



PORTER COUNTY MUSEUM



MUSE *news* **JUL-SEP 2022**

from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Have you had a chance to explore our new home inside 20 Indiana Avenue in downtown Valparaiso yet? If you aren't one of the nearly seven hundred people who have visited since our reopening in May, start planning your summer trip!

One of my favorite aspects of interacting with visitors is learning what people find interesting. A *Calumet Tapestry* offers an eclectic blend of art in many mediums, which help tell the complex story of the Calumet region.

There are a few pieces I encourage you to examine more closely on your first—or next—visit to our exhibit:

1. Find Alfred Meyer's 1952 map of the Calumet Region on the west wall of the Cain Gallery in the northern half of the exhibit. Look closely at the right side of his work. I appreciate how Meyer has rendered a watercraft for each of the four eras depicted. What other small details do you notice in this map?
2. Locate Earl Reed's drypoint on paper on the east wall of the main

gallery. In *Somebody's Orchard* is one of many works by Reed that brought attention to the importance of preserving the natural world. Did you know that drypoint is a process where a design is created on a plate with a sharp, needle-like instrument and then imprinted on paper?

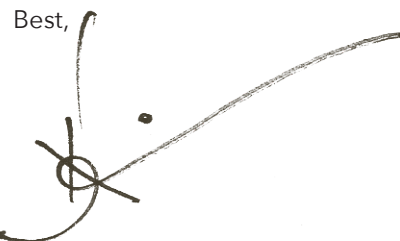
3. Compare the McGill Manufacturing catalogs to the Philley Apron Company marketing piece on the east wall in the southern half of the exhibit. What do you notice about the design, wording, and color choice of the three works of commercial art? I am grateful to have known Chuck Beach (1917-2012) and Jim McGill (1929-2022). I think about all the stories they shared with me about their local companies when I view these works.

Speaking of interesting stories, we are excited to connect farmer Myron Benedict's sensational 1949 mastodon excavation to a new audience. A new version of *Prehistoric Porter County* is coming to the Porter County Fair this

year. Make sure you stop by to say hello and experience this new pop-up exhibit during the "ten best days of summer."

You will find many ways from now through September to connect with local history and art in the pages of this issue of *Muse News*. As always, thank you for your continued support.

Until next time, see you at the PoCo Muse (and the Porter County Fair)!

Best,


Kevin Matthew Pazour

Executive Director • PoCo Muse

P. S.—Don't forget we are open late with free admission until 7p on Thursdays through Labor Day thanks to a generous anonymous donor. Consider making your own gift online or by mail today.



Image • The curatorial team of A Calumet Tapestry pose in front of *Steel I* by Helena Hernmarck. From left to right: Asa Kerr, Serena Ard of Westchester Township Museum, Jake Just, Kevin Matthew Pazour, and Sarah Berndt. Albert Photographic, 2022.

NOW OPEN! A CALUMET TAPESTRY: ARTISTIC VIEWS OF THE REGION

The PoCo Muse is proud to host *A Calumet Tapestry: Artistic Views of the Region* in our new home for the museum at 20 Indiana Avenue in Valparaiso through October 2, 2022.

The exhibit is the result of a four-year collaboration with the Field Museum and 18 other local museums and cultural centers. It is the third exhibit of a four-part series across the Calumet region called *Calumet Voices, National Stories*, and gives voice to the national significance of this unique region along the southern tip of Lake Michigan.

Through the stories of selected objects and images, these exhibitions show how this landscape's natural resources made its transformation into an industrial powerhouse possible, and how thousands of diverse people came to call this region home in the process.

The culminating exhibition opens at the Field Museum on November 11, 2022.

WEEKLY GUIDED TOURS OF THE POCO MUSE

Every Saturday at Noon
PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

Looking to supplement your visit to the museum with a little more insight and detail? The PoCo Muse is thrilled to offer a free weekly 30-minute guided tour of the exhibit every Saturday at 12p. Tour guides and themes will change regularly, so stop by often!

EVENING HOURS OF THE POCO MUSE

Every Thursday, open from 11a-7p through Labor Day
PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

Visit the PoCo Muse until 7p on Thursdays to see *A Calumet Tapestry: Artistic Views of the Region*. This exhibit presents the Calumet region through the eyes of regional artists.

You are invited to explore selected artwork and historical artifacts which showcase the unique character of this region—a place of juxtapositions where nature, industry, and culture live uncommonly closely together.

Evening hours at the PoCo Muse are made possible by the generosity of an anonymous donor.



Image • Visitors mingle in the Main Gallery at the opening reception of the newest exhibition, A Calumet Tapestry: Artistic Views of the Region. Albert Photographic, 2022.

EMBARKING ON A NEW ADVENTURE

Asa Kerr, the PoCo Muse Collection Manager, ended his on-site tenure with the PoCo Muse on May 20, but his work will live on for quite some time. Asa's research and writing spurred the creation of *PoCo Muse Magazine* as well as some of the biggest, most-acclaimed exhibits in our institution's history. If that wasn't enough, Asa led the herculean task of moving the PoCo Muse Collection into its new home at 20 Indiana Avenue.

We will all miss Asa's positive and easygoing attitude, but we wish him much success in embarking on a new adventure at the University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School as he studies to become a teacher.

Image • A glimpse between the storage shelves of the new collection room inside the PoCo Muse at 20 Indiana Avenue



of the Region



Image • Asa Kerr poses for a picture at the front desk while keeping count of visitors during the May 19 member preview. Albert Photographic, 2022.

JULY

PREHISTORIC POP-UP AT THE PORTER COUNTY FAIR

**Thursday, July 21 through
Saturday, July 30**

**Porter County Fairgrounds, 217 E.
Division Road, Valparaiso, IN 46383**

It's been a few years since visitors have experienced our *Prehistoric Porter County* exhibit, but there's good news! The fan-favorite exhibit is making a comeback at the Porter County Fair from July 21-30, where visitors will learn what Myron Benedict found while digging in his backyard in 1949. The PoCo Muse team is busy making updates to the exhibit, so be sure to stop by as you enjoy the ten best days of summer.

AUGUST

KIDS' ACTIVITY: SCAVENGER HUNT OF CALUMET TAPESTRY

Starting August 2

PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

Starting in August, the PoCo Muse will offer a free kid-friendly scavenger hunt activity. Visitors will have to look closely at some of the displayed artwork to find the clues hidden throughout the exhibit. Answer all the questions and unlock a secret message to claim your prize! Stop by the PoCo Muse anytime during our open hours (Tues-Sun, 11a-4p, and until 7p on Thurs) to pick up a packet and get started.

BRING THE FAMILY AND STAY
ALL DAY . . . IT'S
**PORTER COUNTY'S
FREE
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100th YEAR

PORTER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
IND. 49 N & EVANS AVENUE

Image • Detail from the full-page advertisement for the 1972 Porter County Free Fair.



Image • Myron Benedict (left) and his son, Billy, each hold a vertebra of the partial mastodon skeleton found on their farm in 1949.

AUGUST

ARTIST TALK WITH COREY HAGELBERG

Thursday, August 18 at 5:30p

PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

Join us for a gallery talk with interdisciplinary artist and teacher Corey Hagelberg as he discusses his work and practice. Corey is co-founder and director of the Calumet Artist Residency (CAR), whose mission is to connect people, art, and nature in the Calumet region. For the last 15 years, his work with black and white woodcuts has highlighted the relationship between the human and natural world, including his work *This Is Not a Peace Pipe*, currently on display at the PoCo Muse through October 2 as part of *A Calumet Tapestry*.

This event is free and open to the public, but we ask that you please RSVP by phone or email.

LIVING HISTORY REENACTORS: FUR TRADING ENCAMPMENT

Saturday, August 27 at 11a

Front Lawn, 153 S Franklin Street, Valparaiso, IN 46383

Celebrate the bicentennial year of Joseph Bailly's arrival to Porter County with furs, traps, and other accessories of the Voyageur lifestyle on the lawn directly north of the 1871 Porter County Jail. Come browse the wares available to fur traders and see how furs were weighed and packaged for shipping to Europe.

This event is free and open to the public. No RSVP is required to attend.

SEPTEMBER

ARTISTS OF THE DUNES HISTORY TALK

Saturday, September 10 at 1p

*Indiana Dunes State Park
1600 N. 25 East, Chesterton, IN 46304*

For over 100 years, the Indiana Dunes have inspired the works of painters, etchers, photographers, and sculptors. Some even made the dunes their home, including Frank Dudley, Earl H. Read, Arthur E. Anderson, Helge Hokanson, and Hazel Hannell. Join Serena Ard, Museum Curator at Westchester Township History Museum and partner of *A Calumet Tapestry*, as she discusses dunes artists whose works are on display at the PoCo Muse and the growth of the dunes area as a center for art and artists.

While the talk is free, there is an admission fee to enter Indiana Dunes State Park.

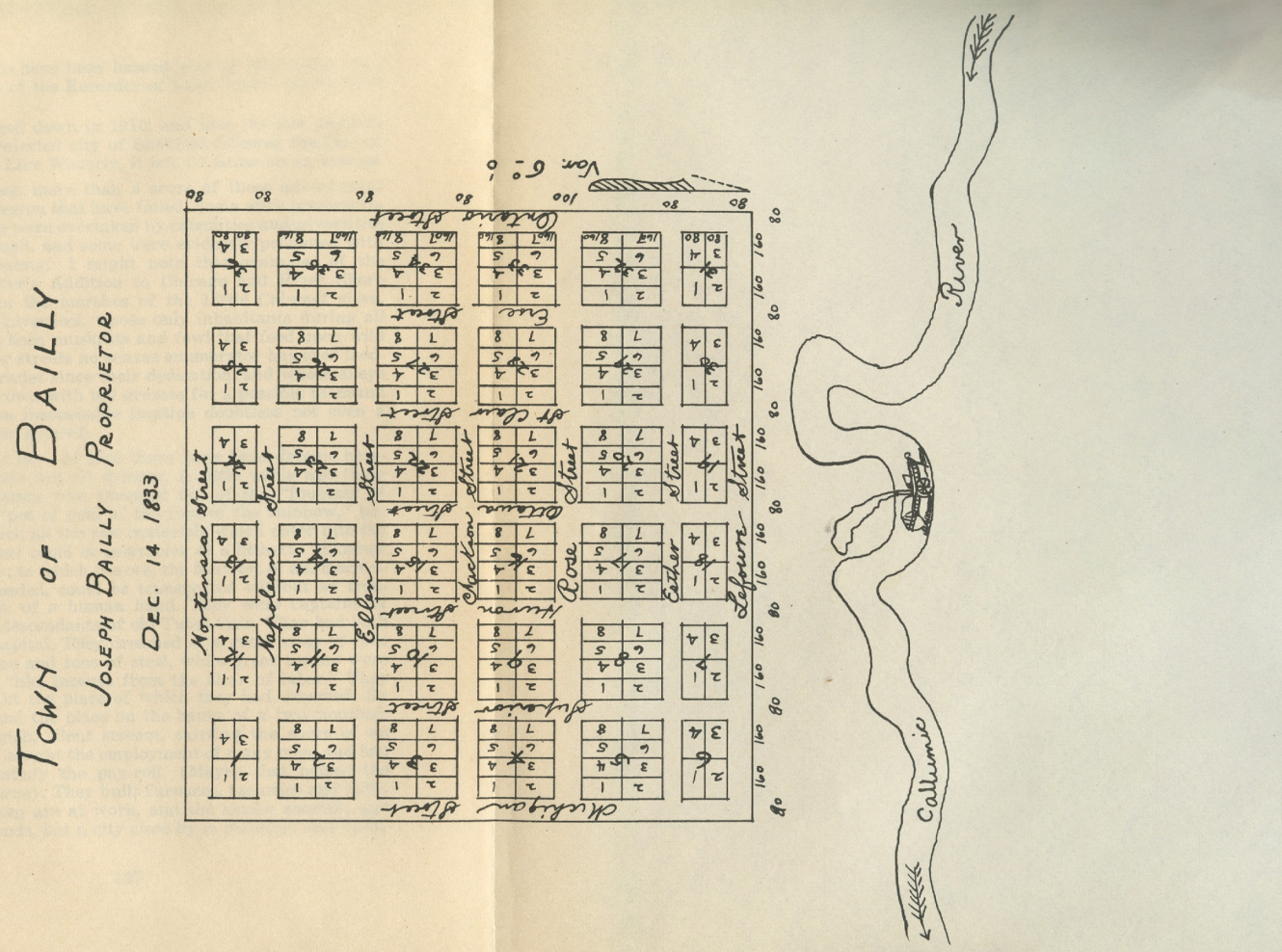


Image • A map of the "Town of Bailly" as it appeared in Dream Cities of the Calumet, by John O. Bowers, 1929.

LITHA BALLENGER'S CHILDHOOD DOLL

This doll was donated by Joyce Wheeler Ivey, granddaughter of its original owner, Litha L. Ballenger Wheeler. Born in 1899, Ballenger was a longtime resident of Porter County, attending both Valparaiso High School and Valparaiso University. She married Robert G. Wheeler in 1921 and lived at 155 Greenwich Street in Valparaiso until her death in 1982.

The Kestner Doll Company in Waltershausen, Germany manufactured this #154 model from bisque porcelain and kid leather. The doll is estimated to have been made in the first decade of the 1900s. In a photo accompanying the donation, Ballenger and her doll are wearing matching dresses, bows, and hairstyles. At present, the doll has straight brown hair, brown eyes, and wears a white dress with blue stripes and white shoes. Patches, pins, and shoes which do not match its manufacturing era indicate that attempts were made

to preserve the doll. A pink ribbon fastens the doll to a red wooden chair, which Ivey remembers being at her grandparents' house since her youth.

From Ivey's account, the doll was a birthday gift to Ballenger. The doll and the chair that accompanies it were at Ballenger's residence for many years until she gave them to Ivey. From its careful preservation, one can tell that the doll was important to Ballenger and her family not just as a toy, but as an heirloom representing childhood memories in Valparaiso for both Ballenger and Ivey. The loving care received by this doll has enabled it to retain its meaning and familial importance for over 100 years.



POCO MUSE MAGAZINE ISSUE No. 4

The original idea for the *PoCo Muse Magazine* sprouted during the summer of 2020 in response to our supporters' desire to maintain a connection with our collection and stories while the museum was closed during the pandemic. As we celebrate *A Calumet Tapestry* and look forward to a full schedule of new exhibits and programs, the upcoming issue of the magazine will arrive in your mailbox sometime in September!



Image • PoCo Muse members Richard Brauer (left) and Fred Frey view *A Calumet Tapestry* during the opening reception on May 19. Albert Photographic, 2022.



Image • PoCo Muse members Don and Kathleen Evans view one of the works by William Richardson during the member preview on May 19. Albert Photographic, 2022.

general INFORMATION

POCO MUSE

pocomuse.org

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

20 Indiana Ave, Valparaiso, IN 46383
(219) 510.1836

Visit our newly-imagined and fully-accessible building—the fourth home of the Porter County Museum since 1916.

Hours: Tuesday-Sunday, 11a-4p

1871 PORTER COUNTY JAIL

153 S Franklin St, Valparaiso, IN 46383
(219) 465.3595

The 1871 Porter County Jail is one of the oldest structures in downtown Valparaiso. This historic site operated by the PoCo Muse will house a unique exhibit telling the story of the old jail.

Hours: Currently closed to the public

MISSION

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

POCO MUSE FOUNDATION

(219) 510.1916, mypoco.org/about

The PoCo Muse Foundation is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization that supports the operation of the PoCo Muse.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Joanne Urschel, *Chair*; Ellen Kapitan, *Secretary*; Kathryn McMillan, *Treasurer*; Brandi Anstine; Gretchen Buggeln; Kathleen Evans; Ruth Johnston; Kevin Kerr; and Carlos Rivero

DONATE AN ARTIFACT

Start the process of donating an artifact by visiting pocomuse.org/donate-an-artifact. Email Sarah Berndt at sarah@pocomuse.org with any questions.

RECOGNITION OF SUPPORT

The PoCo Muse is generously supported by its Board of Trustees; Porter County Government; members and donors; private and family foundations, including the John W. Anderson Foundation; and by Indiana Dunes Tourism.

ANNUAL FUND

Join the *Friends of the PoCo Muse* with an annual fund gift of \$500 or more in a calendar year. This dedicated group of individuals, organizations, and businesses inspire through their generosity by providing crucial financial support to our award-winning institution.

