



The Inkwell



The Newsletter of the Bradford Landmark Society

April 2019

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Happy Birthday – to us!

Did you know that the Bradford Landmark Society turns 50 years old this year?

The Landmark Society was founded in 1969 by a group of concerned Bradford residents who believed that the history of the early oil country heritage in the Tuna Valley was being forgotten.

The city was also undergoing urban renewal at that time; older buildings were being razed, highways being built, landscapes changed – and there was a real fear that more and more history was being lost.

A public meeting was held May 14, 1969 in the Carnegie Public Library (now Beefeaters) and 37 people attended. By the end of the meeting, the Bradford Landmark Society was created, given a name and an organizational committee drawn up to write a set of bylaws, and find a slate of officers. Incorporation was finalized that July.

The rest, as they say, is history. Soon, those early founders and volunteers were busy collecting, preserving, identifying, and displaying the growing collection of Bradford history.

The Herbig Bakery now serves as the research center of the Historical Society, with nearly 17,000 photographs, genealogical materials, maps, blueprints, documents, books, etc. and is always looking for new “old “ items to add to the collection.

After fifty years, the Society remains a vital part of Bradford and looks forward to another half century of making history.



Yearlong events are scheduled in celebration of the anniversary including a history trivia contest in the Era beginning in April, Old Time Movies about Bradford at the Main Street Movie House on April 24th, a float in the Memorial Day parade, Patriotic and Popular Music Program at the Crook Farm on July 7 with Tubbers and ice cream, the Best of the Creative Women’s Workshop on July 27, the 40th annual Old Time Music and Crook Farm Country fair held, August 24 & 25, a Creative Children’s Workshop in September, a “Remember When” musical program by John Kerns this fall, a Seminar Lecture Series and release and book signing of the Landmark’s newest book, The House Book, Volume One: Congress Street, South Avenue, and West Corydon Street in November, and the annual Christmas Open House and Holiday Bake Sale in December. The Landmark will also participate in First Night 2020 as well.

News from the Landmark:

We are sad to report the death of Gayle Bauer, a member of the Board of Directors of the Landmark Society for over ten years. She passed away Wednesday, February 6, 2019 after an illness of several months. She was 68 years old.

Gayle devoted her life to community service. She was a Bradford Township supervisor for two terms, a position she held at the time of her death, served on the board of directors of the SPCA for 25 years, was a member and a Trustee on the Board of Directors of the public library; the Penn-Brad Oil Museum and was a member of the executive board of the McKean County Republican Party.

You might have seen her at the Crook Farm Fair, or as one of the participants in the Creative Women Workshop. And she never missed a yard sale! Memorial donations are being accepted at the Herbig Bakery. Please use the form below.



<i>(PLEASE CHOOSE IN MEMORY OF OR IN HONOR OF)</i>		MEMORIAL/HONORING GIFTS	<i>(PLEASE PRINT)</i>
		OR	
IN MEMORY OF		IN HONOR OF	
SEND CARD TO		FROM	
STREET		STREET	
CITY/STATE/ZIP		CITY/STATE/ZIP	

The 2091 Membership Drive for the Bradford Landmark Society is now underway. You will have received an application in the mail. If you have already renewed your membership, we thank you. If not, please do so! We have lots of fun activities planned for our 50th anniversary year and we wouldn't want you to miss out. Membership fees are \$5 for a single; \$25 for a couple, \$50 for a business membership, and \$100 for a patron. Feel free to encourage your friends, family, neighbors, and anyone you know that loves history. The Bradford Landmark Society has been growing strong for fifty years, and it's all due to the support of our community and from people like you who love history and want to help our Society grow.

Watch for the Bradford Landmark Society's Trivia Contest in the Bradford Era! Two questions each day will be asked. And don't ask us for the answers – we want to see how many historians are out there.

50 Years Ago...1969

*The Bradford Landmark Society was formed that spring, but what was happening in the city that April?
Take a look! The following are from the end of the year Chronology, 1969.*

- 1-Apr McKean County Commissioners approved a budget for 1969 of \$1,528,637 with millage, per capita and personal property tax rates to remain unchanged.
- 3-Apr Bradford Redevelopment Authority voted to amend its contract and will demolish an additional 15 buildings on the Denning Housing Project site.
- 4-Apr William J. McCormack and Timothy J. Pettitt were named as new firemen by Chief Norman Rathfon.
- 5-Apr It was Good Friday and there was pleasant temperatures with a high in the mid 60's - and even several grass fires in the area.
- 8-Apr Bradford Hospital announced that it was placing restrictions on visiting patients at the local institution.
- 9-Apr The Allegheny Reservoir set a new record for pool depth at the Kinzua Dam - 12337.49 feet above sea level.
- 10-Apr Dr. T. Edward Hanley, 75, of 801 E. Main St., oil executive, art and book collector, died at Bradford Hospital.
- 11-Apr The Cattaraugus County Board of Supervisors voted to expend \$47,000 for floating docks for the Onoville marina which accommodate about 100 boats.
- 12-Apr State Police arrested James Hochstine and Francis Reid of Bradford for the alleged theft of about \$200 worth of liquor, beer and snacks from the Willows in Corydon Township.
- 14-Apr Bradford's Civic Music season came to a conclusion with a concert by pianists Jeffry and Ronald Marlowe.
- 15-Apr Bradford Area Schools Board of Directors appointed Frederick E. Shuey superintendent of schools to succeed George A. Bell who is retiring.
- 16-Apr Frank W. Hyde III, was installed as the new exalted ruler of Bradford Elks Lodge 234.
- 17-Apr Edward R. Husted, director of Bradford Redevelopment Authority, said plans were "firm" for a new post office near Boylston and Forman St.
- 18-Apr Fred L. Tuttle Jr. of Custer City announced that he would be a Republican candidate for nomination as District Justice of the Peace.
- 19-Apr Richard Allen Phillips, 24, of Port Allegany, was killed when the car he was driving struck the rear of a tractor trailer in the borough.
- 21-Apr The city's new Shade Tree Commission met and discussed trees suitable for city planting, shade tree ordinances and proper planting times.
- 22-Apr Nelson R. Lubold of Derrick City resigned as a member of the Foster Township Board of Supervisors.

- 23-Apr Local police investigated a break-in at the Main St. office of Elk Lick Council of Boy Scouts in which \$100 was taken.
- 24-Apr Allegheny Airlines is ordered by the Public Utility Commission to maintain service to northern Pennsylvania points until approval is granted for termination.
- 25-Apr Mr. and Mrs. Percival Cook of Jamestown, N.Y. were killed in a one-car accident on Route 6, a mile east of Ludlow.
- 26-Apr Mrs. Elsie Byham, director of nurses at Kane Community Hospital, resigns because of health reasons.
- 29-Apr Miss Elizabeth K. Conlon of Trenton, N.J. accepted the position of director of the McKean County Child Welfare Agency.
- 30-Apr A McKean County Health Council is formulated here, with Mrs. Mayfred Fox as the first director.

What was happening in the rest of the world in 1969? (Hint – it was quite a year!)

- The Beatles' last public performance, on the roof of Apple Records,
- Richard M. Nixon was inaugurated in January.
- First Concorde test flight was conducted In France,
- Boeing 747 jumbo jet made its debut,
- Pontiac Firebird Trans Am the epitome of the American muscle car was introduced,
- Woodstock attracts more than 350,000 rock-n-roll fans,
- Members of a cult led by Charles Manson murder five people,
- Chappaquiddick accident involving Senator Edward Kennedy,
- Man lands on the moon on the Apollo 11 mission by the United States as Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin became the first humans to set foot on the Moon.
- Average Cost of new house \$15,550.00 - Average Income per year \$8,550.00 - Average Monthly Rent \$135.00 - Average Cost New Car \$3,270.00 - Gas per Gallon 35 cents
- Popular movies were *Midnight Cowboy*, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, *The Wild Bunch*, *Easy Rider*, *Anne of the Thousand Days*
- Children's Television Workshop introduces Sesame Street.
- The FCC bans all cigarette advertising on television and radio.
- Record of the Year: "*Mrs. Robinson*," Simon and Garfunkel; Album of the Year: *By the Time I Get to Phoenix*, Glen Campbell; Song of the Year: "*Little Green Apples*," Bobby Russell, songwriter.
- Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th President of the United States, died on March 28, 1969, age 79.

Time flies over us, but leaves its shadow behind.

- Nathaniel Hawthorne

The Oil Well Driller

A History of the World's Greatest Enterprise by Charles A. Whiteshot, 1905

Did you ever wonder about the early days of oil exploration in the Bradford area? Wondered if it was successful right away, or did drillers hit dry holes? I found this article written in 1905 by Charles Whiteshot, who penned several articles on the history of the oil industry. I thought it was very interesting, and am including it in this month's edition of The Inkwell for your enjoyment – and education!

Bradford Oil Company organized January 10, 1861. Capital stock \$5,000, divided into 1,000 shares at \$5 per share. President: S. Holmes; secretary, R. P. Steers; treasurer, L.T. Harper. Directors: George Sanford, G.B. Crooker, C. A. Alton, J.R. Dart and H. Burgess.

The first hole was drilled 200 feet deep on the Kingsbury farm on West Branch, now in the city limits of Bradford. Pole tools were used. The contractors were Peter Chase & Co.

First oil discovered in Bradford, PA oil field was near the village of Limestone, NY, Cattaraugus County, NY in 1863. The first well in the Tuna Valley was drilled by the Olmstead Oil Company on the Crook farm in Pennsylvania, about one-half mile south of the state line. A small show of oil was found at a depth of 350 feet.

In 1864 Dr. James Nichols, Henry Renner and Daniel Smith drilled a well just north of Limestone village to the depth of 570 feet and found a show of oil. The Hall farm Petroleum Company, incorporated under the laws of New York in 1865, purchased the Hall farm in Limestone village, and at once began drilling. The well was drilled 50 feet deeper and at a depth of 1,050 feet sand was struck. On October 15th, the well began to produce five barrels of oil and was a paying well until water broke in and flooded the sand and ruined the well.

In 1865, F.E. Dean and brothers drilled a well in the valley of Tuna creek on the Sheperd farm, near the present site of Custer City. One hundred and sixty feet of drove pipe was used. This well was drilled 900 feet deep and abandoned 200 feet above the Bradford sand.

In 1860, the citizens of the village of Bradford concluded to club together and drill the Barnsdall well deeper, and it was drilled to a total depth of 875 feet or within 150 feet of the Bradford oil producing sand.

In 1867, F.E. Dean and brothers drilled a well on the Clark farm at Tarport, now East Bradford, to a depth of 605 feet, or over 400 feet above the Bradford sand.

All of these wells were drilled with the expectation of finding the Venango county oil sand at about the same depth below water level as at Oil City, but they were all dry holes at that depth.

Slush oil was found at a depth of 731 feet and in November, 1871, the well was drilled to the brown or chocolate sand, which was reached at a depth of 1,110 feet. The well began producing 10 barrels a day from this sand, which was then renamed the Bradford sand. On December 6, 1874, Messrs. Butts and Foster drilled a well in the Bradford sand on the Archy Buchanan farm two and a half miles northeast of Bradford. This well started off with a production of 70 barrels a day and was the real beginning of the oil excitement in Bradford and McKean County.

In December 1878, four years after the completion of the Butts well, the average daily production of crude oil in the Bradford oil field was 23,700 barrels and in 1880, the Bradford oil field produced 63,000 barrels of oil a day.

Bradford Landmark Society

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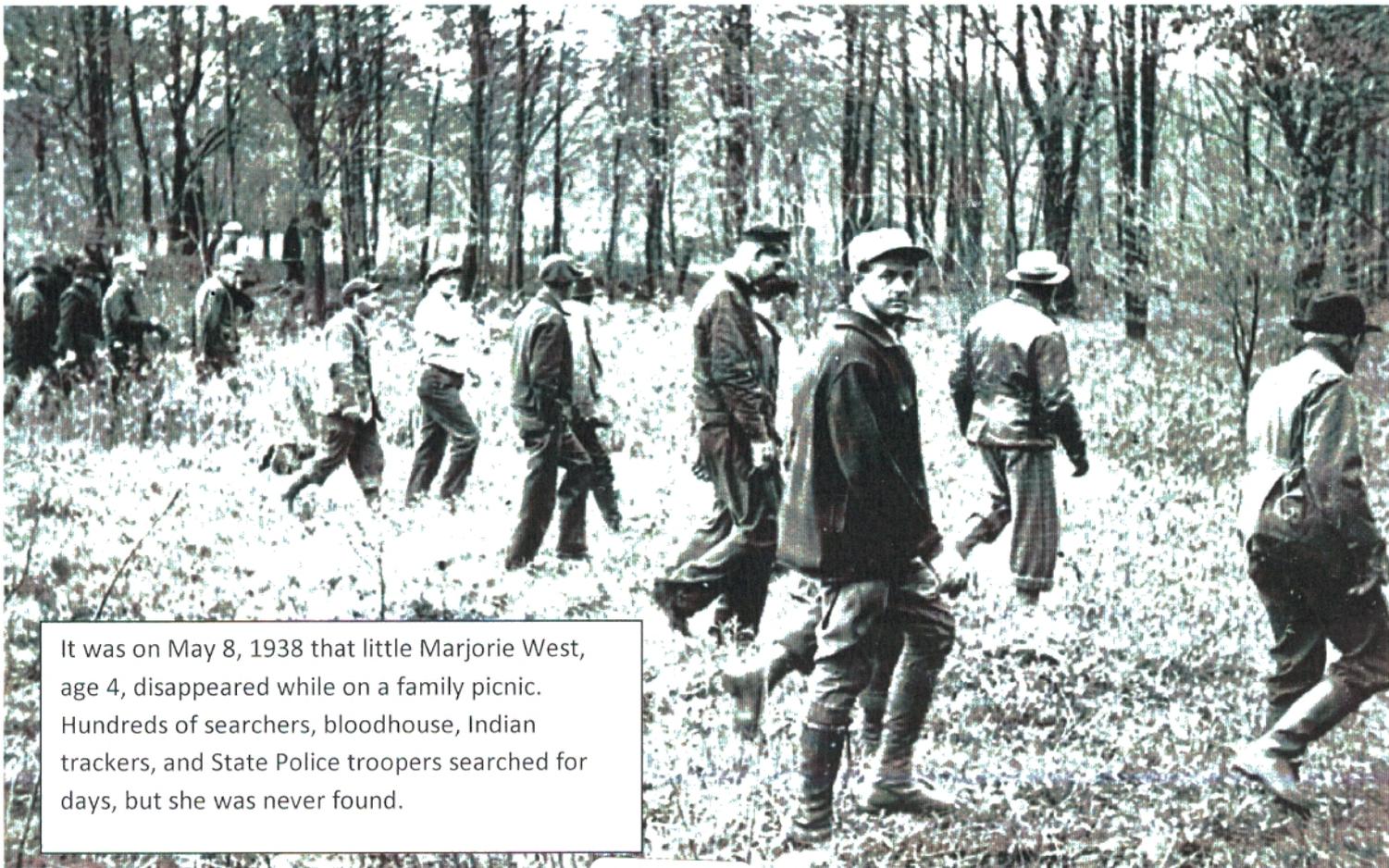
Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

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Bradford, Penna.

Permit 247



It was on May 8, 1938 that little Marjorie West, age 4, disappeared while on a family picnic. Hundreds of searchers, bloodhouse, Indian trackers, and State Police troopers searched for days, but she was never found.