



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

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Special points  
of interest:  
**25<sup>th</sup>**

**Anniversary  
Installation  
Dinner** will be  
November 20,  
2013 at  
Woodland  
Park,

6:00 pm

R.S.V.P. to Lois

Portage Community Historical Society, Inc.  
**2013 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Installation Dinner** will be  
Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at Woodland Park in the  
upstairs hall. Like previous years, the society provides the  
meat, beverages and rolls and everyone is asked to bring a  
dish or two to share.

Mark your calendar now and R.S.V.P. to Lois so we know  
how many to expect. We don't usually send out reminders  
so don't forget.

We will nominate, as we have for the last few years, a  
Volunteer of the Year Award to be presented at the  
Installation Dinner.

We invite the Park Board and the City Council and they are  
not asked to bring a dish so it takes more than one dish per  
member or we do not have enough food. We also collect  
non-perishable donations for the Portage Food Pantry.

We want to grow our society and in order to do this  
you have to ask someone you know to join us. Enclosed in  
this newsletter is a membership form. Feel free to make  
copies and pass them on to your friends and relatives.  
Membership Chairperson, Lois, reports we now have 68  
members. 28 of those memberships are Lifetime Members  
including our Mayor James Snyder.

## New Displays

For October we have added more school and alumni pictures. All Portage Alumni are invited to visit the museum on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 4, 5, & 6. We plan to show a video of the 1994 Football highlights of the Portage Indians 5A State Runner Up on Friday, October 4 at 1:00 pm.

We were given 5 newer display cases from the Westchester Museum and three have lights so our displays show up much better. We also changed the display under the mayor's pictures to reflect our historical society and the case is full of our memorabilia. Thanks to Carl Fisher, Al Goin, Joe Mollick, Jim Franzen, Ken Lorenz and a few guys from the park department for moving the cases to our museum from Chesterton.

Lois and Kathy attended a workshop at the Porter County Museum on small museum displays. It was given by a man who worked for the Museum of Science and Industry. We picked up many tips and hope to implement some of them in the near future.

Do you have a Christmas collection you'd be willing to display in our museum this year? Contact Lois or Kathy.

### Museum Hours

Open every  
Saturday and  
Sunday 1:00 till  
4:00 and Friday's  
by appointment

### Museum News

Over the last several months the museum has had over a 50% increase in visitors due to the publicity of our loans from the Indiana Historical Society. The groups from Indiana Historical in Indianapolis were great as they brought us the displays on time and picked them up when the display ended. It was an enjoyable experience for us.

We still have on display the pictures taken by Susan Kelly Johnson. They are for sale or you can order a copy from her. This display will be gone after October so stop in and see her beautiful photography.

### Member News

Al Fabian passed away and we send our condolences to his wife, Judy, and his children. We are so sorry for your loss.

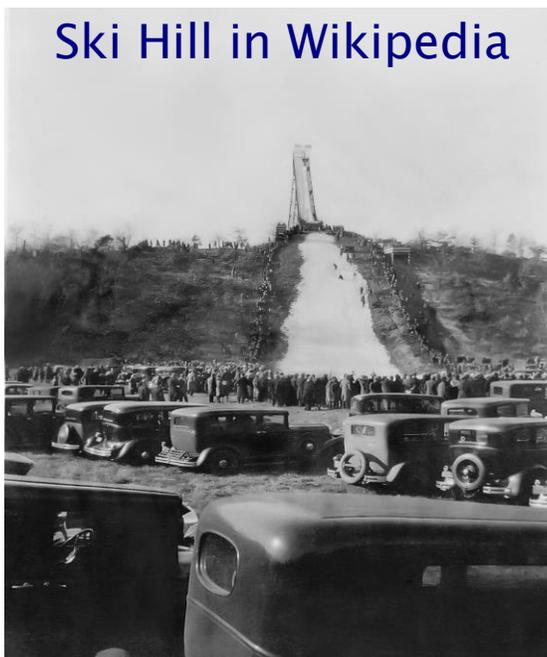
*The nominating committee for the 2014 board of directors has not yet filled the slate and we hope to have it filled by November.*

*If you are willing to sit on our board for the 2014 year please contact Carl Fisher or Barb Borg-Jenkins.*

**ALUMNI EVENT** - PHS Alumni Dinner-Dance will be held October 5 at the Duneland Falls Banquet Center State Highway 149 a little south of Highway 20.

We will open the Alton Goin Museum Friday 4th from 11 am-3 pm for any alumni to visit and we will display our collection of PHS history with pictures and show video of 1994 DAC Football Highlights, 5A State Runner Up Portage Indians at 1:00 pm Friday. We will also be open our regular hours 1-4 on Sat. and Sun. We are expecting the Class of 53 on Friday and the class of 63 on Saturday.

## Ski Hill in Wikipedia



Ogden Dunes was once the home of a famous ski jump.<sup>[9]</sup> In 1927, the Grand Beach Ski Club, later the Ogden Dunes Ski Club, bought a piece of land on one of the high dunes in the town. They constructed a 192 feet (59 m)-tall ski jump. The first meet was held on January 22, 1928. For the next four years, meets were held in Ogden Dunes. The longest jump ever reported on this structure was 195 feet. In 1932, the Norwegian Olympic Team of Birger Rund, Hans Beck, and Kaare Wahlberg (gold, silver, and bronze medalists) came to Ogden Dunes to try the tower. During the [Great Depression](#) the Ski Club had financial setbacks; combined with little snow, the club looked to sell the tower. In 1935, a ski club in [Rockford, Illinois](#), purchased the tower and moved it that summer.<sup>[10]</sup>

# Oct. 5: America's Most Common Birthday

By [Christina Ng](#)  
Oct 5, 2011 11:19am



Almost 1 million Americans will be blowing out birthday candles today. Oct. 5 is the most common birthday in the United States, according to a survey conducted by [AnyBirthday.com](#).

On any given day, an estimated 750,000 Americans celebrate a birthday, but today, more than 960,000 will celebrate their special day, according to [AnyBirthday.com](#)

Among them are some famous faces, including Julie Andrews, Kate Winslet, Bernie Mac and Nicky Hilton.

And why is Oct. 5 such a popular day for babies' entering the world? One possible explanation is that the length of an average pregnancy is around 274 days. Counting backward, the date of conception for Oct. 5 babies would be New Year's Eve.

Conversely, the website found that the most uncommon birthday is May 22, although it gave no explanation as to why.

Revelers will have a lot on their plates today, as Oct. 5 is also Do Something Nice Day, World Teacher's Day, Balloons Around the World Day and National Apple Betty Day — which offers a nice excuse to indulge in that savory fall staple of apple crumble or apple crisp, on top of the birthday cake.

### 2013 Board of Directors

President:

Carl Fisher

Vice-President:

Sue Cowser

Secretary:

Donna Smith

Treasurer:

Barb Borg-Jenkins

### Board of Directors

Patti Coppess

Jim Franzen

Bill Mesich

Lois Mollick

Richard Turnak

Wanda Samuelson

Eva Udick

### Newsletter

Lois Mollick

Kathy Heckman

**PORTAGE  
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We're on the Web!

*See us at:*

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~inpchs>

*Membership:*

*Individual \$20 a year*

*Family \$50 a year*

*Business \$60 a year*

*Lifetime \$100 forever*

***Calendar of Events***

**Tuesday October 8,**  
**2013**

Board Meeting at Portage  
Public Library, 6:30 pm

**Tuesday, October 15,**  
**2013**

Regular bi-monthly meeting  
at Woodland Park, 7:00 pm

**Wednesday,**  
**November 20,**  
**2013**

**Installation**  
**dinner at**  
**Woodland Park,**  
**6:00 pm**

**Saturday & Sunday**  
**December 7 & 8, 2013**

Christmas Open House in the  
museums

## Bi-monthly Meetings

Bi-monthly meeting will be on the third Tuesday in October (15) and held at Woodland Park at 7:00 pm in the Hickory Hollow room. Everyone is welcome to join us.

This is our election meeting and the nomination board has been busy trying to fill our slate. We have a few spaces open and if you are interested in serving on the board of directors contact Carl Fisher or Barb Borg-Jenkins.

Refreshments served after the meeting.

Portage Community Historical Society  
To Host Janet Zenke Edwards,  
Author of 'Diana of the Dunes'

Just in time for the fall season of ghost stories, Janet Zenke Edwards, author of "Diana of the Dunes: The True Story of Alice Gray", will speak at the monthly meeting of the Portage Historical Society at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 15 at Hickory Hollow Room at Woodland Park in Portage. Edwards will share facts behind the legendary story of Alice Gray, who became known as "Diana of the Dunes," one of Northwest Indiana's favorite folklore characters and subject of a popular local ghost story.

Edwards, a summer resident of Porter Beach, Ind., spent 10 years researching the book, which documents Gray's life in the early 20th-century from her Chicago childhood to her years as a Phi Beta Kappa student at the University of Chicago, and finally, to the last decade of her life spent living in the remote sand dunes along Lake Michigan's Indiana shore.

Admission is free and open to the public. Bring the stories you heard about Diana of the Dunes while growing up in the region and share them with the group during the question-and-answer period! Copies of the book, Diana of the Dunes: The True Story of Alice Gray, will be available for purchase.

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We have several items we offer for sale in the museum: Historical House Booklet, Steel Shavings, Postcards, and we ordered and have copies of Portage Township by Jim Wright and Dennis Norman.

Please remember that any books or items sold by the Historical Society must have sales tax collected on the item.

Indiana sales tax is 7%. If members wish to order one to be shipped, there will be an additional charge for shipping.

Clement and Lynda Khan have finished the Wolf Mansion History book and are selling them for \$15.00. We will have them available for sale in our museum.

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