Yehl
Beverly Dawson	Bob Mountain
Jim Codispoti	Sue Lindquist
Rick & Lois Whitney	Bill & Pam Graffius
Steve & Terrie Morrison	Rick & Kris Gould
Dr. Richard Freeman	Kevin Langworthy
Joe & Eileen Schaffner	Amy & Randy Spagg
Kelly & Lois Lounsberry	
Mr. & Mrs. Dominic DiGirolamo	
Clear Creek Land Surveying, LLC	

### **ROUSTABOUT - \$26-50**

Carol LaGrasse	Mike Fuoco
Barb Schiralli	Monica Corwin
Larry Poelma	Scott MacDonell
Dick & Sally Harmon	Deborah Fenner
Jamie & Bonnie Dunbar	Jean Sexton
Bob & Charlotte Mead	Diane Glintz
Georgia Phillips	Nancy Walsh
Penn Brad Museum	Nancy Repp

## Volunteers Needed to Keep Museum Open

Looking for something to do this summer? Would you like to get out of the house once a week? **We are in great need of volunteers to fill in a weekly slot.** We have lost a couple of our long-time volunteers and are scrambling to find new help. We are also looking for substitutes when one of our "regulars" can't work. Each volunteer works just **one three-hour block of time per week.**

Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers, we are now able to stay open both Saturday and Sunday afternoons. We still need more people to help out on the weekends, and we need a list of future volunteers willing to be tutored by our current staff. For the past

few years we have stayed open an additional month (September) as visitors travel through on fall days, and we plan on doing that again this year.

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 the museum calls and asks for your assistance, please volunteer, because without your help, the museum couldn't survive.

## NYSOPA TO Honor Wall of Fame Inductees

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 2020-2021 class of inductees includes Jim Joyce, Clarence (C.O.) Fulton, Weldon Foster, Riley Allen, and Will Burdick.

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 25, 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 complex.

The last class inducted was in 2019, and that group included Thomas Crowley, R.B. Moore, Grant Wisel, and Melford "Coon" Taylor. A large audience turned out that evening to witness the induction ceremonies.

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.



Museum board members Randy White, Dave Collins, and Joe Bucher work on starting a large Fairbanks Morse engine donated by Mr. Bucher; this was used to run a power house on King's Run Road for 30 years

**TENTATIVE EVENT -  
MAY BE CANCELLED  
AT ANY TIME**

### WINE-AND-CHEESE TASTING TICKETS

Friday, June 25, 2021  
6:30 - 8:00 Hahn & Schaffner Site

\$18 per ticket - available May 24

**Once again this year a variety of hard ciders will be available for tasting.** These will be an addition to the tasty snacks and variety of cheeses along with a sampling of NYS wines.

Tickets may be purchased several ways:

- ♦ writing to the museum at the address below
- ♦ stopping at the Bolivar Free Library during regular hours
- ♦ stopping at the museum once in opens for the season after Memorial Day
- ♦ on-line by emailing the museum at [Pioneeroilmuseum.com](mailto:Pioneeroilmuseum.com)
- ♦ Personal messaging the museum through our Facebook page

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 and Friday: 9:30-4:30



The pavilion built over the historic Triangle #1 monument to help in its preservation; refer to the article on page one for more information