



HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

URBEX PHOTOGRAPHY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Museum News	2
Members News	2
Historical	3
2014 Calendar	4

Urban exploration (often shortened as **urbex** or **UE**) is the exploration of man-made structures, usually abandoned ruins or not usually seen components of the man-made environment. Photography and historical interest/documentation are heavily featured in the hobby and, although it may sometimes involve trespassing onto private property, this is not always the case and is of innocent intention.^[1] Urban exploration is also commonly referred to as *infiltration*, although some people consider infiltration to be more closely associated with the exploration of active or inhabited sites. It may also be referred to as **draining** (when exploring drains), **urban spelunking**, **urban rock climbing**, **urban caving**, or **building hacking**. (Wiki-pedia)

Museum
opening
weekend
Saturday
April 5 and
Sunday
April 6
1 – 4 pm

All
buildings
will be open
for tours and
a special
display of
Urbex
Photography

Cindy and Larry Bean will be at the museum both opening days to answer your questions.

Please let us know if you are coming so we can have enough refreshments.
Leave a message at the museum 762-8349 or on our Facebook page.

If you are willing to bake cupcakes for this event please let us know.

Society News

We need some help with getting our barn ready for opening weekend. We've been so busy in the museum and poor Joe can't do it himself. We need to sweep and vacuum, dust objects and rearrange some objects. If you are able bodied and can help Joe we will be at the museum on Friday. Call Lois to let her know if you are coming to help, 762-4218

Our thanks to the Girl Scouts from Troop 30310, they did the painting of the museum wall for us. They are Janelle Fletcher, Jordan Kwiatkowski and Jacqueline Volk and their leaders Kristy Volk and Shelly Kwiatkowski. They also agreed to help us on our opening day and they will have Girl Scout cookies available for sale.

We will be having a table again this year at the Chamber of Commerce Business Night held at Woodland Park on Thursday April 24, 2014. It's a good chance to network with many people and tell them about our society and museums. Many people still don't know about us. Stop by our table and say hello.

Festival Entertainment for June 21, 2014: Wolfgang Singers, Ukelele Strummers, Good Time Cloggers, Abraham Lincoln Impersonator and not confirmed yet but we are hoping Janet Robbins Sharpe will be playing her keyboard. Beth Franzen will open the day singing the Star Spangled Banner.

We will have the fishing contest, hayrides, watermelon eating contest, games for the kids, silent auction and lots of food. We need lots of volunteers to cover all the areas. Please sign up for an hour or two.

We are looking for vendors to sell their wares but please no food vendors. Contact Patti or Jim.

We are looking for donations for the silent auction, drop items off at the museum before the festival. Thanks so much.

Member News

Joanne Schoon was recently hospitalized but is home recovering. We are thinking of you, Joanne, get well soon.

The snowbirds are coming back. We heard Wanda was in Florida for a few months. Also Carl and Pat Fisher were in the warmer climate. Janet Robbins Sharpe and her husband spend the winters in Florida too. They all missed so much fun in the snow.

Lloyd Samplowski Sr., age 91, passed away on March 22, 2014. He is the grandfather of member Debbie Parker.

2014 Summer Festival News

The Portage Historical Society is having their Festival this year on June 21, 2014. We are in need of a few volunteers which includes Publicity (newspaper, internet, tv, local business signs, etc.) Set up and tear down, Gopher (someone to go for supplies etc. during festival), If you are interested in volunteering for anything for the festival please contact Patti Coppess at intrepidwife@yahoo.com or 219-921-9577 or Jim Franzen at jfranzen@portage-in.com or 219-405-7194. Festival meeting at Portage Library History room, 5:30 pm Tuesday April 8 before the next board meeting.

Museum

Hours

*Opening weekend
April 5 & 6*

1 - 4 pm

Memories Posted on

Facebook

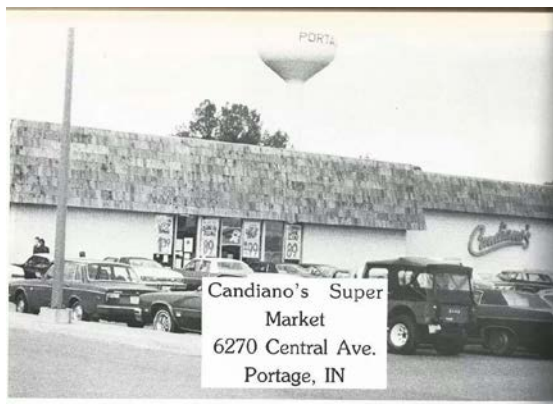
Roy Nelson - Around 1950 my dad built our house in Portage. Whenever we'd go past that little white shack that was the police station we would have to hear the story about how it was before Portage had its own police. My early memory of that white building I went there to get a license for my bike. I don't know why but that's something they offered back then to register your bike. You got a little license plate to hang on the seat. I thought we are just so cool. My dad said that before the department they had to wait for the LaPorte sheriff and they had constables in the neighborhoods that lived there and handled the small stuff like domestics and wild drunks etc. I remember going also to the old fire department and seeing Santa. Those were some fine memories, different days for sure.



Early Portage Police Department

Mike Thorn shared **Krissi Wozniak VanMeter's** [photo](#).

Did Everyone Remember Candianos Super Market On Central Ave During 1970s-1980s



THE VERNON PATTON DICKINSON FARM WAGON

This wagon was brought to Porter County on May 27, 1929. On this date Vernon Patton Dickinson and his wife, Lotus, purchased Maple Lawn Farm in Hebron, IN. Vernon, Lotus and their son, Roy, began to make repairs to the run down house, barn and property. The main front barn doors were lying flat in the barn yard with weeds growing up through them. The head stones from the Civil War cemetery in the front lawn were removed and later laid flat and buried under the concrete in the dairy barn. (1940) This wagon was used for transportation and utility for the farm. As the years went by with the invention of tractors and automobiles the horses and wagon took a lesser role in daily farming activities.

Roy Dickinson married his wife, Alice, about 1940 and farmed Maple Lawn Farm with his parents. In 1943 they had their first son followed by two more in 1955 they took over farming and milking operations from his parents. In 1954 they milked 54 head of dairy cows twice a day which was the biggest dairy herd in Porter County.

The wagon had been retired, but with the sons growing and getting involved in 4H it was revived. The wheels were cut down to use with an eight pony hitch. Shetland Ponies were used in parades with one of the favorite being for Virgil O. King from Hebron to further his political career. It was also used in Porter, Lake, LaPorte and Jasper Counties 4H fairs. As the sons grew up, Roy retired and the wagon was again retired to the old dairy barn.

On April 14th, 2013 it was removed, back into the sunshine for the first time in over 35 years. We hope this gives all of the generations to come a picture of the simple times in southern Porter County. This wagon is donated by the grandchildren, great grandchildren and the great great grandchildren of Vernon Patton Dickinson. We know that he would be proud that he was a little piece of our history.

This history on the wagon was received from Pat Scott.

The Vernon Dickerson wagon is now in the possession of the Portage Community Historical Society.

2014 Board of Directors

President:

Valeria Roach

Vice-President:

Sue Cowser

Secretary:

Donna Smith

Treasurer:

Barb Borg-Jenkins

Board of Directors

Patti Coppess

Jim Franzen

Al Goin

Lois Mollick

Richard Turnak

Wanda Samuelson

Newsletter

Eva Udick

Lois Mollick

Kathy Heckman

**PORTAGE
COMMUNITY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY, INC.**

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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

April 5 & 6, 2014

Museum reopens for the
2014 season, 1 – 4 pm

Tuesday, April 8, 2004

Festival Meeting 5:30
Board meeting 6:00

**Wednesday, April 16,
2014**

General Meeting
Woodland Park, 7:00 pm
See * above

Thursday, April 24, 2014

Portage Chamber of
Commerce Business Night
5 – 9 pm, \$1.00 admission

Wednesday, June 8, 2014

General Meeting 7:00pm

Saturday, June 21, 2014

Summer Festival
10 am until 5 pm

Bi-monthly Meetings

****The Board voted to change the General meetings to the 3rd Wednesday instead of the 3rd Tuesday. Next general meeting will be Wednesday, April 16, 2014 at Woodland Park downstairs.***

Portage Community Historical Society, Inc.

General meeting

Wednesday April 16, 2014, will be held at 7:00 pm at Woodland Park
Public welcome

Our guest speaker will be Brendan Clancy, Portage Twp. Trustee, who will speak on the township cemeteries. He will tell us about the improvements and changes at the James/ Schrock cemetery where some of our earliest settlers are buried.

Brendan Clancy announced at his State of the Township address at the Bonner Senior Center on Feb. 13, 2014: **Improvements to James-Schrock Cemetery** - A steep incline at the main entrance has prohibited access to many visitors. We are currently under construction of a new entrance into James/Schrock Cemetery. As soon as the weather cooperates we will continue with this project. Also, a new James-Schrock memorial monument will be installed at McCool Cemetery. This monument will list the names of the deceased at James-Schrock Cemetery. A dedication ceremony is being planned.

Please come out and learn what our trustee is doing. Refreshments will be served. For more information check our page at www.facebook.com/pchs88 or call the museum at 219-762-8349.

“What is the oldest business in Portage that
Is still in business today?”

Well I thought I knew it was Samuelson Insurance Agency (est. 1926) but someone on Facebook pointed out that Calvary Cemetery was dedicated in 1914 and can be considered a business.



Calvary dedication

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.

www.facebook.com/pchs88