



Drake Well Museum and Park

202 Museum Lane
Titusville, PA 16354
(814) 827-2797 www.drakewell.org

NEWS RELEASE FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

“Drake Well Museum to Host Annual Fall Gas Up”

On Saturday, September 17, Drake Well Museum and Park will host the 32nd Annual Fall Gas Up, sponsored by the Pioneer Steam and Gas Engine Society. Displays will include operating and stationary antique engines, farm and oil field equipment and models. The Fall Gas Up will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and is included in the museum’s regular admission fees.

The Pioneer Steam and Gas Engine Society is comprised of members from the tri-state area whose interests are the restoration and preservation of a wide variety of “hit & miss” gas engines. As part of the Fall Gas Up event, these enthusiasts display engines ranging in size from small Maytags that were used to power washing machines to large oil field engines that were used to pump a large number of wells at one time.

As part of the event, Drake Well Museum and Park will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Sand Hill Oil Company’s Central Power. In 1916, George and Andrew Verne (“A.V.”) Clinger, along with Harry and Fred Jennings were part of a group of oilmen that drilled 9 oil wells and installed a central pumping power at Sand Hill, Triumph Township, southwest of Tidioute, PA. The central power operated on the Sand Hill lease until the mid-1970s when all of the equipment was donated to Drake Well Museum and Park by lease owner Doris Johnson. Today, the Sand Hill central power house with its 20hp Olin engine, Grettenberger vacuum pumps and Simplex eccentric power is a key component of the museum’s exterior exhibits. The central power exhibit will be in operation at the Fall Gas Up and Roberta Johnson Knight descendent of lease owners Karl “Tow” and Doris Johnson will be on site to talk to folks about growing up on the Sand Hill lease.

Melissa Mann, Museum Site Administrator, encourages the public to take advantage of this special event saying, “The Fall Gas Up offers visitors an exceptional opportunity to experience the engines that powered Pennsylvania’s oil fields over the last 157 years and to speak to the experts that keep these historic machines running.”

The Fall Gas Up will also feature food booths operated by the Hydetown Fire Department’s Ladies Auxiliary.

Located off Route 8 south of Titusville, Drake Well Museum and Park is open year round. Summer/Fall hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5:00 p.m. Drake Well Museum is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in partnership with Friends of Drake Well, Inc. and is part of the Pennsylvania Trails of History® (www.PATrailsofHistory.com).



Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

For more information about the Fall Gas Up or other museum programs, call (814) 827-2797 or find us on Facebook at Drake Well Museum.

-30-

Issued: September 15, 2016
Contact: Melissa Mann, (814) 827-2797 or mmann@pa.gov