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Currents 

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

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Worker Shanty



This is one of two log structures being assembled this winter. This small log building represents a canal workers shanty and ultimately when finished will offer an opportunity to rent the small space to sleep on old fashion bunks overnight in our RV Park.

Preparing for this year's Canal Park activities and events.



Here at a committee meeting in the Canal Center are volunteers planning the first festival event of the new year. It will be held on Saturday, May 28th and is titled: **CENTURY OF TRANSPORTATION**. The public is invited to attend from 10 am to 4 pm. This event will highlight all types of surface and water

Visitors will feel what the Irish canal workers might have experienced during the canal construction era.

City Trail Marker



Inside the City of Delphi on selected sidewalk corners are special signs directing the hiker how to follow the trail. A renewed effort is being made to replace any missing signs. This one had been knocked down and laying on the street.

Trail Marker

transportation. Focus is on transportation types common during the one hundred years from the opening of the canal to Delphi in 1840 through the beginning of WWII in 1940.

Museum Maintenance



In the dead of winter there are two months when the Museum is closed for repairs and freshening the displays. Mac Carlisle (facing) a regular Monday-Wednesday-Friday volunteer is repairing the “lift this tool” display where participants are challenged to pick a heavy tool and see if they would want to work with this hand tool (ax, pick or shovel) all day long. This booth gets hard use especially by school students as they are experiencing how canals were actually constructed.



Along the ten miles of Delphi Historic Trails, the Canal Association is responsible for maintaining the trail surface and controlling vegetation and downed trees. Recently the trails have been marked with distance marking posts that identify each “tenth of a mile” for hikers. The trail name symbol and progressive distance is engraved in the posts and could save a life of someone needing emergency help. Dialing 9-1-1 would identify where the hiker is calling from.

Trail Information Kiosk



Mac Carlisle is working to fix the strip lighting at the **Millinery Shop** entrance. This gallery features clothing and personal adornment items. Each of the Museum’s twelve galleries feature a specific period of the canal era. The full round of a dozen stops takes the museum visitor on a path illustrating the years 1832 through 1876. This trek takes a visitor through the period before canal construction started to the Wabash & Erie Canal’s demise in 1876.



At each of five trail entrance points is an information kiosk with area maps and trail safety posters. Also at each of these kiosks is a recording video camera system placed there for added security.



And we will be adding general trail entrance information to the City's wayfinding signs like this one on Main Street using the TAF/NCHS grant.

Become a Member Today!



Normally the Monday-Wednesday-Friday crew works in the outdoor elements through most of the year. Only when the temperatures are below 20 degrees at 8 am or above 90 degrees on those three weekly workdays do the members work in the museum or inside other building. Here in Canal Park's **Gray Barn** is Brice Crowel cutting and assembling rafters for another log building being assembled nearby the barn.

County Recorder's Filing Cabinet



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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2019 Events

May 18
Century of Transportation

June 15
Pioneer Kids Day

July 6-7
Canal Days Festival

December 7
Christmas at the Canal



An unusual feature inside the 1844 Reed Case House in Canal Village is a 190 year old original **County Recorder's filing cabinet**. Each of the hundreds of slots account for every section (640 acres) of land in Carroll County. This handmade cabinet was used for filing property deeds, and legal papers relating to each of the Township's 36 sections (note the numbers pasted). Sponsorship of any of the hundreds of slots in the six tall sections of this cabinet cost \$100 to be represented by a brass tag. Three recent tags are shown. The lower tag honors Floyd Julien, the County's Abstractor in the mid-1900s and two other family names representing living descendants of Mr. Julien. (John Banker (left) and Margaret Ramey right).

Little Red Mill



This site along the canal and next to the boat warehouse has become an interpretive site. A miniature Mill with mill race and water wheel was completed last summer. In the background a child size "pivot bridge" crosses over the millrace. Both are interactive outdoor displays. In the future this is a potential to develop a LOCK site. It could be constructed just to the right of the mill wheel. Sponsorship (naming) opportunities are available. For information contact admin@canalcenter.org.



**For additional information regarding all
canals in
Indiana, check out the Canal Society of
Indiana.**

<http://indcanal.org>

