



Pioneer Oil Museum of New York, Inc.

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

Museum to Buy Hahn & Schaffner Complex

New Museum Planned; Will Have Outdoor Exhibits and Working Rig

Thanks to an extremely generous grant from the New York State Oil Producers' Association (NYSOPA), the Pioneer Oil Museum has purchased the entire six-acre site currently housing the Hahn and Schaffner Hardware Store. (A complete history of the store and site can be found on page four in this newsletter.) Preliminary discussions are in the works for how best to utilize this site. It must be noted that the proposed plans in this article are simply introductory designs.

One of the first steps will be to renovate the current store to make it suitable for a museum setting. Eventually an addition will have to be added to the store in order to allow for more exhibits and space.

A multitude of outdoor exhibits and displays are visualized for the site. This larger locale will allow for a comprehensive display of oilfield engines. It is hoped many rare and one-of-a-kind

models can be procured and later added to this display. Working models will also be incorporated into the site.

A replicated display of Bolivar's Main Street during the oil boom is planned. Facades of those buildings that were constructed during the 1880's time period would be created. Using past records, an historically accurate version of that area could be constructed. Buildings such as oil well supply stores, opera houses, hardware stores, nitroglycerin dealers, and hotels are some possibilities.

One of the main focuses of this site will be a reconstructed working model of an 80 foot high wooden derrick. This will be quite an undertaking due to the complexities of such a project.

While it is anticipated and hoped that the current museum will be re-located to the new site within four years, completion of all the displays and changes could take up to eight years. The projected financial cost of the entire project could run as high as \$500,000. The museum board will be looking into grants and other revenue sources. Obviously your future support will be vital to this project.

Preserving the
Oil Heritage of
Southwestern
New York and
Northwestern
Pennsylvania



MIKE SCHAFFNER AND GORDIE HAHN

Recent Amazing Donations

Over the last few years many people have donated artifacts and objects to the museum. While it is impossible to list and thank everyone who has donated to the museum, a couple of unusual items have made their way to the museum recently.

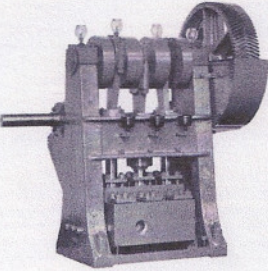
Jim Messer compiled and donated a DVD that he made about the Bradford Oil Fields. This disc covers the discovery of oil at Cuba's Oil Springs, the Drake well in Titusville, Pennsylvania, and many Bolivar-area sites. He has included a lot of great memories.

Also last year former Bolivar resident Bill Gray wrote a history entitled *Growing Up in Bolivar in the 1940's and 1950's*. Bill includes many details and descriptions about growing up in an oil town. He describes how the leases and equipment were run and thoroughly entertains the reader when discussing nitroglycerin, its uses and dangers. His "first-hand" experiences make this an interesting work.

Recently Marilyn Lampman of Tulsa, Oklahoma donated a set of home movies. Both her husband and father-in-law worked for Bradley Producing in this area before being transferred to Tulsa in the mid-1950's. These movies include shots of various leases, Bradley Company picnics, and other unknown treasures.

These heirlooms are the types of items that should be donated to the museum where they can be kept safe and

sound and preserved for years. It is hoped that our new museum location and building will provide even greater security for such treasures. Please consider donating any local oil-related photos, documents, tools, collectibles, etc. to the museum.



ALDRICH PUMP
Vertical Triplex Power Pump
Built For Speed, Specially Designed
For The Oil Country

R. B. MOORE

Bradford, Pa. Dial 3182 Bolivar, N. Y. Phone 286

ALDRICH PUMPS are the most efficient in the field today. They are built for speed, hence they have twice the capacity of any other pump in a similar size. The pump pictured for instance, a 2½ x 6, has a capacity up to 1573 barrels per 24 hour day. Built in various plunger diameters 1¾ in. to 3 in. and 2¾ in. to 4 in. and in 6 in., 7 in. and 8 in. Stroke. Optional equipment, "Kosmos" or Porcelain Plungers, reduce packing costs and horsepower requirements. Gearing entirely enclosed.

**LOCATED SOUTH OF ELM STREET
Near Erie R. R.**

F. J. White, Dial 8923 J. W. Garrigan, Dial 6709

1937 Ad - R.B. Moore Company

Hours of Operation

Memorial Day – Labor Day
Monday – Friday 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Saturdays and Sundays by appointment only. Call Dick Fitch (585-928-2587), Ray Payne (585-928-1344) or Barb Webb (585-928-2377) to schedule a tour. We love to entertain groups of people as long as we have some advance notice!

Pioneer Oil Days: June 20-24, 2007

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. We are only open weekdays (unless someone would like to open up on the weekend) from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. 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 just need to have a key to open the front door, so that visitors can be amazed by what life was like years ago in a "Pioneer Oil Town." If you have any knowledge of or experience in the local fields, so much the better. If you relate to people and just want to talk to them as they wander the museum, that too can be arranged.

Please call Ray Payne at 585-928-1344 or Dick Fitch at 585-928-2587 if you are interested.

History of the Pioneer Oil Museum of New York

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 he owned 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 MacEwan 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 in 1975. Residents Tom Manning, George Bradley, Art Burdick, and others decided to refurbish the museum with hopes of opening it for visitors during the Sesquicentennial celebration. They improved the building's interior so 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 was 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 custodianship of the museum and helped organize staffing. Gordon and Ethyl Burdick were employed by the Green Thumb program which utilized senior citizens in a variety of ways. They worked in the museum, 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, Tom Manning asked several local residents if they would be interested in joining a newly-formed Board of Directors for the museum. Manning 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. This Board is still in existence today.

Memorials 2006

In memory of Veryl Manning
by Marguerite Jordan
by John and Bev Bradley
by Tom Manning
by Ray Payne

In memory of Tom Hungerford
by grandchildren

In memory of George Pinney
by Barb and Lou Schiralli

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Bucher
by Joe Bucher

In memory of Carlton Wood
by Barb and Lou Schiralli

In memory of Earl Stellrecht
by Barb and Lou Schiralli

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Bruno Codispoti
by Codispoti brothers

In memory of Rupert, Lewis, & James Champlin
by Virginia and John Swain

In memory of Jack Sexton
by Barb and Lou Schiralli

A donation to the museum is a wonderful way to preserve the memory of a loved one, especially one with ties to the community or the local oil fields.

In memory of Robert "Dutch" Dunning
by Barb and Lou Schiralli

by Betty Ferris

by Arthur Van Tyne

by Bob and Charlotte Mead

by Ruby Allen

by Robert and Diane Mountain

by Fred and Mary Shaner

by Arthur and Joyce Pinney

by Marilyn Lee

by Mary Bowen

by Kelly and Lois Lounsberry

by John Bullock

by Theo Bullock

by Gail Hahn

by Shelly Raub Fish and Family & Steve Raub, Jr.

by John D. Bradley

by Gus Rigas

The History of Hahn & Schaffner & Predecessors

In 1920, Murray Bascom and Art Brands joined together and started the M.C. Bascom Pipe Supply Company. Brands supplied the money for the new business. In 1924, Murray Bascom bought out Art Brands' interest in the business.



Bascom ran the company until January 26, 1937, at which time he died while standing in the McEwan Brothers Supply Store, present site of the Pioneer Oil Museum. Art Brands was store manager at that time.

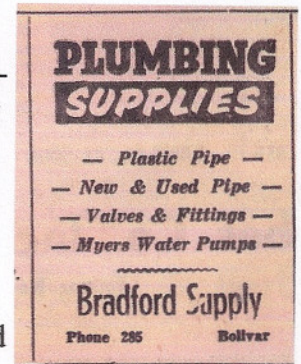
Mrs. Bascom ran the pipe business until September 1945 when she sold out to



Bradford Supply Company. Bradford Supply later merged with Atlas Pipe Company Incorporated of Houston, Texas. The store became known as Atlas-Bradford Supply Company. They had five shops, one of which was in Bolivar. Mr. Francis (Funny) Foster was in charge of the shop until June 1961.

Hahn & Schaffner purchased the shop from Bradford Supply in June 1961. Mike Schaffner was president, Gordon Hahn vice-president, and Phil LaBella secretary. Tom Dunn was the treasurer.

Eventually management of the store was taken over by Tom Dunn and Robert Morris. The store closed for good in December 2004.

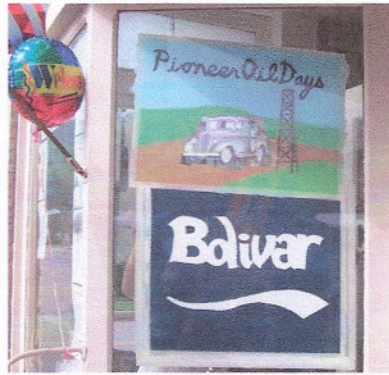


1959 Ad - Bolivar Breeze

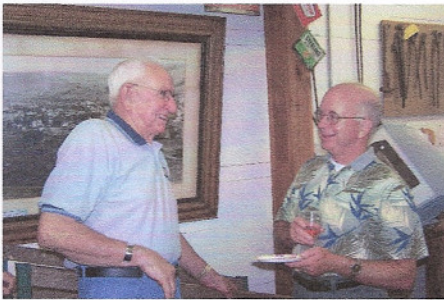
2006 in Pictures



Curator Ray Payne gives a museum tour to Bolivar-Richburg fifth grade students.



Inductions for the 2006 NYSOPA Wall of Fame; children of inductee Bill Hogan with NYSOPA President Paul Plants (center)



Local oil man Will Burdick (left) reminiscs about his days in the oil fields

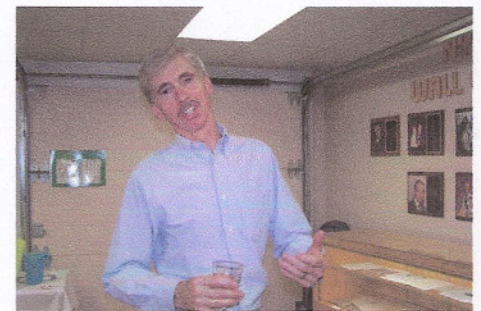
**Pioneer Oil Days
2007:
highlights of the
parade, NYSOPA
Wall of Fame
inductions, &
Wine-and-Cheese
Tasting
Festivities**



Fun at the Wine & Cheese Tasting during Pioneer Oil Days; above - Neka and Teresa enjoy themselves; below - former museum curator Tom Manning holds court



A Plants & Goodwin exhibit during the parade



Bolivar-Richburg Central School's state championship softball team



Bolivar's Red Hat Society

WINE-AND-CHEESE TASTING TICKETS

Friday, June 22, 2007
6:30-8:00

\$10 - Single Ticket

\$25 - Two tickets and designation as Bronze Patron

\$50 - Four tickets; Silver Patron

\$100 - Eight tickets; Gold Patron
(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 can be made payable to:

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

Bolivar Free Library hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 6:00-9:00
Tuesday & Friday: 12:30-4:30
Saturday: 12:30-3:30

Wall of Fame to Honor Third Class of Inductees

Again this year the New York State Oil Producers' Association (NYSOPA) will induct several new members into its "Wall of Fame." This Wall of Fame is located in the new addition to the Pioneer Oil Museum. The 2007 class of inductees includes Mike Schaffner, Joseph W. Bucher, Otto Walchli, and William "Bill" Barry. Last year's inductees were Karney Cochran, John McMurdy, and Bill Hogan. If you have any interesting anecdotes about this year's inductees, please feel free to forward to the museum.

Each man is 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 22, at 6:00 immediately before the wine-and-cheese tasting that is noted elsewhere in this newsletter.

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 museum. Spend the evening touring the museum to learn about the history of the local oil fields as well as to enjoy some delicious foods and wonderful wines from the vineyards of New York State.



Remnants from long ago in the woods
outside Bolivar

Fund Drive 2007

As you will notice from the headline article on page one of this newsletter, the Pioneer Oil Museum is attempting a massive make-over, renovation, and improvement. Nothing of this magnitude has ever happened to the museum in its forty year history. When completed, the "new museum" will have a completely refurbished building in which to house and display its vast collection. There will be ample space for artifacts as well as for photographs and documents important to the history of the local oil and gas industry. Space will also be provided to house the New York State Oil Producers' Association "Wall of Fame."

The acquisition of this new site will allow the museum enough space to obtain and display a vast collection of engines and machinery. In the past various large objects have been offered to the museum, but there was never enough space in which to store these items. With the new site in mind, a complete chronological sequence of machinery, some working, could be displayed.

One goal of the museum will be to construct a working 80 foot high wooden derrick, so common to the early oilfields of this area. Imagine the excitement and enthusiasm such an enormous display could generate! Visitors will be able to see and hear the way of life of long ago in this valley. Based on a similar experience of an oil museum in California, this project will take several years and many tens of thousands of dollars to complete. If you have purchased any building materials, let alone done any renovating lately, you know how the price of these materials has skyrocketed. Therefore, you can see the expenses we are projecting.

In order to make this new museum with its exciting attractions come true, we again ask for your support. During the mid-1960's when donations to begin the museum were first requested, the standard amount was for \$100. What would this translate to today to keep up with inflation?

Please contribute to our annual fund-drive and make us part of your yearly donations. Donating in memory of a loved one is an especially wonderful way to preserve his/her memory. Thank you for your support.

Oil Baron	\$501 or more	___
Shooter	\$101-500	___
Wildcatter	\$51-100	___
Roustabout	\$26-50	___
Well Plugger	\$25 or less	___

Checks can be made payable to:

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

All contributions are tax deductible. Thank you!

Your name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Amount of Donation: _____