

# Portage Area Historical Society Newsletter



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February 2005

Last year was a most successful year for the Portage Station Museum. The number of visitors increased, donations increased, and so did the number of activities that we sponsored. We hope to continue in the same direction for the 2005 year.

## GAY 90s FASHION SHOW

On Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, the PAHS hosted a "Gay 90s Review" style show. Ladies from the Blair County Historical Society, along with Sharon Shoff of Portage, modeled fashions from the 1890s. Mrs. Peggy Fields, a national expert on period clothing, and the person who made the outfits, narrated the program. The first floor of the museum was filled for this most delightful event. By the amount of aahhs and chuckles, it seemed as though everyone enjoyed the program.

## CHRISTMAS LIGHT TOUR

On Saturday, December 11, over 300 people participated in the museum's light tour of our area's beautifully decorated homes. Guests were greeted outside the museum by festive "sounds of the season" music provided by Portage Area High School's A Cappella Choir and Brass Choir under the directions of Annette Bernazzoli and Ron Black. Inside the spirit of the holidays continued as Santa listened to youngsters' "wish lists" and handed out treats. Each bus trip was filled to capacity. The sounds of children singing carols got everyone into the Christmas spirit as Jim Kissell chauffeured the groups around town. After each tour, guests enjoyed pizza, cookies and cocoa while listening and singing along to holiday music provided by the Portage Community Band. Many "thanks" to Mr. & Mrs. Mark Serenko for sponsoring the bus; Joe Stancovich Jr., Tony Gruss, Dough Boyz Pizza, Dough Boyz Bakery, Portage Bakery, Sassy Sisters, Dominic's, Sprinkle's, Sheetz, Stagers, Family Dollar and Rite Aid for their donations, refreshments and treats. "Kudos" to Tom Gaudlip for a "great job" organizing this event and making it a huge success.



## MURAL COLORING CONTEST

In January we completed a project with the third grade students at Portage Area Elementary School. Our goals were to teach the youngsters a bit of local history and to inform them of the location of the Station Museum and of the 99' mural painted on the building next door. Each student was given a black and white coloring page of the Lee Street mural. Teachers used supplementary information from the book Portrait of a Town Portage, Pennsylvania 1890-1990 to teach students about the different buildings in the drawing. At the completion of the project, almost every third grader had seen the mural and hopefully each learned something about our town's past. Barbara Yetzko, the artist responsible for the mural, and Irene Huschak, creator of the coloring page, presented prizes and certificates for the winning pictures. Vanessa Kuisick, grand prize winner, received a \$50 bond donated by Ron and Michelle Rodgers. Her colored page can be seen in Raptosh's Barber Shop on Main Street.

## STATION MUSEUM 2005

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April we open the doors of the Station Museum to a new exhibits on "Scouting." If you have or know of anyone who has ANYTHING dealing with scouting, call Regis Huschak @ 814-736-8679. Your items will be cataloged, put on display and returned to you next year. The museum does have a security system. Share your treasures, as did Mr. William Callahan, who sent us scouting items all the way from Cedar Falls, Iowa.

## COLONIAL DINNER

Our activity for April will be a colonial dinner at Fort Roberdeau, a Blair County Revolutionary War fort. Dressed in period clothing, ladies will serve a banquet of foods eaten by our forefathers. The menu will include fricassee of chicken, forcemeat meatballs, broiled rump of roast, ragoo of beans,



carrot pudding, bread pudding, egg pie, pound cake, shrewsbury cakes, candied lemon peel, preserved ginger, and much more. No one should leave hungry. The date of the event is April 10<sup>th</sup>, the cost of the meal and transportation will be \$40. A Fullington bus will leave the museum at 1:00pm and should return between 5 & 6pm. This dinner is by reservation only and

seats are limited. As a member of the PAHS, you have first choice. We will advertise to the public beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>. If interested, please call 814-736-8679 to make your reservation, then fill in the attached form.



### VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Don't forget to visit our website @ [www.portagestationmuseum.org](http://www.portagestationmuseum.org)

### MEMORY PLAQUE ADDITIONS

The museum's **Memory Plaque** continues to grow with many new additions. A plaque is a wonderful way to remember a friend or loved one, so keep it in mind. Prices of the plaques are \$50, \$100, \$500, and \$1000. New names to the Memory Plaque for 2004 were: Charles W. Kriss, Charles & Helen Magnetti, Randy Davis, Francis A. Mastelar, Stella Bem Jenkins, Jakob Bem, and Tekla Bem.

### COLLECTIBLES

It's not too late to buy a B. N. Palmer Feed Mill collectible. They were made professionally by Hometowne Collectibles, Inc., Bowmansville, PA and are true collectibles. Cost is \$18 + tax (\$19.08). All the other building collectibles are gone except the Mt. House, the Sonman Tipple, and the Keystone Hotel. If you wish to have any one of these sent to you, fill in the attached form and send it to the museum. You may also buy them at the museum or at the library on Main Street.



### SADLY MISSED

John Dzurenko, a former Station Museum volunteer, passed away January 19, 2005. John, a former miner, was knowledgeable in all aspects of mining. He helped with the displays and could answer the many questions guests asked. John may have been retired but still stayed active at the museum, willing to volunteer when asked. John will be sadly missed.

### THANK YOU BARB

Two years ago Barbara Yetsko resigned her position on the Board of the Portage Area Historical Society. One of the founders and a charter member, Barb served in many capacities over the years, from secretary to president. Under her capable leadership both the PAHS and the Portage Station Museum grew. In addition to planning and setting up many displays, Barb used her artistic talents to design and do much of the painting on the mural adjacent to the museum. The patterns for the small replicas of historical buildings in Portage are also examples of her artistic expertise.



The collectibles have become popular items and are eagerly awaited each year. Chairperson of the committee and one of the authors of the book Portrait of a Town Portage, Pennsylvania 1890-1990, she also authored the script and produced the video, 63 Men Down: The Story of the Sonman Mine Explosion. Both the book and the video received state and national awards. Barb will join us at the museum again this summer doing a special exhibit of her artwork. Look for more information around Summerfest. We all thank Barb for the exceptional work she has done for the museum, the PAHS, and the community.



### COMMUNITY YARDSALE

This year's community yard sale will be held on June 11<sup>th</sup>. If you are not planning your own sale, the PAHS will be accepting donated items. No clothing or large furniture please.

Check the Portage Dispatch for other up coming events!!

**Museum Hours: Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday 1 pm - 4 pm**

### Portage Area Historical Society Board

Regis Huschak - President  
 Ruth Richardson - Vice President  
 John Havrilla - Treasurer  
 Mary Kestan - Recording Secretary  
 Irene Huschak - Corresponding Secretary  
 Barbara Havrilla, Betty Cann, Ginny McDonnell, Mary Lou George, Tom Gaullip, and Barbara Prostejovsky

## Collectibles Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Palmer Building \$18.00 + tax (\$19.08) S/H \$3.85 Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Mountain House \$12.00 + tax (\$12.72) S/H \$3.85 Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Sonman Tipple \$16.00 S/H \$3.85 Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Keystone Hotel \$16.00 S/H \$3.85 Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2005 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Mark the category you prefer.

Annual Member \$5.00  Life Member \$50.00  Student Member \$2.00

Life Sponsor \$100.00  Life Benefactor \$250.00

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## Colonial Dinner @ Fort Roberdeau

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40.00 / person Total \_\_\_\_\_

Make all checks payable to:  
Portage Area Historical Society