

Portage Community Historical Society News

Portage Historical Society's
Bison-tennie! Buffalo

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

Find Buffaloie aka "Louie"

"Louie" (stuffed animal) will travel from one museum display area in the barn to another on a weekly basis. Kids ages 1 - 12 can search for him and when found put their name and phone number on a piece of paper and drop it in a special jar.

During the months of August and September kids can come in any Saturday or Sunday and search for "Louie" 1 - 4 pm. They can come back week after week and enter the contest. Winner will receive "Louie" stuffed animal and a gift card. Only one winner from all entries. Young kids need to be accompanied by a parent. Drawing will be from all entries on Saturday Oct. 1 at 1:00 pm.

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A great view of our new museum made by Glen Ewen of the Winimac Old Auto Club. We were sent a link to a wonderfully made slide show about our summer festival and our new barn museum.

We volunteers were so busy I know I didn't take many pictures and didn't know Glen was out there doing it for us. He said he really enjoys making these slideshows and he'll try to do better for us next year. I think he did a great one this year. It is posted on our Facebook site. Thanks Glen

SOCIETY NEWS

Joyce Farry Gloyeske and her husband Bill have moved back to their hometown Portage and are living at Rittenhouse

Newest member Fred Untch, retired Portage policeman, has joined our society and donated some early Portage police memorabilia.

Senior Day at the Porter County Fair Wednesday July 27 at 12:30 pm Our president, Val Roach, was nominated by Sue Lynch (Portage City Council) and a member of our historical society as one of the Most Honored Senior Citizens in Porter County. Val received a corsage, a certificate and a gift card.

Lois has started making plans for the November Installation Dinner and the December Christmas on the Farm Open House. Contact her at 762-4218 if you are willing to help.

The Christmas Open House will be the first weekend of December. The date is not yet set for the installation dinner.

Our sympathy go out to the families of Jerry Cornett Sr. son of Eva Udick and John Lorenz son of Charles and Madelyn Lorenz who passed away in June and to the family of Mary Ann Heckman Rebeck who passed away in July.

The Portage Community Historical Society is pleased to announce that our speaker at the general meeting on Wednesday, August 17, at 7:00 p.m. is Marsha Browne. The meeting will be held at Woodland Park in the Hickory Hollow room. The public is encouraged to attend.

Marsha Browne is a native of Northwest Indiana born and raised in Gary, Indiana. A practicing Visual Artist whose work focuses on photography of The Indiana Dunes and paintings of abstraction and mythology. She exhibits at local colleges and universities. A graduate of Indiana University and The School Of The Art Institute of Chicago, is currently an Art Consultant and Educator in the Greater Chicago Metropolitan area. Her past professional endeavors included working in administration at The Art Institute of Chicago, a long standing Art Educator in The School City of Hammond Indiana and an educator at Indiana University Northwest Kids College. Marsha is currently on The Board of Directors of The Association of Wolf Lake Initiative, a volunteer Art Instructor for The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and lives in The Duneland Community. She also provides Art experiences at The Dunes Learning Center, South Shore Arts, Duneland Family YMCA, and Porter County Parks. She is passionate about protecting the Indiana Dunes and offering art experiences for all.

A Portage Life in the Spotlight: Valeria Roach

Portage Life

Written by Samantha Moore

This week's Life in the Spotlight is a North Dakota native. However, she moved to the area in 1957 with her husband who came to work as a machinist apprentice and she has certainly found her niche in the Portage community in the years since. Valeria Roach is President of the Portage Community Historical Society, and a woman well deserving of her time in the spotlight.

While living in North Dakota, Valeria taught in a one-room rural school. Once they moved to Portage, Valeria became very involved in the school system here as her four daughters and one son moved through their school years. She worked as an aid, PTA treasurer, and treasurer for the music program. "Being involved keeps my mind active," Valeria explains, "It's good for me, and it helps the community."

When Valeria was fifty-eight, she was offered a position teaching at a preschool. Thinking this would be a short-term occupation, she took the position. "I stayed there for sixteen years," she laughed.

It is clear Valeria keeps herself busy. At an age where many are ready to retire, she took up another job. Even after leaving her position at the preschool, Valeria continued to be an acting presence in the community, and remains so to this day.

Over the years, Valeria has participated in a number of fundraisers and helped multiple organizations within the community, one of these being the American Legion. For a while, she spent two days a week running the kitchen and cooking for Post 100 during their Bingo nights.

Currently, however, Valeria spends much of her time with the Portage Community Historical Society as the acting president. When her son became involved with the Historical Society, he told Valeria they were looking for a president. Valeria attended an interview, and though she was not a member at the time, she wound up with the job, and remains in this position today.

"I'm interested in antiques and the history behind them because these things were in my house," Valeria explains, as the museum in which she spends most of her time is full of historic antiques from the Portage region. "I grew up with these things, and I enjoy being in the building with all of the artifacts

and the Portage history."

Some of her favorite memories include meeting all of the board members. "We work well together," Valeria says, "We've become friends."

As for her responsibilities, Valeria laughs, joking, "I don't even know what my duties are!"

However, it's clear this is far from the truth. Valeria is in charge of scheduling and running regular meetings. She reaches out to speakers for these meetings, as well. Often times she is answering questions for visitors to the museum, board members, and other organizations in the community. Valeria also reviews and approves displays and events, maintains the artifacts and the museum, and communicates with those involved. Last year she even began a tea party at the museum, and it is becoming an annual tradition.

Valeria says that her greatest success in life is having five children and raising them to successes of their own. "I'm very blessed to have so much, and to have done so much," she states, "I'm blessed at my age to be able to do the things I do and what's required of me." She owes these successes to hard work, dedication, and determination.

For inspiration, Valeria says this, "I look to the Good Lord and my family, my parents. I was blessed to have a great background and upbringing, with the freedom to pursue my own endeavors."



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



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

**Portage Community Historical Society Bi-monthly
meeting**

Wednesday, August 17, 2016

Woodland Park, 7:00 pm

**Public is invited
Refreshments**

**Speaker: Marsha Browne
Topic: Steel Industry in NW Indiana and its
impact on Art and Culture**

Tuesday, August 9 - Board Meeting
6:30 pm Portage Library

Wednesday, August 17— Bi-monthly
meeting
7:00 Woodland Park
Marsha Browne, speaker

Tuesday, Sept. 13— Board Meeting 6:30
Portage Library

Saturday, October 1—Portage Alumni
Dinner/Dance

Tuesday, Oct. 11—Board Meeting 6:30
Portage Library

Wednesday, Oct. 19—Bi-Monthly Meet-
ing 7:00 Woodland Park
Lee Botts and Pat Wisniewski, Speakers

Tuesday, November 8—Election Day

November ??—Installation Dinner Wood-

*Please consider coming to our bi-
monthly meetings. Our speakers have spent
a lot of time preparing their presentations
and we'd like for them to have a good turn
out.*

We really need more volunteers to cover the museum on weekends. If you can do a 3 hour shift once a month please contact Lois 762-4218. We want to have both the floors of the barn open and the Trager Farmhouse. One or two people can't cover it all.

Also we need extra storage space for our Christmas decorations and things we rarely use. We don't want to pay storage fees but if you know someone who has storage buildings and would donate a small room (bigger than a closet) let us know.

Portage Alumni Reunion Dinner Dance will be held Saturday, October 1 at Duneland Falls Banquet Center, all alumni of 25 years or more that attended Portage High School during 1941-1991 are invited to attend. Contact Sue Cowser at 219-926-6658 for ticket