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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 MAKING GREAT PROGRESS

The new 40 x 60 foot addition on the main exhibit building at the Hahn & Schaffner site is making progress toward its completion. The exterior of the building has been completed with tan metal siding and a green metal roof that will match most of the rest of the buildings at that site.

Completion of the interior took a long time as we wanted to make sure that the best decisions were made for the future of the muse-



um. A strong, secure metal ceiling was necessary to allow for heavy displays and signage to be hung from it. The interior has taken shape with the installation of museum-quality display lighting. Track lighting with gimbal lampholders is being installed to highlight all wall spaces, and more runs will be installed through the center of the room.

In between these rows, recessed downlights were added for additional lighting coverage. These will provide a great deal of flexibility in illuminating exhibits as we organize this new space.

The walls will be painted soon,

and then we will be on to the next phase—organization, purchase, and display of exhibits.

We are working with a professional museum-display company from Buffalo. Their guidance will help to enhance the visitor experience. We will use many of our previous exhibits, but we also hope to build or purchase some new ones.



Paul Plants, Museum Officer and NYSOPA Leader, Passes Away

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

In December, museum board member and local oilman, Paul Plants, passed away. A life-long resident of Shinglehouse, PA, he is remembered for his efforts in the local oil and gas industry as well as his service to our country, as he was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army, enlisting in 1958.

With his partner, George Goodwin, they formed Plants and Goodwin, an oilfield service company, in 1970. Eventually this became one of the largest oil and gas well plugging companies in the north-eastern United States.

A member and director of the New York

State Oil Producers' Association (NYSOPA) for over 40 years, Paul served as president for an extended period.

When a first-ever board of directors was established for the Pioneer Oil Museum in 2000, Paul stepped up and served as president for 15 years. During this time, he laid the plans for two major projects, the first being the implementation of the New York State Oil Producers' Association Wall of Fame which began in 2005, and the second, the museum's purchase of and move to the Hahn & Schaffner site. That site has seen great change due to Paul's vision. Within the next two years, the entire museum will be moved to this new complex.

Bolivar's Industries (One A Week)

Another one of Bolivar's industries that promises to expand is the Bolivar Machine company, located in the Swarthout building on Main street. The shop is equipped with the latest laths, drilling and other machinery, thereby making it possible to care for all machine work in a workmanship manner.

The company has recently installed a machine for grinding lawnmowers, thereby saving the trouble and expense of sending a lawnmower away.

A. D. Clair is in full charge and, being a first-class mechanic, leaves no work undone. Success is predicted for this thriving company.

Above - from April 16, 1931; one of a series in the Bolivar Breeze entitled "One A Week" highlighting Bolivar businesses



Wendy Dunning Lanterman recalled what life was like for an oilman in the local fields as her grandfather was inducted onto the Wall of Fame

Bolivar Celebrates Bicentennial

The Town of Bolivar will celebrate its 200th birthday this June. This celebration will run concurrently with Pioneer Oil Days from June 22-29. There will be a variety of activities each day culminated by a parade on Saturday, June 28.

Much of the Bicentennial will center on the local oil and gas industry. Early wildcat wells had been drilled prior, but things never really took off until the oil strike in nearby Richburg on April 27, 1881. That gusher brought nearly 10,000 people into the Bolivar-Richburg valley in a short time. The official Bicentennial logo highlights our pride in the oil/gas industry.



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.

Don Case, Wall of Fame

Previous Inductee

Don Case (1909-2004) spent over 70 years working in the local oil fields of Pennsylvania and New York. In fact, he was still driving his bulldozer until his death at the ripe, old age of 95.

A talented man, Don was known for welding, repairing, and inventing oil field equipment. He could fix nearly anything. He handled many of the jobs as lease foreman, including supervising the crew, running the pressure plant, keeping records, and plowing the roads.

Around 1930, he worked for the Bradley Producing Company mainly on their leases between Allentown and Bolivar.



Museum Information

HOURS: **Hours not established yet**; possibly Thursday and Friday 10:00-4:00 and Saturday 12:00-3:00

SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

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/Bicentennial: June 22-29
Facebook: Pioneer Oil Museum of New York
Website: pioneeroilmuseum.com

EMPIRE OIL - the Definitive History of Oil & Gas in New York State

Written by John Herrick - an oil producer, former president of the New York State Oil Producers' Association, and published author - this masterpiece provides information about the little-known petroleum industry in New York State and is as close to a "Bible" on the subject of oil in this region as anyone will ever write.

The book includes a brief resume of oil from antiquity to the mid-20th century. Early discoveries in the Bradford field in Cattaraugus County and the local Allegany Field are discussed at length, but work in the minor oil-producing counties of the state is not ignored.

Other topics include the use of nitroglycerine in the oil industry, pipe lines, and refineries. Secondary recovery of oil is explained in detail allowing the reader to see how the industry exploded, transforming this area into one of the wealthiest regions of the state. Not to be forgotten is the history of natural gas in the state.

This book, along with Bolivar, NY - Pioneer Oil Town (also written by John Herrick) is available for sale at the museum to help celebrate Bolivar's Bicentennial in 2025.

Right: At the Wall of Fame induction ceremony, Carolyn Miller, close family friend and long-time personal secretary to Jim Euken, spoke about his deep love for the oil and gas industries. Nothing pleased him more than walking the oil fields and looking for old wells.



"Turning Back the Clock"

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

December 9, 1899 — A [nitro]glycerine magazine holding 300 quarts of the explosive used to shoot oil wells blew up on Bolivar Run Road near Bradford, PA, early in the morning. The blast left a hole in the ground 15 feet deep and 30 feet across. The explosion shattered windows for miles around, and the shock wave was felt as far away as Ellicottville and Olean. Fortunately, no one was hurt.

(Reprinted in the Olean Times Herald, December 10, 2024)

Eureka Oil

Though written for the Bradford oil field, this could also easily apply to the local Allegany field.

I'd like to tell a story if you folks would be so kind,
Of the oil fields of Bradford near the New York-Pennsy line.
A fellow named Job Moses thought he'd drill a wildcat well.
He gathered up a string of tools, I've heard the old folks tell.
A flimsy makeshift standard rig was used to drill the hole.
They fired up the boiler, and the wheels began to roll.
He drilled into the Bradford sand, the oil started flowing.
And from that very moment, folks, Bradford started growing.
People came from far and wide to reap the golden crop.
The oil poured like magic, they thought t'would never stop.
There came drillers and tool dressers and painted ladies, too.
Also, roustabouts and teamsters, they were a motley crew.
There were men to build the derricks and men to build the tanks.
They were all hard-working people and didn't get much thanks.
There were lots of ways to gamble; everybody had a chance.
Yesterday you were a millionaire; today you lost your pants.
East Bradford, known as Tarport, was an evil, wicked place.
Had the devil come to visit, he'd have covered up his face.
The hillside rang with music of drill bits being dressed.
One-lung engines banging loudly from the East and from the West.
Hark! Hear that lonesome whistle of the old BB&K,
As it rolls down Hawkens Hollow at the closing of the day.
Generations made a living on that treasure from below.
It came to be a way of life; it's really all we know.
There've been many times in history when the future looked quite grim.
But we always struggled back again with vigor and with vim.
Today, though, things are different, and I feel we're near the end.
The cards are stacked against us, and we haven't got a friend.
Our government's relentless, they've tied us with red tape.
So is there any wonder that we've gotten in such shape.

Written by Roscoe Brown of Bradford, PA

Published in the Bradford Era, September 29, 2006

Memorials 2024

In memory of Joe Bucher
by Rick and Kris Gould
by Kelly and Lois Lounsberry
by Jim Pizzolanti
by M.J. Cook

In memory of Leslie Grover
by Richard & Sandra Frost

In memory of Keith Rumsey
by Lloyd Johnson

In memory of Earl Harriger
by Bob & Susan Weber
by Dianne Safford

In memory of Diane Glintz
by Bob Mountain
by Kelly & Lois Lounsberry

In memory of Robert "Tub" Smith
by Mary Smith

In memory of Bob Dean
by Jean Sexton
by Kelly & Lois Lounsberry
by Rick & Lois Whitney

In memory of Marilyn Vincent Gordon
and Rheba Vincent Rigas
by John & Diana Embser

In memory of Grant Wisel
by Georgia Phillips

In memory of Willard Cline
by Joyce Cline

In memory of Lanny Wesche
by Cheryl Wesche

In memory of Cy Dawson
by Bev Dawson

In memory of Nancy MacDonell
by Scott MacDonell

In memory of Rowena Boyd
by Kelly & Lois Lounsberry

In memory of Louie Schiralli
by Barb Schiralli

In memory of Phillip R. LaBella
by Phillip J. LaBella

In memory of Paul Plants
by Citizens & Northern Bank
by Chuck Thompson
by Bradford Pipe & Supply Inc.
by American Refining Group
by Stan Dunsmore
by Bill & Nicky Barnes
by Richard Kessel
by Kelly & Lois Lounsberry
by Ronald & Bonnie Coniber
by Freshwater Family Foundation
by Joyce Cline

In memory of Don & Pat Lounsberry
by Karen & Stephan Sarrafian

In memory of Harley L. Thompson
by Chuck Thompson

In memory of Howard Compton
by Ralph Compton

In memory of Chester A. McEnroe, Sr.
by Ric McEnroe

In memory of Mary Hungerford
by Kelly & Lois Lounsberry

In memory of Jim Gabriel
by Kelly & Lois Lounsberry

In memory of Ruth Hurd
by Bob Mountain

In memory of Will Burdick
by Diane Main

In memory of Henry Bohne & Luman
Brandes
by Lewis & Phyllis Brandes

In memory of Crowley family
by Monica Corwin

In memory of Dean Phillips
by Phillips family
by Kelly & Lois Lounsberry

The New York State Oil Producers' Association Wall of Fame was the brainchild of Paul Plants. He wasn't sure how this endeavor would be received, but it has been an overwhelming success.

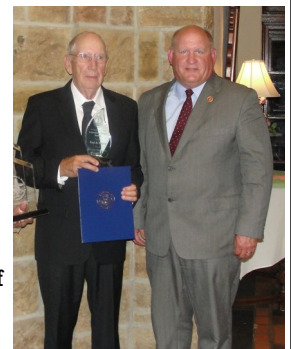
At the first induction ceremony in 2005, Paul presented a plaque to Mary Hungerford, wife of Tom, an inductee in the inaugural class. There have been 74 inductees since that time.



The Legacy of Paul Plants

In 2014, the Petroleum History Institute awarded Paul the "Colonel Edwin L. Drake Legendary Oilman Award," honoring his lifetime of achievement in the oil and natural gas industries. He is standing with Pennsylvania state representative, GT "Glenn" Thompson, who represents the 15th District of Pennsylvania, including McKean and Potter counties.

Paul was nominated for this award by the board of the Pioneer Oil Museum.



DONATIONS 2024

OIL BARON - \$ 501 and more

Lewis Barnes Bolivar Lions Club
 Heritage Aflame Dick & Bev Monroe Estate
 Jim Ingalls Dorchester Minerals, LP
 KR Utilities Joan Gollaher
 McCracken Energy Entergy Corp.
 Madison Community Foundation (Marcia Bradley)

SHOOTER - \$101-500

Joe Yehl Bob Mountain
 Bill Barnes Mr. & Mrs. Rick Gould
 Jim Hahn Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Emerson
 Robert Harriger Mr. & Mrs. Joe Schaffner
 Eric Welninski Amy Spagg
 Allegany County Area Foundation (Euken Fund)

ROUSTABOUT - \$26-50

Wendy Lanterman
 Jim Leonard
 Penn Brad Museum
 Nancy Walsh
 Allegany County Snowmobilers Federation
 Bonnie Brinnier Renaud
 Norene Ferris
 Chuck Loucks
 Brandon Loucks
 John Boll
 John & Diana Embser (in honor of Sandra Vincent Cleveland and Roger Vincent)
 Margaret Bryner

WILDCATTER - \$51-100

Mike Fuoco Jeff Horn
 Randy Iantorno Larry Poelma
 Nancy Shaner Repp Bob Seldon
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Morrison Denny Greisbaum
 Mr. & Mrs. Bob Ingalls Mr. & Mrs. Dan Baldwin
 Mr. & Mrs. Dave Evans Community Improvement Club
 Kessel Construction United Refining Co.
 BRCS Dress Down Day Fund
 Allegany County Office for Aging, Bolivar Luncheon Site

WELL PLUGGER - \$25 or less

Laurie Lounsberry Meehan
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Griggs

Donations to Growth & Development Capital Project 2024			
Bucher Family Trust	\$50,000.00	Kelly & Lois Lounsberry	\$2500.00
McCracken Energy	\$5000.00	Donna & Dominic DiGirolamo	\$1000.00
Manley Grant	\$5000.00	Allegany Cty. Area Foundation	\$1500.00
Heritage Aflame	\$1000.00	Bev Dawson	\$1000.00
Monica Corwin	\$1000.00		



Betty Phillips reminisced about her husband Dean's efforts as a gas producer in oil country. She also described how she and the children would help on the leases no matter the weather.

FACEBOOK MEMORIES

When I went [to watch a well being shot] with Al Fenner, he would carry a thin metal tube with nitrogen in the bottom and glycerin in the top. He made me stay back while he dropped the tube down the well.

Usually they dig a pit to catch the sand pumpings [the sand and rock debris from drilling a well]. Blackberries and strawberries love to grow near the sand pumpings because it's fertilizer [for the plants].

Gary Nobles

posted - December 5, 2024

WINE-AND-CHEESE TASTING TICKETS

Friday, June 27, 2025

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. There 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
- ♦ 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 onto the New York State Oil Producers' Association "Wall of Fame," which is located at the Hahn & Schaffner site of the Pioneer Oil Museum. The 2025 class includes Paul Plants, Jim Macfarlane, William McEnroe, Wallace Sawyer, and Bob Wilkinson.

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 27, 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 Jim Euken, Dean Phillips, J. Floyd (Dutch) Dunning, and Dick Smith.

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 nearly 200 people in attendance. Feel free to spend some time exploring the facility to learn about the amazing heritage of the local oil fields.



Wall of Fame inductee families the night of the ceremony: left—family of Dick Smith; above—family of J. Floyd Dunning

THE PIPE RECONDITIONING "EXPERIENCE"

Former Bolivar residents, Jim and Bob Codispoti, visited the museum a couple of years ago. Their tour of the Hahn & Schaffner site rekindled memories of working there while they were growing up. (Their father worked there as well.) Below are some of Jim's recollections of the "pipe reconditioning experience".

1. Used and damaged pipes of all sizes were brought in from the oil fields to be reconditioned.
2. Pipes were trucked in and dropped off at a pneumatic machine run by Bruno Codispoti for evaluation. Bent pipes were straightened, and dust and dirt were removed by a machine called a rattler.
3. Pipes were then picked up by a tractor trailer and moved to one of the three shops based on pipe size. The shops were managed by Lloyd McCray, Ernie Davis, and Dell Smith, each with its own pot belly stove for warmth. The pipes were evaluated for holes, recut, and the couplings and threads were examined and replaced as needed.
4. The pipes were then moved to their final reconditioning area. They were inserted with a burner to remove all grease and oil contents and then repainted. The pipes were picked up by a tractor trailer and moved to a storage area by size to be resold as reconditioned pipe. Dick Phillips did a lot of the trucking for Hahn and Schaffner. Loading and unloading pipe was a big part of the reconditioning process.
5. Hahn and Schaffner hired me to work on Saturdays during the school year and then during the summer months. When no work was available, they made arrangements for me to work for Bradley Producing in Wellsville.
6. Learning to drive the tractor trailer backwards and driving a bulldozer at Bradley's were two wonderful accomplishments. Working in the oil fields with tough, dedicated men was one of my best experiences growing up.

40 YEARS' SERVICE IN THE ALLEGANY OIL FIELD

OIL AND GAS WELL SHOOTING

Office, 343 Main Street—Phone 80
Residence, 67 South Street—Phone 29-M
M. H. VanCuren, Manager
Bolivar, N. Y.
— and —
Duke Center, Pa.
P. E. Bales—Phone 78

Carl Morrical, Shooter—Phone Bolivar 160

Van Curen High Explosive Co.

Incorporated

Above: an ad from the Bolivar Breeze on May 7, 1938; this company was established in 1895 by the Van Curen brothers, some of the finest "shooters" in the area

Below: Ron Smith did a superb job speaking about his father's induction onto the Wall of Fame as he described his family's experiences in the oil fields



"Turning Back the Clock"

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

December 1915 - The area's oil producers received their New Year's presents today, as oil prices for Pennsylvania grade crude oil jumped more than four percent to a high of \$2.25 a barrel. With today's advance, the producers became more confident that oil would hit \$3 a barrel, and activity in the field is being rapidly carried on. Spring will see more drilling in this section [area], as the high prices offered are attracting many of the old time oil men.

(Reprinted in the Olean Times Herald, January 2016)



The Wall of Fame induction ceremony and wine-tasting had nearly 200 people in attendance last June. There was also a blacksmith demonstrating his skills as well as a couple of antique oilfield engines in operation.



Clockwise from upper left: For the first time, a beer stand was set up at the wine-tasting (this was part of the preview for the 2025 Bicentennial); one of the tractors pulling during the competition; the float from the Bolivar Bicentennial Committee was part of the parade on a wet, soggy day; the family of Dean Phillips was in attendance for his induction onto the Wall of Fame



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