



SPRING 2024  
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WWW.PIONEEROILMUSEUM.COM

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

# Pioneer Oil Museum of New York

## NEW MUSEUM ADDITION WELL UNDERWAY

Construction on the museum's new 40 x 60 foot addition at the Hahn & Schaffner site is well underway and should be completed later this spring. This will house numerous exhibits including many of the artifacts and photographs from Main Street, creating a completely new experience for our visitors. We are working with a professional museum-design company from Buffalo. They will provide guidance as we organize this new venue. We hope to have them design a couple of professionally-created displays for us.

In addition to this new structure, we have a great deal of



outdoor space which is ideal for exhibits. There are seven buildings at the site, with five open to the public. The plan is to continue the expansion on outdoor exhibits with work proceeding on certain buildings and different projects.

We have already begun to collect antique oilfield equipment to display on the grounds, but there is still a great deal of unique equipment out in the local oilfields.

One goal is to spread the knowledge about our unique heritage to other areas and also to increase the number of visitors to Allegany County.



## Open Air Pavilion Built to House Engine

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

This past fall an open-air pavilion was constructed at the museum to house a large Bessemer engine that was donated to the museum years ago by former museum president, Paul Plants. Both the donation of the engine and the construction of the new pavilion were in memory of Paul's long-time partner, George Goodwin, who was inducted into the New York State Oil Producers' Association Wall of Fame in 2010.

Many thanks go to Gas Field Specialists of Shinglehouse, PA for moving

the engine to its new location, which was no small task, and to Ken and Jason Plants for boring the holes for the placement of the poles. A final thanks is for Colin Dul who did a superb job on the construction. The enclosure will be completed in the spring with a permanent fence and gravel base.



## Bolivar's Industries (One A Week)

Another prosperous industry in Bolivar is the firm of Case & Lewis, whose tin and plumbing department is considered second to none in Allegany county. John Thomas is in charge of this department, a plumber well known to the trade. Case & Lewis are distributors, also, for the Silent Automatic Oil Burner and are considered the largest retailers of the Burk Water Systems in the state, having won a prize for two consecutive years.

Besides the plumbing, roofing and heating systems, they install and service the well known Copeland refrigerator.

The success of this firm is due to the excellent service rendered by up-to-date workmanship.

Above - from May 21, 1931; one of a series in the Bolivar Breeze entitled "One A Week" highlighting Bolivar businesses



Brice Benson, son of Wall of Fame inductee Bob Benson, did a wonderful job in his speech honoring his father

### Triangle #1 Repaired

In 2022, the monument at the historic Triangle #1 site was vandalized as the concrete was destroyed, and the bronze plaque anchored to it was stolen. Eventually a mason repaired the concrete, and a new granite plaque was installed, competing the restoration process. Many thanks to all involved in the repair of this historic display.

The plaque and monument were erected in the 1930's to celebrate the site of the first successful commercial well (1879) in the Allegany field. It was this well that led the way to the Richburg Discovery Well of 1881, which changed the Bolivar-Richburg valley forever.



### 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.

## John C. Bradley, Wall of Fame Previous Inductee

John C. Bradley (1893-1965) was one of the leading area oil producers of his time. An Army veteran, John drilled his first well, a gas producer, while he was still in high school.

Eventually he became involved with a variety of oil and gas professional organizations both locally and at the state level. He was the chairman of Empire Gas & Fuel Company and president and chairman of Bradley Producing Company. He was a member and officer of both the New York State Oil Producers' Association and the Pennsylvania Grade Crude Oil Association.

Outside the oil industry, John became a senior director of Citizen's National Bank in Wellsville. He was a member of the Bolivar Country Club and fire department, the Olean City Club, and several Masonic organizations.



### Museum Information

HOURS: THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 9:00-4:00  
SATURDAY 9:00-3:00



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 23-30  
Facebook: Pioneer Oil Museum of New York  
Website: pioneeroilmuseum.com



## Oil and Gas Well Supplies

Power and Pressure Plant Equipment  
and Installations

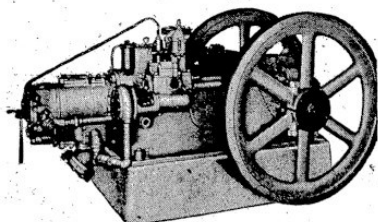
Reid Powers and Convertible Engines, Aldrich  
Pressure Pumps, Permutit Filters, Youngstown  
Tubular Goods, Wire Ropes and Manila Cordage.

• Reid Gas or Oil Engines give you the cheapest  
horsepower costs. Aldrich Pumps give you the  
greatest volume of water at lowest cost.

### R. B. MOORE

PHONE 290 --- BOLIVAR, N. Y.

## Pioneers in the Pennsylvania Oil Field



### Joseph Reid Pumping Powers and Engines

When you see the epic story of the early days of the Pennsylvania Oil Fields in "High, Wide and Handsome," remember that Joseph Reid Engines and Powers are pioneers in the field for Drilling and Pumping Equipment. Please remember, also, that R. B. Moore, distributor for Reid Engines, is the pioneer Oil Well Supply firm in the Allegheny Field.

### R. B. MOORE

Phone 290, Bolivar, N. Y.

R. B. Moore, local agent for the Reid gas engine, is building a warehouse, 12x30 feet in size, in which to store Reid engines, powers and parts. The new building is located on the Moore lot, formerly the Santarsiere property, on Second street in this village.

Last fall the museum purchased a Reid gas engine at the Don Baldwin auction in Wellsville. This large engine was used on a Kendall pressure plant on Bootleg Hollow (what a great name) near Duke Center, PA. This was supposedly the first water flood operation in that state. There is a local connection with Bolivar as the R.B. Moore Company sold Reid engines.

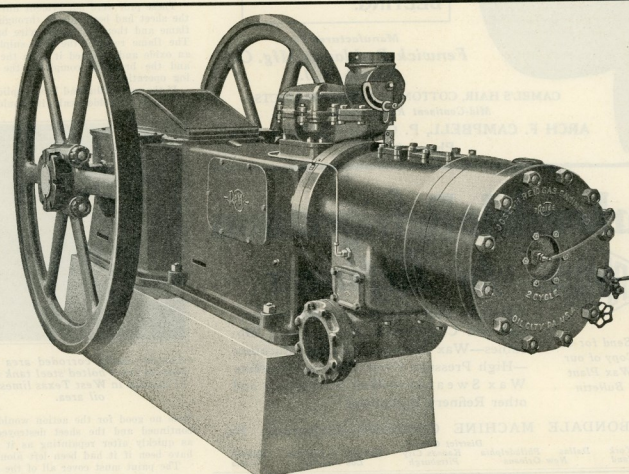
Above left - three R.B. Moore ads and articles from the Bolivar Breeze; top right - ad from the December 20, 1928 edition of "The Oil & Gas Journal," a national publication

# THE REID

## Type C Enclosed Two Cycle Gas Engine

### 11 Outstanding Advantages of the Type C Engine

1. Entirely enclosed bed plate.
2. Splash oiling system.
3. Replaceable steel-backed, babbitt-lined main bearings.
4. Bored cross-head guide.
5. Reid governor, enclosed and running in oil bath.
6. Intake valve on top of cylinder.
7. Improved speed wheel arrangement.
8. Detachable cylinder head.
9. Greater power and economy.
10. Unprecedented speed range.
11. Dependable Wico ignition.



### "Another Reid"

Those operators who know the qualities of The Reid Type C Enclosed Gas Engine—the speed—power—flexibility—operating smoothness—ability to handle heavy work—have no difficulty in deciding what equipment to use in the next installation—another Reid, of course.

Two Sizes  
40 H.P. 45 H.P.

Write for  
Bulletin No. 37a

### JOSEPH REID GAS ENGINE COMPANY, OIL CITY, PENNSYLVANIA, U. S. A.

BRANCHES—Marietta, Newark, and Logan, Ohio; Charleston, W. Va.; Shreveport, La.; S. R. Shoup, 724 Board of Trade Building, Los Angeles, California.

BRANCH SHOP—Tulsa, Oklahoma.  
DISTRIBUTORS—Frick-Reid Supply Corp., Pitts-

burgh, Pa., and Tulsa, Oklahoma. Distributors for Bradford and Pittsburgh, Pa., Kentucky, Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, Arkansas and Wyoming. Distributed in California by The Republic Supply Company of California. Office address, 2122 East Seventh St., Los Angeles, Cal. R. B. Moore, Bolivar, N. Y.

EXPORT SALES REPRESENTATIVE: Oilfield Equipment Co., Inc., 30 Church Street, New York City.

## REID OIL FIELD MACHINERY



# Memorials 2023

In memory of Joe Bucher

by Jim Pizzolanti

by Rick and Kris Gould

by Kelly and Lois Lounsberry

In memory of Earl Harriger

by Robert & Susan Weber

by Tim & Dianne Safford

by Rick & Lois Whitney

In memory of Timothy Quaintance

by ARG and Employees

In memory of Bob and Nancy MacDonell

by Kelly & Lois Lounsberry

In memory of Howard Compton

by Ralph Compton

In memory of the Bucher family

by Greg Bucher

In memory of Bob Benson

by Blake Edward-Alton Maxson

by Alton Maxson Enterprises, LLC

In memory of Cy Dawson

by Kelly & Lois Lounsberry

by Bob Mountain

In memory of Bob Keller

by Dave Keller

In memory of Don and Pat Lounsberry

by Karen & Stephan Sarrafian

In memory of Willard Cline

by Joyce Cline

In memory of Robert "Tub" Murphy

by Mary Smith

In memory of Bill Hogan

By Joseph Bowen

## Donations to Growth & Development Capital Project 2023

Bucher Family Trust	\$100,000.00	Charlie Joyce (Otis-MN)	\$7500.00
Joyce Cline	\$5000.00	Betty Phillips	\$5000.00
Manley Grant	\$5000.00	McCracken Energy	\$2000.00
Kelly & Lois Lounsberry	\$2000.00	Heritage Aflame	\$2000.00
Monica Corwin	\$1000.00	Alleg. Cty. Area Foundation	\$1500.00
Joe Hollister	\$1000.00	Donna & Dominic DiGirolamo	\$1000.00
Jim Hungerford	\$1000.00	Mark Haskins	\$1000.00
Eric McEnroe	\$250.00	John & Anna Boll	\$35.00

### Facebook Memories

Our Uncle Charlie Colley worked in the oil fields (I think in Pennsylvania) and was badly injured at one time which really caused him a great deal of problems. There were no safety guards on the equipment back then. He had injured his leg and couldn't get away from the machinery as fast as he should have. The wheel that operated in the big house that housed the motor and equipment was where he was assigned. He could not walk the lines, and his pant leg got caught on the big wheel and it took him up and down so that his body was banged against the ceiling and then back down on the floor - before he could get away. He was severely injured - head trauma I think. He died a short time later.

Cheryl MacPherson

posted - November 2023



At the Wall of Fame inductions last June, local oilman Ted Grover (left) made contact with Dave Keller of New Hampshire whose father, Bob, was inducted that night. Ted had worked for Bob years ago and wanted to meet his family. As of this time, they are still in contact with each other.



## DONATIONS 2023

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

McCracken Energy Services  
 Lewis Barnes  
 Bob Mountain  
 Bolivar Lions Club  
 Heritage Aflame  
 Dave Bennett Trucking  
 Don Benson  
 Jim Ingalls  
 Madison Community Foundation (Marcia Bradley)

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

Jim Leonard  
 Scott MacDonell  
 Cheryl Wesche  
 Sail Energy, LLC  
 Mike Fuoco  
 Nancy Shaner Repp  
 Georgia Phillips  
 Bolivar Community Improvement Club  
 Bea West  
 Chuck Loucks  
 Cindy Fenner Scott  
 Dan & Julia Baldwin  
 Jeff Horn  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dave Herne  
 Larry Poelma

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

Pam Graffius  
 Bev Dawson  
 Rick & Lois Whitney  
 Tom Miller  
 Mary Lou Shaner Joyce  
 Joe Yehl  
 BRCS Dress Down Day Fund  
 Bill Barnes  
 Monica Corwin  
 Tom Haskins  
 Joan Gollaher  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dan Dempsey, Jr.  
 Mike & Joyce Ermer  
 Jim Hahn  
 Amy & Randy Spagg  
 Allegany County Area Foundation (Jim Euken Fund)

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

Bob Yehl  
 Barb Schiralli  
 Penn Brad Museum  
 Nancy Walsh  
 Diane Glintz  
 Star of the East #109  
 Allegany County Snowmobilers Federation,  
 - Bolivar Chapter

### **WELL PLUGGER - \$25 or less**

Allegany County Office for Aging  
 - Bolivar Luncheon Site



The family of David Haskins was in attendance the night of the Wall of Fame inductions to honor their father.

### **FACEBOOK MEMORIES**

My friend Larry "Bim" Miller and I watched the process of them putting the nitro down the wells in the 1960's. This was in West Clarksville on the Clayton Burger farm. The rig was run by the Childs family.

We would lay on the ground, and you could feel the earth shaking from the explosion and then watch the oil shoot up into the air.

Rick DeloresChapman

posted—November 7, 2023

## WINE-AND-CHEESE TASTING TICKETS

Friday, June 28, 2024  
6:30 - 8:00 Hahn & Schaffner Site  
\$20 per ticket - available May 28

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](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

## 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 2024 class includes Jim Euken, Dean Phillips, J. Floyd (Dutch) Dunning, and Dick Smith.

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 28, 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 Bob Benson, Bill Cline, Al Fenner, Bob Keller, Dave Hollister, and David Haskins. That 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. Last year we had over 200 people in attendance. Spend some time exploring the facility to learn about the amazing heritage of the local oil fields.



The Ermers of Little Genesee donated this antique jack that has a metal plate bearing the company name and date (Empire Gas & Fuel Co., January 9, 1928). Empire Gas's original distribution area covered from Bolivar to Wellsville.

Local shooter Al Fenner was inducted into the Wall of Fame in June with his extended family in attendance.



### **"GLOW" TRADITIONS**

GLOW (standing for Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, and Wyoming counties) is an arts organization that has established a traditional arts program. One of their goals is to document local traditions for the diverse folklife of this region. In the Bolivar area, they are recording the way of life of the generations of people who lived in the area oilfields. One method of completing this documentation is through oral interviews. Carol McClellan, an elementary teacher in the Bolivar-Richburg school district and a member of GLOW Traditions, is attempting to interview a number of individuals who have memories of life in the Bolivar area. More often than not, they are older individuals who may have worked in the oilfields or had family who did so. Others are simply local residents with memories of the impact the oil/gas industry had on the local community. When the project is completed, all interviews will be donated to the museum. Many thanks to Carol for taking on this task.

Top right: a 1932 article in the Bolivar Breeze describing preliminary work on what later became the Allegany Refiners built in 1933 outside Bolivar; Bottom right: members of the Dave Hollister family were in attendance at the Wall of Fame ceremony to celebrate his accomplishment

## **May Locate 500 Barrel Refinery on LeSuer Farm, Town of Bolivar**

**Survey for Location of Buildings Was Made This Week. Engineers to Come Here Later.**

If present plans are carried out a refinery of about 500 barrels capacity will be in operation in Bolivar during the present year.

Wallace E. Sawyer and other local oil producers are the promoters of the new industry. It is said that some outside capital is to be invested in the proposed refinery, which is to be located on the former LeSuer farm, town of Bolivar, and near the Pittsburgh, Shawmut & Northern Railroad tracks.

The new concern will be known as the Allegany Refiners, Inc., with a capital of about \$500,000.

A survey of the site for the proposed refinery was made this week. It is expected that the refinery engineers will be here later. From present indications actual construction work will be started within 30 days, relieving the unemployment situation here to an extent.



### **"Turning Back the Clock"**

Local news stories from 25, 50, 75, and 100 years ago

**September 25, 1923**— Rumors of the death of Leo Root in a nitroglycerine explosion near Bolivar were greatly exaggerated. Root was reported as killed when a magazine exploded at a well site in the oil fields, with it being believed he was blown to smithereens.

However, a motorist later picked up Root along the road toward the village. Root said he saw the coming explosion from the condition of a [nitroglycerine] can, and he escaped just in time. He ran from the building, and he was affected by the noise of the explosion, seeming bewildered concerning his actions since that time. He was weak from hunger, thirst and shock when found, but he should recover.

(Reprinted in the Olean Times Herald, September 26, 2023)





The Wall of Fame induction ceremony and associated wine-tasting had a little over 200 people there last June. We also had a blacksmith demonstrating his skills, and three antique oilfield engines in operation.



Clockwise from upper left: museum board member Robert Richards demonstrates the art of blacksmithing; a Root Water Well truck in the parade; recent Bolivar-Richburg graduates at the wine-tasting; the members of the Bill Cline family in attendance for his induction into the Wall of Fame



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