



The Inkwell

The newsletter of the Bradford Landmark Society
45 East Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701
Phone 814-362-3906 or email us at info@bradfordlandmark.org

January 20, 2008

Published 4 times a Year

Directors of the Bradford Landmark Society

Harrijane Hannon Moore, Pres.
Greg Ulyan
Pam Fredeen
Elizabeth Sefton
Susan Oliphant
Charles Pagano
Robert Esch

Curator at Herbig Bakery

Sally Ryan Costik

Researcher/Genealogist

Larry Richmond

Researchers

Mike Fuoco
Tom Jones

Volunteers at the Bakery

Mary Ryan
Gordon Ernest
Molly Lindahl
Bill Knight

Hours of Operation:

Herbig Bakery, 11AM – 2PM,
Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Historic Crook Farm by Appointment
Judy Yorks, Director

Once again, January has arrived, with bitter temperatures and snow. It's been such a mild winter so far that people are actually rooting for more snow! Brrr.

Every time a stranger walks into the Herbig Bakery, they are amazed at the number of people working away in the back. Mary Ryan sits quietly in a world of her own, typing the end of year chronologies into a database format. Larry Richmond, who sits across from her, bustles about, doing a variety of research; Mike Fuoco either sits at one of the research tables or is inside our only official "office", scanning aerial negatives; Tom Jones, our newest employee, manages to keep our computers going, and is in the midst of designing a Powerpoint presentation on early Bradford; Molly Lindahl sits inside our "office" answering email, xeroxing, and scanning photographs; and Sally Costik, the curator, sits on the other side of the research table, doing all the other misc. things that have to be done. And of course, visitors come in, the phone rings, and every time one of us finds out something interesting we feel compelled to share it with the rest of the Herbig Bakery volunteers. It's a great place to work.

And things keep changing! Congratulations to Harrijane Hannon, who recently married Jerry Moore; and more congratulations to Anne and Don Bouquin, whose daughter Jennifer was born Dec. 27 at Bradford Hospital.

The Bradford Landmark Society was recently donated the funds towards the purchase of a special photographic scanner, capable of scanning 5" x 7" negatives, and a new computer, dedicated to just these negatives. The words "Thank You" cannot express our thrill at finally obtaining such a scanner, and yet, we are going to say them anyway, "Thank you to Brian Bovaird of Oklahoma, and Bruce and Bev Perry of Bradford, for such a great gift to our society". The Dresser book is a huge success – we've sold over 130 copies so far – and recently re-ordered "Tiger at the Bar" – hardcover edition, which gives a good background to the days of Prohibition and gangsters. Since the movie "Little Chicago" is filming in Bradford, there is a lot of interest in that time period right now. Be sure to check out our featured story this month, "The Necrology and Chronology of Bradford Businesses, and be amazed how many new businesses opened in 2007!

- The Arcade Building, located on East Washington Street, and reported in last spring's newsletter that it was in danger of collapse, was razed two weeks ago. Deemed unsafe by the city, the roof of the 1904 building had caved in even more. Located directly on the Tuna Creek, and even overhanging it by a few inches, its removal was a tricky operation. Now that it is gone, and the debris cleared away, it's difficult to imagine that a building as large as the Arcade could once have stood there. The Bradford Landmark is always sad to see any building inside the Historic District removed, but in this case, we feel that it was totally justified.
- The Bradford Hospital has put out a commemorative calendar on the Hamsher House and the School of Nursing. It's a wonderful fact filled calendar with all sorts of photographs from across the years, showing nurses at work, study, play and fun. The Landmark has a few of these calendars for sale at the Herbig Bakery – and you can find them at the gift shop at the Hospital (Heartstrings), the pharmacies on Main Street, Tina's Hallmark, and the Main Street Mercantile.
- We finally got the Dresser Mansion book finished and out on the shelves. So far, it's one of our best sellers. Most of the book is a reprint of the 1903 souvenir commemorative edition of the mansion written by Solomon Dresser. The first section of the book, though, is a timeline of Dresser's life, his inventions, his family, and the construction, and eventual destruction by fire, of the mansion. We are selling it at the Herbig bakery, and at the Main Street Mercantile. All profits benefit the Bradford Landmark Society.
- We are also selling reprinted, hardcover editions of "Tiger at the Bar". As the movie "Little Chicago" started filming here before Christmas, there is a lot of renewed interest in the Prohibition Era, and the colorful characters that make up that decade of history. It's a lot of fun to watch a real movie being made. Everyone dressed like the 1920s, old cars, huge light sets; they even took out the parking meters on Kennedy Street for authenticity, and for those who saw the house on Howard Street "blown up" – well, it was Hollywood at its best! We can't wait for the movie to be finished and released. Wonder where the red carpet will be?
- We are underway with our aerial photograph book. Mike Fuoco is in the midst of writing captions for each negative – we hope to have about 100 photographs in this book, although we certainly have enough negatives to do at least one more book. These photographs from Donald Tanner are wonderfully crisp and clear. If you have never really looked at aerial photographs, or don't think that you will be interested – well, wait until you see these! We have photographs of the main streets, the Kinzua Dam area, industries, roads and buildings under construction, schools – and these are not taken from so high up that you can't make out details on the ground below. We are projecting publication by the Crook Farm Crafts Fair this August.
- And spring is on the way. The Crook Farm School Program will be underway within the next few months, and we know that the very first reservation letters have gone out to the schools. Geri Zetler, who scheduled the schools for so many years, has "re-retired" and passed that job on. She did a great job, and while we can understand her wanting to take it easy, we'll miss her. And condolences to the family of Margrieta Hewey, who was one of the very first "Crook farmers" I met when I first started at the Landmark 14 years ago. She, June Gray, Marian Bromeley, Doc Watkins and Doc Taylor, George Kish, and others, were among those of the founding core of the Landmark and whose vision of a historical society remains today.

Zip Codes

Last Thanksgiving, just before the holiday, the Bradford Landmark Society published its usual fall newsletter. However, don't consider yourself crazy if you never received it. Due to a huge oversight, the non-profit stamp that was supposed to be put on every single newsletter was forgotten – and not a single Landmark volunteer, or postal employee caught our mistake until weeks after we mailed the whole batch of Newsletters. The majority of them stayed in the postal system and were delivered anyway, but eventually some came back a result of a conscientious postal employee who noticed the missing stamp. Those 60 or so people never did get their last copy of *The Inkwell*. But don't worry – we won't slip up again!

We apologize for this mistake, and you can rest assured that we will be diligently checking each and every newsletter this time around. And just recently, quite by accident, the Internet had a small article on Zip Codes. We thought it was interesting, so portions of that article are included here, for your enjoyment:

Contrary to what most people – well, younger people – remember, there weren't always Zip Codes on letters. Actually, it's been only 45 years since they were required. The word ZIP in Zip Code stands for **Zoning Improvement Plan**; an expansion on a system of postal codes that were first used in cities starting in 1943, such as Minneapolis 16, or St. Petersburg 1, FL.



By the early 1960s a more general system was needed, and on July 1, 1963, non-mandatory ZIP codes were announced for the whole country. Robert Moon, an employee of the post office, is considered the father of the ZIP code. He submitted his proposal in 1944 while working as a postal inspector.

So, okay, what does a zip code number mean? The first digit in a zip code designates a large or broad geographical area of the United States, such as zero for the Northeast, and 8 for the West. (In our case, the number "1".) The next two digits specify population concentrations within those zones. (Such as 67.) The 67 designation reaches throughout all of McKean County – there are 22 different zip codes in McKean County. The last two digits represent a specific geographic area. In our case, this is usually a small town, such as Bradford, Lewis Run, Lafayette, Eldred, Kane, Port Allegany, or larger areas.

Mr. ZIP, informally "Zippy", was a cartoon character used in the 1960s by the United States Post Office Department, and in the 1970s by its successor, the United States Postal Service, to encourage the general public to include the ZIP Code in all mailings. Ironically, there was never a postage stamp with Mr. ZIP.

The Post Office had little difficulty in getting mass mailers to use the ZIP Code as they could require its use in order to receive preferential mailing rates, which it soon did. However, there was some resistance to using it by the general public, members of whom would mail items without ZIP Codes, almost invariably at the first Class Mail rate, which by regulation had to be delivered if at all possible and feasible. This was particularly true of older mailers. Mr. ZIP was the Post Office's answer to this, apparently to teach small children to always use the ZIP Code as they got older, and also to encourage their parents and grandparents to do so.

Stamp collectors sometimes collect the corner block of four stamps with the part of the selvage bearing Mr. ZIP; they are called "ZIP blocks".

Some interesting zip codes: 22222 is Arlington, VA; 44444 is Newton Falls, OH; 55555 is Young America, MN and 12345 is Schenectady, NY.

The Necrology and Chronology

Of Business 2007

Each year, as a tribute to those businesses that sprang into life in Bradford, and to honor those that sadly were closed, The Bradford Landmark Society publishes a list that identifies every one opened, sold, closed, or moved. If we have missed any, we apologize; but invite you to share our memories of Bradford's changing business scene in this edition of *The Inkwell*.

New Businesses:

- Nov. 2007 **Evolution Pool & Arcade**, an arcade and pool hall located at 22 South Avenue.
- Oct. 2007 **The Blue & Gold Café**, a small sandwich, soup, and coffee shop located in the Seneca Building.
- Oct. 2007 **Melange – The Massage Spa**. Located at 22 Main St., featuring all sorts of massages, and spa treatments.
- Oct. 2007 **Allegheny Recreational Rentals**, 217 W. Washington Street. Rentals of all sorts of fun outdoor scooters, canoes, fishing and camping equipment, golf clubs, etc.
- Oct. 2007 **Little Caesars Pizza**, 100 W. Washington Street. Hot-N-Ready Pizza.
- Oct. 2007 **RayBurg M.A.R.S.** Custom paint, glass repair, plastic repair, stain & odor removal, etc.
- Oct. 2007 **Clix PC Repair Center**, 14 E. Corydon Street. Computer repair, cleaning, maintenance, etc.
- Sept. 2007 A new building for the **Department of Motor Vehicles and the Pennsylvania Dept. of Welfare** was erected during the autumn of 2007 at 56-58 Chestnut Street.
- Aug. 2007 **Rocks, Behind the Eight**, 22 South Avenue. Drug & alcohol-free recreation for youth. Apparently changed its name in Nov. 2007 to Evolution Pool & Arcade.
- Aug. 2007 **Fratellis Italian Restaurant**, 1020 East Main Street. Italian food served with a 1950s twist.
- Aug. 2007 **Our World**, located in Westline, PA. Country, contemporary items, jewelry, gifts, etc.
- Aug. 2007 **MS Tire & Auto Service**, 59 Minard Run. Tires for passenger cars and light trucks.
- July 2007 **Paper to Pages**, 14 Kennedy Street. Scrapbook supplies and more.
- July 2007 **Family Video**, DVDs for rent and sale, candy, popcorn, video games.
- July 2007 **Jim's Professional Detail Shop**, 42 Bolivar Drive. Interior and exterior detailing of your vehicle.
- June 2007 **Bradford Oncology**, 8 North Center Street. Oncology and Hematology services.
- June 2007 **Fastenal**, 76 Bedford Street. Contractor & Industrial Supplies.
- June 2007 **Performance Image**, 72 Main Street. Speed shop and off-road center.

- May 2007 **Bella Capelli Salon**, 507 East Main Street. Full hair service, including coloring and cuts.
- May 2007 **Grandma's House Teas & Gifts**, 16 Congress Street. Offering beverages, sweets and merchandise inside former Congress Street diner.
- May 2007 **The Emery Espresso Bar**, 30 Boylston Street. Coffee and espresso products, pastries and bagels.
- May 2007 **The Gilded Lily**, 1111 East Main Street, located inside Graham's Greenhouse garden center. Unique tools and garden supplies, gifts.
- April 2007 **Holiday Financial Services** moved from inside CNB bank to 46 Main Street.
- April 2007 **Bradford Auto Service**, 58 W. Washington Street (formerly Colley's Auto). Automotive repairs, rental, and services.
- Feb. 2007 **South Kendall Auto Shop**, all types of automobile repair.

Going, Going, Gone

- Dec. 2007 **Cindy's Book Haven**, located at 5 Congress Street, sold many types of books.
- Dec. 2007 **Christmas Shoppe**, 88 Boylston Street. Christmas items and gifts.
- Nov. 2007 **The Hamsher House**, located on Pleasant Street, it was built by Sarah Hamsher in tribute to her late husband, Lewis Hamsher. Although built in 1917 as a dormitory for the growing Bradford Hospital School of Nursing, the building later housed students from the University of Pittsburgh, and still later, medical offices. Its demolition was deemed necessary as the hospital underwent a \$14 million dollar expansion project.
- Oct. 2007 **Movie Gallery**, located in the small plaza by Wal-Mart.
- Sept. 2007 **Uni-Marts**, located at 76 Chestnut, and 204 Bolivar Drive, closed in early autumn; the 76 Chestnut Street Uni-Mart has since reopened – the one on Bolivar Drive remains closed and for sale.
- Sept. 2007 The old **Pennsylvania Electric Company Building**, which in recent years had housed the PA Dept. of Motor Vehicles, Curves for Women, and The Print Shop, was demolished in the fall of 2007 as a newer structure was built in its place.
- Sept. 2007 **James R. Evans** men's clothing store at 80 Main Street, closed after 104 years; 47 of them owned and operated by Jack Shatara, who bought the store in 1984.
- June 2007 **Movie World**, located in Save-A-Lot Plaza at 75 Forman Street, closed after 9 years.
- June 2007 **Nickel Paint & Decorating** at 10 Kennedy Street closed when its owner, Fran Nickel, decided to retire after 26 years.

Feb. 2007 **GiGi Ladies Fashion Boutique** at 86 Main Street, closed after 8 years.

Moved from Here to There . . .

Nov. 2007 **Bradford's Chamber of Commerce** moved from the Seneca Building to 121 Main Street, next to Bradford's Main Street Moviehouse.

Sept. 2007 **Green Mountain Organics**, moved from Kennedy Street to 34 South Avenue. Sells a variety of organic and health food products.

April 2007 **The Print Shop** moved from Chestnut Street to 15 Barbour Street.

Mar. 2007 **M M Communications, Inc.** Moved from East Corydon Street to 125 Main Street, specializes in selling Verizon phones.

Jan. 2007 **Bloomer's Florist**, located in the old Congress Street diner, closed in January, but re-opened in Dec. 2007 at the Main Street Mercantile Store.

And finally, sold, but remains the same . . .

Nov. 2007 **Tops Market**, Bradford's largest grocery store, along with the entire Tops Market Chain, was sold to Morgan Stanley Private Equity for \$310 million dollars. The previous owners were the Dutch Supermarket Group Royal Ahold.

*May the Year 2008 prove
as interesting to our city!*

Eskimos and Reindeer Visit Bradford

January 7, 1927

“At the top of the world, in the shadow of the North Pole, sacrifices and personal suffering contributed in making it possible for the citizens of Bradford to enjoy a visit from their Cousins of Alaska, over 5000 miles from here.”

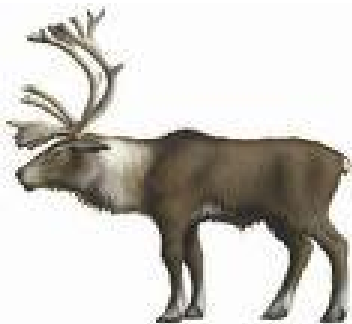
In 1927, city officials in Bradford decided to invite an Eskimo family and their reindeer to come to Bradford under the auspices of local business concerns for an unusual educational exhibition and to share knowledge of their home so far from this city. Now, years later, the authenticity of the Eskimo family is met with some skepticism (some believe that the Eskimos were actually actors from Hollywood) but in 1927, scam or not, Bradfordians were fascinated with the idea of meeting a real live Eskimo family.

Accordingly, Bradford officials invited the Ahkla family and their reindeer “from the frozen north” to appear at the Grand Theater on January 7, 1927. Heavily promoted in the local *Bradford Era*, it was reported that “thousands viewed the Alaska reindeer on local streets”. “The strangely attired visitors of another race – but not of another flag – were not stingy with their presence”, and appeared in various stores throughout the morning and afternoon; and were greeted by throngs of people at every location. Jimmy Ahkla, and wife Trixie, along with their two little children, ages 2 and 4 months, delighted the crowds. The family was dressed in complete Eskimo attire, with the majority of their clothing manufactured from reindeer skin; and their “parkas” fashioned from seal skin.

The Bradford crowds were particularly interested in seeing authentic reindeer, and were duly impressed with the small stature of each reindeer, the large size of their feet, and the smoothness of their coat. Most had believed that the reindeer would be more like a pet than a farm animal, and were surprised to learn that the reindeer could be an aggressive animal.

The Ahkla family had been invited to visit throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Western PA and spent only one night in each town before moving on to the next stop. It had been a short visit, but quite an educational one.

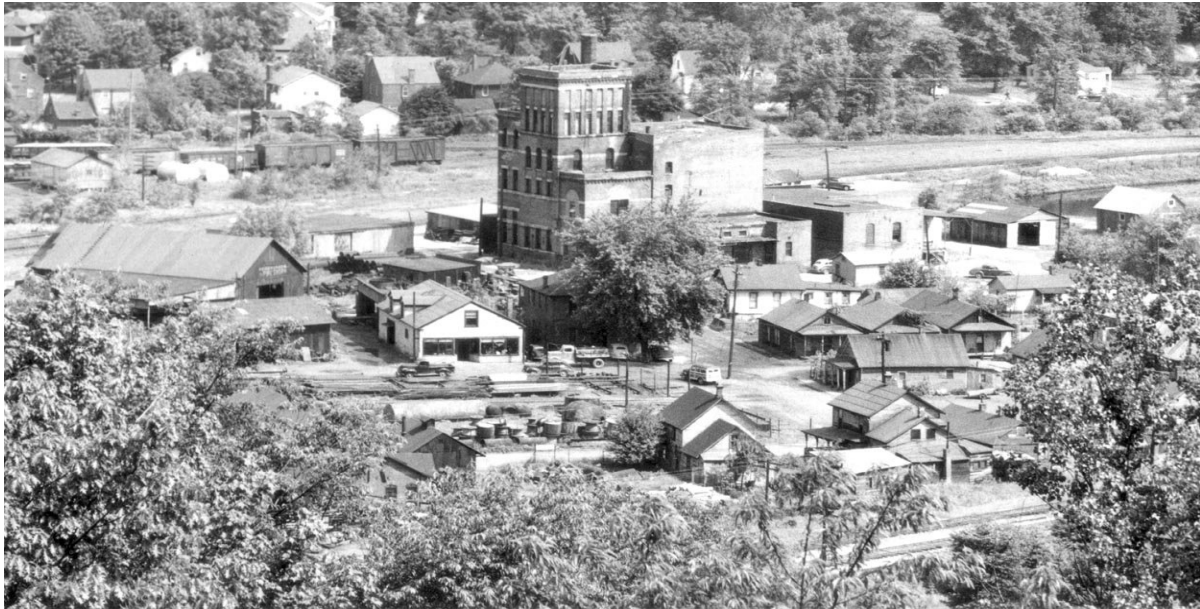
The city never again invited any of our neighbors to the “north, east, or south”, but for those who met a “real, live Eskimo and their reindeer” it was memories in the making.



Bradford Landmark Society

45 East Corydon Street

Bradford PA 16701



Hilton Street area. Old Bradford Brewery is tallest building. Now site of Route 219.

Hey, are you brave enough – or warm enough to hear some winter stories? Read on!

Feb. 13, 1901 40 loaded boxcars are stuck in snow near Mt. Jewett and the Kinzua Bridge with snow drifts as high as boxcars.

Dec. 14, 1904 Members of the Snow Shoe Club of Olean of which many Bradfordians are members, will make their first trip from Olean to Bradford after the first heavy snowfall.

Feb. 10, 1945 1500 people witness the opening of the Zippo Ski Slope at Recreation Park.

Jan. 21, 1985 The temperature in the City of Bradford reaches a low of 11 below zero with a wind chill estimate of 50 degrees below zero.

Dec. 2, 1974 Inclement weather causes the cancellation of three Allegheny Airlines flights and the delay of another from Bradford Regional Airport.

May 14, 1985 The Callahan ice skating rink is named the David J. Kreinson Ice Skating Rink by City Council in recognition of Kreinson's 25 years of dedicated service to the city.

Nov. 26, 1888 Tuna Creek frozen solid. Venturesome youth skate.

Jan. 10, 1938 Four local ponds open, three of them rendered useful by aid of Kiwanis Club. Skating areas include old Driving Park on Congress Street, Brook Lake on Interstate Parkway, Graham's pond on Seaward Avenue, and at the rear of Senior High School. Lights will be installed.

Now Get Out There and Enjoy the Winter!