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September 2013 / NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA



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UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fall Tour & Banquet
(with the Canal
Societies of Indiana
and Ohio)
Fri-Sun, Sept 20-22**

Are you a serious canal buff? Join these two canal societies for a fall tour of Canal Park and other Carroll County sites. Programming begins Friday evening and concludes Sunday morning. You can join their tour by sending your reservation to P.O. Box 10808, Ft. Wayne, IN 46854. Tickets to the banquet program only are also available.

[More info>](#)

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- Boat Tours On Labor Day!
- Great Events Coming Up
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- Gray Bridge -- The Latest!

CANAL BOAT TOUR NEWS

We will be open on Labor Day and offering boat rides at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 pm. After Labor Day weekend, our weekend boat rides will run at 1:30 and 2:30, through the end of September.

Volunteers Needed For Bicentennial Train

It's going to take a small army of volunteers to staff the visit of the Indiana Bicentennial Train October 17-19. Call Mary Crary at (765) 564-2870 to find out about the many volunteer opportunities and to sign up. It is a distinct honor for Delphi to be asked to host this event! Let's join together and put our best foot forward.

Gray Bridge Construction Builds Momentum



**Indiana Bicentennial
History Train Visit**
Thurs-Sat,
Oct 17-19

Don't miss out when the [Indiana Historical Society chugs into Delphi](#) for three days! Explore Indiana's past in aboard this traveling exhibition, The Next Indiana.

[More info>](#)

Harvest Festival
Sat, Oct 19

More details to come as we prepare to celebrate autumn and dock the *Delphi* for winter.

**RENT BIKES &
BOATS HERE!**



[Noble Bikes at the Canal](#) offers bikes, kayaks and paddleboats for rent to enhance your fun at Canal Park. Find them at the dock-side ticket booth and bank barn, right here in Canal Park. We do bike tune-ups, too!



Erection of the Gray Bridge started the third week of July with a very competent crew from John Camden Construction Company out of Pierceton, Indiana. They came with cranes, high lift work platforms, tools and an excellent background of working with iron bridges.



The parts needed in the erection included over one hundred individual pieces that the M-W-F volunteer crew had cleaned, repaired and straightened over the past two years. Our hardworking crew used a technique to "hammer out" vast amounts of iron oxide, called "pack rust."

Now that summer is winding down, weekend hours after Labor Day are by appointment or chance only.

HELP US CREATE THE TOTAL CANAL EXPERIENCE!



We've added a few more interpretive panels around Canal Park recently. Local artist, Terry Lacy, continues to bring history alive for visitors with beautiful illustrations depicting canal life and construction. You can play a part by sponsoring an exhibit or interpretive panel.

[Find out more>](#)

BECOME A MEMBER



Your financial partnership restores and preserves a rare, important piece of early American history and



High lift equipment used by the Camden crew allowed the use of power hand tools right from the platform. Massive pins, rivets and square headed bolts hold the members together.



Notice the cross braces between the upper chords to hold the top square and sturdy.

provides hands-on learning opportunities for people of all ages.

[JOIN TODAY!>](#)

[VOLUNTEER](#)



Some of our regular volunteers recently repaired some vandalism damage to our Guard Lock gates at the back of Canal Park.

Come join us! We have many volunteer opportunities to suit your skills and time!

[Find out more>](#)

A New Addition



We recently received some old railroad depot baggage wagon's gear from Shirley and Bill Willard of Rochester. They brought these remnants from the Fulton County Historical Society's surplus of railroad items. These will be restructured with oak planking by M-W-F volunteer Clay Sledd. When all three are completed one of the replicated wagons will be given back to the Historical



Called "tuning up the span" local blacksmith Ross Brown (background) and crew leader Bruce, from Camden Construction, tighten the rods and turnbuckles to square the bridge.

Society. We recently brought a RR depot building in panels and pieces from Leiter's Ford in their county. The depot was disassembled by an Amish crew with our M-W-F crew doing the hauling. Stay tuned for updates!



The completed span now supports itself from end posts on wood blocking we cut with a portable sawmill. The wood came from ash trees from the site of the foundation for the bridge.



Volunteer Jim Ebrite put some final paint retouching of the nicks and scrapes.



Fast forward a week or more, and now the west side abutment is done, and the east side abutment has been poured. You'll notice the bridge in the background, across the canal. Be sure to check our Facebook page for new photos as we move toward completion of this project!

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