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Currents



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



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MILROY MONUMENT

Known as the MILROY MONUMENT this commemorative stone was on the site of a log cabin belonging to a leader of our county and state.

BIG THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN & AROUND DELPHI

FREEDOM BRIDGE



Finally the moving day came on September 9th for the Freedom Bridge. Two giant cranes helped place it across the new four-lane highway west of town. For the Canal it is a culmination of years of

It was placed one hundred years ago (1916) and is also known as the “Centennial Stone.” A little park off the side of the Freedom Bridge is being planned for this site.

A bicentennial monument is envisioned and would be more noticeable either direction while traveling the new highway. Planning is underway.



If someone knows of a small log cabin that is sound and worthy of moving to this site to commemorate the Milroy home let us know by calling Dan at 765-412-4308.

work planning with INDOT and the City of Delphi as the Monon Trail crossing had been eliminated when the highway excavation took out the railbed and created the highway beneath.



Just decked and high fence safety panels installed this restored 300 foot long 1897 steel span now will carry the trail. Originally produced by the Lafayette Bridge Company it is a Pennsylvania Truss and spanned the White River for a century near Freedom in Owen County.

As long as a football field this single span (no center support) structure had been stored near Noblesville for a decade. Conner Prairie had acquired it for their theme park and then lost their land on the west side of White River when they split with Earlham College. They were gracious to donate it to the Canal four years ago. It has taken that long to make the plans and restore the span.

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 actively asking for more help for these 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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BIKE RENTALS AND MORE!



The east end of Freedom Bridge is adorned with a Plaza the likes of this imaginative layout. This overlooks scenic Deer Creek valley and will be enjoyed by travelers looking for a respite and time for viewing the historic area and hiking the Monon Trail.

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Can you see the signs?

Official highway markings are few and far between. So an effort to alert travelers of the historic nature of Delphi and Canal Park have been temporarily aided with several banners. The notice that the four lane highway has more than one entrance to town may help visitors come in and enjoy the sights and services.



Even though these may not need the new four lane Hoosier Heartland Highway to get to maximum speed we seem to be able to attract vintage car clubs. Here Model-T Fords are on the run as they



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>>](#)

IT'S PICNIC SEASON, TOO!



[Have you seen our picnic shelters?](#) They are perfect for larger planned gatherings and can be reserved. Or, just set up at one of the tables alongside the canal like these early spring guests did.

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)

leave the Park and head for an outing along Towpath Road to Lockport in northern Carroll County.



M-W-F Crew & Project Updates



Working indoors on a rainy day the Monday-Wednesday-Friday volunteers are continuing to work on the restoration of two railroad station carts brought to us by Shirley and Bill Willard of Fulton County. When finished we will owe one completed cart back to them for display in their museum.



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!



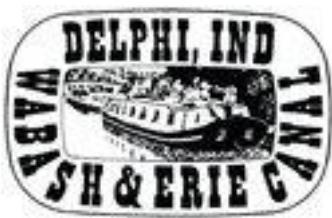
Now for the big question !! What in the world is going on here. Seems like the M-W-F crew is up to something big again.

This will become a story to follow in the ensuing months—stay tuned.



Now that the Burrows Loom House has been completed and ready for use the big loom from the Interpretive Center has been brought inside by the M-W-F crew. There will be opportunities for a guild with experienced weavers to operate this three heddle loom. Another smaller loom that was at Camden Elementary School was donated by Barbara McCain several years ago and it too has found its place in the Loom House.

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