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Currents



OCTOBER 2014 / NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA



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HARVEST FESTIVAL



The annual Harvest Festival is coming up on October 18th from 10:00am - 4:00pm. This years event will host a variety of activities including rides on "the Delphi" canal boat.

IT'S FESTIVAL TIME AT THE CANAL!

HARVEST FESTIVAL



Leaves are changing color on the trees, farm equipment is humming through fields harvesting corn and beans, temperatures are cooling – signs of the fall season are everywhere and it's time to enjoy the last days of mild weather before winter brings in the cold and snow.

Narrated canal boat rides start at 11:30am and run every hour until 3:30pm



Pie judging contest and Auction



Presentation on *Side slips, Grist Mills, and Grain Elevators: Harvest Time in Carroll County, Indiana* at 2 p.m.



Chili & Soup Supper from 4:00pm - 7:00pm

With that in mind, it's a great time to visit Wabash & Erie Canal Park on October 18 for this year's annual **Harvest Festival** and end-of-season canal boat rides.

Back in the mid-1800s, the canal was still king of transportation, and when the harvest came in, canal boats carried grain and produce to markets throughout Indiana and elsewhere.

A special highlight of this year's festival will be a presentation by Carroll County historian Mark Smith on area grain warehouses and packing houses.

"I can tell you that during the 1850s the canal was in its prime and the railroad didn't enter the scene until 1853 in the form of the Toledo, Wabash, and Western," Smith notes.

"The canal was king until then. That's why I am stressing the role of the Spears, Case and Dugan grain warehouse and packing house."

Before the railroads came along, grains and other produce from harvest time was stored in the warehouses and then loaded into canal boats for transport to distant markets.

Smith will present *Side slips, Grist Mills, and Grain Elevators: Harvest Time in Carroll County, Indiana* at 2 p.m. during the festival.

Smith also noted that harvest celebrations in one form or another have been around in Carroll County for a good number of years.

"I just happened to look in the Rural Organization book by John and Doris Peterson, which states that the first County Agricultural Fair was held in Bowen's Grove north of Delphi on Saturday, October 15, 1852," Smith said.

"Premiums were given for the best cultivated farm, the best five acres of wheat, the best swine and sheep, and the best farm wagon. Awards were also given for the best bedquilt and the best five yards of rag carpet."

Although times have changed since those days, the Harvest Festival in Delphi is a chance to glimpse another era at Canal Park, and envision past harvests along the canal as the canal boat *Delphi* glides along the reclaimed section of the old canal.

According to festival organizer Marlita Joseph, there will also be samplings of the craftsmanship of that era at this year's event.

"We will have craft booths all throughout the village with handcrafted items, Joseph said.

"And there will be craft demos from the Leather Guild, Blacksmiths, Broom Makers, Basket Weavers, Spinning, Tatting, Wood Working, and Cooper (barrel maker)."

Other happenings during the festival include a visit by the alpacas from Our Heritage Farm, a pie judging contest and pie auction, and a Chili and Soup Supper from 4 – 7 p.m. to round out the afternoon of the festival.

SIGHTS FROM THE CANAL



The canal boat *Delphi* will be operating throughout the day beginning at 11:30 a.m. and continuing on the hour with a last ride of the year at 3:30 p.m.



APPLE DUMPLINGS ARE READY!

This week our volunteers made over 700 Apple Dumplings. They will be for sale from now on until we run out. The cooks will be making another 600-700 again next Monday. They are frozen and in individual plastic cups with baking instructions on the lid. Individual dumplings up to dozens at a time can be purchased at the for \$2.75 each. We sell both Splenda and sugar versions and "boy are they good"

These delicious delights are available at the Canal Center daily from 1:00pm-4:00pm.

M-W-F CREW -- RECYCLE AND REUSE

Whenever possible the MWF crew looks for surplus lumber and supplies that are free. Here the Crop Protection Services site south of Delphi had torn down a storage unit and this tongue and groove planking became something of use for the depot restoration.



FALL CLEAN UP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Fall is a great time to be outdoors. In this time Scouts and other groups often help with "trail maintenance" by expending their energy with rakes, loppers and manual labor. If you are a leader of youth and would like a project just ask for the always available list of jobs to do. A printed sheet can be obtained at the Canal Center's desk. The Canal Association continues to reach out to those who enjoy volunteering. There are many jobs needing a variety of talents. Historian Mark Smith in the chairman of the recruitment committee contact him at [765-563-3349](tel:765-563-3349).



Dumpling makin' in the Canal kitchen with dozens of individual cups containing a spiral sliced apple wrapped in dough and bedded in lots of sweet sauce then frozen. When cooked and still hot they are ummmm good !! This annual event involving a dozen volunteers is coordinated by Tina Tyner (center) and Janie Smith to the right. Apples were donated by Skiles Orchard near Rossville.

Fall Project Updates

Now that the **FREEDOM Bridge** is placed over the Heartland Highway construction of the second "half plaza" is underway by INDOT and the City. This pedestrian bridge will carry hikers passing through on the Monon Trail

DAN'S FIND

Unusual places to go and things to see outside of Indiana. Canal President Dan McCain recently took this picture on a hike in the Teton Wilderness near the Wyoming/Idaho state line.



VOLUNTEER AT CANAL PARK!



Volunteers make our popular canal boat rides possible. Here 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.



Freedom Bridge features a direct view over the new four lane highway. In the distance is Deer Creek and the famed dark colored slate bluffs on the south bank where it is thought James Whitcomb Riley penned one of his most famous poems "On the banks 'o Deer Crick"



RAILROAD DEPOT UPDATE

First of the 1880s old railroad depot panels goes up in the rear corner of the freight area. In the foreground will be the station master's office and desk (right) and nearer will be the passenger section of the old station house from Fulton County.

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. [Forward this message to a friend](#)

BIKE RENTALS AND MORE!



Our concessionaire, [Noble Bikes at the Canal](#), stands ready to greet visitors and outfit them with plenty to take full advantage of the canal and trails! Rent bikes of all kinds, plus kayaks and paddleboats, right in Canal Park, throughout the summer.

If you've got your own bike but find it needs a good tune-up, they offer those services as well!

[Visit their website for more info>>](#)

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)



Monday-Wednesday-Friday volunteers place more panels with help from Jack Cohee's big loader. Where Jack can reach them this process makes it possible to secure the panels and steady them with bracing.



Then where the reach is more difficult Dick Bradshaw brought his cousin Bill Bradshaw's high lift, long reach "cherry picker" utility truck to assist the MWF crew.



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.

[JOIN TODAY!>](#)

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!](#)

Help us pass the good news!



NEW DONATION

A crafty volunteer and now donor of another piece of unusual art is Clay Sledd. Clay has been part of the MWF crew off and on during the past 15 years. Now he and his wife Marcia are moving to Nashville, Indiana. His choice of giving this big painting to the Canal Association is out of generosity just as many other donors have done over the past. We will miss Clay's professional talent as a woodworker and his enthusiasm for canals and railroads.





VOLUNTEERS AT WORK

Dr. Chris Moore from the University of Indianapolis is an Archaeologist. He brought students this fall from his college class and is looking for one of Carroll County's earliest log cabin's -- 1825. It was built by pioneer Daniel Baum. This building was also where the earliest Circuit Court was held before the first Court House was built.



Annie Smith from Huston, Texas and here husband Tom (a Baum descendent) work with curious passing visitors (boy) at holes where the top 15 inches of soil is sifted to discover artifacts. This testing spot is being evaluated as whether it is the site of the Daniel Baum's Cabin.



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