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## FEBRUARY 2018

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

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In the January and February period the Canal Museum is closed to the public. This is giving our Monday-Wednesday-Friday volunteers time to make repairs to our many galleries and exhibits. Here Tom Peters, Al Auffart and Mac Carlisle are fixing this "Canal Builder's Tools" interactive exhibit.



**Mid-winter at the Wabash & Erie Canal is a good time for cleaning, painting and planning for the return of our thousands of visitors!**



A big decision to change lighting fixtures in the conference room netted the purchase and installation of LED panels and bulbs to replace ALL the florescent and incandescent fixtures. Electric service charges will be substantially reduced. And with the repainting of all surfaces and the replacement of the carpet will update this very popular and attractive fifteen-year-old facility.

Another interactive exhibit needing some tightening and adjustment is the Lime Kiln. Children are excited about learning how limestone chunks (depicted by the white balls) are elevated to the top of the model kiln where they would be heated and converted to powder and become plaster, mortar and whitewash. These were important Delphi products being produced and shipped on the Canal.



In January a visit by the original museum designer Len Mysliwiec was a welcome site. Len made the detailed plans for the dozen galleries of the Interpretive Center (2001-2003). They are exciting and well visited by incorporating five factors Len skillfully used: Color, Shape, Pattern, Texture and Story. The interactive displays incorporate history and captivate the minds of children and adults alike. Here Len works with Gary Stanley, Vice President for Administration on planning the newest potential display. A new exhibit will allow us to incorporate the model canal boat with loading and weighing facilities and illustrate how transit tolls were



Steve Busch paints a narrow window at the back of the conference room. These unique windows were built into our 1850s looking Canal Center and were patterned after buildings that were downtown Delphi at that time. The Canal Association wants to keep this architectural distinction in the process of redecorating our prime rental space often reserved for wedding receptions, reunions and business meetings. Interested in having an event??

Contact Jami Ade

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determined and paid. Many of the exhibits have been sponsored by individuals and organizations over the years since the Center opened in 2003. A year later the Canal Association won a coveted national award for “the best new volunteer driven museum in the United States” that year.

**Become a Member Today!**



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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**We are making a visit through our collections easier....**



As the archives crew develop collections they are publishing them online. Our collections are accessible at the following address. <http://wabashanderiecanal.pastperfectonline.com>



The options for viewing the collection include a look through random images. Click on the link associated with a photo and it will take you to the items record page.



2017 was our Charter Year for welcoming the first of our **468 Mile Club** members who joined by donating \$468. This is an annual membership that represents the 468 miles that the original Wabash & Erie Canal ran from Toledo, Ohio to Evansville, Indiana. For our “annual operations budget” we use this money to keep the exhibits fresh, for upkeep of our building AND for utility expenses. We would appreciate having you as a current year 468 Mile Club member. Contact [admin@canalcenter.org](mailto:admin@canalcenter.org) for more information.

### Looking for a Wedding Venue?

Check out...  
"The Little White Church along the Canal"



Another way to view the collections is by using the search function. Using the advanced search you can bring up one of the three collections we have online. They are the Matthew Sterling, Case Reed House, and Petry collections.



When you see the “Send Feedback” link click it to open this window. We welcome any comments you may have on our published collections.

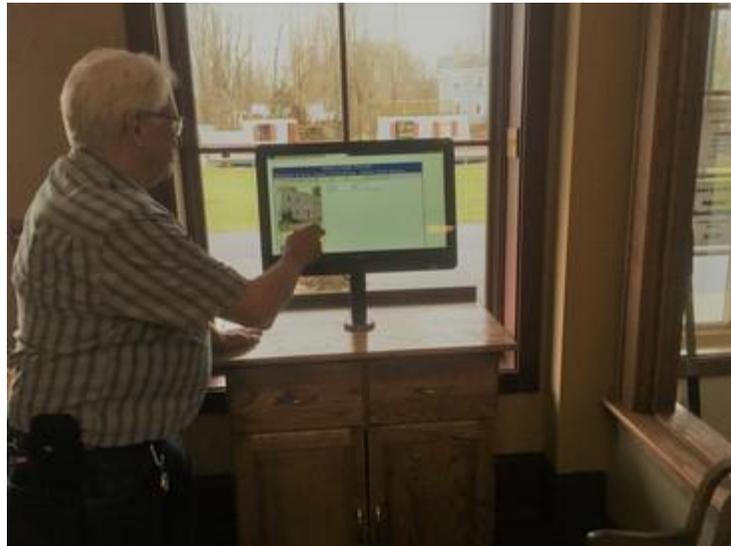
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**The Wabash & Erie Canal  
E-Newsletter  
is brought to you by:**



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

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Another way to view our electronic collections is stop by the Canal Interpretive Center and use our Kiosk in the lobby. You can roam through the collections to your hearts content.

The kiosk has a touch screen computer mounted on the cabinet. Just touch the link on the screen for the collection, or item, you want to view.



All this came about from a mini-grant from the Indiana Historical Society and the volunteers from the canal and archives.

Would you like to volunteer to work with the archives team?

Contact Gary Stanley at [garystanley1@frontier.com](mailto:garystanley1@frontier.com)

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