



# Pioneer Oil Museum of New York, Inc.

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

## Museum's Purchase of Hahn & Schaffner Site Complete

The purchase of the property housing the old Hahn & Schaffner Pipe Supply Company has finally been completed! Lengthy paperwork snafus have now been concluded, and the property officially belongs to the Pioneer Oil Museum.

In 2008 the Museum was fortunate to secure two legislative member grants from our local New York State representatives, Senator Catherine Young and Assemblyman Joe Giglio. These grants were designated for use in repairing and restoring the old Hahn & Schaffner site. These funds allowed the Museum to bid out renovation work on the old store. The work will be finished this spring, and it includes a variety of areas. The roof on the original store and on the later addition will be repaired, as will the roof on the old welding shop. Interior renovations in the former store include new and updated

electrical system, heating system, and bathroom as well as new insulation and refurbished walls and ceilings. Additional improvements to the exterior of the building will also help improve the looks and security of the structure.

The next step for the Board of Directors is to decide how best to use the new site as well as the existing site on Main Street. Owning these two locations provides many options for the Museum. Different displays with different themes may be set up in the two places. The new site includes about six acres of land, so there will be room for outdoor displays and exhibits. Protection and preservation of antique oilfield machinery and engines will become a priority for the museum.

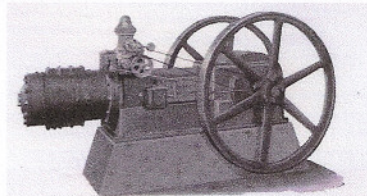
Preserving the  
Oil Heritage of  
Southwestern  
New York and  
Northwestern  
Pennsylvania

## Museum Awarded Grant

The Pioneer Oil Museum received a \$530 grant from the Allegany County Area Foundation (ACAF) last fall. The grant will be used to fund computer scanning equipment that will help with the Archives Copying Project. This project is designed to make copies of all documents and photographs in the Museum's collection. Such items could be lost in a fire or other disaster. Items such as photographs that are displayed in the museum are at risk from natural

sunlight, which can destroy these irreplaceable items. Local oilman and consultant Rob Eberling completed the paperwork for this project.

The ACAF awarded over \$250,000 in financial assistance in 2007-08. This included scholarships to 150 local students and grants to not-for-profit agencies, all in Allegany County.



PATTIN BROS. 40 H.P. 2 CYCLE ENGINE

## The Museum Wants You!

As always, the museum is looking for visitors to work and help keep the museum open. 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. Each volunteer works just one short, three-hour shift from either 10:00-1:00 or from 1:00-4:00.

You don't have to know anything about oil or the history of this area! You simply need to monitor the museum and walk our guests through. By doing this, both you and the guests will 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 would just like to socialize, that's fine also. And if you simply want to get out of the house on a pleasant summer day and enjoy the weather, what better place to do it than at the museum.

With the purchase of the old Hahn & Schaffner site, the Museum may be looking for more volunteers in the future. We may need more interested folks to help maintain two sites. Please call Ray Payne at 585-928-1344 or Dick Fitch at 585-928-2587 if you are interested.

## Growing Up in Bolivar

Bill Gray, former resident of Bolivar and graduate of the class of 1954, has written a book called Growing Up in Bolivar in the 1940's and 1950's. Gray, now a resident of Arizona, read with interest some of the articles from the local historical society and wanted to contribute some of his own memories of his childhood. He wanted to describe life in an oil town and what it was like to spend time on the rigs and the leases.

While writing the book, Gray became more interested in the technical aspects of the oil and gas industry. Supplied with this kind of information from Ray Payne and Dick Fitch, his book expanded and became a 374 page history of the oil industry from its local beginnings in 1881 until present day.

The book is loaded with wonderful pictures mostly related to the oil industry. Yet part is a recollection of businesses and people of the area. Gray supplied copies to all of the schools, museums, and libraries in the area. Check this out at the Museum.

## Long Time Volunteers Honored

This past fall the Board of Directors honored long-time volunteers, Ray Payne and Dick Fitch. These two men are more than just volunteers; they are co-curators of the museum. Their knowledge of the information in the museum is exceeded only by their love and dedication for this, their second home. Whenever the name "Pioneer Oil Museum" is mentioned, the first thoughts that come to mind are "Ray Payne and Dick Fitch."

There is no way that the Museum would have run as smoothly as it did these many years without the efforts of these two men. For many years they have devoted their lives to the Museum. They know the history and background of every person in every photograph in the Museum. They know the use of most of the tools and artifacts on display, as well as information about the Museum supporters who have donated such items. Their knowledge of and love for Bolivar's history is unparalleled.

For their efforts the Pioneer Oil Museum of New York says, "Thank you!"



## 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 24 - 28, 2009

# NYSOPA Previous Wall of Fame Inductees

## William Barry - Wall of Fame Class 2007

Bill Barry was a graduate of Olean High School, later attending St. Bonaventure University. During World War II he served with the U.S. Army. He was married and raised a family of four sons and one daughter.

Bill served the local oil and gas industry in an unbelievably huge variety of jobs. He worked for Messer Oil Co. in various capacities from 1937 to 1984 and eventually became president. He was president of DYMO Oil Corporation in Chatham, Ohio, director and president of the McKean Natural Gas Co. and secretary-treasurer of Barry Resources. He was vice-president of the National Stripper Well Association as well as serving on the advisory board of that organization. He was a board member of the New York State Oil, Gas and Solution Mining group and a member of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, serving as an executive committee member. Finally, he played an integral role in the New York State Oil Producers' Association (NYSOPA).

Bill was involved in community affairs in Olean by joining the Kiwanis Club and St. Vincent De Paul Society. He served as member, director, and past president of Bartlett Country Club. He attended St. John's Church and was a member of the local Knights of Columbus chapter.



## Bill Hogan - Wall of Fame Class 2006

Bill Hogan was a native of Bolivar. He graduated from Bolivar High School and then returned there to live. He and his wife raised six children. During World War II he achieved the rank of lieutenant commander.

Bill's legacy was firmly established in the Bolivar area. He served as director of the former State Bank of Bolivar for many years. He worked as an officer of the St. Mary's Cemetery Association and was a lifetime member of St. Mary's Catholic Church. As a military veteran, he came home and helped found the Kenyon Andrus American Legion Post 772.

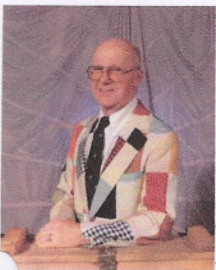


Over the years the Hogan family name became synonymous with the local oil and gas industry. Bill became an independent producer in the Allegany County fields. He served as director and officer of the New York State Oil Producers' Association and was associated with that group for over 60 years. He was an officer in the R.B. Moore Oil Supply Company. His interest in preserving the heritage of the local oil and gas industry paved the way for his leadership in forming the Pioneer Oil Museum in the mid-1960's.

Amazingly, Bill lived to be 99 years old, passing away just five months to the day before his 100th birthday.

## Gordon Hahn - Wall of Fame Class 2005

Gordon "Gordie" Hahn, a native of Bradford, Pennsylvania, began work in the local oil industry after graduation from high school. He first worked for the Bradford Supply Company and later became a major stockholder and vice-president for Hahn & Schaffner in Bolivar. He was also a lifetime member of the New York State Oil Producers' Association, serving as an officer and member. He was affiliated with the Empire State Water Well Association and the National Water Well Association.



During World War II Gordie served in the U.S.

Army as a paratrooper. He was a member of the Bolivar Fire Department and of the Bolivar American Legion for 57 years. He volunteered his time and served on the Bolivar Free Library as a member and past president. He was also associated with the Shriners. He and his wife Gail raised three children in Bolivar.

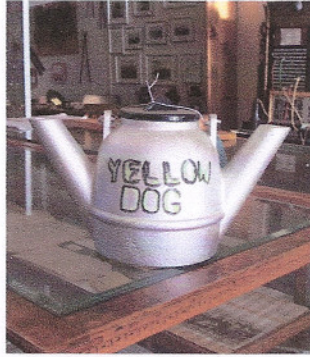


Kendall advertisement on back of McEwan Brothers Store envelope

## Museum Highlights - 2008



Bolivar-Richburg fifth-graders tour the museum.



Everyone joins in the fun, including Frank Hungerford's daughter, Jerry, on the left.

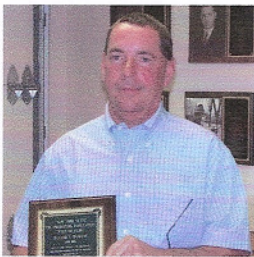


The J.J. Bucher Producing Company hauling a jack

**A little rain never hurt anyone, especially an oilman! The rains came early for the parade during Pioneer Oil Days, but eventually they left, and the weekend was a huge success.**



Local oil producer, Joe Bucher



Mark Haskins accepting for his grandfather, Bayard



The Richard "Dick" Bradley family



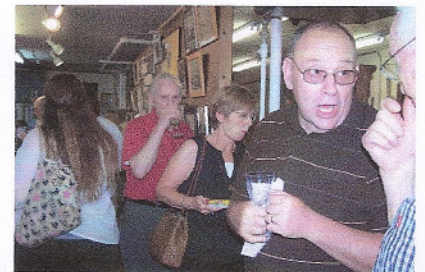
The kids love Pioneer Oil Days.



The Bolivar Lioness Club does a wonderful job serving at the annual Wine & Cheese Extravaganza.



A relic of the past, alone in the woods near Bolivar



Even the local undertaker enjoys himself as he holds court at the Wine & Cheese Extravaganza.

# Memorials 2008

In memory of Robert "Dutch" Dunning  
by Allison Barnes

by John and Robyn Hogan

In memory of Robert Jordan

by Marguerite Jordan

In memory of John and Velma Jordan

by Connie Gates and Jennifer Lloyd

In memory of the Frank Thorwart Family

by Anne Thorwart

In memory of David Ryan

by Catherine Ryan

In memory of Frank, Ned, & Tom Hungerford

by Michael and Mary Fitzsimmons

In memory of Stephen Gollaher

by Independent Oil & Gas Association of New York

by Frances Chadderdon

by New York State Oil Producers' Association

In memory of Susan Harrington

by Miriam Gray

In memory of Lewis A. Champlin & Rupert Champlin

by Virginia Swain

In memory of Louis Claire and Bonnie Claire Nitsche

by Barb Claire

In memory of J.W. Bucher family

by Joseph Bucher

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 local oil fields. Memorials in the name of Bolivar graduates help perpetuate their memory for old classmates and friends.

## Thanks to Our Volunteers

The museum has a small, but dedicated, group of volunteers who help us stay open each summer. In fact sometimes during the coldest months of the off-season visitors will call for a tour. It never fails that one of these people will show up to open the museum. We appreciate their efforts very much, and we never get the chance to say "thank you."

Earl Harriger

Dick Monroe

Miriam Gray

Diane Mountain

Barb Webb

Irv Shelp

Jim Watkins

Dick Fitch

Ray Payne

Steve Robinson

## Donations - 2008

### Oil Baron (\$501 and up)

NYS Oil Producers' Association

Otis Eastern Service (Charles Joyce)

John Walchli

Independent Oil & Gas Assoc.

### Wildcatter (\$51 - 100)

Klein Cutler

Bob & Diana Wilkinson

Joe & LuAnn DeCerbo

### Roustabout (\$26-50)

Barb & Lou Schiralli

Nancy Walsh

Dempsey Pipe & Supply

Desk & Derrick Clubs

### Shooter (\$101 - \$500)

Bradford Pipe & Supply

Tom Dunn

Northern Tier Inc.

Jon & Sue Lindquist

Fred & Mary Shaner

Hogan Energy

S.W. Neilly Corp.

Dawn Elliott

Bolivar Lions Club

The Palmerton Group

Rick & Kris Gould

Joe Yehl

Alma Gas Co.

### Well Plugger (\$25 or less)

Ray Lombardi

Bob & Kelly Ingalls

Boyd & Shriver Inc.

Jerry Chadderdon

Janet Herne

Elizabeth Thompson

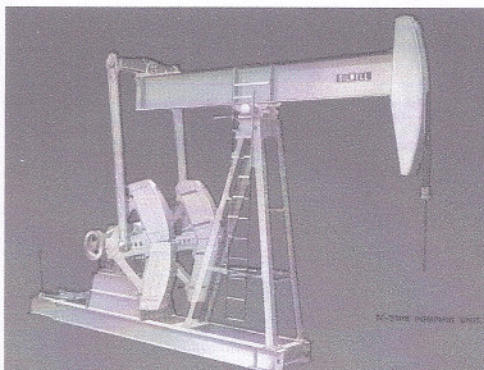
Barb Freeman

Ellen Guinnip

Amy Robinson

John & Anna Boll

Pictured is a photo from an advertisement in a 1954 catalogue from Oil Well Supply Company. At one time this company was one of many oil well supply stores in Bolivar. This particular company was located on Main Street. Their office was where Shooters Bar is today, and they had a machine shop across from the railroad depot on Boss Street. Their corporate colors were orange and black.



## NYSOPA to Honor Wall of Fame Inductees

### WINE-AND-CHEESE TASTING TICKETS

Friday, June 26, 2009  
6:30-8:00

\$12 - 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: 6:00-8:00  
Tuesday: 12:30-4:30  
Friday: 9:30-4:30  
Saturday: 12:30-3:30

The Pioneer Oil Museum is pleased and honored again to announce the newest class of inductees into the New York State Oil Producers' Association (NYSOPA) "Wall of Fame," which is located in the Pioneer Oil Museum. The 2009 class of inductees includes Frank Hungerford, Francis Richardson, Fred Shaner, and Daniel Quinlan, Sr..

Last year's class included Albert Cole, Richard "Dick" Bradley, Donald Case, and Bayard Haskins. 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 26, 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 some time touring the museum to learn about the amazing heritage of the local oil fields.



Family members of the 2008 inductees reminisce about the "old times" in the oil fields.