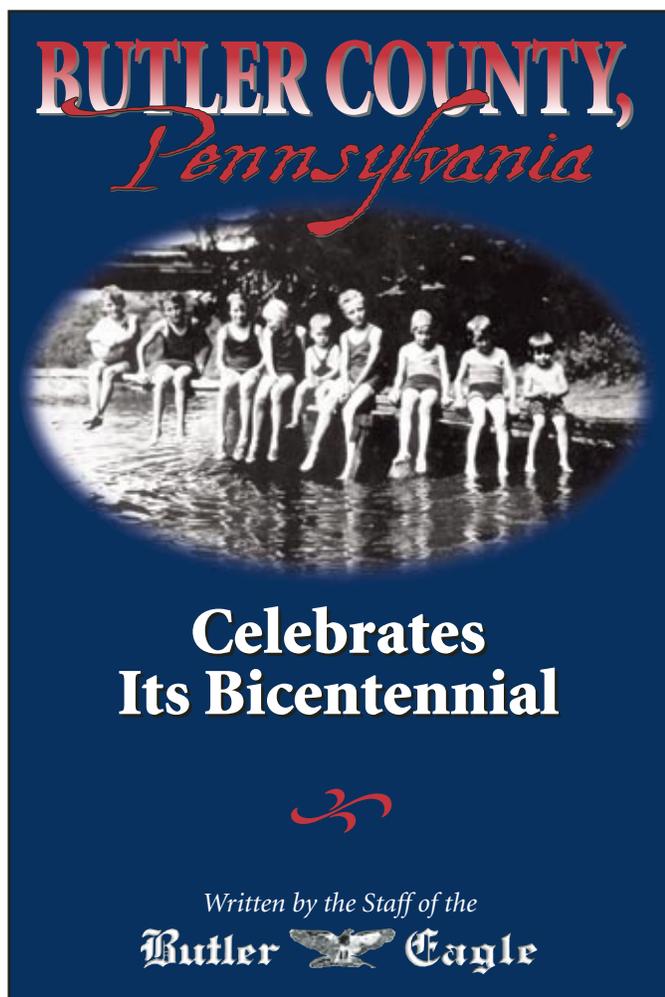


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- *Petrolia, built around the site of the 'Fanny Jane,' (oil well) quickly swallowed up the village of Argyle and launched itself as one of the most open and lawless towns of the oil country. Within its boundaries the criminal element that infested every oil town flourished under the leadership of such notorious characters as Ben Hogan.*
- *...a conventional evening dinner for ('Diamond' Jim) Brady started off with a gallon of orange juice just to whet his appetite. This was followed by six dozen oysters, a large cut of mutton smothered with a half-dozen venison chops, a roasting chicken with caper sauce, a brace or so of mallard or canvas-back ducks, partridge or pheasant, and a 12-egg soufflé topped off with a five-pound box of the richest chocolates. Reputable sources witnessed Jim's eating 45 ears of corn at a single sitting.*

## About the Author

The staff of the *Butler Eagle* saw the Butler County Bicentennial as an opportunity to do something a little different from the newspaper's usual routine - explore the past and involve the public. Readers responded in droves with old photos and stories; reporters and editors found material long forgotten and a legacy of accomplishment unknown to the average reader.

Writers and editors from each of the paper's "beats" provided the core research and writing. Residents contributed recollections, the Butler County Historical Society added input, and additional material was compiled from other County histories and the newspaper's Sesquicentennial Edition of 1950. The photos and stories that flooded in are included in these pages, as they were when they first appeared in the paper's special Bicentennial Edition published on July 4, 2000.

Author royalties for this book will be donated to the Butler County Historical Society and the Butler County Federated Library System.

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