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JAN 2015 / NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA



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**VOLUNTEER AT CANAL
PARK!**



*Volunteers make our popular
canal boat rides possible. Here*

In the cool, cool of the season!

AFTER CHRISTMAS WALK



For the past dozen years we have hosted a **DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS WALK**. This year repeating where we traipsed 7 years ago, 23 hikers trod all the way to the old Monon High Bridge over Deer Creek. Here County Historian Mark Smith discusses some facts about the early settlement history of this area of Carroll County. Brian Stirm spoke on Monon Railroad history.

narrator Kathy McGraw is in costume as she approaches the dock. Other volunteers that run the boat (it takes two) are coordinated by Capt. Steve Gray. He is asking for more help for next year's tours. If you are interested in becoming crew for this venture contact him at steve1948@aol.com or 765-427-2912.

There are other volunteer opportunities, too! From clearing brush to sharing history with students, volunteers make Canal Park a place that visitors are talking about! Contact us at (765) 564-2870 for more info.

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BECOME A MEMBER



Your financial partnership restores and preserves a rare, important piece of early American history and provides hands-on learning opportunities for people of all ages.

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David McCain explains features of the Freedom Bridge Plaza and the proposed Bicentennial commemoration that will come with completion of several key features. The Canal Association, City of Delphi and Heartland Heritage Inc. (HHI) are working together to complete enhancement of this grand view of the Deer Creek Valley with Indiana's Bicentennial coming in 2016.



Freedom Bridge from the west end looking toward the Plaza end allows hikers to cross over the four lanes of the new Ind. 25 highway. This span originally was over the White River in Owen County at Freedom, Indiana. Then it

Restoring the baggage cart

Here is one of the Baggage Carts being restored by the volunteers. Shirley Willard retired Fulton County Historian had found two sets of "gear" but nothing left of the wooden parts. Wheels and axels with supporting iron struts were restored first and then painted. The bed is laying upside down in this picture. The agreement with Ms. Willard is that we build two complete carts and give one back to the Fulton County Historical Society.



Work on the second cart is progressing and Roy Patrick is cutting surplus bolt extensions as this upside down cart is being completed. The colors of Railway Express carts were yellow, red with a green deck. They sported an attractive addition to train depots all over the US during their heyday.

sat at Conner Prairie for 9 years unable to be used due to property issues. Now it becomes an attractive completed trail conveyance. Further development of the mile long trail out to the old Monon trestle will be assisted by grants from DNR and Deer Creek Township.



The Plaza section just off the east end of Freedom Bridge hosts an impressive stone engraving of locomotive #765 and the semblance of tracks in the stone leading to the mural.

THE SMITHSHOP



A gift of woodworking machinery from Bonnie Maxwell and



Tom Johnson a volunteer with "blacksmithing" background reviews plans with Al Auffart, crew leader.



Did you know...



Did you know you could hold your wedding, party, meeting or conference at the Canal?



We offer a variety of options for each different type of event. We also have free wi-fi and can accommodate up to 300 guests!

[Save your date today!](#)

Anita Werling gave the Monday-Wednesday-Friday volunteers something bring to Canal Park and put right to work. This is a multi-use ShopSmith woodworking indoor power tool very popular 30-50 years ago.



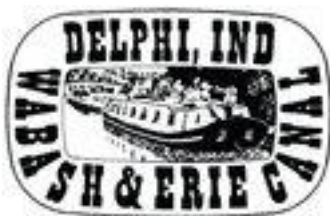
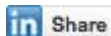
The ShopSmith already put to work by Tom Peters and Brice Crowel as they use the "drill press" feature of this versatile gift. They are drilling deep holes in wooden replicated parts being made to carry the Railway Express Baggage Carts that the M-W-F crew is assembling.

M-W-F CREW



Meanwhile when the weather permits this winter the M-

Help us pass the good news!



As our Canal Center exceeded its first decade in age we have experienced maintenance work needs. Here a replacement of the heat exchanger in the main furnace above the Conference Center requires expertise and new materials.



Delphi Community Development Director Kevin Kologinsky brought Sharon Calles to the Canal Center to explore ideas for positive things kids can do. She is the new School Resource Officer hired by the City Police Department and placed in her

W-F crew with help from Dick Bradshaw and the extendable lift places rafters and roof extensions on this railroad depot restoration. This building was given to the Canal Association by Rich Ruhnow a businessman in Leiters Ford, a little town west of Rochester in Fulton County. An Amish crew helped with disassembly and the M-W-F crew transported the panels and lumber to Canal Park a year ago.



Railroad style "corbels" extend the length of the roof to provide rain protection for persons waiting on boarding trains. This design is typical of depots where standard plans were adopted by all railroads. They only changed slightly about every decade. This Erie Lackawanna station depot was built in 1884 at Leiters Ford.

job at Delphi Community Schools. Her interests are finding about experiences the Canal Association advocates and to get youth out on the trails and involved in outdoor workdays. She will be looking for positive experiences to guide her charges and keep them aware of our community projects. The Canal Association always has available a handout list of potential projects for all ages and abilities.



Many special places along the Canal Towpath allow a visit back to the nineteenth century. Try it any season. Here the restored Lime Kiln outdoor exhibit is interpreted as how it worked to produce plaster, mortar and whitewash from the bedrock limestone underground. Special attention will be paid to this structure as a memorial to Lew Davis who authorized and encouraged the move Canal volunteers made from a mile



Finally on Christmas Eve day a crew of roofers coordinated by Wylan Graybill were preparing to install "standing seam" metal roofing. They placed sheets of plywood showing board like grooves under the roof at the corbel extensions to appear like the original railroad design.



The metal overlaps the roof edge to seal and protect the building. New vertical 1 x 12 pine boards will be accented with "batten" to make the siding look like the original. Some of the original 1884 boards are still good and will be stripped of old paint and spray painted when the project is completed. New windows will be secured

north to this site. It came apart in "10,000 pieces" and now is reset. Lew was the VP of the parent company owning Delphi Limestone Company and he recently passed. Abundant water supply and crushed stone have also been donated by the company through the supportive efforts of Mr. Davis. Come warmer weather and our Canal Boat will carry passengers past this kiln.

from Lavy Windows in Camden. All these materials cost money and the project has been enhanced with a significant grant for \$17,200 from Tippecanoe Arts Federation supported by North Central Health Services, a benevolent Lafayette Health Association .

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