

WINTER
2014



POCO
muse
LETTER

“MAKING HER PLACE” EXHIBIT OPENS FOR WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

In March of 2014, the Porter County Museum will open a new exhibit, Making Her Place. This new permanent exhibit has been in the works for several months and we are excited to install it in time for Women’s History Month. We have dedicated ourselves to an exhibit

highlighting women’s history in Porter County by focusing on local women who have been advocates for change in our community.

Women’s history is often a silent history, and we are excited to give a voice to these stories. We begin in the late 1800’s with the story of women crusading for temperance in Chesterton. We move to the actions of the Valparaiso Woman’s Club as they worked towards a “cleaner, more sanitary and a more beautiful Valparaiso.” We tell the story of suffrage in Porter County and women’s efforts during wartime. We tell the stories of women making their places through entertainment and activism. These stories have inspired us, and we are excited to share them with you in hopes that you are inspired to make your place in your own community.

The exhibit will open March 16 for a special Sundays @ the PoCo Muse event. Join us from 1-4p for our opening reception to hear the voices of women throughout the history of Porter County.



4 OGDEN DUNES STORIES PROJECT
Dusting Off Deep Memories

10 SUNDAYS @ POCO MUSE
Join us the third Sunday of the every month

8 FROM THE ARCHIVES
This Month in Porter County History, 1914

11 GET INVOLVED!
Help the PoCo Muse kick off its Member-to-Member Tours

INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE

POCO muse LETTER

The PoCo Muse Letter is a quarterly news publication of the Porter County Museum.

WINTER 2014

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Kevin Matthew Pazour

CHAIR OF THE
BOARD

Joanne Urschel

VICE CHAIR

Kathryn McMillan

SECRETARY

Helen Arvidson

TREASURER

Sharon Swihart

AMERICORPS

Jacob Just
Ian Roseen
Emily Royer
Megan Telligman

FROM THE CHAIR

The coming of a new year brings with it a time to reflect and look ahead. Last year was filled with challenges and successes. Like most non-profits, funding is an ongoing concern. Through the careful management of private, city, and county support, the Museum improved and grew throughout 2013.

We are happy that two of our AmeriCorps members, Emily and Jake, returned for a second year, joined by two new members, Megan and Ian. Emily and Jake's exhibit, the Central Stories Project, received the Outstanding History Project Award from the Indiana Historical Society. In addition, the hard work and dedication of our AmeriCorps team enabled the creation of new activities, improved the efficiency of day-to-day operations, and helped facilitate the Museum's mission to educate, enrich, and inspire. Congratulations to them and thanks for their outstanding work.

As in years past, fundraising for operations and capital improvement will be

a major focus in 2014. We hope to cultivate new relationships that will allow us to continue sharing stories from our communities. Membership has increased as more and more visitors discover the treasure that is the PoCo Muse.

Maintaining the high quality of the current Museum is imperative as we continue to plan for the future. Come to the PoCo Muse and discover an outstanding museum. Return throughout the year to document our changes and growth. We are certainly not resting on our laurels, as 2014 promises to be as exciting and rewarding as ever.

Joanne Urschel
Chair of the Board of Trustees



POCO MUSE NEWSWORTHY

Artist Series at PoCo Muse

Beginning this February, the Museum will be opening the Robert Cain gallery. From January to June each year, the gallery will feature a different Porter County artist. Join us February 16 from 1-4p to welcome the gallery's namesake and first artist, Robert Cain.

Tour of Homes

Mark your calendar for the Museum's first Tour of Homes on May 3 and 4! Learn the stories behind seven historic

homes in Valparaiso's Central Neighborhood while touring the rooms of each house. Visit pocomuse.org or call (219) 465-3595 for more information on ticket purchases.

Spring Fundraiser at Don Quijote

Join us for an evening at Don Quijote Restaurante as we shine the spotlight on a Martin Guitar from the pre-Civil War Porter County days. Come for the delectable feast, but stay to hear this outstanding 1852 instrument played in a public setting for the very first time since it was restored.



CIRCA 1850 MARTIN GUITAR

The artifact featured at the Spring Fundraiser is a Martin Guitar from the 1850s. The model number comes from the fact that it cost \$24.

It has Jerome mechanical tuners and an ivory bridge, as was appropriate for a finer Martin guitar of that time.

The backs and sides of the instrument are Rosewood and the face is Spruce. The neck is made from maple or cedar and an ebony fretboard runs the length of its two-piece neck.

Be sure to mark your calendars for March 2 to see this beautiful instrument.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

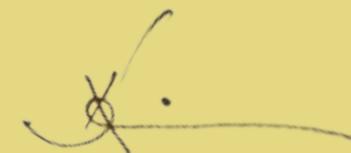
No one can argue that 2013 was an amazing year for the PoCo Muse. We Are Porter County, Lake Michigan in a Dugout, The Central Stories Project, and Prehistoric Porter County are some of the best exhibits we have created. Our programs and events brought more visitors to the Museum than ever. In fact, the 2,291 people that came to PoCo Muse between October and December was more than those months of 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 combined!

Help us make 2014 even better. Our plans for this year are more ambitious, but have the same focus to educate, enrich and inspire our communities. Join us on January 19 as we say goodbye to Central Stories and share what this new year will bring. I will be unveiling our upcoming programs and exhib-

its at 2p. If you are unable to attend, be sure to check out our blog for all the latest information at pocomuse.org.

See you at the PoCo Muse!

Kevin Matthew Pazour
Executive Director



P.S.—If you joined or renewed your membership, gave us a gift for our Annual Fund, or just came to visit during 2013—thank you. Your support makes us a better museum for all of Porter County.

"HELP US MAKE
2014 EVEN BETTER.
OUR PLANS FOR
THIS YEAR ARE
MORE AMBITIOUS,
BUT HAVE THE
SAME FOCUS TO
EDUCATE, ENRICH
AND INSPIRE OUR
COMMUNITIES."

The Stories Project is a series of collaborative oral history projects preserving and sharing the stories of Porter County. The Stories Project aims to connect residents past and present to one another, reinvesting the place our lives are lived with meaning.

CENTRAL STORIES PROJECT

CENTRAL STORIES PROJECT

Jacob Just
Emily Royer

OGDEN DUNES STORIES PROJECT

OGDEN DUNES STORIES PROJECT

Ian Roseen
Emily Royer

OGDEN DUNES STORIES PROJECT DUSTS OFF DEEP MEMORIES

Our next installment of the Stories Project series, The Ogden Dunes Stories Project, is progressing quickly. Our researchers, Ian and Emily, have been collecting oral histories from the residents of Ogden Dunes which will be displayed at both the Hour Glass Museum in Ogden Dunes beginning in May, and at the PoCo Muse in June. Meanwhile, a display at the Hour Glass Museum asks residents from the community to look at old photos and provide a caption as another means of collecting stories from this unique community.

The Hour Glass Museum's annual English Holiday Tea brought residents together for holiday festivities. Those in attendance were able chat over hot pots of tea and peruse historic images of Ogden Dunes, adding their own memories to the piles of photos.

Ian and Emily often hear the same thing when they call a resident of Ogden Dunes to ask for an oral history: "Oh, I don't know much about Ogden Dunes. I've only lived here since..." As you might imagine, these people actually have a tremendous amount to share. These interviews yield fascinating tidbits that would probably never be found in the pages of an "important" history volume—the route that the Memorial Day parade used to follow through town in 1958, the story of the soccer team's beginning, or the innocuous characters the former town marshal used to encounter while

patrolling the streets twenty years ago. All these stories are coming together to provide an image of Ogden Dunes, past, present and future, that we hope to share with our Porter County communities.

As always, we encourage visitors to dust off their deepest held memories and bring them into the present day, making them real for others to access as well. If you are ever in the Ogden Dunes area, we encourage you to stop by the Hour Glass to look at the vignettes of Ogden Dunes we have begun to assemble—pictures and stories strung about in old-fashioned Polaroid form—and write down a memory of your own that the images help you to recall.



Be sure to visit the PoCo Muse by the end of January to see the Central Stories Project before it closes.

Join us on January 19, from 1-4p to hear about the museum's plans for 2014 and celebrate CSP's award from the Indiana Historical Society, Outstanding History Project.



REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF STORIES: CENTRAL STORIES PROJECT

"Jake and I are beginning to realize that the effects of this project will continue past the run of the exhibit. Not only has the Central Stories Project dramatically changed the way this museum thinks about exhibits and programs, but the project is inevitably linked to conversations going on in the community right now about the value of neighborhoods and buildings.

The longer we live and research here, the more we ask: where are the places that are important to us? And how can we continue to reinvest them with meaning?"

Emily Royer
Stories Project Researcher

Valparaiso is undeniably fortunate to still be able to call itself a city of neighborhoods. A previous century has left its mark on the Central neighborhood, and its residents would have it no other way. One interviewee put it more simply than we could ever hope to: 'I like to live where I know there's been living.'

This is an excerpt of a blog post written by Emily, titled "Central Stories Project: Reflecting on a Year of Stories." You can find it in full online at pocomuse.org.

WHERE ARE THE PLACES THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO US? AND HOW CAN WE CONTINUE TO RE-INVEST THEM WITH MEANING?

JANUARY 2014

1 2 3 4 5 6
WED THUR FRI SAT SUN MON

7 8 9 10
TUES WED THUR FRI

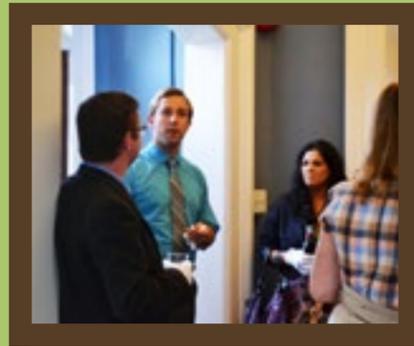
11 12 13 14
SAT SUN MON TUES

15 16 17
WED THUR FRI

18 19 20 21
SAT SUN MON TUES

22 23 24 25 26
WED THUR FRI SAT SUN

27 28 29 30 31
MON TUES WED THUR FRI



FEBRUARY 8
MEMBER TO MEMBER TOUR
Tour starts at 2p.

FEBRUARY 20
DUNELAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Screening of the film, *Everglades of the North: The Story of the Grand Kankakee Marsh*
Starts at 7:30p.



JANUARY 19
SUNDAYS @ POCO MUSE
After six months of inspiring visitors to think about place and community, the Central Stories Project is moving on. In addition to getting this last look at the Central Stories Project, we will preview the 2014 exhibit schedule in the bullpen at 2p. It's a new year! Come see what's new at the PoCo Muse!

FEBRUARY 16
SUNDAYS @ POCO MUSE
Art Show Opening Reception; 1-4p
Welcome the first show in our artist series at this opening reception. Our first local artist will be Robert Cain, who will give an artist talk describing the works on display in the Museum. Robert's presentation begins at 2p in the bullpen.

FEBRUARY 22
HISTORY OF WHEELER OPENING RECEPTION
Our intern from Wheeler High School, Darrel Liebl, has been researching the origins of Wheeler and will show his findings in a new display. Darrel will present on his findings at 2p in the bullpen.

FEBRUARY 23
STRING ALONG QUILT GUILD: OGDEN DUNES
The String Along Quilt Guild will be at the Hourglass Museum in Ogdun Dunes from 1-4p to continue work on a community quilt. Come meet and Guild and create your own square for a loved one.

MARCH 8
MEMBER TO MEMBER TOUR
MARCH 15
MEMBERS' PREVIEW
We invite our members to get a preview of our Porter County women's history exhibit, Making Her Place. Light refreshments will be available. This "Behind-the-Scenes" event will take place from 5-7p.

MARCH 16
SUNDAYS @ POCO MUSE
Exhibit Opening
Making Her Place, our new permanent exhibit, opens to the public. Come learn more about inspirational Porter County women and tell us about important women in your life! Opening takes place from 1-4p, with a presentation at 2p.

FEBRUARY 2014

1 2 3 4
SAT SUN MON TUES

5 6 7 8 9 10
WED THUR FRI SAT SUN MON

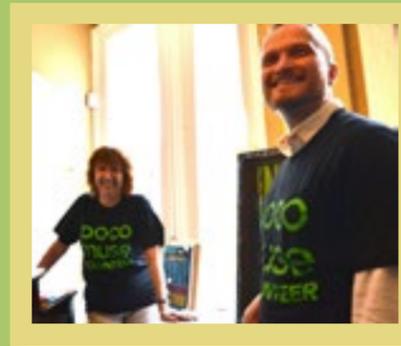
11 12 13
TUES WED THUR

14 15 16 17
FRI SAT SUN MON

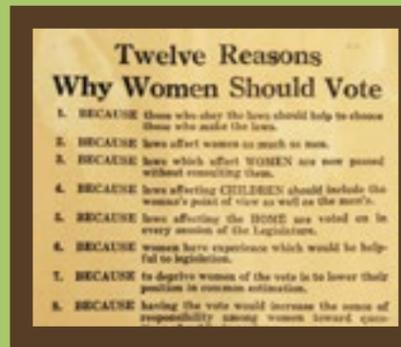
18 19 20 21
TUES WED THUR FRI

22 23 24 25
SAT SUN MON TUES

26 27 28
WED THUR FRI



MARCH 2
SPRING FUNDRAISER AT DON QUIJOTE
Join us for an evening at Don Quijote Restaurante as we shine the spotlight on a Martin Guitar from the pre-Civil War Porter County days. Come for the delectable feast, but stay to hear this outstanding 1852 instrument played in a public setting for the very first time since it was restored.



MARCH 2014

1 2 3 4 5 6
SAT SUN MON TUES WED THUR

7 8 9 10
FRI SAT SUN MON

11 12 13 14
TUES WED THUR FRI

15 16 17 18
SAT SUN MON TUES

19 20 21 22
WED THUR FRI SAT

23 24 25 26
SUN MON TUES WED

27 28 29 30 31
THUR FRI SAT SUN MON

"A SHATTERED ROMANCE IN THE ANTE BELLUM DAYS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS SHUTTING HIMSELF AWAY FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD."

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY: 1914

JANUARY 29, 1914

Hermit of Sand Hills Dead

George Blanc, known as the 'hermit of the sand hills,' died at the Porter County Poor Asylum Wednesday morning. He was brought to the institution two weeks ago. Blanc was 80 years old. For many years, beyond the memory of the oldest inhabitant of Westchester Township, he has always been a familiar figure in the sand hills along the Lake Michigan beach. He served in the Civil War, and it is said that a shattered romance in the ante bellum days was responsible

for his shutting himself away from the rest of the world. Choosing the life of a recluse to live and forget, among the stretchless, barren waste of the land, in a little hut nestled among the tamarack and spruce, where the winds beat a requiem among their branches and the lashing waves pounded the shore line, the only companions day by day of the disappointed man. The funeral arrangements have not been completed. If Blanc is an old soldier it is probable that he will be buried at Maplewood, with the funeral at Stinchfield & Fehrman undertaking parlors.

FEBRUARY 19, 1914

Clothes Slasher is Again at Work

The local police are investigating the theft of a fine quilt and the slashing of up to two pillows Saturday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Barkley residing on Willow Street. The Barkleys were in Hebron at the time the depredations were committed, attending the funeral of Charles Weinberg.

Entrance was gained through a south window and when the intruders made their getaway they left it up. The fact was noticed by M.J. Stinchfield, a neighbor, who with L.H. Conlin went into the place and made an investigation. All valuables in the house seemed to be there so they decided that robbery was not a motive of the intruders. When the Barkleys returned they went over the house and found that only the quilt had been taken. A few years ago, Wm. Fessler living in the same house had a fine quilt slashed when it was hanging on the line.

MARCH 5, 1914

Broncho John Sullivan, who sued the city of East Chicago and its chief of police for \$15,000 damages for the alleged ruination of his Wild West show, has brought the case to his home county on a change of venue, on the grounds that in Lake County he could not get a fair trial. The trouble began on May 23, 1911, when the police



stopped the crowds from entering the show. According to the complaint, the showmen went to the city treasurer and tendered the amount to cover the city license fee, but the official would not accept it. Before this, it is averred, the attraction had been advertised all over the Calumet region. The slanderous remarks of the chief of police at the time he refused to allow them to show is alleged to have killed the business, which forced the show to sell out at a great loss. Harris, Bretsch, & Ressler are attorneys for the plaintiff.

The three stories above have been taken from the Vidette Messenger, 1914. For more stories from 1914, follow along at pocomuse.org.

THE COLLECTION

For each quarterly newsletter, the Porter County Museum will pull an artifact from the collection.

Newspaper articles, historical documents, photographs and three-dimensional artifacts will be featured here, "From the Archives."

For more information regarding the Museum's collection, please visit: pocomuse.org

WANT TO DONATE?

If you have items you would like to donate to the Museum, feel free to contact us. We are most interested in artifacts from Porter County with known stories that we can record and share with our visitors.

Interested?
219.465.3595

FROM THE COLLECTION COMMITTEE

The Porter County Museum houses and displays treasures that tell the stories of the people of Porter County. In 1949, an aging John Harrington Sullivan, better known as Broncho John, enhanced the holdings of the Museum by donating personal artifacts and papers with the hopes that they be preserved for future generations to enjoy. Broncho John was a man of many talents and virtues. In 1884, he helped a group of Indians make safe passage home after Doc Carver's Wild West Show went bankrupt in Valparaiso.

When Broncho John started his own Wild West Show, Valparaiso became his home and headquarters. Broncho John was a friend not only to famous cowboys, but also to the people of Porter County. Area residents recount stories still today of the local cowboy who gave stagecoach rides and shared tales on the Courthouse Square.

Helen Arvidson

Chair of the Collections Committee

Helen Arvidson





SUNDAYS @ THE POCO MUSE

Our special education series, Sundays @ the PoCo Muse, continued throughout the fall with several speakers providing insight into our current exhibits. In conjunction with the Central Stories Project, Jake and Emily spoke about the buildings they investigated in this award-winning exhibit. Kurt and Doug

Voices of Central School

Our Central School oral history reading featured stories of students' time at Central School over the past fifty years. These recollections asked listeners to reflect on the importance of Central School to the town and the students who go there. The Central School Art Show featured many brightly colored renderings of the Central Neighborhood from current students at Central School.

Sunday @ The Woman's Club

The PoCo Muse took a field trip for the final Sunday @ the PoCo Muse. Museum staff went to the Woman's Club, one of the buildings examined in the Central Stories Project, and presented on the history of the building and the important work of the women who have met in that building and taken action to make Porter County a better place.

from Duku Industries spoke about the process to replicate the fossils on display in our newest exhibit, Prehistoric Porter County. Sundays @ the PoCo Muse will continue in the spring, giving visitors a unique look behind the scenes at the PoCo Muse. Sundays @ the PoCo Muse occur the third Sunday of every month from 1-4p, with the speaker beginning at 2p.

Readers' Theater Programs

Pearl Harbor Radio Program

This fall the PoCo Muse featured two oral history readings. At the Pearl Harbor Radio Program, PoCo Muse staff, volunteers, and friends got together and reflected on the December 7th attack on Pearl Harbor by reading recollections of Porter County residents. The reading invited visitors to reflect on what it would have been like to hear of the attacks over the radio and how Porter County changed as a result of this tragic event.



PAST SUNDAYS

- Pioneer Apartments
- Prehistoric Porter County
- Pearl Harbor Radio Hour
- Voices of Central School
- Woman's Club Visit

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

- CSP Farewell
- Robert Cain Opening
- Making Her Place Exhibit Opening

DID YOU GIVE US A GIFT?



Supporting the Annual Fund enables the Porter County Museum to fulfill its mission. What started as a celebration of Porter County's history in 1916 has transformed into a Museum that enriches our communities with your story.

Stories that educate us about the past have the power to inspire us today and influence the Porter County of tomorrow. Your gift allows us to preserve our collective story for future generations.

While our admission may be free, the PoCo Muse thrives on your continued financial support. Make your donation today at www.pocomuse.org/donate or call Kevin Pazour at (219) 465.3595.

MEMBER TO MEMBER TOURS

Members of the PoCo Muse have a diverse range of interests and backgrounds, but each shares a love for history.

If, for example, member Dick Brauer gave you a tour, he'd probably mention something about the architecture of the Sheriff's residence. Each guide lends an enriching perspective, making each tour a bit different.

The Museum invites members like you to lead tours the second Saturday of each month and share what inspires you about Porter County. Not interested in leading? Come and hear the diverse range of interests that come together at the PoCo Muse!

Sign up to lead a tour for other members and visitors and share your favorite facts about Porter County and the PoCo Muse. Email Emily@PoCo-Muse.org or call (219) 464-3595 for more information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Museum Experience Facilitator

Engage the past with the present by welcoming each guest into the Porter County Museum. Provide visitors with the information they need, give advice, and share your favorite exhibits as you help us educate, enrich, and inspire our communities!

MEMBERSHIP

As a member of the Porter County Museum, you will join us in educating, enriching and inspiring others as we share Porter County's rich story.

Joining is easy! Just e-mail: membership@pocomuse.org

POCO MUSE DONORS FALL 2013

We would like to recognize the following individuals and organizations for supporting our mission by becoming member of our Foundation this past quarter.

PoCo Muse Partners

- INSPIRE
Joanne & Dan Urschel
- EDUCATE
Kevin Matthew Pazour

Friends of the Museum

- CONTRIBUTING FRIEND
Ralph & Ruth Johnston
Carlos Rivero
Eunice Slagle

FRIEND

- Walter & Cynthia Breitnger
Patricia Crise
Mark A. McColley
John & Donna Oglesby
Lonnie & Carol Steele
Charles Welter

Becoming PoCo

HOUSEHOLD

- Luisa Garci-Verdugo
Dan & Pam Hood
Ray Marrell
Beverly & Gary Overmeyer
Deb & Dave Reynolds
Michael & Sharon Simpson
Ted & Cathy Swigon

INDIVIDUAL

- Christian Anderson
Zachary Gipson
Ruth Nicholson
Mary Beth Schultz

ORGANIZATIONS

- Sons of the Union Veterans: David D. Porter Camp #116

Additional Donations

FALL 2013 APPEAL

- Walter & Cynthia Breitnger
Joseph & Aurelia Costanza
Melvin & Elizabeth Doering
Ralph & Ruth Johnston
Joel & Christine Lehmann
William & Linda Lundgren
Eunice Slagle
Charles & Marian Worden

JANUARY

11 MEMBER TO MEMBER
SAT TOUR

19 CSP FAREWELL
SUN RECEPTION

FEBRUARY

8 MEMBER TO MEMBER
SAT TOUR

16 ROBERT CAIN
SUN ART OPENING

22 HISTORY OF WHEELER
SAT OPENING RECEPTION

MARCH

2 SPRING FUNDRAISING
SUN EVENT

8 MEMBER TO MEMBER
SAT TOUR

15 MAKING HER PLACE
SAT MEMBER'S PREVIEW

16 MAKING HER PLACE
SUN OPENING RECEPTION

CENTRAL STORIES PROJECT

POCCO muse LETTER WINTER 2014



/pocomuse



153 S Franklin Street
Valparaiso, IN 46383

POCCO muse LETTER

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

EMAIL info@pocomuse.org
CALL 219.465.3595
VISIT pocomuse.org

porter county
museum
of history

