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| **JAN  2016  /**NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA |

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| **IN THIS ISSUE:*** 2015 Highlights
* Christmas at the Canal
* Day After Christmas Walk
* Membership
* M-W-F Crew
* Volunteer at the Canal
* Endowment

M-W-F Crew14indexThe Monday-Wednesday-Friday volunteers rework one of the aging windows to be ready for re-installation in the old one room school that was moved in sections to Canal Park last fall.15indexThe MWF crew boxes in the overhang and eves making ready for the doors and new metal roof. For several years we may use this building as a storage facility for machinery (which we really need) but outside it will look like it once did as a one room frame schoolhouse.17indexNearing completion before winter snows come is the “Little Red Schoolhouse” that the volunteers moved from 10 miles north of Delphi. Here the wide doors that will make it a storage barn are being placed with help from Dick Bradshaw using his cousin Bill’s bucket truck. The building now with a new roof and restored windows will look like Adams Township “Compromise School” where students enjoyed all 8 grades in one room until 1925.18indexAfter sixteen years the White Oak planks that were cut onsite by volunteers with a portable sawmill needs some attention. The decking on the RED BRIDGE had localized aging in selected spots. This historic 1873 ornate iron trail bridge was originally located over Paint Creek near Camden. It was totally refurbished by the Monday-Wednesday-Friday volunteers and dedicated in 1999.19indexRoy Patrick (standing) was with that original MWF crew and has been a loyal regular volunteer year around three mornings per week for seventeen years. Newcomer volunteer Eddy Graves (with hammer) works with another longtime volunteer Al Auffart.[VOLUNTEER TODAY!](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?TheWabashErieCanalAs/8011f867c7/TEST/bf00c1d735)Dave and Tom in the Blacksmith ShopCanal Park would not exist without the countless hours and hard work of dedicated volunteers. Whether you enjoy working with your hands or sharing stories with park guests, there are volunteer opportunities to fit your schedule. - Help groom the walking paths on our trail system. - Learn historical facts to become a tour guide. - Help build or maintain exhibits. - Train to become a boat captain. - Help plan festivals and events. ...and much more![*BECOME A MEMBER*](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?TheWabashErieCanalAs/8011f867c7/TEST/0102751641)memberMike and Pam Luenz are Life Members and they also like to come to Canal Park and help us with "acting out" the Canal era. Mike likes to tell stories or converse with the crowd and Pam is often found in the One Room Log Schoolhouse as the Schoolmarm. 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!**](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?TheWabashErieCanalAs/8011f867c7/TEST/9360a13423/TheWabashErieCanalAs/365993f160/TEST/e3dbd91578)Did you know...18Did you know you could hold your wedding, party, meeting or conference at the Canal Center? 19We 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!**](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?TheWabashErieCanalAs/8011f867c7/TEST/942062623c)Help us pass the good news!

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14unnamedOur docents and crew for the canal boat enjoy dressing in 1850s period clothing.[Forward this message to a friend](http://oi.vresp.com/f2af/v4/send_to_friend.html?ch=8011f867c7&lid=TEST&ldh=TEST) |

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| **Wrapping up the old year and starting anew!** **2015 Highlights:** 2015 has been a wonderful year and we have so many things to brag about. Some of the things we have accomplished this year include: * We improved grounds and added the Loom House to our rare collection of historic buildings.
* The Interpretive Museum received several updates and exciting new exhibits.
* The siding on the Reed Case House received a fresh coat of stain and is looking great.
* The Depot has been restored, painted and is accepting donations of railroad artifacts
* We have moved a small 1880s frame church to our grounds ready for restoration.
* We have saved a one-room school from destruction and moved it to our grounds.
* Signs are being made for installation on Canal Center's facades representing the 1850s.

**WE VALUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**As Indiana’s Bicentennial Year begins this month we are reaching out to everyone to encourage paying memberships in the Canal association early in the year. Your support allows Wabash & Erie Canal Inc. to continue offering activities like these pictured in this issue of Currents Online. It’s simple: On our website [www.wabashanderiecanal.org](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?TheWabashErieCanalAs/8011f867c7/TEST/7a8a2829dc) click on “membership” for a form and instructions. Donations also help us fulfill our mission of preserving and show-casing Indiana’s canal era. Whether you are a long[-time member or a new one, we thank you for your support! Christmas at the CanalOld Fashioned Christmas Festival wraps up a year of many activities1index 2Santa listens to his visitors and advises these children “to be nice at Christmas” and their wishes will be granted.2indexDorothy and Ron Baker represent the Wabash Weavers Guild from Lafayette and have brought color, texture, lighting and authenticity to our Loom House. It became a popular stopping point for visitors at the Christmas festival.3indexBroom maker Bev Larson demonstrated the art of making a broom from scratch. She has the historic equipment and techniques to make these old fashion “sweepers” that are also for sale.4indexKids enjoy the chance to try their skill at leather crafting in the Canal Center. Many other booths do both selling and demonstrating old fashion crafts at the festival.5indexIn the Fouts House Beverly Seese is the homemaker. She demonstrates many old time domestic duties including cooking on the open hearth. With her expertise the whole log cabin ‘glows’ with its charm.6indexGirl Scouts were in the Fouts House making Christmas ornaments and acting out the period of the 1850s and enjoying the Old Fashioned Christmas season.7indexPeter Cooper is the craftsman occupying this cooper shop alongside the Canal in Pioneer Village. Here he is using a draw knife to shape stays for his barrel and bucket making demonstrations.8indexThese costumed young ladies were enjoying the favorable weather at the Christmas Festival. Behind them is the Cooper Shop.9indexInside the Leiters Ford Depot is station master Eddie Graves. He opened the building during the Christmas Festival for the public to see our new railroad artifacts and décor.10indexEddie and his five year old daughter Valerie welcomed visitors that came all the way to the far end of Canal Park where the Depot is located. This is a newly finished building just dedicated last September.11indexVisitor Bill Young tries his hand at weaving in the Loom House. Just after this picture was taken he cornered Canal President Dan McCain and ask if we would like to have a very old railroad boxcar to add to our Depot site.The Boxcar12indexWe went to Bill’s home near Lafayette where he had this old boxcar. Unused anymore it is available for us if we want it. Thoughts are to find a grant and consider its restoration and placement near the completed Leiters Ford Depot.13index 2The interior of this century old railcar shows how the railroad built structures to last. This still shows the lighter colored galvanizing of the roof’s underside that has done well to prolong the life of the metal. Note the door hardware is still present/solid and could be reused -- but the outside wood paneling and flooring needs to be replaced.Day after Christmas Walk20indexOur annual DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS WALK this year focused on this amazing structure. Thirty-eight willing hikers braved the weather and inspected the landscape leading up to the span AND became aware of the plight to SAVE THE MONON HIGH BRIDGE. Stability challenges have brought a need to make the public aware of a campaign to create a fund and advance the work needed to save this 1891 trestle.**The Problem**East of Delphi the Monon High Bridge is the marvelous gem of the Monon Trail. The bridge has yet to be developed into a decked pedestrian walkway over Deer Creek. CSX Railroad still owns the bridge and its approach. Negotiations have dragged out for years, but CSX is now ready to relinquish the bridge. At this point one supporting pier is in critical condition. A work crew is ready to start repairs in January, yet no local group has stepped up to take ownership. An impasse situation continues and the repair crew will be sent away. **What You Can Do** Inform yourself and tell others of the problem. Attend future meetings and action groups. At this point the public mobilization is just starting and there is much to do. You can help start one of the great public campaigns in Indiana history! Contact David McCain at (765) 414 – 5054 or davidmccain8@gmail.com for more information. And check out Save Monon High Bridge on Facebook and click on “donate” to help this worthy cause.Did you know you can ensure the canals future and DOUBLE your donation too?**You can help us raise money for our ENDOWMENT fund.**If you act quickly you can take advantage of matching funds that can make YOUR donation to Wabash & Erie Canal ENDOWMENT FUND worth more! Because our endowment fund is set up within Carroll County Community Foundation, we can participate in a matching fund initiative offered by Lilly Foundation. Please note that this opportunity ends March 31, 2016. Please make your check payable to Carroll County Community Foundation, with “Wabash& Erie Canal Fund” on the memo line. Mail it to Community Foundation, 215 W. Sycamore, Kokomo, IN 46901. Your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law. |

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