



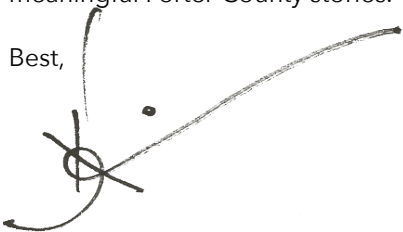
## from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What do William Sager's front door, a Hillstrom organ, and a model of the Maxwell/Remster dairy barn have in common? You aren't wrong if you said each is made of wood, but the answer I'm looking for is that all three artifacts are now on display in *Connections* thanks to a recent exhibit update.

Plan a fall visit to see the new objects and old favorites in the Eunice Slagle Gallery, view the ever-changing works of local historical art inside the Robert Cain Gallery, and take a final look at *Ever Yours: Postcards from the Golden Age*, which closes forever at the end of December so the Montague/Urschel Gallery can showcase a new exhibit in 2024. Consider stopping by on a Saturday at noon for a free guided tour to enhance your experience.

If you are unable to visit or attend our programming (which you will find detailed on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter), consider reading the newest issue of *PoCo Muse Magazine* for other meaningful Porter County stories.

Best,



**Kevin Matthew Pazour**  
Executive Director • PoCo Muse

P.S. Ensure our continued success and support our work with a year-end gift online, by mail, or in person during your next visit.

## ABOUT THE IMAGES

**Cover** • A "real photo" postcard from 1907 depicts a group of young men and women gathered on Franklin Street after a heavy snowfall.

**Right** • Kaelie Eberhart (left) celebrated her final day at the PoCo Muse on August 24, pictured here with Kevin Pazour, Sarah Berndt, Quinn Albert, Ian Baker, and Daisy the dog. Kaelie began an internship at the PoCo Muse in June 2022 and soon after assumed the position of Collection Assistant. She graduated from Valparaiso University with a Bachelor of Arts in History in May 2023 and is pursuing a Master of Arts in History at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge, England. The PoCo Muse wishes her all the best on her new adventures.

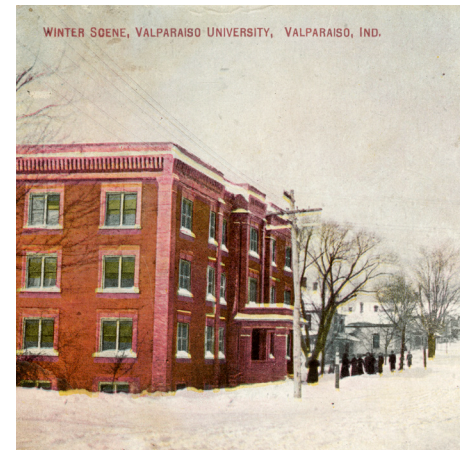
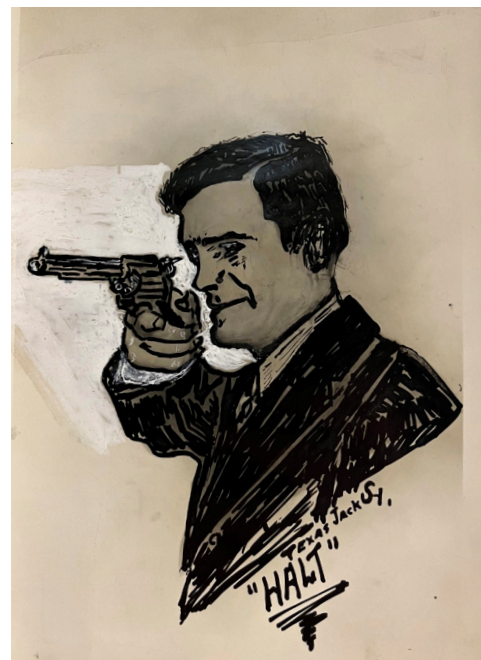


**CONNECTIONS**

*Eunice Slagle Gallery*  
**New Object Pairings**

Connections pairs together seemingly unrelated objects that speak to each other in surprising ways. A September exhibit update introduced over twenty new artifacts including a large reed organ, a jar of popcorn, a soap box derby helmet, a scale model of a dairy barn, and more. What's the connection? Come and see.

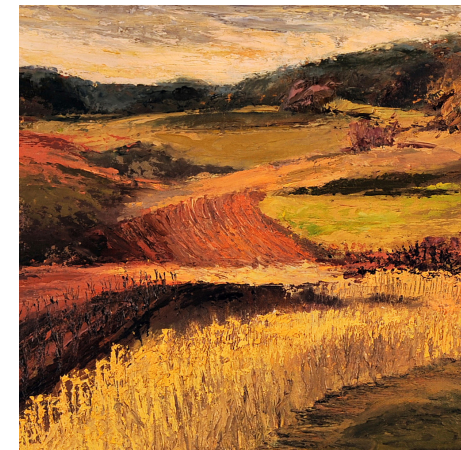
**Right** • These two black-and-white sketches were created by Edna Agar (left) and John H. "Texas Jack" Sullivan Jr. (right) who grew up in Valparaiso at the turn of the 20th century. Though they pursued very different careers, each was a successful entertainer, taught their craft across the country, and dipped their toes in the movie industry. When paired together, these two cartoon drawings create a comical, if somewhat menacing, narrative.



**EVER YOURS: POSTCARDS FROM THE GOLDEN AGE**  
*Montague/Urschel Gallery*  
**Through December 2023**

See hundreds of local postcards from the early twentieth century and learn about their production, circulation, and popularity during that time.

**WANT TO SCHEDULE A GROUP TOUR OR FIELD TRIP?** Visit [pocomuse.org/tours](http://pocomuse.org/tours).



**PORTER COUNTY ART**  
*Robert Cain Gallery*  
**New Artworks**

The Robert Cain Gallery honors M. Robert "Rob" Cain (1930-2022), a lifelong Valparaiso resident and beloved VHS art teacher. It features Cain's work and a revolving display of other pieces from our collection.



**LOWENSTINE WWII ROLL OF HONOR**

The Lowenstine WWII Roll of Honor commemorates Valparaiso citizens who contributed to the war effort during World War II. Originally displayed on the courthouse square between 1943 and 1973, it was installed in the PoCo Muse in December 2022.

# OCTOBER

## **DOWNTOWN TRICK-OR-TREATING**

**Friday, October 13, 4-6p**  
*PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue*

The PoCo Muse will stay open late for trick-or-treaters in downtown Valparaiso. Get your costumes ready and stop by for a special treat. Pack an umbrella, as this event happens rain or shine!

## **FAMILY ACTIVITY DAY**

**Saturday, October 14, 11a-4p**  
*PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue*

If you missed us for trick-or-treating the night before, the PoCo Muse will host family-friendly activities during regular hours from 11a-4p during Fall Harvest Festival.

## **GUIDED TOUR OF OLD CITY CEMETERY**

**Saturday, October 21, 2p**  
*Old City Cemetery, 403 Union Street*

Join Kevin Matthew Pazour, PoCo Muse Executive Director, and Steve Mockler, member of the David D. Porter Camp #116 of the Sons of Union Veterans, for a guided walking tour of the oldest public cemetery in Porter County. Hear stories about pioneers of the area's past while walking the grounds of this idyllic spot in Valparaiso.

*This free tour is made possible by the contributions of many donors. Please consider making a gift of any size at [pocomuse.org/donate](http://pocomuse.org/donate).*

# NOVEMBER

## **LIVING HISTORY: AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

**Saturday, November 4, 10a-2p**  
*Southeast Corner of Porter County Courthouse Lawn*

Our cadre of living history interpreters will be representing civilians and combatants during the American revolution. Unknown to some is a wartime engagement that took place along the shores of Lake Michigan, ending at what is now Indiana Dunes State Park. Come learn about life in the 1770s, and Porter County's connection to the Revolutionary War.

# DECEMBER

## **YULETIDE OPEN HOUSE**

**Saturday, December 2, 4-7p**  
*PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue*

During the Holly Days festivities in downtown Valparaiso, the PoCo Muse will be hosting a Yuletide Open House.

## **HISTORY HAPPY HOUR**

**Wednesday, December 6, 5-7p**  
*Washington Street Tap Room, 11 Washington Street*

Talk local history over a drink with friends, history professionals, and amateur historians. Free event for 21 and older; drinks not included.



**Above** • An undated Golden Age-era postcard from the Mockler Collection shows Altruria Hall of Valparaiso University and reads, "A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Valparaiso University."



## ART STORAGE PROJECT

This spring, the Iota Chapter of Tri Kappa awarded a \$1,100 grant to the PoCo Muse to make improvements in our art storage facilities. The project was completed this summer. As a result, the museum has a much-enhanced capability to provide safe storage for its collection and has extra capacity for new acquisitions.

The grant funds allowed us to repurpose functional shelving and gridwalls to accommodate framed artwork. Powder-coated gridwalls were mounted to the walls (left) which allowed for flexible and visible storage of artwork. Plywood shelves were treated to prevent "off-gassing," which over time can harm artifacts. They were then lined with ethafoam padding and divided with rope to allow for stable "cubby" storage (right). The artwork is stacked upright and safely separated with acid-free foam board.



# ABOUT *giving*

## YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Our award-winning museum couldn't exist without the support of donors like you. Join other people, businesses, and organizations in Porter County and beyond who financially support the mission and vision of the PoCo Muse. Donors receive print copies of the biannual *PoCo Muse Magazine*, quarterly *Muse News* newsletter, special publications, as well as invitations to exhibit preview receptions and tours. Scan the QR code below, and donate now!



**Above** • Visitor Experience Associate Quinn Albert assists Albert Photographic take photographs of artifacts for our exhibits and publications. Seen here is the circa 1950s scale model of the Maxwell/Remster dairy barn, on loan from the Birky Family.

# general INFORMATION

## POCO MUSE

20 Indiana Ave, Valparaiso, IN 46383

**Hours: Tuesday-Sunday, 11a-4p**

The award-winning PoCo Muse maintains free general admission as this area's oldest institution devoted to the history and culture of Porter County.

## MISSION

We engage Porter County's rich past with its evolving present to educate, enrich, and inspire our communities.

## VISION

We believe our work of interpreting Porter County's history, art, and culture empowers residents to form a strong and purposeful sense of place, identity, and community.

## VALUES

### **Free, Open, and Accessible**

We meet the needs of our communities as a welcoming and inclusive gathering place.

### **Meaningful Storytelling**

We connect stories with artifacts to encourage imagination, introspection, and empathy.

### **Hands-on Learning**

We create opportunities to learn from interactive and intergenerational experiences.

### **Collaboration**

We work together with people and organizations aligned with our mission and vision.

### **Responsible Stewardship**

We uphold the collection and history of our institution with integrity and accountability.

## STAFF & BOARD

### **Executive Director**

Kevin Matthew Pazour

### **Exhibits & Publications**

Jake Just

### **Visitor Experience Associate**

Quinn Albert

### **Collection Manager**

Sarah Berndt

### **Collection Assistant**

Ashley Vernon

### **Board of Trustees**

Joanne Urschel, *Chair*; Ronald Trigg, *Vice Chair*; Kathryn McMillan, *Treasurer*; Ellen Kapitan, *Secretary*; Brandi Anstine; Patricia Crise; Kathleen Evans; Ruth Johnston; Kevin Kerr; Jeffrey Lewis; Paul D. Miles; Carlos Rivero



# CALENDAR *of events*

**OCT 13**

**DOWNTOWN TRICK-OR-TREATING**

**Friday, October 13, 4-6p**

*PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue*

**OCT 14**

**FAMILY ACTIVITY DAY**

**Saturday, October 14, 11a-4p**

*PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue*

**OCT 21**

**TOUR OF OLD CITY CEMETERY**

**Saturday, October 21, 2p**

*Old City Cemetery, 403 Union Street*

**NOV 4**

**LIVING HISTORY:  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

**Saturday, November 4, 10a-2p**

*Southeast Corner of Porter County  
Courthouse Lawn*

**NOV 23**

**CLOSED FOR  
THANKSGIVING**

**Thursday, November 23**

**DEC 2**

**YULETIDE OPEN HOUSE**

**Saturday, December 2, 4-7p**

*PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue*

**DEC 6**

**HISTORY HAPPY HOUR**

**Wednesday, December 6, 5-7p**

*Washington Street Tap Room, 11  
Washington Street*

**DEC 24**

**CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS  
EVE**

**Sunday, December 24**