the dark commodity that drives our world. In lean, muscular prose and through relentless storytelling, “OIL IN THEIR BLOOD (The Story of Our Addiction)” weaves hard fact with adventure, romance and melodrama to explore the metaphysical and stark cold truths about love, family, oil and modern society’s addiction to it.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ORIGIN, HERITAGE, AND FORMATION OF THE PETROLEUM HISTORY INSTITUTE: AN EYEWITNESS REPORT

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The Petroleum History Institute (PHI) had its origin in standing committees of the American Petroleum Institute (API) in the 1930s. From these committees, the Drake Well Foundation (DWF) was formed in 1951 and The Colonel Inc. in 1990. The DWF was dissolved in 2003 to create the Petroleum History Institute with an expanded vision, international mission, goals, objectives and programs. This vignette reflects the views of the author, who was an eyewitness to and a participant in the latter part of the process of this evolution. A more complete discussion of the Drake Well Foundation can be found in the article by Samuel T. Pees, *Oil-Industry History*. v.1, no. 1, 2000, p. 2. This issue of our journal was the first to appear under the imprimatur of the Petroleum History Institute (PHI) (previous issues were published by the Drake Well Foundation). That merits explanation.

The Drake Well Foundation (DWF) was established in 1951 as an outgrowth of an earlier committee of the American Petroleum Institute (API). The DWF’s major initial charge was support of the Drake Well Museum at Titusville, PA. Over the years, circumstances evolved and various changes ensued. Among them, the Drake Well Museum became a Pennsylvania State Museum and a part of Pennsylvania state government. Subsequently, about a decade ago, a new private organization, The Colonel, Inc., was established and assumed the role of the major external support for the Drake Well Museum.

Concurrently, under the presidency and leadership of Samuel T. Pees, the Drake Well Foundation assumed a more expansive vision and pursued a broader mission to promote public awareness of the history and heritage of the international oil industry as it grew from its 1859 roots in Oil Creek Valley to a worldwide enterprise. In recognition of these changes and to put in place a new framework to more clearly reflect current realities and facilitate future opportunities for all stakeholders, on June 28, 2003, the Board of Directors of the Drake Well Foundation unanimously voted to dissolve that corporate entity and create a new corporation, the Petroleum History Institute (PHI), a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. The mission of the PHI is to pursue the expanded vision of the history, heritage and development of the oil industry from its inception in Oil Creek Valley, Pennsylvania, as well as its early roots in other regions, and its subsequent spread throughout the world to its current global status. Thus the torch has been passed!

The first major milestone of this newly chartered enterprise was the continuation of the publication of this oil history journal. Its next major venture was the sponsorship of the 2004 International Symposium on the History of the Oil Industry held September 8-11, 2004 in Morgantown, West Virginia.

THE “OIL BREAK”-
A 200-YEAR SAGA OF WEST VIRGINIA OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES

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From the turn of the 19th century to the present day, oil and gas activities along the Burning Springs Anticline (referred to in early literature as the Oil Break) have played a major role in the history and heritage of West Virginia’s petroleum industry. Specific examples are:

- 18th century observations of “burning springs” from ignited gas seeps in streambeds and surface oil seeps observed by Indians and early European explorers and settlers
- First sale of bottled oil from surface seeps in 1810
Subsequent production of “mud oil” from sand diggings (holes dug along the sandy banks of the Hughes River)

First well drilled specifically for oil in West Virginia (then still western Virginia) by the Rathbone brothers in 1860

First published geological report on an American oilfield by E.B. Andrews in 1861

World’s first recorded military action against a producing oil field in 1863

Subsequent oil and gas drilling and production to both the north and south along the Burning Springs Anticline to deeper reservoirs through the remainder of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, including the development of the “endless cable” technique for pumping of multiple wells by W.C. Stiles, Jr. in 1874

Drilling of the first exploratory well to the Precambrian basement in West Virginia in 1954

A minor oil boom from the Devonian shales in the early 1980s

Extension of the “Eastern Overthrust” exploration play westward with the Burning Springs Anticline forming the western boundary underlain by a “blind thrust fault” in the mid 1980s

Recent interest in “unconventional shale gas reservoirs” in West Virginia and elsewhere

The Burning Springs Anticline is a treasure trove of oil and gas history, heritage and lore. Its 200-year history of exploration and development has provided significant insights into petroleum geology and engineering development of drilling stimulation and completion technology. Although much has been learned from the Oil Break, our knowledge is incomplete and there are still unanswered questions.

In the cartoons, publishers in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh named their fictitious oil companies after the “world famed liar” Baron Munchausen, an 18th-century Russian cavalry officer who was the subject of numerous, ridiculously exaggerated, adventure tales, issuing fake stock certificates and even a prospectus under the name of “Munchausen, Philosopher’s Stone & Gull Creek Consolidated Oil Company.” The cartoons satirize the gullibility of oil speculators as well as the fantastic promises made by unscrupulous company officers with names like “S.W. Indle,” “S. Teal” and “R. Ascal.”

Joseph Reid, a native of Scotland, started his working career in a locomotive works at Kilmarnock, Scotland, before immigrating to North America in 1862; first to Montreal and eventually to the United States. After working in Boston, New York city, and Philadelphia, in 1876 he entered service with the Atlantic & Great Western Railroad Company (now the Erie) at Meadville, Pennsylvania. Within a year Reid was in Oil City taking advantage of the oil boom all along Oil Creek Valley. By 1878 he had established his own business and in 1894 Reid developed the first practical gas engine for pumping oil wells. Unlike many of the other similar engines in operation at that time, Reid’s engine was designed to run unattended and could use natural gas, gasoline, or even crude oil as a fuel. Once one of his engines was set up, a single engine could power as many as forty oil wells at a time, and you could purchase a Reid Engine, depending upon you needs, from 12 to 40 horsepower. The Company continued manufacturing engines until 1939. This paper will describe