



SPRING 2023
VOLUME 22, ISSUE 1
WWW.PIONEEROILMUSEUM.COM

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

Pioneer Oil Museum of New York

MUSEUM TO MERGE VENUES AND DEVELOP DESTINATION ATTRACTION

The museum's big news this year is that after many years of trying to run two venues (the Main Street building as well as the Hahn & Schaffner site), these two locations will be merged into one as the museum continues to expand for the future.

The Main Street location is small and landlocked with no room for expansion, so that building will be closed, and all artifacts and exhibits will be moved to the Hahn and Schaffner site. There, a large annex will be built onto our main building. This will house numerous exhibits including many of the artifacts and

photographs from Main Street, creating a completely new experience for our visitors.

The Hahn and Schaffer complex includes seven buildings, with five open to the public. The plan is to continue the expansion there, with work proceeding on certain buildings and different projects. The goal is to develop a destination location to draw visitors to Allegany County.

This "new" museum site has a great deal of open, flat space that is ideal for outdoor exhibits. One long-range goal is to develop more working exhibits that will appeal to the public, and

these will fit nicely into the open areas.

We have already begun to collect antique oilfield equipment to display on the grounds, but there is a great deal of unique equipment still out in the local fields. (See photo on page six.)

Don't worry that the Main Street building will sit vacant. The Bolivar, Richburg, Allentown, and Genesee (BRAG) Historical Society will move into that building and occupy the new wing. At this time, discussions are underway with individuals who may be interested in use of other spaces in that building.

JOYCE BUILDING EXPANSION CONTINUES

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

As part of the master plan for the museum (refer to the article above), the Joyce Exhibit Building remains a priority for development. With a number of engines in there (with more possibly on the way), the ability to run these for visitors is very important. That being said, just a couple of weeks before Pioneer Oil Days last June, this building was plumbed with propane, air, and water lines run throughout part of the building. That allowed the museum to run three antique engines the night of the Wall of Fame inductions and wine-and-cheese tasting. They were certainly a hit with our guests!

Last fall an enclosure with sound deadening insulation was constructed in the Joyce Building. This will allow us to talk to our visitors at the same time compressors are running the engines or the Wesche exhibit, making a visit to that building a much more enjoyable experience.



Flood Damage Repairs

Devastating floods in July 2021 and February 2022 severely damaged the museum's Hahn & Schaffner site.

Hardest hit was the main building, the only building that has a finished interior. (Much of the flood damage and restorations were described in last year's newsletter.) Damaged wallboard and insulation were removed, and then a metal board and batten section was installed on every wall in the building.



Many walls were in need of refreshing, so some areas were repainted. Finally, the floors were repainted in every room in the building.

The parking lot outdoors was ruined by the flooding, so that also needed repair. It was a long, painstaking process, but we are extremely happy with the results, both inside and out.

There is no way to thank all of the individuals, organizations, and companies that helped in the restoration process. Among those that provided support was the Allegany County Area Foundation which provided financial assistance. We are very fortunate to have so many supporters.



Flood Prevention Measures

With the unpredictable weather and related storms that we have experienced the past few years, the museum has installed some preventative flooding measures.

Among other factors, the floods of the past two years were directly related to a nearby bridge that hangs too low and prevents debris from flowing downstream. Branches are caught on some of the bridge's support system, backing up the water and causing the floods. That bridge has been upgraded to limit flooding along with more work to be completed on it this summer.

A system of berms and swales (low-lying, shallow ditches that manage flood waters) was installed on the museum grounds last fall. Hopefully these changes will help eliminate the flooding.

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.

William Jack Plants, Previous Wall of Fame Inductee

William Jack Plants (1921-2002) was a veteran of World War II, serving in the United States Air Force. A bombardier during the war, he was shot down over Italy and held as a prisoner of war for 14 months.

William was a senior lieutenant for the Buffalo Power Squadron, and in 1959, he founded the Southern Tier Group of the Buffalo Power Squadron, eventually receiving recognition for his 30 years of service as past commander of that organization.

He was also a director and president of the New York State Oil Producers' Association, and in 1987, he was honored for his long and faithful service to that group. Each year, the Oil Producers endow a scholarship to Alfred University in his name. He was director, vice-president, president, and chairman of the board for over 40 years at Ebenezer Oil Company.



Museum Information

- Hours of operation to be determined!
- If you'd like to visit the museum, call 585-610-2038 and leave a message. We love to entertain groups of people as long as we have advance notice.
- E-mail: bolivaroil@yahoo.com Pioneer Oil Days: June 18-25
- Facebook: Pioneer Oil Museum of New York
- Website: pioneeroilmuseum.com

SUBJECT TO
CHANGE!

Bolivar's Industries

(One A Week)

The Belmont Lumber Co., although with their main yards in Belmont, they have in Bolivar a most complete stock of builders' supplies and also handle lumber, coal and cement. The company employ several men throughout the year and as the business of the firm is on a steady increase, it can be classed as one of Bolivar's busiest industries. A. R. Sherwood is president of the company and Edward M. Campbell is local manager. In speaking of local conditions a representative of the company recently predicted a building record in this community during the coming season.

Above - from April 30, 1931; one of a series in the Bolivar Breeze entitled "One A Week" highlighting Bolivar businesses; this company was located adjacent to the museum's Hahn & Schaffner site; the building is still there today

Triangle #1 Vandalized

In July, the historic Triangle #1 site in Petrolia was vandalized as the concrete monument was destroyed, and the bronze plaque anchored to it was stolen.

In the fall, a mason repaired the concrete, and over the winter, a new plaque will be designed for the monument. It is unfortunate that this occurred, as the plaque and monument were erected in the 1930's to celebrate the site of the first commercial well (1879) in the Allegany field. It was this well that led the way to the Richburg Discovery Well

of 1881, which opened the flood-gates to the local oil industry.



The Manley Grant

Each year for the past ten years or so, the museum has been awarded a grant from the F.T. and Anna C. Manley Memorial Fund. The fund was established by Mrs. Manley at the time of her death in 1981, at which time she was 102 years old.

Mr. Manley was born in Shinglehouse, entering the oil business at the age of 12 as a water boy for a United Gas Company pipe line crew. Eventually he made his way to the famous Spindle Top oil field in Texas. He worked his way up the corporate ladder, eventually becoming vice-president of the Texas Oil Co. Upon his retirement, the Manleys returned to Bolivar, living in Mrs. Manley's family home.

The museum has received grants from this fund covering everything from a computer and printer, to a security system at the Hahn & Schaffner site, to printing of our children's activity book, to funds used to complete our replica nitroglycerin plant.

Members of New York State Oil Producers' Association

Platinum - \$5000.00

Otis Minnesota Services, LLC
- (Charlie Joyce)

Bronze - \$200.00

Bill Barnes
Hill Drilling
Howard Drilling
Nathan Petroleum Corp.
Cline Oil Co.
Bradford Pipe and Supply

Gold- \$1000.00

McCracken Energy Services
Joan Gollaher

Silver - \$500.00

International Group

Other

Minard Run Oil Co.
Case Brothers, Inc.
James McAndrew
Bob Giardini
AC Oil, LLC
United Refining Group

WOOD and KING

Wholesale Deliveries

of
Quaker State Products
fuel oil, gasoline and lubricants

**Bulk Plants at - - -
Allentown & Bolivar**

BOLIVAR PHONES

WAREHOUSE 382 - OFFICE 392

WAREHOUSE 85 BOSS STREET - BOLIVAR

Advertisement from the
March 9, 1950 edition of the
Bolivar Breeze

Memorials 2022

In memory of Barb Thomas

by John and Alice Dunbar

In memory of Wayne (Bob) Torrey

by John and Candy Childs (Reich Metals)

In memory of Bob Allen and Ken Gilliland

by Sue Lindquist

In memory of Robert "Tub" Murphy

by Mary Murphy Smith

In memory of Keith Rumsey

by Mark Rumsey

In memory of Ron Stabley, Mike Church, and Marcia O'Brien

by Karen and Stephan Sarrafian

In memory of Howard Compton

by Ralph Compton

In memory of Joe Bucher

by Allegany County Snowmobilers; Bolivar Chapter

by Barb Schiralli

by Jim Pizzolanti

by Gordon and Sherry Slifer (Gardner family)

by Leonard Burlingame

by Greg and Pam Maxson

by Tom Miller

by Sue Drake

by Sue Lindquist

by Paul and Eloise Plants

by New York State Oil Producers' Association

by Ron Wiatrowski

by Alton Maxon Enterprises, LLC

by Blake Edward-Alton Maxson

by Rick and Kris Gould

by Greg Bucher

by Kelly and Lois Lounsberry

In memory of Bucher Family

by Beth and Charlie Emerson

In memory of Earl Harriger

by Robert and Susan Weber

In memory of Herman Edwards

by Robert Edwards

In memory of Dean Phillips

by Betty Phillips

In memory of Diane Mountain and Ed Bartlett

by Dominic and Donna DiGirolamo

In memory of Bob Benson

by Thomas Calkin

by Lucy Benson

by Rip and Sandi Smith

by Stu and Tom Morris (Pennhill Resources)

by Jim and Deb Joyce

by Louis and Angela Monti

by Bill and Niki Barnes

by Suzanne Watson

by Mark Thompson

by SASD Administrative Office

by Tom Miller

by Douglas and Stacey Dickerson

by Harold and Nancy Nolan

by Seneca Highlands Intermediate Unit Nine

by American Refining Group and Employees

by Bradford Pipe and Supply

by Mike and Leslie Riehle

by Friends of Karen Milliman at Lake Region Village

by Don Benson

by New York State Oil Producers' Association

by Ginny Moses

by Kelly and Lois Lounsberry

by Alton Maxson Enterprises, LLC

by Blake Edward-Alton Maxson

by Joe and Eileen Schaffner

In memory of Jerry Hungerford Buffington Chadderdon

by Lynn Buffington

In memory of Carol Greene

by Bob Mountain

by Kelly and Lois Lounsberry

In memory of Burton Lee Yates, Jr.

by Anne Barnes

by Mary Bowen

by John and Robyn Hogan

by Pat and Purification Hogan

In memory of Will Burdick

by Paul and Eloise Plants

by Greg and Pam Maxson

In memory of Beverly Root

by Wende Bush

by Barb Schiralli

DONATIONS 2022

OIL BARON - \$ 501 and more

Dave Keller	Jim Ingalls
Lewis Barnes	Jake Bryner
Heritage Aflame	Bolivar Lions Club
Entergy Corporation	Jim Hahn
Joseph Bucher Estate	
Allegheny County Area Foundation	
Madison Community Foundation	
- (Marcia Bradley)	

WILDCATTER - \$51-100

Eric McEnroe	Jim Leonard
Scott MacDonell	Cheryl Wesche
Sail Energy, LLC	Mike Fuoco
Nancy Shaner Repp	Chuck Thompson
Chuck Loucks	Abigail Taveniku
Dr. Richard Freeman	Steve & Terrie Morrison
Dan & Julia Baldwin	Lance Shaner (Shaner Oil)
Sarah Kinley	Dave & Chris Evans
Georgia Phillips	Bea West
Bob & Charlotte Mead	
Richburg Wirt Historical Society	
PA Independent Petroleum Producers	

WELL PLUGGER - \$25 or less

Edith Freaney
John & Anna Boll



SHOOTER - \$101-500

John & Candy Childs
Fred & Mimi Shaner
Pam Graffius
Jeff Pierson
Sue Lindquist
Bev Dawson
Rick & Lois Whitney
Bob Selden
Rich & Michele Dunbar
Kevin Langworthy
Tom Miller
Mary Lou Shaner Joyce
Joe Yehl
Monica Corwin
BRCS Dress Down Day Fund
Allegheny County Area Foundation (Jim Euken Fund)
Joe & Eileen Schaffner
Bob & Pat Codispoti
Jim Codispoti
Elderlee, Inc.
Kelly & Lois Lounsberry
Sara Delo
Amy Spagg

ROUSTABOUT - \$26-50

Laurie Lounsberry Meehan	Bob Yehl
Carol & Peter LaGrasse	Phil LaBella
Penn Brad Museum	Barb Schiralli
Network for Good	Larry Poelma
Theo Crane	Jean Sexton
Nancy Walsh	Norene Ferris
Margaret Bryner	
Allegheny County Snowmobilers Federation	

On August 20, torrential winds blew through Bolivar leaving in their wake devastation and power outages. Straight line winds sheared off trees and left them strewn all over. At the museum's Hahn & Schaffner site, winds of varying air pressure blew OUT a window in the upstairs apartment sending glass flying in all directions on the road below. It was a freak occurrence, but fortunately no one was hurt (except the window).

WINE-AND-CHEESE TASTING TICKETS

Friday, June 23, 2023

6:30 - 8:00 Hahn & Schaffner Site

\$20 per ticket - available May 22

Once again a number of wines and hard ciders will be available for tasting. These will be many other tasty snacks in addition to several varieties of cheese.

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 it opens for the season after Memorial Day
- ♦ on-line by emailing the museum at 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

NYSOPA TO Honor Wall of Fame Inductees

The Pioneer Oil Museum is pleased and honored once 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 2023 class includes Bob Benson, Bill Cline, Al Fenner, Bob Keller, Dave Hollister, and David Haskins.

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 23, 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.

Last year's class included Jim Joyce, Art Van Tyne, Joe Bucher, Clarence (C.O.) Fulton, Will Burdick, and Riley Allen. This group was expanded from our normal four inductees to six to account for the years we lost due to the pandemic.

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 exploring the facility to learn about the amazing heritage of the local oil fields.



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.

Left - small Fairbanks-Morse Style C engine from the Joe Bucher estate
Right - the Clarence (C.O.) Fulton family displaying his plaque at the induction ceremony



FUND DRIVE 2023

Growth & Development Capital Campaign

It's a very exciting time for the museum as we have great plans for the future. The front-page article explains these plans as we merge our resources and energies and attempt to develop a larger tourist destination. The goal is to help the museum grow by encouraging more visitors, both locally as well as from out of the area. The main component of this project involves the construction of a new wing on our main building at the Hahn & Schaffner site. This wing will house many of the exhibits from Main Street as well as various new items. The cost of the construction of the new addition will be very steep, with other costs of painting, exhibit design, etc. raising the cost much higher. We will seek out grants to complete this project wherever they can be found, but the core of our fund-raising will need to come from supporters like you. Donations of \$1000 or more will be considered as "bedrock" donations. We would greatly appreciate your support whether it is for this capital project or for our general fund used for various needs. Thank you very much!

(Just a clarification – your donation now has NOTHING to do with the wine-tasting during Pioneer Oil Days. Tickets for that event will not be available until late May.)

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Bedrock Levels:

- \$20,000 Level** _____
- \$10,000 Level** _____
- \$5000 Level** _____
- \$2000 Level** _____
- \$1000 Level** _____
- (Other)** _____

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.

GENERAL FUND

- OIL BARON \$501 OR MORE** _____
- SHOOTER \$101-500** _____
- WILDCATTER \$51-100** _____
- ROUSTABOUT \$26-50** _____
- WELL PLUGGER \$25 OR LESS** _____
- MEMORIALS - IN MEMORY OF:** _____

Your name: _____

Address: _____

City, state, Zip: _____

Amount of Donation: _____

A Call for Help

Last September, brothers Jim (BCS Class of '59) and Bob (Class of '62) Codispoti visited the museum. During their visit, the discussion centered around the many people who had worked at Hahn & Schaffner's over the years. Both of these men and their father had worked there years ago. They remembered which building their father had worked in and what kind of work he did. The brothers thought it might be interesting to put out feelers to the public to see how many former employees can be remembered. They also thought of a few names of other former workers from their time there. They returned home to try and brainstorm as many names as they could come up with.

This is definitely a big job, but the museum will compile a list of names as they are submitted. Please feel free to send us the name of any former of Hahn & Schaffner worker you can remember with any additional information (years, jobs, etc.).

FORMER EMPLOYEE NAME(S):

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:



After losing Pioneer Oil Days in 2020 and 2021 to the pandemic, we had wonderful turnouts this past year for the tractor pull, wine-tasting, and Wall of Fame induction ceremony.



Clockwise from upper left—retired judge Mike Nenno and Bolivar native George Bradley at the wine tasting; an antique Otis Eastern truck in the parade; the Art Van Tyne family at the induction ceremony; the Jim Joyce family with their father’s plaque



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