

Portage Community Historical Society News

2015 FESTIVAL

We Are Moving To The Barn

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

At the recent Park Board meeting we were told that the barn will be finished by the end of August so that means the first two weeks in September will be the move. We are working two or three days a week now packing things and that work will increase in a few weeks. I've asked a few members who have helped me in the past, to adopt a display for the move. They will pack up their display, follow its move to the barn and set it up. We know where a few displays will be but have to figure out how the best flow will be for everything. So far we have Eva Brady, Debbie Parker, Jason White, Clement Khan, Tom and Donna Pappas, Lois and Joe Mollick, Val Roach, Barb Borg-Jenkins, Ron Garrison and Kathy volunteering. Hope I didn't forget anyone. And let's not forget the Portage Park Department. We need much more help and if you can help pack a few boxes we will be working in the museum every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings from now until the big move.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Museum News | 2 |
| Members | 2 |
| Festival report | 2 |
| Book Signing | 3 |
| Barn | 3 |
| General Meeting | 4 |
| Calendar | 4 |

Festival Raffle

Wolf Mansion Raffle

First prize of a tour of the mansion went to Linda Kozlowski of Schererville, 2nd prize went to Anne Koehler of the History of the Wolf Mansion Book by Lynda & Clement Khan and 3rd place, a Wolf Mansion framed picture, went to Kathy Heckman.

Welcome to the new members Cathy Poremski, Ramona Rodriquez both from Portage and Mike Lorange from Merrillville.

Update: The museum phone and internet have not been working since before the festival. If you need to contact us, call us at home or by email.

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SOCIETY NEWS

Member News

Sad news to report, Wanda Samuelson lost her brother Gene Trostle July 8 in Florida. He would come back to Portage often for the Alumni Reunions. He was a member of the Class of 1947. Wanda and family you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Memories Along the South Shore, The Early Years

The Times Media Co. is proud to partner with Portage Community Historical Society, Calumet Regional Archives, Merrillville/Ross Township Historical Society, Hebron Historical Society, Westchester Township History Museum, Munster Historical Society, Dyer Historical Society, Hammond Historical Society and Library, Whiting-Robertsdale Historical Society, Porter County Museum and our readers on a new hardcover pictorial history book, "Memories Along the South Shore: The Early Years."

This heirloom-quality coffee-table book offers a glimpse of Northwest Indiana from the early years to 1939 through stunning and historic photos. In addition, we are thrilled to include photographic memories of years gone by from our readers.

Portage Historical Society was part of the scanning sessions from which they will pick over 100 photos to be published in their upcoming book. Right now it can be ordered for \$29.95 plus \$2.10 shipping at SouthShore.PictorialBook.com, or you can find forms in the Times newspaper and we will have some forms at the museum.

Festival Report from Julie, Bill, Ron

We cooked all the brats and hamburgers, and only had a few of each left unsold. We had about 25 hot dogs left and that was all. That was 150 hot dogs, 130 Brats, 100 hamburgers almost everything went.
Bill Mesich (Food Booth)

The games went well. Glad I had extra kids to help me run things. We had more participants than ever before. We ran out of prizes!! I had 110 paper lunch bags. Each child who visited received a bag to decorate to hold their prizes and candy. We ran out of bags and had to scavenge some from the kitchen, so that shows how many kids we had playing games this year. Giving out tickets is working very well. No one can stay and play all day. 10 games and you're done. Might give fewer tickets next year. Tried to have popsicles for everyone but it's hard to keep them frozen out where we were located. They seemed to like those a lot.

Watermelon eating contest had more entrants than pieces of watermelon. Next year we'll use a sign-up sheet and divide the group into age categories, probably 5-9 year olds and 10-15 year old kids.

The magician was fabulous. Next year we need to make sure we have no kids' activities happening while he is performing. They loved watching him and participating in his show. We were doing the egg toss during the first 10 minutes and felt like we missed out, plus the kids were loud and may have been distracting to the show.

I've marked my calendar for the August meeting and will do my best to attend. A jump house might be nice for the bicentennial! Julie Woods (Kid's Games)

I think the festival went very well. We had great news coverage afterward. I think for next year it would be great to get City services to come out and have booths or displays to tell about their services to the area.

We may also want to invite organizations to come out and have booths, things like the Shriners (I will handle that for next year LOL)

Other ideas of organizations to invite:

- * Porter County Search and Rescue
- * Porter County Emergency Management Agency
- * Porter County Central Dispatch

Ronald F Garrison (Fire Truck)
President – Senior Systems Engineer

New Museum

I couldn't think of anything to fill this page and then remembered our big move. Here's a picture to see the progress.

As you enter the barn from the new south doors and to the right will be a welcoming area and elevator to the second floor. To the left will be our small office and next to that are the new restrooms. Continuing on will be the display area. On the left wall will be our fire and police display and the antique fire truck. The rest of the first floor will be farm implements, buggies and various display items that belong in a barn.

At the back will be another stairway leading to the second floor. At the top of the stairs by the huge north windows we hope to have the Nicholson table and chairs so we can be looking at the pond while relaxing there.

We plan to have Mayor Olson's desk, conference table and political display on the east side of the room. In the back near the elevator will be a separate room marked office but it will really be a workroom and storage. Continuing around the main floor space will be many of our current displays but with some changes. We don't know yet what will fit where and plan to get measuring the space as soon as the workers are done.

The walls will be covered with wood sheets instead of drywall and a beautiful wood floor will be installed on the second floor. The main floor will stay concrete.

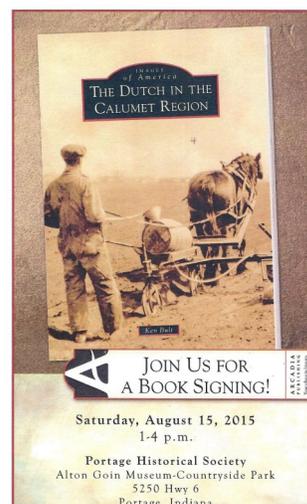
We are thinking of closing the museum for a few weeks in order to get everything moved and set up. The day of the move we need volunteers to help get boxes and displays to their proper spot in the barn. In the first floor we will need volunteers to help with cleaning and dusting everything before it is brought into the museum. We want everything to look it's best before going on display.

We would like to feed all our volunteers so if you can't physically help with the move but want to be involved we would appreciate snacks and desserts for the volunteers.

Meanwhile if you'd like to visit the current museum before it all changes we are here Friday mornings and Saturday and Sunday 1-4 pm.



BOOK SIGNING



Saturday, August 15, at the Alton Goin Museum, we will have Ken Bult, Portage author, signing his book from Arcadia Publishing: "The Dutch In The Calumet Region". He will give a talk about his book and will have some available to purchase.

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



**P O R T A G E
C O M M U N I T Y
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[http://www.facebook.com/
pchs88](http://www.facebook.com/pchs88)

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

Portage Community Historical Society Bi-monthly meeting

Wednesday, August 19, 2015

Woodland Park, 7:00 pm

Public is invited
Refreshments

Speaker: James B. Lane

Topic: Portage's Edgewater Neighborhood: A Vanished Community

Professor Lane spoke at our 25th anniversary dinner and his talk was very well received.

www.facebook.com/pchs88

Tuesday, August 11 - Board Meeting at
Portage Library, 6:30 pm

Saturday, August 15—Book signing at the
Museum, *The Dutch in the Calumet
Region* by author Ken Bult, 1—4

Wednesday, August 19—Bi-Monthly
Meeting, Woodland Park, 7:00 p.m.
James B. Lane, speaker

Tuesday, September 8, Board Meeting at
Portage Library, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 2,
3 & 4— Open house for the new barn
museum and welcoming all alumni

Saturday, October 3,—Portage Alumni
dinner dance at Duneland Falls

August Speaker: James B. Lane

Emeritus Professor of History at IU Northwest, co-director of the Calumet Regional Archives, editor of Steel Shavings magazine, and author of several books on Gary and Northwest Indiana.

Professor Lane born in Easton, PA, attended Bucknell University (BA), the University of Hawaii (MA) and the University of Maryland (PhD). He taught American History at IU Northwest for 37 years, starting in 1970. He has written volumes on Gary, Cedar Lake, and Portage and a frequent contributor to "Traces" magazine and is on the editorial board of "Indiana Magazine of History."

The historical society will have copies of Steel Shavings available Volume 20 written by Professor Lane - "History of Portage from Indian Days to Contemporary Times-" -\$5.00