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## BCHA Party Line Volume 14 Issue 1 January 2024

My apologies, a variety of glitches prevented the timely release of the December's 2023 newsletter. A modified version is included with this issue. Editor Barbara Barrett

Work on the Silo began last September and progressed until cold weather and the Holiday season. The final stage of putting on the roof and building the silo room and chute were entrusted to Roy Mast and family. Yet to complete is the new door, painting and the inside exhibit.



This year the Museum will celebrate the agricultural history of the silo. You are invited to share stories and or pictures of area silos.







This stone silo erected in 1900 may possibly be the first silo built in Bradford County. It is still standing on Morningside Farm

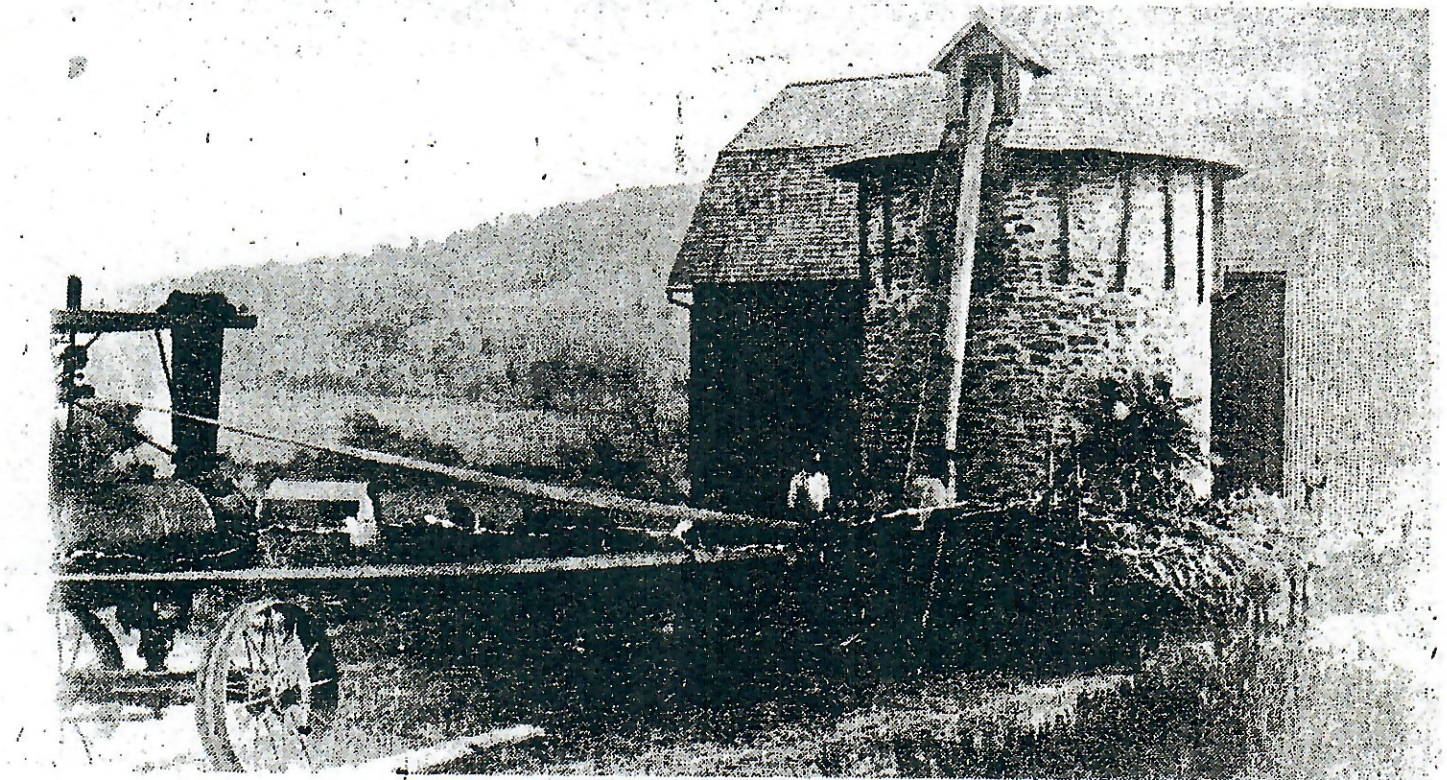
According to Wendell Card of Sylvania, the silo was constructed with native stone by regular farm labor at a total cost of less than \$200. The inside diameter is 13 feet and 4 inches and was about 30 feet tall. The walls of stone are 16 inches thick and plastered inside to make them smooth.

The building of the silo was initiated by Wendell Card's father, Fred W. Card, who maintained a dairy farm there for many years.

The picture below was taken of silo filling in 1905. The steam engine, cutter, and blower were owned and operated by the Merritt Brothers of Sylvania who also owned a threshing machine.

Thank you Dorothy Kinsman for providing the history.

## Old-Time Silo Filling



The **first round silo** is attributed to **Franklin Hiram King**, an American agricultural scientist and professor. In the early 20th century, King advocated for the use of round silos over traditional rectangular ones. His research emphasized the benefits of circular silos in terms of structural stability, efficient packing, and better preservation of silage. The adoption of round silos revolutionized silage storage and became a standard practice on dairy farms. The first recorded silo built in America was by Fred Hatch of Spring Grove, Illinois in 1873<sup>3</sup>. The first successful round vertical silo was developed by FH King of Wisconsin's state agricultural experiment station in the 1890s. It was made of two layers of horizontally placed wood boards<sup>1</sup>. The spiral steel silo was invented in 1969 by a German named Lipp. Chicago Tribune



**Silo filling** in the early 1900s was a labor-intensive and crucial task on dairy farms. Let me take you back to those days when silos were filled with freshly cut crops to provide nutritious feed for livestock during the winter months.

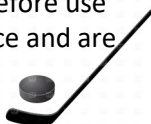
**1. The Process of Silo Filling:**

- Farmers would cut corn when it was “just past the roasting ear stage,” ensuring that the stalks were still green and juicy.
- The cut corn, including the ears, was hauled to the silo.
- An **ensilage cutter** powered by a belt from a tractor would chop the crop into small pieces.
- These pieces were blown up a pipe and into the top of the silo.
- Inside the silo, one or two individuals directed the movable pipe spout to distribute the crop and tramped down the silage tightly around the edges.
- To prevent spoilage and encourage fermentation, the top layer of the silage was wetted down with water or sometimes wet, chopped straw or hay was used.
- The resulting silage provided essential winter feed for dairy cows. (co-pilot)

**Why Do We Say That? By Scott Matthews ‘Scott Free’**

The term “scott-free” refers to someone who has escaped punishment or consequences for their actions. There are two “theories “ for this idiom. The first is that the phrase originated in the 16th century from the Scottish legal system. In Scotland . In Scotland, there was a practice of giving a ‘scott’ or a fine to those who had committed a crime. If someone managed to escape this fine, they were said to have gotten away “scott-free”. A second theory of origin posts that the expression is derived from the Scandinavian term “Skat” which signifies “tax” or “payment”. This word evolved into “scott” as a designation for “payment”. This word evolved into “scot” as a designation for redistributive taxation implemented for the alleviation pf poverty during the 10th century. Those who were exempt from paying the tax referred toas being “scott-free”.

Hockey pucks used in pro games are frozen before use because they glide more smoothly across the ice and are less likely to flip, bounce or roll.



Our newly created indoor program space is quite accommodating, spacious, well lighted, heated, no steps, bathrooms, seating and parking. We are looking for individuals/groups who would like to use the space for a program that is open to the public. Speakers, demonstrations, workshops, meetings etc. If interested please contact Barbara Barrett 570-786-9482 bbarrett362@comcast.net.



In 1861, a Boston named William Schraff encouraged people to send jelly beans to Union soldiers fighting in the Civil War. Schraff’s advertisement is the first known reference to jelly beans in history.



**Event/Meeting/ work days**  
 In the event of inclement weather we will follow the Troy School District schedule.  
 No school– no  
 Early dismissal– no  
 School delay–yes



The Boom making workshop was well attended. Enough interest to hold two classes. Folks made their own ‘cob webber’ broom

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