

OIL 150 NATIONWIDE MUSEUM KIT PROGRAM



Oil 150
217 Elm Street
Oil City, Pennsylvania
16301-0128

800- 483-6264
814- 677-3152
814- 677-5206 fax
www.oil150.com

Introduction

August 27, 2009 marked a very important day in U.S. history, the 150th Anniversary of the Drake Well oil strike near Titusville, PA and the concurrent birth of the U.S. petroleum industry. Nearly every aspect of our modern lifestyle is impacted by oil. Oil is used to power our vehicles, to create medicines that keep us healthy, and to make the plastics, cosmetics, and other personal products that enhance our daily lives. And, it all began in northwest Pennsylvania. Today oil is produced in 39 states and used in all 50 states.

To commemorate this anniversary, the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism (www.oilregion.org) is administering Oil 150, a nationwide celebration of the 150 years of progress that has stemmed from the world's first successful commercial oil well. It is Oil 150's goal to encourage communities outside Pennsylvania's Oil Region National Heritage Area to celebrate the Drake Well story as well as their own unique oil histories.

Since August 2008, Oil 150 has worked to commemorate the anniversary through events, new documentary films, exhibits, conferences, a new website (www.oil150.com), educational programs, and more. One of Oil 150's main initiatives is the Oil 150 Nationwide Museum Kit Program, which has provided 250 oil, natural gas, children's and science museums across the country with museum kits containing media, educational and promotional materials. The mission of the museum kit program is to provide each museum with the resources necessary to create or enhance exhibits, fostering an appreciation of each community's unique oil history and its roots in Pennsylvania.

Each museum kit is valued at nearly \$500 and contains posters, oil history reference books, DVD copies of the new documentaries *The Valley that Changed the World* and *Stories of a Third-Generation Independent Oil Producer, As Told by Bill Huber*, replica artifacts, a CD of oil music, historical photographs, and promotional materials. Each kit also includes an educator's guide, containing historical essays and over 35 educational handouts and interactive learning activities in an easy to reproduce format.

Museum personnel can supplement their museum kit by visiting the Oil 150 website at www.oil150.com. In addition to its calendar of events and E-store, the website features 80 essays about the people, places, companies, and technology of early oil history, as well as historical timelines, links to national petroleum education programs, information on careers in the oil industry, historical images, a speakers bureau, links to U.S. oil and gas museums, and much more. Each section of the museum kit educator's guide will also be available for download from the Oil 150 website. While the Oil 150 celebration will come to an end, the website will continue to be an up-to-date resource for years to come.

(Continued)

The final element of the Oil 150 museum kit program is a nationwide essay contest. Each kit includes instructions and forms for the contest. Host museums will conduct the contest locally and send essays to Oil 150 for judging. Young people across the country will be eligible to win either a hand-hammered commemorative dish from Wendell August Forge or an oil history art print. It is the hope of Oil 150 that such a contest will encourage museum visitors to express their personal perspectives about the past, present, and future of the oil industry.

The Oil 150 Nationwide Museum Kit Program is projected to generate 500,000 initial impressions. Museum visitors will see that the story of oil is a story of determination, innovation, ingenuity, and resourcefulness that can be a lesson and an inspiration for Americans as we face the future. This Oil 150 program will help Americans discover their oil roots, opening public discussions of our oil legacy and the complex issues of energy use and consumption that we face today. Furthermore, by educating the public, this project will assure the continued appreciation and conservation of our nation's many oil-related heritage sites.

Funding for the Oil 150 Nationwide Museum Kit Program has been made possible by grants to the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism by the following: National Park Service via a grant of National Heritage Area funds; Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources via a Pennsylvania Heritage Area Program Grant; Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Suhr, Jr.; ExxonMobil Foundation; National Fuel Gas Company Foundation; American Association of Professional Landmen Educational Foundation, Inc.; Richard King Mellon Foundation; Universal Well Services, Inc.; Petroleum History Institute; Association of Desk and Derrick Clubs Foundation; and Catalyst Energy, Inc. Materials for the museum kits have been provided by Franklin Bronze Plaques, American Petroleum Institute, and Mr. Ron Shoup.

The Oil 150 Nationwide Museum Kit Program is managed by Ms. Melissa Mann, Oil 150 Deputy Director. For additional information or clarification, contact Ms. Mann at (800) 483-6264, Extension 103; mmann@oilregion.org.