



The Inkwell

The newsletter of the Bradford Landmark Society
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November 2007

Published 4 times a Year

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Hours of Operation:
Herbig Bakery, 11AM – 2PM,
Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Historic Crook Farm by Appointment

Happy November! It's been a really wonderful year at the Bradford Landmark Society, and we hope that you are getting ready for the coming holidays. From the school program days at the Crook Farm earlier this spring, to the music that is "jammed" each week at the Crook Farm, to the Crook Farm Country Fair this August, the weather was great all year long and many people enjoyed themselves.

At the Herbig Bakery, we were lucky enough to get a huge pile of blueprints of local buildings, met lots of family genealogists and researchers, and made great strides on some of our 'pet' projects, such as aerial photographs, typing databases, and doing research. One of our best efforts was the reprinting of the Dresser Mansion book, which has been finished – we are waiting for delivery from the publisher.

Another project that is currently underway is another 'Historic Homes' book. Not exactly a reprint of our first house book, this coming book will include information on over 100 homes in the Bradford area that are historically significant, either because of its architecture, the importance of its original builder or owner, or simply because something unique happened there. This compendium of homes is sure to be a favorite among our readers.

We were sad to see one of our Board members, Glen Washington, leave Bradford for a new job at a hospital. He was a great friend, and really will be missed at the Crook Farm. His home was directly across the street from the farm on Seaward Avenue, and he and his wife Mary often fed the chickens and planted and maintained the vegetable garden. Glen originally purchased chickens that were historically significant to the time period of the Farm (c. 1850) and became so attached to the flock that he actually took all the chickens with him to West Virginia. Lets hope that they enjoy their new home, too!

News and more!

- Another wonderful summer has passed. And if you passed by the Crook Farm or went to the annual Crook Farm Craft Fair, you may have noticed that the farm never looked as good as it did this past year. Mowed, painted, and just plain neat and tidy and it was all thanks to our two workers, Jim and Linda Irwin, who we hired through the Rural Opportunities program. The Crook Farm is closed for the summer now, but we hope to have Jim and Linda back again next summer.
- And at the Bakery, we have hired a second worker, Tom Jones, in addition to Mike Fuoco, to lend a hand with research and special projects. Mike is currently working on creating a computer database of all our photographs, and Tom is in charge of creating a series of PowerPoint presentations that we will be offering to the middle schools of the area, and selling to the public as well. These PowerPoint programs will cover such topics as Early Bradford, Trains and Trolleys, Main Street, Industry, Schools and Churches, Prominent Men and Women, Floods, Historic District, etc. It's a big project, but one that we feel will be a great way to educate the younger students on Bradford's history and just plain interesting for the rest of us.
- The Dresser Mansion Book is almost here! It was delayed for several months due to production problems, but we have solved them all, and it is definitely on its way to Bradford in the next week or so. For those of you who pre-ordered your copy, we will be calling you when the book arrives, and if anyone would like to order or buy a copy, just stop into the Bakery, on Monday-Wednesday-Friday from 11AM to 2PM.
- We have had some interesting visitors over the summer, including 13 members of the Newell family, who traveled from all over the United States to a family reunion down in Clear Creek State Park, and all of whom trooped into the Landmark one day to do research on their family tree. A delightful family and one that old Bradford pioneer Augustus Newell should be proud to have as descendants. On a side note, the Landmark helps to promote our local restaurants as well by steering our visitors to places on Main Street that serve lunches. Apparently doing family research makes people hungry!
- We also had two college girls doing research on the old poor farm (located out Degolia). They were so thrilled with our records that they came back a week later with a plate of brownies as a thank you.
- We were given a huge amount of blueprints by Ed Smith, who was part of Preston Abbey and Associates Architectural firm. While we will be offering the out-of-town blueprints for sale (the collection includes items from Olean, the Buffalo area, Mansfield, and so on) we donated a batch of courthouse blueprints to the McKean County Courthouse, which was very appreciative of our gift.
- We are still in the investigation stages of finding a way to reproduce – scan, actually – the 5 x 7 negatives of Donald Tanner, a Bradford aerial photographer from the 1950s and 1960s. When we get that capability, we will publish a book. Donald Tanner's grandson, D.B. Tanner III, stopped in one day (he was visiting from Colorado) and officially signed over the copyrights to the Landmark Society.
- And oh, there will be a movie filmed in Bradford. No title yet ("Little Chicago" has been suggested), but it will be loosely based on the life, and death of Al Ritchie and the rest of the Prohibition era. Over 1000 people showed up at the first casting call, and just about that many called the Landmark wanting to borrow 1920s clothes, get information on hair "dos", styles, and information on the 1920s. None of us tried out, but we are all anxious to see how well old Bradford looks under movie lights.

The History of Veterans' Day

Veterans' Day is the anniversary of *the end of the fighting* in World War I which officially ended on June 28, 1919, with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. The actual fighting between the Allies and Germany, however, had ended seven months earlier with the armistice, which went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. Armistice Day, as November 11 became known, officially became a holiday in the United States in 1926, and a national holiday 12 years later.

In 1927 Congress issued a resolution requesting President Calvin Coolidge to issue a proclamation calling upon officials to display the Flag of the United States on all government buildings on November 11, and inviting the people to observe the day in schools and churches, but it was not until 1938 that Congress passed a bill that each November 11 "shall be dedicated to the cause of world peace and ...hereafter celebrated and known as Armistice Day."

That same year President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill making the day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia. For sixteen years the United States formally observed Armistice Day, with impressive ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where the Chief Executive or his representatives placed a



wreath. In many other communities, the American Legion was in charge of the observance, which included parades and religious services. At 11 A.M. all traffic stopped, in tribute to the dead, then volleys were fired and taps sounded.

After World War II, there were many new veterans who had little or no association with World War I. The word, "armistice," means simply a truce; therefore as years passed, the significance of the name of this holiday changed. Leaders of Veterans' groups decided to try to correct this and make November 11 the time to honor all who had fought in various American wars, not just in World War I. On June 1, 1954, the name was changed to Veterans' Day to honor all U.S. veterans.

On November 11, 1954, a ceremony held in the Public Square honored the city's war dead and officially changed the name of Public Square, to Veterans' Square as a permanent memorial to all veterans.

In 1968, new legislation changed the national commemoration of Veterans' Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historical significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

Today, Veterans' Day is celebrated all over the United States, and this year, Nov. 11 through Nov. 17 has been designated as National Veterans' Awareness Week. Americans are urged to remember the valor and sacrifice through ceremonies and prayers.

THE BRADFORD NEWSPAPERS

MORNING
ERA

EVENING
STAR-RECORD

SUNDAY
HERALD

PRESENT THE NEW IMPROVED GLASS

BUBBLE BANKS

"See Your Savings Swell"

There's Only One Place But 3
Ways to Get Yours In Bradford

October 1st to October 8th is National Newspaper Week from coast to coast and your Bradford Newspapers are celebrating it with Banners and Bubble Banks.

We are proud to represent the people of McKean County and to speak the voice of the highest grade crude oil market in the world.

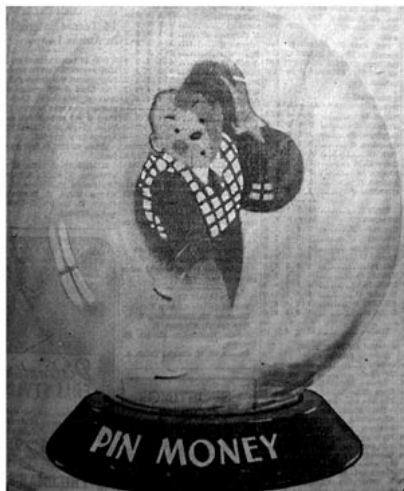
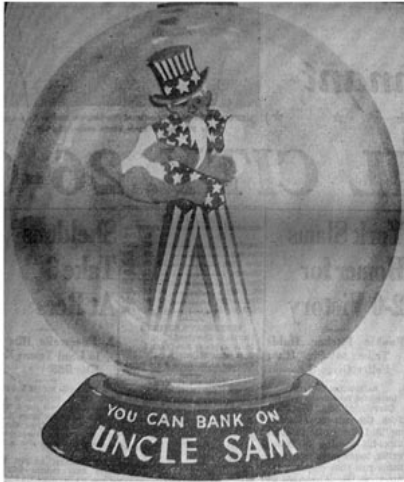
We are happy to operate three modern newspapers with but one single, unified objective: to make the homes into which these papers go the happiest, most patriotic, self-respecting and prosperous homes in America. We go to press every day to bring YOU the news, the features, the information, the entertainment and the merchandise that will be of most value to EVERY citizen in EVERY inch of the territory we cover.

If you don't read the Era, Star Record and Herald... we're both missing a lot. If you subscribe to one and not the others we are not serving you as well as we can and we want to change that RIGHT NOW DURING NATIONAL NEWSPAPER WEEK THAT STARTS TUESDAY AND WE ARE OFFERING YOU ABSOLUTELY FREE OF COST A BEAUTIFUL NEW GLASS BUBBLE BANK... HERE IS HOW TO GET YOURS:

WAY NO. 1 With every new 3 months subscription to either the Era or Star-Record WE GIVE ONE BUBBLE BANK FREE. This subscription will cost \$1.95, payable 60 cents down and 15 cents each week, or \$1.80 if paid in advance. Subscriptions may be placed using the coupon below or at our office or with any of our newsboys or canvassers.

WAY NO. 2 With every 6 months subscription to The Bradford Sunday Herald at a total cost of \$1.25 YOU GET A BUBBLE BANK FREE!

WAY NO. 3 Without subscribing to either of the above offers you may secure a Bubble Bank at our Booth on Main Street or at our office at 50 cents each, which is the wholesale cost. In every case the bank will be delivered in an individual carton.



ABOUT THESE BUBBLE BANKS...

Without question this new glass BUBBLE BANK is the most sensational item in years and the finest stores in New York, Chicago, Cleveland, Boston are featuring them in main cities at \$1.00, retail.

The Bradford Newspapers have contracted for the exclusive sale of these in Bradford and on Tuesday morning when they go on sale we will have several huge shipments on hand to meet first orders but we must warn all our readers who would like a Bubble Bank that the sale is far exceeding the supply everywhere and there may be a delay in securing more.

GET YOURS NOW. BUY AS MANY AS YOU WISH WHILE THEY ARE HERE. THERE ARE THREE DIFFERENT SUBJECTS TO CHOOSE FROM. EVERYONE WHO BUYS ONE WILL WANT HALF A DOZEN.

GET YOURS TUESDAY AT THE SPECIAL BOOTH IN FRONT OF THE BRADFORD NEWSPAPER OFFICES.

COUPON FOR ERA or STAR

Date

THE BRADFORD NEWSPAPERS,
BRADFORD, PA.

Please enter my 3 months subscription to The Bradford Era or Bradford Star-Record (name which) starting at once at \$1.95 total. I agree to pay 60 cents and will pay balance at rate of 15 cents per week in collector or carrier box. This entitles me to the New Bubble Bank. I will call at the Bradford Newspapers office and receive my Bubble Bank FREE of charge. It is understood that this is a new subscription.

Name

Address

COUPON FOR SUNDAY HERALD

Date

THE BRADFORD NEWSPAPERS,
BRADFORD, PA.

Please enter my 6 months subscription to the Sunday Herald for which I agree to pay \$1.25 in advance. This entitles me to the New Bubble Bank. I will call at the Bradford Newspapers office and receive my Bubble Bank FREE of charge. It is understood that this is a new subscription.

Name

Address

HAPPY SAVING

Vic Moran and His Bubble Banks

For only 94 cents in the 1940s, you could purchase a Glass Bubble Bank through Sears and Roebuck (remember them?). Bubble banks, as they were called, originated right here in Bradford – the brain child of a man named Vic Moran. And if you had, and saved it, you might have had a truly valuable collectible today, because some of them are worth over \$1000!

Vic Moran was born in Canada in 1890, and came to Bradford with his family at the age of 9. His father, Harry Moran, ran a small clothing business, and it was here that Vic Moran began to specialize in advertising opportunities. He became interested in the idea of a round glass bank with a removable wooden bottom that could serve as an advertising medium in a fun, yet practical way.

He was first granted a patent on his “bubble banks” on January 14, 1941 and successfully marketed his design both locally and nationally through Sears and Roebuck catalogs. He described his invention as a “new, original, and ornamental Design for Coin Bank”.

Occasionally, the *Bradford Era* or *Star Record*, or *Sunday Herald* (all Bradford newspapers) would offer a free bank for a three month subscription. Many of these banks are believed to have been sold, or given away, in the Bradford area.

Each bank was approximately 6” in diameter, made of glass, that either had a two part wooden base with a slot cut in the middle for the cardboard insert; a one part wooden base with a simple slot for the insert, or a one part wooden base with larger holders for three black rubber balls to attach the glass bubble to the base.

It is unknown how many bubble banks were made in Vic Moran’s lifetime (he died unexpectedly in Jamestown, NY in 1949) but his family carried on the business for several more years.

Today, these banks can be frequently found on Ebay and prices range from very affordable (under \$20) to over \$1000 for an Uncle Sam bank. Most sell in the \$100 to \$200 range. As you can see from our list at right, several banks are believed to exist, but have not yet been verified. It seems certain that these banks would bring a high price to collectors.

So, the next time you are poking around in your attic or old bookcase, and spy a round glass object, it just might be an authentic Vic Moran Bubble Bank!

Types of Bubble Bank Inserts

Bubble banks came with a wide variety of cardboard inserts, each guaranteed to urge you to save money. Each insert was different, and urged you to save money for a variety of reasons.

The following list of Bubble Banks (named for their cardboard insert) was compiled several years ago in “The Collector’s Guide to Glass Banks” by Charles V. Reynolds. Banks with variations of the same “theme” are marked with an asterisk*.

Chicken Feed*
Pin Money (Man Bowling)*
Snowman with Broom
Pin Money (Man and Women Bowling)
A Little Doe*
Moo-La
You Can Bank on America
Drop It in the Trunk Elephant
Save for a New Home
You Can Bank on Uncle Sam
Save for a Rainy Day
Change for the New Baby*
Save for the New Car
A Little Jack Rabbit
Save for the New Ford
Save for the Kids
Reddy Kilowatt Says
Stop Monkeying Around and Start Saving*
Swami, the Fortune Teller
King of the Jungle Lion
I Like Ike
Save for the Day He Returns

Believed to exist but not yet found:

Girl with Umbrella
A Penny A Drill Fits the Bill
Save for Vacation
Save for War Bonds
Save for the Tax Man
Save for Summer Fun
Save for Christmas
Save for College

It Happened in November

True, sometimes it seems like nothing much happens in November, except rain and cold weather. But you may be surprised to see that (sometimes, really) things really do happen in November in Bradford!

Women forming Political Equality Club	November 11, 1889
Bradford houses of ill repute have been closed	November 11, 1895
Forty buildings over a two-day period are destroyed by fire, including the original Riddell House and others. Fire begins in Comique Theater, estimated losses of \$150,000.	November 16, 1878
Tuna Creek frozen solid. Venturesome youth skate.	November 26, 1888
Woman in Bradford claims to be a witch.	November 27, 1889
George Bodine's new hardware store on corner of Mechanic and Barbour streets is one of the finest establishments in the city.	November 9, 1889
Brick work for the 4 th story of the new Riddell House is underway. Work is also progressing at the new Carnegie Library with the cutting of the large stone pillars that are to adorn the main entrance being done on Congress St.	November 13, 1900
Beamer's Livery stable on Kennedy Street catches fire and kills 38 horses; adjoining City Hall is nearly destroyed in blaze; several other buildings on Kennedy Street also catch fire.	November 9, 1901
Salvation Army building is being erected on Kennedy Street.	November 23, 1902
A brakeman, while engaged in switching cars near Mt. Jewett, falls beneath the train and was ground to a shapeless mass.	November 24, 1903
Schlatter, the healer, will terminate his visit to Bradford after failing to cure anyone, saying that his subjects were not possessed of sufficient faith to command divine aid.	November 4, 1904
Rapid progress is being made on the new YMCA building on Boylston Street	November 15, 1906
Bradford Army-Navy Supply Depot opens November 12 at 7 West Washington Street.	November 11, 1921
The Foursquare Gospel Church at 52 Mechanic Street, formerly known as the Bradford Gospel Church, marks its 25th year of founding. Later becomes location of Tommy Dorsey Cardamone barbershop.	November 14, 1953
Ground is broken for construction of 50 apartments; units sponsored by the Bradford Kiwanis Housing Corp.	November 25, 1970
Richard M. McAfee, manager of the FBC store, corner of Main and S. Davis St., announces that the store presently employing approximately 25 people will close after the Christmas shopping season due to a decline in business. (Current site of Tops Market).	November 24, 1973
Lester Brauser is elected president of the Seneca Highlands Players for 1975, with Allan Jones his vice president.	November 20, 1974
River Associates purchases bankrupt W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery and 200 employees are told to reapply for jobs.	November 30, 1990

*Who remembers the old '40 & 8' Locomotive that used to appear in every Bradford parade? Surely you remember the loud "boom" as it came down the street – I used to cringe at the sight of it coming, knowing that the sound would be so loud that babies would cry and grownups would cover their ears. It hasn't been seen in several years and The Bradford Landmark Society doesn't know where – or if – it still exists. But like so many things, the 40 & 8 had a story behind it ... (and if you do know what happened to it, please contact us). **Update – the 40 & 8 is tucked away in a garage right here in Bradford, PA.***

The 40 & 8 Society

The Forty & Eight was formed in 1920 by American Legionnaires as a fraternal organization of Army veterans, many of whom had been transported to the battle front in France during World War I on narrow gauge French railroads inside boxcars (Voitures) that were half the size of American boxcars. Each French boxcar was stenciled with a "40/8", denoting its capacity to hold either forty men or eight horses. These boxcars were stubby, only 20.5 feet long and 8.5 feet wide, and carried little more than half the capacity of American boxcars. Needless to say, it was a real squeeze.



Although memories of riding in them were not always pleasant, this ignominious and uncomfortable mode of transportation was familiar to all who traveled from the coast to the trenches; a common small misery among American soldiers who thereafter found "40/8" a lighthearted symbol of the deeper service, sacrifice and unspoken horrors of war that truly bind those who have borne the battle (from www.fortyandeight.org history).

Later, many of these same boxcars were used during WW II to transport troops to and from the front. In 1945, many American troops (including POWs) were transported from Germany to France for return to the States in a rough-riding 40 and 8, especially in November and December. Veterans' memories of travel in the rickety, unheated cars are pretty vivid; some men even resorted to building fires inside them to keep warm on the long, slow trips.

In June of 1939, Marguerite Shelgren, majorette in the Sons of the Legion Drum Corps, and the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Shelgren of Interstate Parkway, christened the newly-constructed locomotive of the McKean Voiture of the 40 and 8, "Ole Hank" in a ceremony here. We assume that it is the same vehicle that appeared in the parades of my childhood. A photograph of the locomotive as it passed by during a parade of West Washington Street in 1946 appears below.



Bradford Landmark Society
45 East Corydon Street
Bradford PA 16701



Happy Thanksgiving November 22!

Christmas Shopping Ideas from the Landmark

- **The Dresser Mansion.** A reprint of the original 1903 book given as a Christmas present by Solomon Dresser, with added text and photos regarding Dresser's family, and the fire that destroyed it. Buy it at the Landmark office or the Mercantile Store (in the stores by early December). **\$20.00.**
- **The Bradford Oil Refinery.** Published last summer, it's a photographic historic record of the Kendall refinery (the oldest in the world), and American Refining Group. **\$20.00.**
- DVDs of movies filmed in Bradford in the 1930s. Take a trip back in time. Two different DVDs – *Bradford in Reel Life*, and *The Story of Bradford*. **\$22.00 each.**
- The Armory. Wooden collectible building (like a Cat's Meow). Add to your collection. **\$15.00.**
- Cast iron yellow dog oil field replica lantern. Always a popular item and a wonderful icon of Bradford and the oil days....**\$20.00.**
- *Collectors Guide to the Small Wooden Buildings of Bradford.* Complete guide to all Cat's Meow type buildings that commemorate Bradford buildings – over 30 different ones! **\$10.00.**
- Stop in for more ideas! Or visit the Mercantile Store on Main Street.