

# Historical Society News

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## Summer Festival

### 2014 SUPER FESTIVAL

We had a great festival this year! We actually made a nice profit, thanks to Bill Mesich and family who cooked the food. They do a great job-everything was delicious! Thanks to all members who

donated pies, thanks to member Rich Turnak who picked up the ice cream and lastly, all members who donated their time to man the buildings. We had 15 vendors and crafters this year-I hope they were all happy with the day!

Of course it would

have been an even better day if the rain hadn't come in about 3 pm and everything began folding up.

And thanks to Julie Woods for handling the kid's games and to Patti Coppess, Jim Franzen and the Portage Park Department for all their help! ~Lois

## Portage Alumni Association

This year's Alumni Multi-year dinner dance will be held Saturday, September 27, 2014 at Duneland Falls Banquet Center. The event targets alumni of 25 years or more who graduated or attended Portage High School during 1949 – 1989. Honored classes are 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984 and 1989. Their guests and all other alumni through the years are also welcomed to attend. Music by the Music Men, Inc. with Keith Reed; pictures by Kathy Smock Photography of Portage. Contact Wanda Samuelson or Sue Cowsert for more information.

A cash bar will be provided and the cost is \$40 per person. Reservations should be received by Monday, September 15, 2014 to the Portage Alumni Association, P.O. Box 2762, Portage, IN 46368

We will have the museums open on Friday September 26, 9 -1 for any alumni that want to visit us.

### Special points of interest:

- Successful festival
- Alumni Dinner and Dance

Museum open on Friday, September 26, 9 – 1, for Alumni to visit

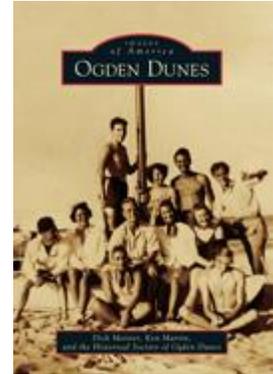
## Museum

We received several items from Hazel Briggs Bradford and her family. They donated photo albums, documents and even Hazel's High School diploma. Hazel recently had her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday and is now living at Rittenhouse.

We will have the Hazel Briggs Bradford memorabilia on display in the museum for the months of September and October. Last year at the Portage Alumni Banquet, Hazel was honored as being the oldest Portage graduate. She graduated 80 years ago. Her family contributed much to the history of Portage as her father, William Briggs, was the very first school principal in Portage Township.

*Added to our museum library is a donated copy of Images of America Ogden Dunes by Richard Meister, Ken Martin and the Historical Society of Ogden Dunes, published by Arcadia.*

*Contact the Ogden Dunes Historical Society if you are interested in purchasing a copy.*



## Member's News

We've mentioned before but some of our members are still ill and we want them to know they are in our thoughts and prayers.

Linda & Bill Byers

Al Goin

Joanne Schoon

Two new members signed up recently:

Welcome to David Hess and Jason White both of Portage.

Recent deaths:

Clifford Delmage, nephew of Eva Udick

Donald Mongold, husband of Janice Samuelson Mongold

## Eagle Scout Project

Sam Haines, a Portage resident, took on the project of locating all the veterans buried in McCool Cemetery for his Eagle Scout project. He made and donated copies of his information and donated to the McCool Cemetery and to us. He also plans on giving

a copy to the V.F.W. and the American Legion. Another copy will be placed in the Portage library.

He, along with some other scouts, located 427 veterans buried in McCool cemetery.



*Veterans buried in McCool Cemetery*

## Duck Farm Road

In the 1930's, many local boys and men found employment at a duck farm located in Portage in the Garyton area off of Duck Farm Road, now known today as Evergreen Road.

The owner of the farm was Mr. Adams of Chicago, Illinois--his first name is unknown.

The manager's name was Hugo Lindner and his son helped run it. Both of them were graduates in animal husbandry. The son took care of the incubators.

The employees earned 25 cents an hour.

Tage Borg and his brother Tore worked at the farm in the summer, weekends and holidays. They were required to feed the ducks and clean the pens. Chopping down trees for firewood was also part of the job.

Adult men would also work at the farm for 25 cents an hour--with these wages, they supported their families during the Depression.

Tage described the farm as covering approximately 40 acres. The pond was formed by damming up the creek located nearby. At one time, he estimated there were up to 35,000 ducks at the farm. Since Tage and Tore were old enough to drive, they would drive a flatbed truck loaded with the caged ducks to Chicago to sell them at the Fulton Market. There were about 20 ducks in a cage.

Tage and Tore worked there for three years--every weekend and holiday plus during the summers. Their job was to feed the ducks and clean their pens. Tage remembers throwing 100 pounds feed bags up in the attic of the barn.

Al Goin remembers it as hard work--but he really enjoyed it.

He described the eggs as going onto a carousel after they came out of the incubator. Mr. Lindner's son took care of the incubators. The ducklings went upstairs into a two-story barn and careful records were kept of which eggs and ducks went where. They were released into the general population of the other ducks when they were grown enough.

Both Tage and Al said that it was the best job a young man could have back in those days.

By Barbara Borg Jenkins

Daughter of Tage Borg



*Al Goin remembers it as hard work--but he really enjoyed it*

## Early School Records

Lois, Val and Kathy have been indexing the Garyton elementary school record books and it is very interesting. We've only done about 5 or 6 and have many to go and after that they are more for the early Crisman school records.

The books are arranged by year and then usually on the first inside page are the student's name, age, grade and parents name.

Then there are monthly pages for attendance and grades. At the end of the book, the page

for who took the year end exam, how they did and if they were promoted to the next grade.

One interesting entry told of a young man that spent 5 years in first grade, was promoted to second and then later on to the upper grades as he was too big to be in the primary grades. Promoted even though he could not read or write.

We are working on these every Wednesday morning in the museum if you'd like to come in and look at them.

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We're on the Web!

*See us at:*

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



## Bi-Monthly Meetings

Portage Community Historical Society, Inc.

Wednesday, August 20, 2014

Woodland Park

7:00 pm



Guest speakers: Stephen Ruminski and Bruce Johnson

Over 106 years ago neighbors in LaPorte were raised from a nights slumber by the call of "FIRE, FIRE." As neighbors came to the home of Belle Guinness all they could do is watch as the engulfed home burned. In the ashes they found four bodies in the basement; including that of a headless woman. The four bodies were just the introduction to the murderous carnage they would unearth on the Guinness farm in the days to come.

On **Wednesday, August 20, 2014 at 7:00 PM** at Woodland Park the Portage Community Historical Society General Meeting will have guest speakers Stephen Ruminski and Bruce Johnson, after the general order of business.

Stephen is a producer of the documentary **Belle Guinness**. He will be showing the 40 minute documentary during the meeting as well as answer any questions. The public is invited to attend.

We hope to have good attendance for this speaker.

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We don't want to lose a single one of you for our society but some have not yet paid 2014 yearly dues of \$20. We need the dues to cover the newsletter we mail out bi-monthly. If your address label is highlighted in yellow it means you have not paid for 2014. Please send your check to our P.O. Box as soon as possible.

Volunteers are badly needed in the museums. Joe needs help cleaning and organizing the barn. We need help in the museum indexing all the early school records. If you can help call Joe or Lois at 762-4218. We are usually working in the museum on Wednesday and Friday mornings.

And we need new volunteers to cover our open hours on Saturday and Sunday. Come on in any Saturday and Sunday and tell the volunteers there you are willing to learn how to cover the museum when we are open.

Our museum computer badly needs attention. We need someone who knows how to update and clean off some things off the computer. Our old printer broke and we replaced it with one Al Goin got for us. After getting ink for it, we can use the copy part but don't know how to print from the computer. Contact Kathy if you can help at [KHeckman50@aol.com](mailto:KHeckman50@aol.com).

### Calendar of Events

**Tuesday, August 12, 2014**

Board Meeting

**Wednesday, August 20, 2014**

General Meeting, 7:00 pm

**Tuesday, September 9, 2014**

Board Meeting

**Saturday, September 27, 2014**

Portage Alumni Banquet