

Portage Area Historical Society

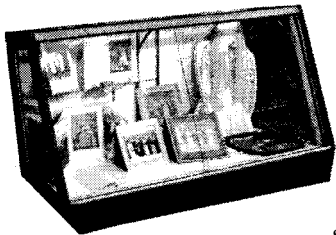
814-736-9223

P. O. Box 45 Portage, PA 15946

October 2004

NEW EXHIBITS

The Station Museum opened its doors this spring with new first floor exhibits. Displays of children's toys, numerous types of reading and music pieces, articles used by mothers and fathers, items needed for medicinal purposes, and wedding



pictures and apparel all suited the theme "Family Through the Years." For next year's exhibits, think "Scouting." If you have or know of anyone who has any type of

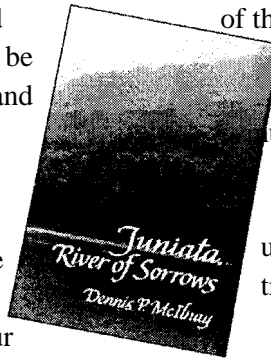
scout clothing, equipment, badges,

pictures, anything related to scouting, call Regis

Huschak at 736-8679 by March 1 st. We are interested in items that are at least ten years old. Pictures will be scanned and returned. Other items will be cataloged and returned at the end of the year.

8TH GREAT PORTAGE YARD SALE

Even the all-day rain did not keep visitors from this year's Great Portage Community-Wide Yard Sale. The event, held on Saturday, June 5t!" had 90 registered sites. By far our most successful yard sale, it is also our biggest fund-raiser of the year.



GUEST SPEAKER

On October 3rd, we welcomed Dr. Dennis McIlroy, author of the best seller, "Juniata, River of Sorrows," to speak at

the museum. Dr. McIlroy, a St. Francis University professor, noted author, and master storyteller did a multimedia presentation for local residents. Using over

200 pictures, he

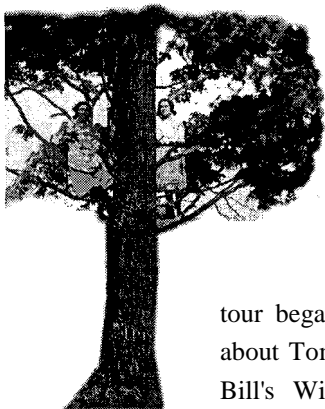
brought history alive with colorful descriptions of unforgettable characters and eyewitness accounts of tragedies on the Juniata River.

JUST FOR KIDS

To make our youngsters more aware of the Portage Station Museum and the marvelous painting on the building next door, the Portage Area Historical Society will be sponsoring a coloring contest with the third graders at Portage Elementary School. Irene Huschak created the coloring page that has been given to each third grader. Teachers have been given several exercises to go along with the drawing. Local businesses most generously provided us with prizes. Check the *Dispatch* for the winners of the Mural Coloring Contest.

HISTORIC TOUR OF PORTAGE

Thanks to the tremendous efforts of Gary Yusko, we were able to co-sponsor two days of skits titled "Everyday Life along the Mainline in the 20th Century." Funded by the Pennsylvania



Humanities Council, seven separate bus tours took groups of 44 to 50 people to sites throughout the town. Scheduled on August 13th and September 22nd, each trip was filled to capacity.

Leaving from the high school, the tour began at the museum with a presentation about Tom Pringle who perfonned with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. Next stop was the football stadium where participants listened to noted foot ball player Hyman Goldstein, who played against the legendary Jim Thorpe; a Redman Club member dressed as a native

AN UPCOMING EVENT

On November 14th the museum will welcome the Blair County Historical Society's "Gay 90s Review." How appropriate to do a 90s clothing review since Portage was founded in 1890. Admission as always is free and refreshments will be served. So, ladies and gentlemen, come see how women dressed in the 1890s for canoeing, swim-



ming, party time, fencing, and much, much more. Look for more information around town and in the paper.

CHRISTMAS LIGHT TOUR

For Christmas we will once again be doing the Light Tour. The trip is scheduled for December 11th at 6 p.m. Before the tour begins, participants will be treated to music by several local organizations. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. Watch for more details in the Dispatch and around town.

NEW COLLECTIBLE FOR 2004

The **Palmer Feed Mill Collectible** is now available at the museum at cost of \$18 + tax. The building was located on Main Street between the Freight Station and the Nidetch Building. During the depression the Red Cross used the building to distribute flour to the needy. Over the years it was occupied by Michael's Wholesale, Sebrings Beer Distributor, Frank Williams, Frank Stancovich,

and Frank Piatek Beer Distributors, Fedore Beer Distributors, and the Fedore's Farmers Market. Today we com



memorate the building as a collectible. We went commercial on this collectible and it is a work of art. Don't forget to get yours, supplies are limited.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Some changes have been made to our website www.portagestationmuseum.org. A new "**Links & Message Board**" has been added. You can use this section freely to post a link to your own Website, or use the board to post announcements, request or post information, share a story, or even to publish your family reunion. Check it often because we will post some of our own information on the Board.

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.

BARB YETSKO

Barbara Yetsko resigned the board last year due to health

problems. Her artistic genius and historic expertise have truly been missed this past year. Thanks for everything Barb.

CHANGES ON THE BOARD

Barbara Prostejovsky has taken a leave of absence.

Four new members joined the board at the end of 2003:

Tom Gaudlip- Welcome back!



Mary Lou George is the daughter of the late Lewis and Mary [Rozanski] Crichton of Portage. A graduate of Portage Area High School, she worked for the Department of Agriculture in Washington D.C., Cambria County Community Action Council and Atty. Ralph Talarigo. Married to Patrick George; she is the mother of Bob and 'Baba' of Brandi, Scotty, Ryan and Ricky. When not busy trying to keep up with her grandchildren, she enjoys doing transcriptions for a genealogy web site. She, along with her cousin, Linda Miko, record and photograph cemeteries for the Rootsweb Cambria County site. A book of their transcripts, containing over 12,000 entries from 18 area cemeteries, has been placed in the reading section at the Museum.

Irene (Timura) Huschak was born and raised in Portage. **Regis** fares from Clairton, PA. Both graduated from California University of PA, Irene with a degree in secondary math, Regis with a degree in biology. Irene was a pioneer in distance learning. being one of the first in the nation to receive a master's degree via the computer and the phone lines. Regis is very proud of his MS in geology from the University of Notre Dame. The couple has received numerous awards for their work in the promotion of local history into the elementary school curriculum. Recently retired from the teaching profession, Irene and Regis both taught in the Spring Cove, Portage Area, and Altoona Area School Districts. Portage has been their home for the past 38 years. They are the proud parents of four children: Daniel, married to Robyn Smith, Portage; Mary, married to Dirk Kaufman, Scottdale; Regina, married to James Horwat, Clymer, and Jennifer, married to Jay Romeo, Manassas, VA. They have seven grandchildren; one girl and six little boys.

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

Portage Area Historical Society Board

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

Amount Enclosed _____

To become a member, mark the category you prefer.

Annual Member \$5.00

Life Member \$50.00

Life Sponsor \$100.00

Life Benefactor \$250.00

Complete all information in full. Return with check, payable to:

Portage Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 45
Portage, PA 15946
2005 Memberships Are Due January 1, 2005

We Need Volunteers!!!

Do you have some extra time to help keep the museum OPEN?

Name:

Address:

Town, State, Zip:

Phone Number:

Museum Hours: Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday 1 pm - 4 pm. April through December