

Portage Community Historical Society News

CHANGES ARE COMING

President—Valeria Roach
 Vice President—Anne Koehler
 Secretary—Donna Smith
 Treasurer— Barb Borg-Jenkins
 Board of Directors:
 Patti Coppess
 Sue Cowsert
 Jim Franzen
 Lois Mollick
 Wanda Samuelson
 Richard Turnak
 Eva Udick

At a meeting just a few weeks ago we were informed that the Park Department has plans on finishing the Trager Barn at Countryside and moving our current museum to the second floor of the barn. We were in shock and then after another meeting we got all the plans and details for the move and have since become very excited.

Included with this newsletter is a copy of a letter our president, Valeria Roach, sent to the board members and felt you should each have a copy. We have also found out that the new museum will be climate controlled, which is very important.

There will be a lot of planning and organizing in making this move. The museum committee plans on meeting with the Indiana Historical Society soon to get their direction on the best way to make this move. They are very knowledgeable and we know we

need some guidance. Then the packing will begin. We will depend on the men to get enough help to move all the big items and then we will be filling the displays. Some will stay about the same: the school, police & fire and the mayor won't change much but we hope to make a few new displays.

Let us know if you want to be involved. Many hands will be needed to pack up the museum. Debbie Parker is working on a color code system to help keep us organized. We expect this to take place early in June.

Workshop with Indiana Historical Society, Friday, March 20, 2015, 9 am to 3 pm at the museum. Let us know if you plan to attend.

WATCH FOR DAY AND TIME

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Jerry Davich, Post Tribune columnist and author, has a new book coming out in the spring titled *“Lost Gary, Rusted Landmarks of the Steel City”*. Jerry has agreed to do a book signing at our museum sometime this spring when the book is out.

He had Cindy “Cupcake” Bean take this picture for the book and for publicity.



SOCIETY NEWS



New Logo for 2015 ~ Debbie Parker created several new updates to our logos and the board decided on this one for our society. We are thinking of having t-shirts made with the updated design. It's prettier in color.

Portage Business Night at Woodland Park

Portage Chamber of Commerce will hold a business night on Thursday April, 23, 2015 (4—7 pm). The public is invited to come out to see and hear about the businesses in Portage. As a non-profit we will have a booth to share what we are doing at the historical society. In the past we have had many stop by and it is a great way to promote the historical society.

Christmas Open House

We had a wonderful turnout at the Christmas Open House. We were busy both days. Larry Ard and Eva Udick did a wonderful job making the kids welcomed. Father Christmas even played some board games with the kids and Val Roach kept them busy with crafts.

Our own Barb Borg-Jenkins won the quilt raffle in December. Thank you all for supporting us by buying tickets.

We have available the book "Ogden Dunes" in the Images of America Series by Dick Meister and Ken Martin of the Historical Society of Ogden Dunes. The books are \$21.95 plus tax.

Plans are already underway for the June festival and again we need our volunteers.

Condolences

Our condolences to the Mesich family. Mark Mesich, brother of member Bill Mesich, died on January 20, 2015. Mark and his wife Ellen could always be found working in the food booth during our summer festivals.

We lost two wonderful men and volunteers in 2014. They both did so much for the historical society and the museums. It just won't be the same without them around.



Bill Byers
August 4, 1940
November 23, 2014



Al Goin
March 16, 1926
December 23, 2014

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED ABOUT SOME STREET NAMES

From time to time a question pops into my head and I need to solve it for my own satisfaction and to help in case anyone else has the same question.

I kept seeing McCasland Road as I drove around. It's been there as long as I can remember but why was it named McCasland? Usually a street is named after a family that lived on it, so now who were the McCasland's? I didn't do much on this until we started indexing the school ledgers and there were two or three McCasland's listed. I was researching on Ancestry.com and found two families of McCasland's living next to each other: Issac McCasland and Del McCasland. Searching further and Del is short for Delaware McCasland. Both families were listed as living in Garyton in the 1940 census.

Barb Borg-Jenkins answered a query I posted about the name and said she knew of a McCasland family and that had a daughter that died young or right after she got out of high school. Isaac E. and Marmie (Gooch) McCasland had 5 known children: Chester, Ellis Clifford, Ruby, Vivian Nadine and Mary Frances. I haven't been able to follow all the children but Mary Frances (1921-2009) married a Hodge and is buried in McCool Cemetery as are her parents Isaac (1875-1962) & Marmie (1880-1954). Their son Ellis Clifford and his wife Sadie (Sounders) McCasland are both buried in McCool Cemetery and they had two daughters: Marilyn Virginia and Tanya McCasland. Marilyn Virginia McCasland (1943-1964) is also buried in McCool Cemetery. Here's her obituary confirming what Barb had remembered hearing:

Vidette-Messenger
Monday, Jan 26, 1965

MARILYN McCASLAND

PORTAGE -- Marilyn V. McCasland, 21, 2540 Elmwood, Portage, died Monday in Methodist hospital, Rochester, MN. after a short illness.

She was an employee of Indiana General Telephone Company in Portage.

Surviving are her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis McCasland; one sister Tanya Luce of Portage; two nieces and one nephew.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Thursday

in the Portage Community church with the Rev. Hartley Freeman officiating. Burial will be in McCool cemetery. Friends may call at the Olson and Reiser Portage chapel after 7 p.m. today.

Delaware McCasland (1880-1955) and his wife Elizabeth Jane (Stark) (1884-1931) had six children: Norman Levi, Truman Elisha, Lymand D., Minnie, Githel Herman and Raymond Stark McCasland. Some of them were found in the school ledgers. According to the school record of May 18, 1934, Raymond McCasland had been in attendance for only 51 days so I surmise the family came to Portage Township March 1934.

Val Roach told me that McCasland Road in the 1950's was off Swanson going east and dead-ended at the bottom of the hill. It was extended when the new houses were built on the hill.

I got in contact with another McCasland researcher who contacted a cousin and said yes, they thought the road was named after Delaware or one of his sons. She also said there had been a falling out in the family but didn't know exactly what happened. After his first wife died, Delaware left the area and remarried. On "Find A Grave" there is a Mercia Mathilda McCasland (1890-1953) buried with Delaware (1880-1955) in Hope, Vermilion County, Illinois. His children are all buried outside Indiana. We have been able to reconstruct most of the family. And did I mention that Isaac and Delaware were brothers?



Now why is there a Gaylord Road?

~Kathy H.

Ref. www.findagrave.com and www.ancestry.com

We are on the web
<http://www.inpchs.com>



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Memberships: Single \$20,
Family \$50, Business \$60 and
Lifetime \$100

Portage Community Historical Society Bi-monthly meeting
Wednesday, April 15, 2015
Woodland Park, 7:00 pm
Speaker: Kenneth Schoon, Retired IUN Professor
Author of "Dreams of Duneland" and "Calumet Beginnings"
Topic: Duneland Dynamics, Scenes and Stories
Refreshments and public is invited to attend.

check for updates on our websites:

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, March 20, 2015

Workshop presented by Indiana Historical Society on moving our museum, 9–3

Saturday, April 11, 2015, Spring Tea at the museum, 1-4

Sunday, April 12, 2015—Opening day for the season at the museum, come and see the plans for the new museum. 1-4

Tuesday, April 14, 2015– Board meeting at Portage Library, 6:30

Wednesday, April 15, 2015– Bi-monthly meeting at Woodland Park, 7:00

Thursday, April 23, 2015—Chamber of Commerce Business Night, 4–7 pm

*Ladies Spring Tea now known as
"Tea and Scones Social"*

Saturday, April 11, 2015

1—4 pm

\$10 per person

Croissants of egg salad, tuna and chicken

Pastries and of course tea served in tea pots and tea cups

Musical entertainment, Silent auction and door prizes.

Invite your friends and relatives.

Let us know soon how many tickets you need.

Countryside Park Alton Goin Museum

5250 US Highway 6

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