



from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

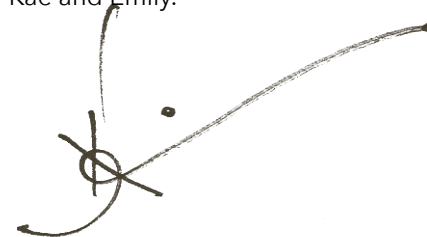
It's hard to believe that we say goodbye to *A Calumet Tapestry* on October 2. It seems like just yesterday we were opening the exhibit—and our museum's new home—for the very first time. Since that moment, we have welcomed two very talented interns to the PoCo Muse team.

Kae Eberhart began working with us in June 2022 and soon after became our Collections Assistant on staff. She is currently in her senior year at Valparaiso University as a history major. Kae enjoys studying music history and the late 1960s San Francisco counterculture. Her article in our newest issue of *PoCo Muse Magazine* highlights the life and work of the late Robert Cain, a much beloved local artist and teacher.

Emily Graves is a junior at Valparaiso University studying History and Art. She began her internship in August 2022 and plans to spend this fall semester at

the PoCo Muse assisting with collection-focused inventory projects and helping develop and install the upcoming slate of exhibitions.

Plan your visit this fall to see our new exhibits, attend one of our many programs, and be sure to say hello to Kae and Emily.



Kevin Matthew Pazour

Executive Director • PoCo Muse

P. S.—Consider making a gift in support of our internship program. It is an exceptional way for the PoCo Muse to shape the next generation of museum leaders.

LOWENSTINE WWII ROLL OF HONOR UNVEILING

Saturday, December 10, 2p

PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

In 1943, the American Legion had an idea to erect a Roll of Honor on the east lawn of the courthouse square to commemorate the efforts of those from Valparaiso who served in World War II. Local resident and business owner Mandel Lowenstine was the lead benefactor. Thirty-one years later, the memorial was reinstalled on the first floor of the 1871 Porter County Jail, then the brand-new home of the Porter County Museum, where thousands of visitors have scanned its names.

On December 10, in commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Lowenstine Roll of Honor will make a third home in the new PoCo Muse at 20 Indiana. Join us for light refreshments during the unveiling and stay for a reading of local residents' memories from December 7, 1941.



Cover • A holiday card illustrates a winter scene at Valparaiso University's Student Bridge. Date unknown.

Above • Donald Wright stands before the Lowenstine WWII Roll of Honor on the courthouse square in Valparaiso, circa 1944.

UPCOMING EXHIBITS OPENING IN OCTOBER

On Friday, September 30, the PoCo Muse bids farewell to the groundbreaking exhibition *A Calumet Tapestry* which opened the new PoCo Muse at 20 Indiana in May 2022. With the departure of this debut exhibition, we begin the transition to a regular exhibit schedule for our three galleries: Robert Cain Gallery, Main Gallery, and Montague/Urschel Gallery.

The Robert Cain Gallery reopens to the public on Friday, October 7. It honors Robert "Rob" Cain, a lifelong Valparaiso resident and beloved Valparaiso High School art teacher who died on June 30, 2022. Nine years ago, with the help of the Urschel family, whose members were inspired by Cain from their time in his classroom, he participated in the dedication of the Robert Cain Gallery in the former PoCo Muse location at 153 Franklin Street in Valparaiso. The PoCo

Muse will maintain Cain's legacy in the same fashion at its new Robert Cain Gallery at 20 Indiana Avenue. Like his classroom of years past, the gallery will feature both Cain's work and a revolving display of other artists' works from our collection.

Also opening on October 7 is the *Prehistoric Pop-Up*. The pop-up exhibit, launched during the Porter County Fair for ten days this July, where we enjoyed sharing a great local story of how mastodon bones were discovered on the Myron Benedict farm five miles from the fairgrounds. Seen by over 6,000 people visiting the fair, the *Prehistoric Pop-Up* makes its way to the Main Gallery until October 30 as the team prepares for the exhibition opening of *Connections* on November 10.

PREHISTORIC POP-UP & ROBERT CAIN GALLERY

Opening Friday, October 7, 11a

PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

ROBERT CAIN GALLERY: MEMBERS' RECEPTION

Saturday, October 8, 10a

Members and special guests are invited to a special reception at the Robert Cain Gallery to celebrate the life and work of its namesake, a beloved artist and teacher. The Robert Cain Gallery will display works from our permanent art collection, with at least one of Cain's artworks on display at all times.



Image • An installation view of the Prehistoric Pop-Up exhibit at the Porter County Fair in July 2022.

NEW EXHIBIT, CONNECTIONS, OPENING IN NOVEMBER

Why do museums continue to collect objects? It's an interesting question, especially in an age when information is instantly available. The PoCo Muse believes objects tell important stories, and engaging with them can lead to surprising discoveries. A museum's job is to help make these connections.

The PoCo Muse Collection boasts an eclectic assortment of artwork and artifacts gathered over our 106 years of preserving Porter County history and culture. Like all museum collections, it is actively growing and changing. With every new object added, the collection continues to evolve. We sometimes have to step back and consider the entirety as if from 10,000 feet above; only then can we see how it all fits together.

Over the past year, as the PoCo Muse made preparations to create a suitable, climate-controlled environment for our growing collection, we had to

work intimately with the thousands of objects entrusted to our care. Our perspective changed. Rather than stepping back, we took a closer look. We started to find that objects shared rather unexpected similarities with each other. In short: we started making connections.

On November 10, we present our discoveries with a new exhibition, aptly named *Connections*. Gathered throughout are pairs of objects that speak to each other in surprising ways. The objects may appear different at first glance, but after closer consideration, they may reveal an important relationship. The exchanges cover a wide range of subjects, from industry to sports to space travel, and reflect similarities of form, function, and context. As you join their conversations, we hope you consider the ways these objects connect with those you encounter in your own daily life.

PUBLIC OPENING OF CONNECTIONS

Thursday, November 10, 11a
PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

MEMBERS' RECEPTION FOR CONNECTIONS

Saturday, November 12th, 10a

Image, at right • Circa 1869-1874

The genre of photography known as *cartes de visite* grew in popularity in the second half of the 19th century and offered consumers a relatively cheap way to obtain portraits of loved ones or famous figures. These *cartes de visite*—an early form of postcards—were assembled by Rose Howe into a souvenir album of her family's trip abroad in Europe, displaying notable landmarks and locals in traditional garb.



OCTOBER

WALKING TOURS

Saturday, October 1 at 12p & 2p

Take a walk with PoCo Muse Executive Director Kevin Pazour to hear stories about life in downtown Valparaiso from 1961. Tours will begin at the PoCo Muse and circle the courthouse square in clockwise fashion.

These tours are free and open to the public thanks to the Valparaiso High School Class of 1961.

Saturday, October 15 at 12p
Union Street Cemetery

Explore the oldest public cemetery in Porter County during a guided walking tour. Hear stories about pioneers of the area's past while strolling through this idyllic spot in Valparaiso.

NOVEMBER DECEMBER

LIVING HISTORY REENACTORS: CIVIL WAR ENCAMPMENT

Saturday, November 12 at 11a

**Front Lawn, 153 S Franklin Street,
Valparaiso, IN 46383**

The PoCo Muse welcomes back Ian Baker, his fellow living history reenactors, and their rotating collection of immersive historical displays. Step back in time to the Civil War era and learn about the lives of ordinary people like you over a century and a half ago.

This event is free and open to the public. No RSVP is required to attend.

HOLLY DAYS AT THE POCO MUSE

**Friday, December 2 and
Saturday, December 3**

Open until 6p

PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

The PoCo Muse will be open late until 6p on Friday, December 2, and Saturday, December 3 to welcome visitors during Holly Days, a Valparaiso holiday tradition. Stop by the museum while you're downtown to check out our newest exhibitions and to pick up a complimentary holiday postcard.





LOWENSTINE'S DEPARTMENT STORE

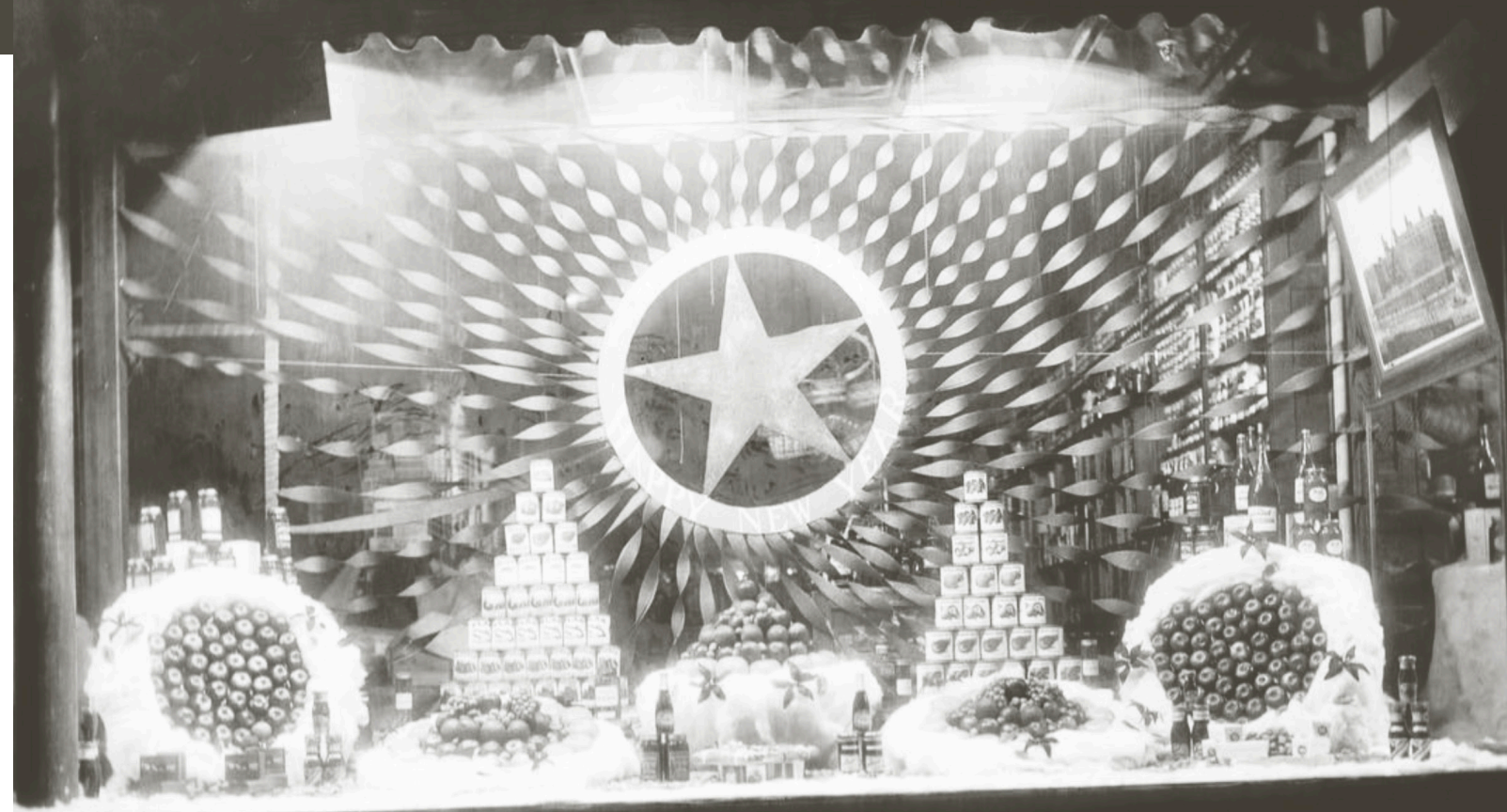
Left • Circa 1970

Lowenstine's Department Store was an anchor of Valparaiso's commercial district until it was destroyed by a fire in 1996. This image from the early 1970s shows the storefront decorated festively for the winter holiday season. Tinsel from the large ornamental candles twinkled on that particularly clear winter day.

HOLIDAY WINDOW DISPLAY

Right • Circa 1918

This image shows the Specht Finney storefront decorated for the winter holidays during the First World War. A close inspection of the ring surrounding the star reveals the words, "Happy New Year." An impressive level of care went into this display, from the coordinated twirls of the streamers to the perfectly organized towers of canned fruits and vegetables.



new ACQUISITIONS

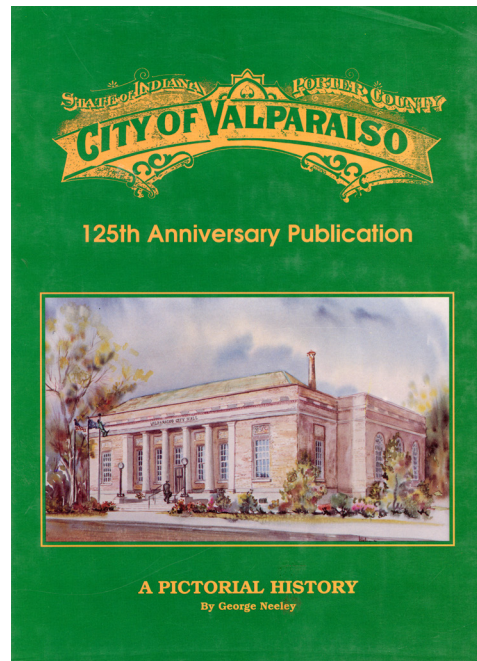
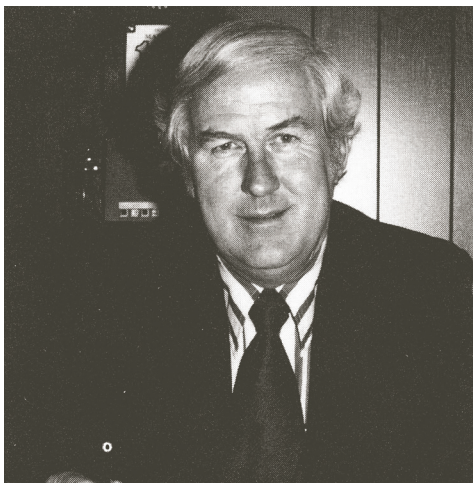
Thanks to the generosity of Jeffrey Neeley & Virginia Cheung, the PoCo Muse has acquired the rights to the late George E. Neeley's 1989 publication, *Valparaiso: A Pictorial History*. Neeley's book is still regarded as one of the best Porter County histories, and we are thrilled to officially have it as part of our collection.

The author, George Neeley (1924-2011), resided in Valparaiso for most of his life. His maternal grandparents were early Porter County settlers in Pleasant Township, and he spent his boyhood in the countryside just outside of Valparaiso.

Neeley graduated from Morgan Township High School in 1942. After service in the United States Navy during World War II, he completed a B. A. degree at Valparaiso University in 1950. From 1952 until 1987, he owned and operated Neeley's Men's Shop.

Neeley's interest in history was inspired by tales about his ancestors. His maternal grandfather operated the

Valley Gun Club near Baum's Bridge, a well-known hunting lodge on the Kankakee River. His father was a country schoolmaster, farmer, and village merchant who was the last proprietor of the Malden General Store.



Above • George E. Neeley and the front cover of his book, *Valparaiso: A Pictorial History*.

Right • John Homefield drives his boxed, horse-drawn bobsled on a snow-covered road, December 18, 1908. From George E. Neeley's *Valparaiso: A Pictorial History*.



GUIDED TOURS

Looking to do something out of the ordinary? Gather with friends for an immersive, entertaining guided museum tour. Experience Porter County's history, get a glimpse behind the scenes, and hear some fascinating stories from Executive Director Kevin Matthew Pazour.

Visit pocomuse.org/guided-tours to select the experience that's right for you. Email info@pocomuse.org or call the PoCo Muse at (219) 510.1836 with any questions.



Image • Executive Director Kevin Matthew Pazour guides visitors through the exhibit at the opening of A Calumet Tapestry in May 2022. Albert Photographic.

MEMBERSHIP *benefits*

Individual	Dual	Household
\$40/yr	\$75/yr	\$125/yr

<p>WHY BECOME A MEMBER?</p> <p>Membership presents a wide array of opportunities that spotlight great local stories and give you the chance to interact with our award-winning team.</p> <p>Join hundreds of other members who appreciate the impact of local history and art.</p> <p>Please consider joining the Friends of the PoCo Muse by making a gift of \$500 or more to our annual fund.</p>	Subscription to biannual <i>PoCo Muse Magazine</i>
	Quarterly print issues of the <i>Muse News</i> newsletter
	Monthly <i>Musings</i> e-mail reminders
	Discounts on select events, programs, tours, and merchandise
	Invitation to members-only exhibit receptions
	Access to information in the collection
Free admission to hundreds of other museums through the <i>Time Travelers</i> reciprocal membership network	

general INFORMATION

POCO MUSE

pocomuse.org

The award-winning PoCo Muse maintains free general admission as this area's oldest institution devoted to the history and culture of Porter County.

**20 Indiana Ave, Valparaiso, IN 46383
(219) 510.1836**

Visit our newly-imagined and fully-accessible building, the fourth home of the Porter County Museum since 1916.

Hours: Tuesday-Sunday, 11a-4p

RECOGNITION OF SUPPORT

The PoCo Muse is generously supported by its Board of Trustees; Porter County Government; members and donors; private and family foundations, including the John W. Anderson Foundation; and by Indiana Dunes Tourism.

MISSION

We engage Porter County's rich past with its evolving present to educate, enrich, and inspire our communities.

VISION

We believe our work of interpreting this area's history and culture empowers Porter County residents to form a strong and purposeful sense of place, identity, and community.

POCO MUSE FOUNDATION (219) 510.1916, mypoco.org/about

The PoCo Muse Foundation is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization that supports the operation of the PoCo Muse.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Joanne Urschel, *Chair*; Kathryn McMillan, *Vice Chair*; Ellen Kapitan, *Secretary*; Brandi Anstine; Gretchen Buggeln; Kathleen Evans; Ruth Johnston; Kevin Kerr; Carlos Rivero; and Ronald Trigg

VOLUNTEER

Would you like to volunteer your time at the PoCo Muse? E-mail Quinn Albert at quinn@pocomuse.org with your interests and general availability.

DONATE AN ARTIFACT

Start the process of donating an artifact by visiting pocomuse.org/donate-an-artifact. Email Sarah Berndt at sarah@pocomuse.org with any questions.

WHY CONTRIBUTE?

Monetary gifts made to the PoCo Muse Foundation enable our employees to create mission-driven programs and exhibits, preserve our vast collection of artifacts, and engage the public in ways that make the PoCo Muse an award-winning institution.

