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JULY 2018

NEWS & INFO FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL - DELPHI, INDIANA

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CANAL DAYS FESTIVAL 2018

JULY 7
10AM - 4PM

JULY 8
12PM - 4PM

**CANAL PARK
IN DELPHI**

Special Activities Both Days
Saturday at Noon - A proclamation from Toledo honoring the Wabash and Erie Canal.
at 1PM - Abraham Lincoln speaks.
Sunday at 1PM - Daniel Boone visits.
all afternoon - Learn about the game of cricket

Both days - Boat tours on the hour; History of our Flag presentation, music in the park, pony rides for the kids, Trolley rides. All buildings in the park open and in staffed by docents and craftsmen. Newly restored Sleeth Post Office, newly completed Red Mill display. Enjoy a savory buffalo burger at the Summer Kitchen.



When scores of visitors come to Canal Park for the Festival or on regular weekends they are encouraged to get tickets right away at the Reception Desk when they



The Monday-Wednesday-Friday volunteers have been busy lately finishing TWO new Canal Park buildings. This tiny structure is the 1880 Sleeth Post Office that was donated to

arrive. Boat seating often sells out quickly.



This family with children enjoy being on the water in their own craft. Boating like this is allowed as long as the boat is non-motorized and safety jackets are worn and adults present.



Canal

Park RV Hosts Norm and Debbie Anderson maintain the rental sites for the many travelers that come here for a day or up to a week. Recent additions to the facilities now allow more camper hookups with electricity and water. Records show that the Campground is being regularly used. It is small but provides an attractive quiet place along the restored canal and towpath. In addition to many campers from all over Indiana others from eleven more states and two countries have stopped here from April to June: Illinois, South Dakota, South Carolina, Kentucky, Connecticut, Michigan, Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Idaho, Quebec and remarkably a fellow from Iceland 'biking the world' on a motorcycle for the last 12 months. Contact the camp hosts: debandnorm@sbcglobal.net

the Canal Association last year. Approval of the grant used for restoration came in October from Tippecanoe Arts Federation (TAF) utilizing funding from North Central Health Services (NCHS)



Inside the little Post Office several memorable items and furniture are present. The post boxes at the right are actual mail containers that were part of some other town's post office. Brice Crowel found it at an Antique Shop in Lafayette.



The finish of the restoration utilized MWF crew including (from left) Al Auffart, Mac Carlisle, and Brice Crowel. They work regularly throughout the year on three mornings each week. It fits these retiree's schedule where they enjoy



Darrin Rubino, a Professor of Biology from Hanover College in Madison, Indiana carefully and strategically “core samples” one of the logs in our many Pioneer Village buildings. He and a team of three including Ball State Associate Professor Christopher Bass and Technician Ross Alexander from Chicago, came to spend three days in Canal Park working to determine accurately the year each building was built. They do this by extracting a 6 inch long pencil sized sample perpendicular to the smooth underside of log bark. The year these logs were harvested in the forest to make the buildings will be determined in the laboratory later this year. Researchers identify growth rings under a microscope and compare the width of the rings with historical local weather history. More will be reported for each building with study results later this year



Here Darrin is sampling wood planks with a little noticed area where bark had been on the surface. This Speece Shelter original building's rafters from perhaps the 1840s were constructed from timbers that were donated to the Canal Association in the 1970s. They were originally part of the Speece Brothers Canal Warehouse that had been located

working ‘every other day’ for half a day. If you are interested in joining the crew contact dan.mccain@gmail.com



Here the MWF volunteers are setting the Little Red Mill on its new foundation near the Canal Boat Warehouse. The building was built earlier by the MWF crew out of salvaged siding from another log house and made into this water power exhibit. It was moved on a special transport trailer by volunteer Rollin Graybill from Rockfield.



Dick Bradshaw operates his cousin Bill Bradshaw's utility truck to help the MWF crew set the water wheel. Guiding the wheel is Mac Carlisle. Bill happens to be our sponsor of this monthly e-newsletter.

five miles north of Delphi at Lock #31 near Carrollton Bridge over the Wabash. Accurate dating of these rafters is very important to the Canal organization. Darren can be contacted at rubino@hanover.edu



The TAF/NCHS grant also funded the creation of seven new color informational panels. Here local artist Terry Lacy is reviewing the proof copies showing his paintings with descriptive wording on several of his works of art. Terry can be contacted at lacydesign@tds.net

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Final placement of the water wheel is set on protruding shaft by the MWF crew. Also working this day is 20 year veteran MWF volunteer Roy Patrick (pink shirt) who is mostly retired now from the crew.



A 'MILL RACE' was built to direct water and operate the water wheel. Again this is another exhibit funded by NCHS through their Capital Grants Program administered by Tippecanoe Arts Federation.



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Boat crew members Carl Seese and Tom Trueb relax between the Saturday/Sunday hourly runs. In mid-summer the high temperatures are taxing on the volunteers and when it get really HOT they might be found with short sleeves. Weather can also cause cancellations due to lightening, wind and high water levels. Call if you aren't sure about local conditions 765-564-2870



The boat cruises up to the dock beside the Canal Center. This scene now is very unique as there were scores of canal boats coming through Delphi back in the 1840-1874 period. Now days in Indiana there are no operating canal boats except in Delphi and Metamora (southeastern Indiana). If you would like to be part of today's crew contact the coordinator steve1948@aol.com

For additional information
regarding all canals in
Indiana, check out the Canal
Society of Indiana.
<http://indcanal.org>

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