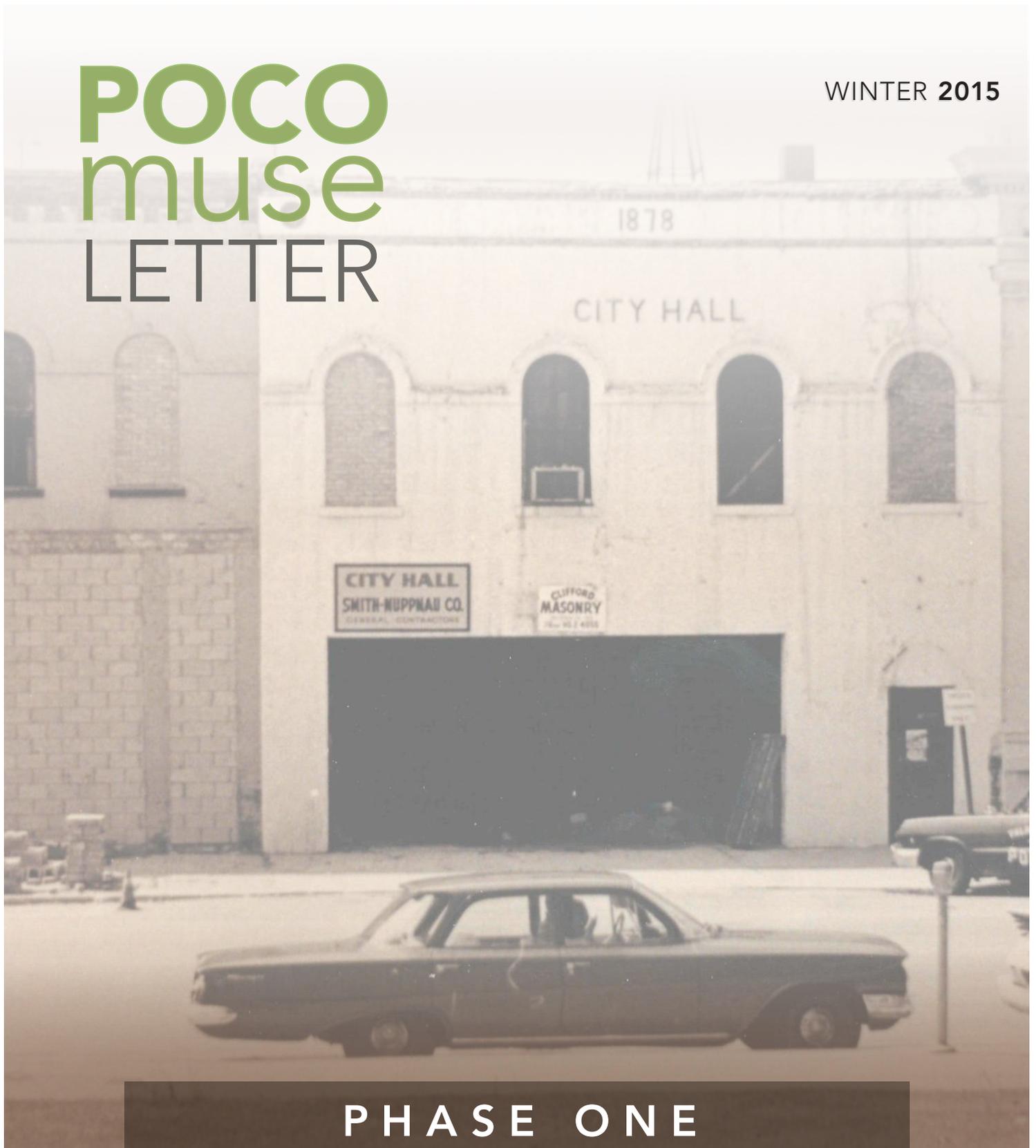


POCO muse LETTER

WINTER 2015



PHASE ONE

PREPARING FOR EXPANSION AT 16 INDIANA

PORTER COUNTY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

The POCO muse Letter is a quarterly news publication of the Porter County Museum.

WINTER 2015

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Discover What 2015 Holds in Store

POCO MUSE NEWSWORTHY

INAUGURAL HERITAGE DINNER WAS A SUCCESS!



On September 26, 2014, one hundred Porter County community members along with the Museum Board, members, volunteers, and staff gathered at Parea Restaurant for the Museum's first fundraising dinner. Attendees heard about the history of the Museum and plans for the future. The night concluded with the performance of a pre-Civil War Martin Guitar by Paul Schreiner.

Thank you to all the attendees, who, whether through awareness, donations, or volunteerism, make the work to educate, enrich, and inspire our communities possible.

OGDEN DUNES STORIES PROJECT WRAPS UP

The Ogden Dunes Stories Project wrapped up in 2014 with a series of programs "Conversations Along the Lakeshore". Conversations were held in communities throughout the South Shore Region and covered a broad range of topics from arts in the Indiana Dunes to relationships across county lines. Thanks to all who attended a program, shared their stories through oral histories, or visited an exhibit. Stay tuned for more news about the Stories Project Series!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2015 HOME TOUR

Mark your calendars now! The Porter County Museum's second Historic Home Tour will take place May 2 & 3. Keep an eye out for more details in the coming weeks!



LAKE MICHIGAN IN A DUGOUT RETURNS TO THE POCO MUSE

Amy Lukas and Mary Catterlin bring their newest adventure to the POCO MUSE on March 28. They will screen the new film *Lake Michigan in a Dugout*. Afterwards, they will be on hand to sign copies of their newly released book detailing their 93 day adventure circumnavigating Lake Michigan in a dugout canoe, *Two Girls and a Tree Named Makeba*.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Later this year we will celebrate the Museum's 99th anniversary of being a presence in Porter County. What better way to start this landmark year than by commencing work on 16 Indiana Avenue—the future of the PoCo Muse.

Trustees of the Porter County Museum Foundation have finalized plans for the first phase of construction work. As you read this Muse Letter, members of the company RestoreTech are preparing to remove the EIFS from the exterior of our future expansion, along with the interior materials of the north wall.

This work will help us gain a better understanding of the original construction materials and eliminate any unforeseen surprises. The result of this phase will give us an accurate construction estimate for the upcoming renovation and re-imagining of the historic properties (technically 16 Indiana was two buildings before 1964) on the square.

Our future seems particularly bright as we press onward, ever closer to the Porter County Museum's Centennial—Indiana's Bicentennial—next year. Although we are beginning to look ahead to a monumental institutional change, I think you will be pleasantly surprised for what lies ahead in terms of programs and exhibits for this year.

On a different note, I would like to acknowledge the passing of a great man and historical pillar, Alton Goin. Al supported me fervently from the very beginning of my career. He was a wonderful colleague, dedicated trailblazer, and a true champion of local history in Portage and beyond. I speak for the entire historical community in Porter County when I say he will be sorely missed and not soon forgotten.



Kevin Matthew Pazour
Executive Director



FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to winter in Northwest Indiana! The forecast is more of the same—with slight variations. To help get through the doldrums of too little light and cabin fever, come to the PoCo Muse. Our exhibits celebrate what makes our county special, despite all the snow!

The stories of Porter County will stimulate your senses, entertain your mind, and even tickle your funny bone. Especially look for the work of Community Supported Art Valparaiso, coming in February.

If giving back to the community is among your New Year's resolutions, consider the Museum. Come for a visit and talk to the staff or a volunteer about the different activities available. That's how I started—I came for an exhibit opening, became a volunteer, and never looked back.

My time here is more rewarding than I could have expected. In addition, the PoCo Muse is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Your donations, as always, are tax deductible. We need your financial support to help us educate, enrich, and inspire our communities by sharing our history—your history.



Joanne Urschel
Chair of the Board of Trustees

A FOND FAREWELL

Over the last two and a half years I have been beyond fortunate to partner with all of you as we work to educate, enrich, and inspire our Porter County communities. However, at the end of January I will be moving on from the Porter County Museum. I look forward to watching it continue to grow and develop from afar.

From the Central Stories Project, to late work nights reorganizing the collection in the historic Porter County Jail, every moment has been an adventure. Thanks to all who allowed this Fort Wayne native to learn about this incredible county in Northwest Indiana. Your stories have made a lasting impression on me. I'm so grateful for the lessons I've learned and all the fun we've had along the way.



Emily Royer
Coordinator

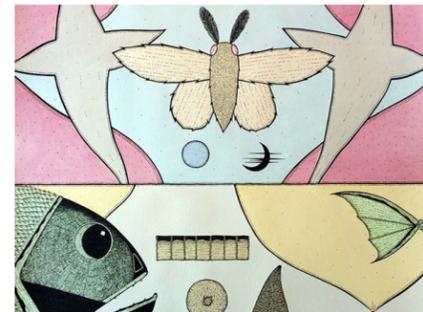
CSA VALPO @ THE POCO muse

Local Artists of Community Supported Art Valparaiso featured in the Robert Cain Gallery

The Porter County Museum is excited to announce a new collaboration with Community Supported Art Valparaiso. This year, CSA Valpo represents eight local emerging and mid-career artists working in a variety of media. Supporters can buy shares in the organization, supporting the artists. In return, supporters will receive original artwork from each of the artists. In addition to providing support for individual artists, the CSA hopes connect artists and supporters of the arts in our community, and the Museum is excited to facilitate these connections and strengthen the presence of the arts in Porter County.



Artist: Melissa Washburn



Artist: Gregg Hertzlieb

From February 15 - May 16, 2015, the Porter County Museum will feature work from this year's CSA artists in the 2015 Robert Cain Gallery Exhibit. *Season Preview: Community Supported Art Valparaiso* will open to the public February 15, 2015 from 1-4p and feature a panel discussion with the artists at 2p. Mark your calendars and stop by the Museum this February to see the Robert Cain Gallery transformed yet again by the vibrant and unique work of these talented local artists. For more information about CSA Valpo, visit CSArtpo.com.



OGDEN DUNES STORIES PROJECT WRAPS UP

Over 100 Community Members Join in the Conversations Along the Lakeshore



Residents of the South Shore Region gathered at 18th Street Brewery in Miller.

During the months of November and December, the *Ogden Dunes Stories Project* began *Conversations Along the Lakeshore*, a series of community conversations that focused on life in the South Shore region. These events saw well over 100 attendees from three different counties as well as visitors from Chicago and Michigan.

The program strived for collaboration and is grateful to the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, the Duneland Historical Society, and 18th Street Brewery as partner organizations in the series! A big thank you to all who participated as attendees, hosting organizations, or facilitators!

If you have experienced the Ogden Dunes Stories Project whether through one of these programs, visiting an exhibit, or in any other way, make sure to check out the PoCo Muse facebook page and take the survey to share your thoughts about the project!

DISCOVERING THE STORY OF CIVIL RIGHTS

Porter County Museum Continues Rewarding Partnership with Valparaiso University's Hands on History Course

During the Fall semester, Dr. Heath Carter's students have collected extensive research about the history of Civil Rights in Northwest Indiana. They met with community leaders to hear first hand accounts of tumultuous times and dug through archives from across the region.

Their work unearthed many stories about the history of NWI civil rights, including a Klan rally in Valparaiso, racial tensions in Lake County, integration in Porter County, and ongoing discrimination still existing today.

The efforts of these students opens up the conversation about where we have been, where we are, and the work that still needs to be done to create a more inclusive future.

Keep an eye out for an exhibit at Valparaiso University highlighting the history of civil rights on campus, and for an exhibit in the Spring of 2015 at the PoCo Muse.



Dr. Carter's students presented their research at the POCO Muse in December

AMERICAN HOME: THE HILLTOP NEIGHBORHOOD

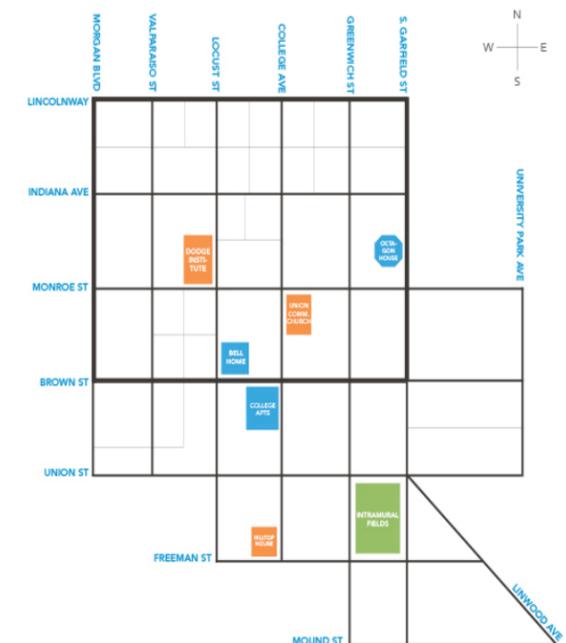
Valparaiso University's Neighborhood Study Visits the Museum in April

Dr. Gretchen Bugglen's American Home seminar takes a closer look at Valparaiso neighborhoods, the people who have lived there, and the homes they reside in. This last fall, students studied a portion of the Hilltop Neighborhood and shared their work in the form of a story.



Columbia School in the Hilltop Neighborhood circa 1960.

Join these students for April's *We Are Porter County Series* to hear their story of the Hilltop Neighborhood. Learn about the process of performing neighborhood studies, discover how the Hilltop has changed, appreciate aspects that endear it to those who have lived there.



JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JANUARY 10
FREE GUIDED TOUR
BEGINS AT 2:00p



JANUARY 18
SUNDAYS @ POCO muse:
STATE OF THE MUSEUM
 Executive Director Kevin Pazour gives a preview of the Museum's calendar for the coming year.
MUSEUM OPEN 1-4p
PRESENTATION BEGINS AT 2p

FEBRUARY 5
WE ARE POCO SERIES:
THE CHICAGO PRAIRIE CLUB
 Serena Sutliff of the Westchester Township History Museum will present on the history of the Chicago Prairie Club, an early naturalist group that fell in love with the Indiana Dunes.
BEGINS AT 5:30p

A member of the Chicago Prairie Club at the Indiana Dunes. Image courtesy of Westchester Township History Museum.

FEBRUARY 13
MEMBERS' PREVIEW:
ARTISTS OF COMMUNITY SUPPORTED ART VALPO
 Members of the Porter County Museum and shareholders of the CSA Valpo are invited to this exclusive preview. Meet the eight local artists of the 2014-2015 season of the CSA Valpo and get a first look at their work featured in the Robert Cain Gallery.
OPEN HOUSE 5-7p

FEBRUARY 14
FREE GUIDED TOUR
BEGINS AT 2:00p

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

FEBRUARY 15
SUNDAYS @ POCO muse:
ARTISTS OF COMMUNITY SUPPORTED ART VALPARAISO PUBLIC OPENING
 Come to the Porter County to celebrate the inaugural season of Community Supported Art Valparaiso. At 2p, join in the discussion about the role of the arts in Porter County.
MUSEUM OPEN 1-4p
PRESENTATION BEGINS AT 2p

MARCH 5
WE ARE POCO SERIES:
TALTREE AND THE RAILROAD
 Join Taltree Arboretum & Gardens as they present the history of the railroad, and their own notable railway garden.
PRESENTATION BEGINS AT 5:30p

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

MARCH 7
DOWNTOWN VALPARAISO'S CHOCOLATE WALK
BEGINS AT 12p

MARCH 14
FREE GUIDED TOUR
BEGINS AT 2:00p

MARCH 15
SUNDAYS @ POCO muse:
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH FAMILY DAY
 Bring the whole family to the Porter County Museum Sunday, March 15 for a day of educational games and activities that will celebrate and teach about Women's History.
MUSEUM OPEN 1-4p

Amy Lukas and Mary Catterlin pose with their paddles before their 93 day journey circumnavigating Lake Michigan.

MARCH 28
LAKE MICHIGAN IN A DUGOUT: BOOK SIGNING AND DOCUMENTARY SCREENING
 Amy Lukas and Mary Catterlin return to the PoCo Muse to share their latest adventure- the release of their documentary and book! Pick up your signed copy and experience the adventure!
BEGINS AT 2:00p



FROM THE COLLECTION

Great things have been happening at the Museum. Publications, projects, and programs are evidence that the Museum is on track with its mission to educate, enrich, and inspire our communities. The public has had opportunities to be involved and participate in a number of openings, activities, and presentations. The opening of the Robert Cain Gallery, the Ogden Dunes Story Project, the Mark Brown Display, the Valparaiso Home Tour, the Block Party, the Korean War Program, and Holly Days are just a few examples of what the Museum has been up to this year. Some great things that go on at the Museum, however, happen behind the scenes.

The Collections Committee has been working on the usual tasks of acquiring, cataloging, and storing artifacts donated by generous donors. Recently, however, a new focus has emerged. In an effort to strengthen the content and quality of the Collections, artifacts are being evaluated to determine their relevance to the people of Porter County. Relevant artifacts that come with stories are given priority for acquisition and inclusion in the Collections.

The Collections Committee makes recommendations for removing artifacts that are not relevant or do not meet some of the other criteria outlined in the Collections Policy. The Executive Director makes the final decision. Artifacts that are removed from the Collections may be sold at auction or donated to other institutions or organizations. Artifacts that are in extremely poor condition or dangerous to handle may be destroyed.

Removing artifacts from the Collections because they are not relevant is a top consideration, but there

are other reasons that artifacts may be removed. One of them is purely practical and even timely. Proper storage is expensive, and space is limited. A large number of artifacts, large and small, sturdy and delicate, are currently stored at 16 Indiana, the site of the Museum expansion. All artifacts must be removed from the building before renovation can begin. Artifacts that are to remain in the Collections, including those pictured, must be moved and put into storage.

Plans are being developed for moving the artifacts that are to remain in the Collections a half block east back to the Museum. Safe transfer of artifacts becomes the new focus for the Collections Committee. Watch as the Museum moves forward. It won't all happen behind the scenes.

are other reasons that artifacts may be removed. One of them is purely practical and even timely. Proper storage is expensive, and space is limited. A large number of artifacts, large and small, sturdy and delicate, are currently stored at 16 Indiana, the site of the Museum expansion. All artifacts must be removed from the building before renovation can begin. Artifacts that are to remain in the Collections, including those pictured, must be moved and put into storage.

Helen Arvidson

Helen Arvidson
Chair of the Collections Committee



January, 1915

Would Reclaim Swamplands

A bill has been prepared for early introduction in the state legislature which makes provision for the state of Indiana to enter into a contract with the state of Illinois as a step toward the completion of the reclamation of the Kankakee swamp lands. The bill will be backed by an association in the Northern part of Indiana which has been active in behalf of the Kankakee swamp lands and involves a question of constitutionality. It is said there is a supreme court decision which would give the two states the right to enter into such a contract, although it is pointed out by some that such a contract could not be made without the consent of congress.

The purpose of the bill is to complete the straightening of the Kankakee river, which is an interstate stream, and it is necessary to invade territory in the state of Illinois to complete the work. The Kankakee swamp lands involve about 1,500,000 acres of land and practically all of it is in Indiana. About one township in Illinois, near the city of Momence, would be affected in that state, it is said.

February, 1915

February 3, 1915

Suffrage Signs on the Interurban

"Votes for women," the slogan of the Woman's Suffrage league, will be displayed in eight cars of the Gary & Interurban that run between this city, Laporte, Gary, and Hammond. Arrangements have been made to this end with Joseph Decker, in charge of advertising. The scheme is one of a number of ways the local association has for the promotion of its cause.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY: 1915

February 10, 1915

Landmarks to be Removed

Two old houses, all that remain of a number formerly owned by Joe Marks, the eccentric philanthropist, who died several years ago, are about to be torn away on South Franklin avenue and eventually they will be replaced by modern buildings. John Kuehl is the owner of the property. The tenets have been given notice to vacate in order that the wrecking may proceed.

For many years these lots were crowded with little buildings. They were the homes of the poor, who only paid rent when circumstances permitted. Many a sack of flour was delivered to them at the expense of Mr. Marks, and at Christmas time candy and other delicacies were sent to them. Many people in the city, now grown, can recollect when they were treated to candy by the queer, little, old man who lived on the side of the Pioneer Flats. The favored ones often found a few pennies in their sacks.



Photo of Joe Marks and his building at the corner of Franklin & Chicago Streets, ca. 1895
Pioneer apartments now stand at this location.

March, 1915

March 10, 1915

Buffalo Bill Writes Valpo Man

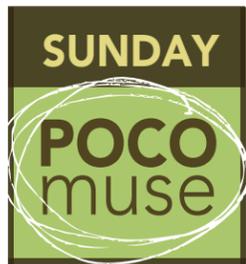
It is only occasionally we get a glimpse into the private lives of great men, and when Broncho John Sullivan received a letter recently from his old friend, Buffalo Bill, a request was made for its publication in the Vidette. Mr. Sullivan then wrote to the famous old scout, who had no objections.

According to Broncho John...

"I heard that Colonel Cody was ill. I wrote him a letter asking of his health and happiness. Buffalo Bill's letter was so good and from the heart I knew my friends would like to read it. I wrote to Colonel Cody asking permission to have it in the daily paper. I feel happy to know that Buffalo Bill is enjoying life so well."

"My Dear Old Friend John..."

I was sure pleased to get your letter. It found me here at my home ranch in the very heart of the Rockies. It's the one dear place in all the world to me. Here I am away from all the worries of the world. I have a great, rambling log house, plenty of rooms with fireplaces, firewood galore, and all kinds of timber... My house stands near the banks of the beautiful Shoshone river, in the timber. I have the best sheltered ranch for stock on earth, with warm springs that were never known to freeze.... I hope you are enjoying life, for you deserve it. You have been one of the western men who were genuine and on the square. I will be 69 on Feb. 26th, so the citizens of Cody are going to give a banquet at my own hotel. My health is fine. With best wishes, Your friend W.F. Cody"



SUNDAYS @ THE POCO MUSE

JANUARY: STATE OF THE MUSEUM

Join Executive Director Kevin Matthew Pazour on **January 18 at 2p** for a conversation about what the coming year will hold for the Porter County Museum. Discover the exciting progress being made with the expansion to 16 Indiana. Learn about preparations for the Museum's Centennial and Indiana's Bicentennial, and get a sneak peek of the Museum's event calendar for 2015.



FEBRUARY: ARTISTS OF COMMUNITY SUPPORTED ART VALPO

The Robert Cain Gallery will host the artists of the newly formed Community Supported Art Valparaiso. These eight local artists work in a variety of media including painting, drawing, photography, graphic design, sculpture, and printmaking. Get connected with the artists during the public opening on **February 15 from 1-4p** or learn more about their work at **2p** when the artists participate in a panel discussion and answer questions from the audience.



MARCH: FAMILY DAY CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY

Bring the whole family to the Porter County Museum **Sunday, March 15 from 1-4p** for a day of educational games and activities that will celebrate and teach about Women's History. Go on a scavenger hunt to discover the amazing accomplishments of local women, design your own comic strip in the style of local artist Dale Messick, handle artifacts important to women's lives in Porter County and much more!



MUSEUM STORE

T-shirts are here! Stop by the Museum store to pick up yours today! You'll also find the store newly stocked with We Are Porter County mugs and new postcards.

Holiday items are now on sale. Be sure to purchase your decorations for next year at a discount before they're gone!

Stay tuned for exhibit themed magnets, key chains and South Shore Line Posters!



MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

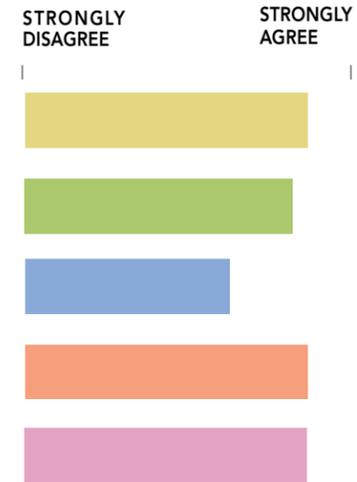
POCO MUSE MEMBERS

201 NEW MEMBERS

11 WAYS TO GIVE
26 DOLLARS INVESTED
\$60,060

YOU SAID IT!

- I'm kept in the loop
- Programs are relevant
- I use my member benefits
- Membership is worth the investment
- The Museum staff is approachable



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POCO MUSE DONORS AUTUMN 2014

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

PoCo Muse Partners
INSPIRE:
Kathryn & Stewart McMillan
Sharon & Tom Swihart

EDUCATE:
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Jane Maxwell
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Rachel Hulslander & Kyle Nelson
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Geraldine Pigott

INDIVIDUAL:
Rosemary Riley
Myron Knauff
Emily Royer
Joanne Lohmeyer
John Wolf

JANUARY

11 GUIDED MUSEUM TOUR

18 SUNDAYS @ POCO MUSE:
State of the Museum

FEBRUARY

5 WE ARE POCO SERIES:
Chicago Prairie Club

8 GUIDED MUSEUM TOUR

13 MEMBERS' PREVIEW
Artists of CSA Valpo

15 SUNDAYS @ POCO MUSE:
Artists of CSA Valpo

MARCH

4 WE ARE POCO SERIES:
Taltree Presents the Railroad

7 DOWNTOWN VALPO'S
CHOCOLATE WALK

14 GUIDED MUSEUM TOUR

15 SUNDAYS @ POCO MUSE:
Women's History Family Day

28 LAKE MICHIGAN IN A
DUGOUT
Documentary Screening and
Book Signing

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