



SPRING 2017  
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WWW.PIONEEROILMUSEUM.COM

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

# Pioneer Oil Museum of New York

## Joyce Exhibition Building Completed

This past year was extremely busy and productive for the Pioneer Oil Museum. The Joyce Exhibition Building, a 90 x 40 steel building, was completed in late summer. The building has a concrete floor which will allow for the display of heavy antique oil and gas field equipment. Plans are to use this building for display of working machinery that would have been representative of those items used in the local fields. Water for cooling and propane for fuel will need to be piped to the building and then run throughout the structure. Several individuals have already offered to donate a variety of machines in working

condition. The Joyce Exhibition Building was named in honor of Charles H. Joyce, the long-time president of Otis Eastern Service, one of the leading pipeline contractors in the U.S. Funding for this endeavor was provided by his son, Charles P. Joyce and his family, as well as through Otis Eastern Service. The museum greatly thanks Mr. Joyce and his family for their continued support.



(The Joyce Building is the longer building on the right.)

## Local Oilman Supports Building Renovations

Another major project this past summer involved the renovation of two pipe-threading buildings at the Hahn and Schaffner site. The two buildings housed machines that allowed for a variety of different sized pipe to be threaded. The buildings were in terrible shape and needed a complete overhaul. During the renovation the exteriors were covered with board and batten while an oilfield green steel roof was installed on each building. New glass block windows were also installed. In an attempt to maintain the original historic structure of each building, all door entrances were preserved with

new doors built to replace the originals, although the styles of the new doors vary from the originals. At this time usage for the buildings is in the planning stage.

This project was undertaken with the financial support of Joe Bucher, a third-generation local oil producer. In an attempt to honor both his father and grandfather and provide a legacy for the Bucher name, Mr. Bucher agreed to support this endeavor. The museum thanks Mr. Bucher for his support of this project as well as the assistance, knowledge, and equipment that he has provided over the years.

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

## Historic Triangle No. 1 Renovations Begin

In our 2015 newsletter, renovation work at the Triangle No. 1 site was in the planning stages. This summer a great deal of work at the site was completed, but much more remains to be done. The first step completed was to sandblast and refinish a New York State Historic Marker that was installed by the State Education Department in 1932. It will be re-installed when the rest of the project is finished.

The second phase was to con-

struct a pavilion over a concrete monument commemorating the memory of O.P. Taylor and his work at this site.

The next phase involves adding a back wall to the pavilion where historic photos, information, and other items will be posted. After that the goal is to build a path and bridge from these monuments to the well head. Conversations have begun to try to acquire more land at this site. Many

thanks to Cummins Construction of Cuba for the donation of all the building materials. Also thanks to contactor Levi Feely for donating his personal time to this project.



## The Museum Desperately Needs Your Help!

Looking for something to do this summer? Would you like to get out of the house once a week? More than ever, **we need help to stay open for our visitors.** Each volunteer works just one three-hour block of time per week. The museum is open weekdays only from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. That means volunteers work the "early shift" from 10:00-1:00 or the "graveyard shift" from 1:00-4:00. We are also looking to expand our visibility for visitors by opening on the weekend when most people travel. We could REALLY use people to open on those days.

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 visi-

tors 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. Please call the museum at 585-610-2038. If a representative from the museum calls and asks for your help, don't be afraid to step up and preserve the history of the oilfields.

### 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.

### Museum Facebook Page

It seems as though Facebook is the main source of information and communication for many people these days. The museum started a page so that we may keep everyone informed of our activities during the course of the year. Head to our page ("Pioneer Oil Museum of New York") to see what is going on.

## John Bryner, Previous Wall of Fame Inductee

John Bryner began his career in the oil business with Minard Run Oil Co., for which he worked from 1936-1945. At that time he joined Pringle Powder which was founded in 1913 by a group including his grandfather. In 1952, Pringle bought out the Independent Eastern Torpedo Co. making it the largest oil and gas well shooting company east of the Mississippi River.

John was president of the Pennsylvania Grade Crude Oil Association. He was a director of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, the New York State Oil and Gas Association, and the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Association.

He was involved with oil and gas businesses in Canada and South America as well as other American energy companies. In 1992, he was a member of a delegation which toured oil fields in Russia.

John was elected to the board of directors for Citizens National Bank. He served on the corporate board of directors for Pennbank and its predecessor banks for 36 years. He was a director of the Bradford Area Chamber of Commerce. He was a charter and lifetime member of the Bradford Exchange Club and former vice president of the Bradford Club. He was a vice president and board member of the American Automobile Association.

**GAS Has Gone To WAR**



To help make the Planes and Tanks and Guns your sons and brothers need to win . . .

**And Now Uncle Sam Makes**

An Important Request To Gas Consumers

**ICTORY**

Conserve All The Natural Gas You Can For The Rest Of The Winter Season!

**Why?**

Because there is a serious shortage of natural gas in many parts of Western New York—a shortage that threatens to interfere with the production of vital war materials—a shortage that can be avoided only with the help of all natural gas consumers in the whole area. Reserves must be conserved to meet the demands that always come in February and March.

**How You Can Help**

Any gas conserved by our customers can be made available through existing connections to relieve shortages in other parts of Western New York. We pledge our best efforts to see that the savings you make will be used where they will help the war effort the most.

**Methods**

You know best how you can save natural gas. We can only suggest some possible ways—

1. Heat only those parts of your home you use regularly.
2. Reduce temperature when you are not at home, and at night.
3. Keep shades drawn, particularly at night.
4. Keep use of hot water to minimum.
5. Close fireplace flues when not in use.
6. Shut off heat in garage.

Several other suggestions for those few extremely cold days—

1. Delay home laundering.
2. Economize on gas for cooking by your choice of foods.
3. Avoid use of oven.

A Small Sacrifice On Your Part— And — A Chance To Really Help Win The War!

**Empire Gas And Fuel Co., Ltd.**

A 1943 Bolivar "Breeze" Ad

## Hours of Operation

- Memorial Day - Labor Day
- Monday-Friday 10:00 - 4:00
- Saturdays and Sundays by appointment only. Call Rose Feenaughty (585-928-1796) 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 18-25, 2017

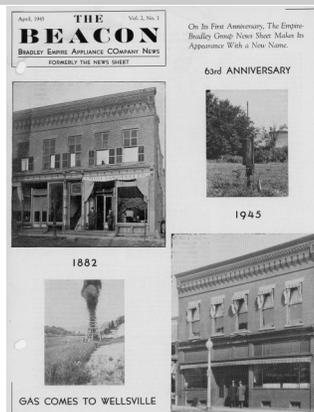
## Other Happenings at the Museum

As noted on page one, this past year was an extremely busy one at the museum. For the first time, the museum was open on Halloween night. Board president, Dan Davison, handed out candy to the trick-or-treaters. He also made a "working" Yellow Dog, an unusual early oil derrick lantern, out of a pumpkin. Hopefully he didn't scare away all of the children.

Chip McCracken, an oil producer from Bradford, donated a couple of antique engines. One was manufactured by A.C. Thomas, and the other (possibly) by Young Machine Works, both companies located in Bradford. They were used in the oil fields, probably near Allegany, NY. Many thanks to Chip, a long-time supporter of the museum.

The Empire State Water Well Driller's Association held its summer meeting in Bolivar in July. A large number of group members toured both the Main Street and Hahn & Schaffner sites where they learned a great deal about the history of this area as well as how oil and gas production affected the region.

A large collection of "The Beacon" newsletter was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bryant of Scio, NY. This publication was published by the Empire and Bradley Companies, well-known local oil and gas companies. The newsletter was published from 1944-1963 when Empire Gas and Fuel Company was acquired by National Fuel Gas. The museum is always on the lookout for additional copies of "The Beacon," as well as copies of Producer's Monthly magazine. To the right is the front page of the April 1945 edition of "The Beacon."



Two engines donated by Chip McCracken mentioned in the article

### New York State Oil Producers' Association

#### Platinum - \$5000.00

Charles H. Joyce (Otis Eastern)  
Joe Bucher

#### Gold- \$1000.00

NYS Oil Producers' Association

#### Silver - \$500.00

#### Bronze - \$200.00

Cline Oil Co.                      Shaner Oil, Inc.  
Allen Oil Corp.

#### Other

Dorchester Minerals, L.P.	Bob Benson
Richardson & Stout, Inc.	Jim Hungerford
A.C. Oil, LLC	Rinker Oil
James Walchli	James McAndrew
Root Water Specialists	James McMahan

#### Museum Listed on State

##### Tourism Website

Check out New York State's tourism website, "Pathway Through History." The website (listed below) can be searched by theme, attraction, region or event. Tell your family and friends to visit the site and make sure they head to the museum.

["paththroughhistory.iloveny.com"](http://paththroughhistory.iloveny.com)

#### Area Oil Producers Support Local Causes

Unknown to many people, the New York State Oil Producers' Association (NYSOPA) supports many local causes. Each year the organization provides scholarships to four local colleges in memory of individuals who were involved in the oil industry. They are St. Bonaventure University (Bill Hogan), Alfred University (William Jack Plants), Houghton College (Mike Schaffner), and University of Pittsburgh at Bradford (Karney Cochran). The organization also makes an annual gift to the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Olean. This year NYSOPA donated \$10,000 for the stone on a Vietnam Memorial located in Bolivar, and it has supported the Pioneer Oil Museum in many ways over the years.

## Memorials 2016

In memory of Wade T. Harriger  
by Robert Harriger

In memory of Earl Harriger  
by Barb & Louie Schiralli  
by Bob Harriger  
by Janice Lippman  
by Mary Clark  
by Kelly & Lois Lounsberry  
by Jim Bryant  
by Barb Webb  
by Bob Mountain  
by Jim Watkins & family

In memory of Jim Kinley  
by Jerry Chadderdon  
by NYS Oil Producers' Association

In memory of Diane Mountain  
by Donna & Dominic DiGirolamo

In memory of Ron Paffie  
by Kelly & Lois Lounsberry

In memory of Charles H. Joyce  
by Lorraine Joyce

In memory of Steve Robinson  
by Barb Webb

In memory of Philip Labella  
by Phil Labella

In memory of Virginia Champlin Swain  
by Suzy Swain

In memory of John D. Bradley  
by Sharon & Bruce Mattison  
by Joseph Quinlan  
by Robert & Joan Jordan  
by Jerry & Laverne Chadderdon  
by Mary Fitzsimmons  
by Kelly & Lois Lounsberry  
by Wendy Lanterman  
by Barb and Mark Webb  
by Wellsville BPO Elks Lodge  
by Peggy Riggs and family  
by James Walchli and family  
by Toby Rohlin  
by Nancy MacDonell and family  
by Bill and Nancy Walsh

In memory of Joe Dempsey  
by Judi and Dan Dempsey Jr.

In memory of Michael Douglas Fitzsimmons  
by Mary Fitzsimmons

In memory of Dale "Ponch" Pinney  
by Bob Mountain

In memory of A.L. Shaner  
by Nancy Shaner Repp

In memory of Jim Webb  
by Mr. & Mrs. John Dunbar  
by Diane Bollman Byer  
by Joe Bucher  
by Barb Claire  
by Dale & Rose Feenaughty  
by Kelly & Lois Lounsberry  
by Norene Ferris  
by Kris & Rick Gould  
by Bob Mountain

In memory of Ed Maxson  
by Joe Bucher

In memory of Keith Rumsey  
by Kelly & Lois Lounsberry

In memory of Art, Joyce, and Ponch Pinney  
by Kris & Rick Gould

In memory of Bob Hackett  
by Bob Mountain

In memory of Ruth McArdle  
by Robert Mountain

In memory of Dean Michael Moore  
by Tom Dunn, Robert & Yvonne Morris

In memory of Claude Austin  
by Bob Mountain

In memory of Jim Watkins  
by Wayne & Therese Gary  
by Gary Enderle  
by Kelly & Lois Lounsberry  
by Order of Eastern Star, Star of the East #109  
by Bob Mountain

In memory of Rod Cole  
by Nancy & Bill Walsh  
by Kris & Rick Gould  
by Roger and Julie Hoshal

In memory of Friends and Fellow Employees  
by Bob Mountain

## DONATIONS 2016

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

Madison Community Foundation  
(Marcia Bradley)  
Charles Joyce and Family  
Joe Bucher

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

Chuck Thompson	Bob & Kelly Ingalls
Dan & Cathy Fuller	Mary Lou Joyce
Bob & Char Meade	Beth & Brad Schiralli
Jeff Bradley	Dan & Julie Baldwin
Tom Miller	Dr. Billy Carstens
Shane Thornton	Kenny's Friendly Service
Bea West	Steve and Terri Morrison
Karen and Stephan Sarrafian	

### **WELL PLUGGER—\$25 or less**

Diane Glintz	Joyce Pinney
Janet Herne	Randy Harmon
Bob's Auto Body Shop	

#### Shawmut Depot Update

The old Shawmut depot located at the Hahn & Schaffner site struggled through a difficult winter. With no grant funding yet secured, the building continues to deteriorate with one wall settling, thus leading the roof to sag. The roof itself is in bad shape with multiple leaks. It is hoped that renovation funds can be secured, and this part of Bolivar's past can be saved.

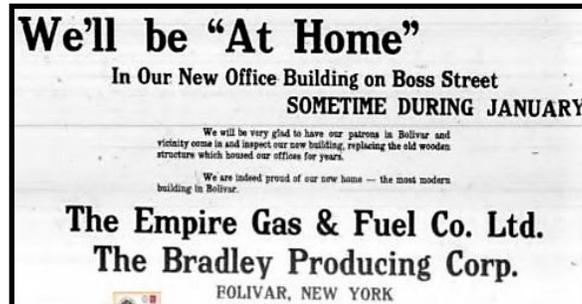
**NOTICE** - If you do not desire to receive this newsletter, please e-mail the museum (bolivaroil@yahoo.com) or drop us a line at our postal address. This will allow the museum to save much-needed money. Thanks!

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

Wilber & Bev Dawson	Joe Yehl
Rick & Lois Whitney	Rick & Kris Gould
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Herne	Jim Hahn
Tauck Tours	Sue Lindquist
Bolivar Lions Club	Ralph Compton
Robert Mountain	James T. Ingalls
Kelly & Lois Lounsberry	
Donna & Dominic DiGirolamo	

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

Betty Ferris	Barb Claire
Irv Shelp	Norene Ferris
Herb MacDonell	Jean Sexton
Dave & Chris Evans	Dick Harmon
Mary Murphy Smith	Anne Thorwart
Lou & Barb Schiralli	Jean & Wayne Milliman
Nancy & Bill Walsh	



Left - an ad in the January 4, 1940 Bolivar "Breeze" showing the new Empire Gas office building in Bolivar

### **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 Bolivar's "American Pickers."



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.



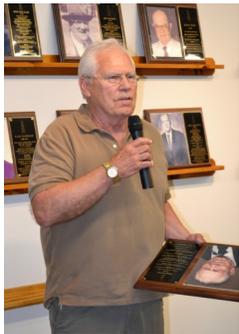
The tractor pull during Pioneer Oil Days went off without a hitch



One of the oil-related floats in the parade



The family of Earl Harriger celebrates his induction into the NYSOPA Wall of Fame



Ted Grover speaking about his father, Les, during the induction ceremony



The Grand Marshall of the parade was Bolivar icon John D. Bradley, who unfortunately passed away just one month later



Ralph Compton brought back many memories of his inductee-father, Howard, during his speech

2016 - A Great Time at the Pioneer Oil Museum!



Trick-or-Treaters visited the museum on Halloween night



A float from Otis Eastern in the Pioneer Oil Days Parade



Amazingly, Republicans and Democrats (legislators and undertakers) **CAN** get along!



Students from Bolivar-Richburg Elementary School visited the museum in June



Moms brought children of all ages to the museum when the Empire State Water Well Drillers visited



The restored sign that will be placed at the Triangle No. 1 site as part of the renovation process described on page one

## NYSOPA TO Honor Wall of Fame Inductees

# WINE-AND-CHEESE TASTING TICKETS

Friday, June 23, 2017

6:30 - 8:00 Hahn & Schaffner Site

\$17 per ticket

Patron pricing no longer available.

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 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 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 2017 class of inductees includes John D. Bradley, Jim O'Connor, Joel Putnam, and O.P. Taylor.

Last year's class included Jim Kinley, Les Grover, Earl Harriger, and Howard Compton. A large 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 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 site.

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.



Before and after pictures of the first renovated threading building mentioned in the article on page one; this project was supported by Joe Bucher



The family and friends of Jim Kinley on the night of his induction into the NYSOPA Wall of Fame