



SPRING 2013
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WWW.PIONEEROILMUSEUM.COM

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

Pioneer Oil Museum of New York

A Busy Year at the Pioneer Oil Museum

Spring and summer 2012 were a very busy time at the Pioneer Oil Museum. The year started off extra early with a tour in March from the Lake Erie and Ontario Sawyers and Filers Association. Some 30 people came through that day, a beautiful March Friday. Later on in July, approximately 12 antique cars from the Brass & Gas Auto Club paid a visit. Combined with Pioneer Oil Days and the annual tractor pull in June, things were really hopping at the museum all summer long.

Renovations continued on the

red exhibit building at the Hahn & Schaffner site. One of the main jobs completed on this building was the installation of board and batten siding on the front with the other sides to be completed this summer. Once again thanks to Bob Maltery of RAM Forest Products of Shinglehouse for donating the wood, and to A.J. Plants of Shinglehouse for cutting the siding.



New electric outlets and

lights were also installed in the building. Security was improved by the installation of new windows.

Members of the board also removed several large pieces of old oilfield machinery from the Ed Sherman lease in Little Genesee and placed them at the museum. Among these items include a Franklin engine, an eccentric, and a chain-drive engine. More information about these items can be found later in this newsletter.

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

Barry Family Donates Documents and Records

This summer the family of Bill Barry donated a treasure trove of records from his days working in the local fields. Among these were topographical maps and other documents, many of which were from the Bolivar area. Bill worked for Messer Oil Company from 1937 to 1984 and eventually became president.

An Olean native, Bill was a

member of several organizations connected to the local oil and gas fields. Among these were the Independent Petroleum Association of America and the National Stripper Well Association. He was also president of DYMO Oil Corporation based in Chatham, Ohio. Bill was inducted into the New York State Oil Producers' Association "Wall of Fame"

in 2007.

The museum has taken stewardship of these irreplaceable documents and has them in storage at the Hahn and Schaffner site.



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. The museum is open only weekdays (unless one would like to open up on weekends) 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.

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 visitors 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 re-

late to people and just want to talk to them as they wander the museum, that would be fine. If you just want to get out of the house on a sunny summer day, that's fantastic as well.



Bill and Chris Messer, both members of the John Messer family, accept plaques in his name at the Wall of Fame induction.

Please call Barb Webb at 585-928-2377. We REALLY need your help!

A Big Thanks to . . .

- ◆ Jim Barnes and the village crew for everything they do when asked
- ◆ Brad Schiralli and the town crew for a variety of reasons including bringing in fill for the H/S Site
- ◆ Mrs. Carolyn Sherman for allowing us access to her lease and permission to retrieve old equipment
- ◆ Chris Perkins for always being there to help
- ◆ Dick Davison for his expertise and efforts “on the lease”
- ◆ Will Burdick for his knowledge and help
- ◆ Denny Griesbaum for helping remove an engine from the woods
- ◆ Joe Bucher for everything!

Museum Loses Dedicated Volunteer

This past summer, the museum lost one of its most dedicated volunteers, Gerald Echard. A fairly-recent newcomer to Bolivar, Gerald offered to help lead guests through the museum. Realizing that we were short of volunteers, Gerald not only picked up one time slot to work, he picked up two during the work week, and then he even came in and opened the museum on Saturdays for visitors traveling through.

Gerald was known for both his bicycle and his ability to communicate with our visitors. The museum suffered a great loss, and we thank Gerald for his love of and interest in the museum. We also thank his family for their support.

Hours of Operation

- Memorial Day - Labor Day
- Monday-Friday 10:00 - 4:00
- Saturdays and Sundays by appointment only. Call Barb Webb (585-928-2377) or Rose Feenaughty (585-928-1796) to schedule a tour. We love to entertain groups of people as long as we have advance notice.
- Pioneer Oil Days: June 18-23, 2013

Antique Engines from the Ed Sherman Lease

This summer board members, along with other friends of the museum, removed several items of equipment out of the woods from the Ed Sherman lease in Little Genesee.

The first job involved tearing down the old power house around a Franklin engine. The group spent part of a day out



in the woods dismantling the building so that engine could be removed. A few days later, several members, using the

knowledge and assistance of Denny Griesbaum of Bradford, removed the engine and transported it to Bolivar.

Later in the summer the group removed a _____ chain-drive engine and eccentric.

The engine was manufactured by the Luther Manufacturing Company of Olean, probably in the early 1900's, if not the late 1800's. Most engines in this area were driven by a belt, so this engine was quite different in that a chain



connected the engine to the power. In addition to preserving the equipment, part of the original wooden hemlock powerhouse was removed. Most powerhouses were made of tin, but this power was constructed of wood, probably due to its old age. All items are now in storage at the Hahn and Schaffner site.



Memorials 2012

In memory of Bev Bradley

by Bill and Nancy Walsh

by **Jessie** and Joe Quinlan

by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Joyce

by Kelly and Lois Lounsberry

by Federated _____ Investment Advisors

by Jerry and Vern Chadderdon

by Leo, Joseph, and Charlotte Murphy

by John and Doris Rigas

by Tom and Norene Ferris

by Anne Walchli

by Mary Hungerford

In memory of Tom Halloran

by Aqua-Clear, Inc.

In memory of Dan Dempsey

by Pamela Richardson

by Marilyn Lester

by Frances Chadderdon

by Francis Mahar

by M. Patricia Dempsey

In memory of Frank Jensen

by John and Bev Bradley

In memory of Louis Claire and Bonnie Clair Nitsche

by Barbara Claire

In memory of Luigi Rende

by Emilio and Christine Rende

In memory of Kathleen Barnes

by Joyce Grabow

In memory of Pauline Harriger

by Kelly and Lois Lounsberry

In memory of Alyn Shaner

by Fred and Mary Shaner

In memory of Elaine Adams

by Barb and Louie Schiralli

In memory of Alice Chamberlin _____

by Miriam Gray

In memory of Gerald Echard

by Bolivar Methodist Church Sunday School

by Philip Echard and Family

by Kelly and Lois Lounsberry

In memory of Frank and Amelia Hungerford

by Patricia Smyke

In memory of Diane Mountain

by Jacquelyn Fagouri Sutton

by Barb Web

by Bernard Family

by Tom and Norene Ferris

Previous Wall of Fame Inductee

Bolivar native Frank Hungerford was a well-known local oil man and dignitary. Known for his wit and speaking ability, Frank's personality is remembered to this day.

Frank was a veteran of World War I as well as an alumnus of the University of Michigan. Along with his brothers Ned and Tom and John C. Bradley, they formed the Trio Oil Company, which had a large operation just outside Allentown. Later he and his brothers also formed the Shamrock Oil Company. Among other things, Frank is remembered for driving through town on the jeep he drove to the lease each day.



Frank was a retired director of the Otto Torpedo Company in Eldred, Pennsylvania as well as a member of NYSOPA. This organization selected him as its "Man of the Year" for 1978 and also named him "chairman emeritus."

Museum Receives Manley Grant

The Pioneer Oil Museum recently received a Manley Grant in the amount of \$3500.00. This grant is designed to help not-for-profits and other charitable organizations in Allegany and Cataaugus Counties. This year the grant provided nearly \$130,000.00 in funding for local groups. The grant money for the museum was used to buy new computer equipment and related technology.

The funds for this grant were bequeathed by Fred T. and Anna C.

Manley, former residents of Bolivar. Mr. Manley had a long career with the Texas Oil Company in the Houston area. Upon retirement in 1939, the Manleys returned to Bolivar. Mrs. Manley lived to be 102 years old before she passed away in 1981.



Museum board members Kelly Lounsberry (left) and Barb Webb (right) accept check for Manley Grant.



New York State Oil Producers' Association

Platinum - \$5000.00

Charles Joyce (Otis Eastern)

Gold- \$1000.00

NYS Oil Producers' Association

Jim Walchli

Silver - \$500.00

Dorchester Mineral

James Gabriel (Hornet/Bulldog Oil)

Bronze - \$200.00

Plateau Energy

Hill Drilling

James Day Contracting

Anderson Welding

James Kinley

Penn Gold Well Service

Sunrise Drilling Supply

Cline Oil

S.W. Neilly Corporation

Bucher Drilling Company

Hogan Energy, Inc.

Other

Kenneth Greeley

John Richardson

Senator Cathy Young

DONATIONS 2012

OIL BARON - \$501 or more

Madison Community Foundation
 NYS Oil Producers' Association
 Joe Bucher
 Village of Bolivar

SHOOTER - \$101-500

Mr. & Mrs. Dominic DiGirolamo
 Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Milliman
 Joe Yehl & Roxanne Robinson
 Jon and Sue Lindquist
 Tauk World Discovery
 Lake Erie & Ontario Sawyers
 & Filers Assoc.

Jim Hahn
 Bolivar Lions Club
 Brass & Gas Auto Club
 Mark Rumsey
 Anonymous

WILDCATTER - \$51-100

Kenny's Friendly Service
 Julie & Dan Baldwin
 Dempsey Family
 Tom Dunn
 Leo & Rose Marie Schunk
 Dan & Cathy Fuller
 Rick Whitney
 Allegany County Federation of Snowmobilers,
 Bolivar Chapter

ROUSTABOUT - \$26-50

Jerry Codispoti
 RESPEC (Peter Smith)
 Bob & Charlotte Mead
 Karen Sarrafian
 Nancy Walsh
 Barb & Lou Schiralli
 Herb MacDonell
 Steve & Terri Morrison
 Brad & Beth Schiralli
 Joe & Eileen Schaffner
 Independent Order Odd Fellows, #515

WELL PLUGGER—\$25 or less

Bob Yehl	Marilyn Lee
John & Anna Boll	Janet Herne
Edith Freaney	Leo Murphy, Jr.

BOLIVAR MOTOR OIL



Bolivar Gas	Solvents
Bolivar Ethyl	Bolivar MOTOR OIL
Tractor Fuel	Allegany Motor Oil
Naptha	Fuel Oil
Kerosene	Range Oil

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New York Oil Producers' Association
 Bolivar, New York Wellsville, New York

John C. Bradley John D. Bradley Charles A. Chipman Karney R. Cochran R. A. Conkling, Jr. Henry C. Bohne W. L. Davis L. F. Eberl Henry W. Funk	Lee Harder Daniel C. Harris Bayard T. Hoskins David D. Hoskins J. P. Healy William F. Hogan George W. Holbrook Albert L. Howe Frank G. Hungerford Mark B. Hyslip, Jr.	Richard Lyon Leon J. MacDonell The Hon. William H. MacKenzie M. E. Mitchell N. V. V. F. Munson William M. Petre James E. Randall L. H. Richardson	C. D. Schaffner, Jr. A. W. Schaller Fred C. Shamer John A. Thompson Knight Thornton Ralph M. Tompkins G. Adolph Vossler John W. Wachli O. W. Wachli F. J. Wilson
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Advertisements from the Bolivar Breeze show the effect of the local oil industry on the community. To the left is an ad from 1956 from NYSOPA (some of the names are very familiar). To the right is a 1944 ad for Allegany Refiners located just outside Bolivar. Notice the variety of products all produced locally. What a difference from today!



2012
A Year



NYSOPA TO Honor Wall of Fame Inductees

WINE-AND-CHEESE TASTING TICKETS

Friday, June 21, 2013

6:30 - 8:00 Hahn & Schaffner Site

\$15 Single Ticket

\$35 Two Tickets and designation
as Bronze Patron

\$65 Four Tickets & Silver Patron
Status

\$125 Eight Tickets & Gold Patron
Status

(for 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 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: 12:30-4:40

Friday: 9:30-4:30

Saturday: 9:00-12:00

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 2013 class of inductees includes Fred Dick, Ed Bartlett, Albert Howe, and Leon MacDonell.

Last year's class included Carl Childs, Wade Harriger, Ralph Root, and John Messer. 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 21, at **6:00** immediately before the wine-and-cheese tasting that is noted elsewhere in this newsletter. 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.



Family members of each of the inductees share in the memory of their relative's accomplishments.