

# New Eddies in the Current

The Newsletter of the Delphos Canal Commission

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## Summer Review



Whew! We finally cleaned the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor storage room and dismantled all the shelving. Most of the items were from the early days of the Canal Commission before the purchase of the old Grant Store where most of our collection is housed now. The Kiwanis K-Kids and K of C Squires helped carry boxes and boxes and more boxes. A new home was found for everything. This move was done because our 3<sup>rd</sup> floor renter needed more room for her business, but it will also make it more convenient for us since everything is now stored on the second floor and organized by category, making it easier to find.

Our log cabin and barn on the second floor have a new look and signage which has been geared for grade school children but informational to everyone.



Outdoor projects included “spiffing” up the back of our building. New doors were installed, everything was given a fresh coat of paint, old telephone wires were removed, and a new sign was installed above the door. In addition, several our trustees and other volunteers gave our roof a new coat of tar. Needless to say, it was a messy job.

## Canal Commission German-Style Dinner

Brats – Kraut – Hot German Potato Salad -- Green Beans – Roll –Dessert

Sunday, October 7, 2012

11 am to 1 pm

*Carryouts only...Pick-up behind Museum in parking lot*

**\$7.00 – Presale Only**



## **WHAT'S OLD THAT'S NEW AT THE MUSEUM by Betty McKowen**

We recently acquired approximately 20 binders of pictures, most of which cover the history of the public school system, from Betty Schmelzer. These are available for anyone to enjoy. They may not be taken out of the museum, but we can make copies. Please come in to enjoy any of the following:

History of the Delphos Schools 1875-1930  
Franklin School After the Fire 1939  
New Franklin 1962  
Franklin Elementary 1979-2012  
Garfield School  
Delphos Area Country Schools  
Delphos Jefferson Wildcats – All the Way  
Delphos Commencements  
Gone but Not Forgotten  
Those Students Who Have Served Our Country  
Delphos Veterans –My Home Town  
Marbletown History – My Home Town



Also received were many issues of “The ReEcho,” which is the school newspaper.

October 1929 -- May 1932  
November 1938 – April 1947  
September 1952 –November 1954  
January 1955 –December 1956  
January 1957 –December 1958  
January 1959 – May 1973  
September 1987 –October 1995

### **Summer Visitors**

We continue to get visitors from all over. This summer we have had out of state people from Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Utah, Delaware, California, and Texas. Within Ohio, some of the cities listed on our register are West Liberty, Cincinnati, Wauseon, Medina, Beavercreek, Gibsonburg, Edgerton, Fremont, Alliance, Rossburg, Hilliard, Columbus, Perrysburg, Moline, Rossford, Galloway, New Bavaria, Middle Point, Fort Jennings, Ottoville, Celina, Wapakoneta, St. Mary's, Elida, Lima, Continental, Van Wert, and Kalida.

Included in the out of state list were members of the Lincoln Highway Association who were welcomed to the museum before their pre-tour to Canton, Ohio, for the LHA 20<sup>th</sup> Convention. The pre-tour, led by Mike Hocker of Galion, started at Lock 24 and then followed Route 309 through Lima, Kenton, and Marion. This was the “other” route that was being considered when the Lincoln Highway was first being established in 1913.



## **Back to School**



In keeping with our mission to educate, an outreach program will be offered to area schools this fall by Marie Miller who comes with very high credentials. With a Master's Degree in education and over 35 years of experience, she is presently serving as University Mentor for student teachers and methods students in the College of Education at Bowling Green State University. She will work closely with Ohio Academic Content Standards in presenting local and state history to local school children.

## **Our Web Page and Facebook**

This aerial of Stadium Park, taken in the late 1940's, is just one of nearly 1000 pictures we have posted on Facebook. Please check them out and make comments or add information if you would like.

Go to [www.delphoscanalcommission.com](http://www.delphoscanalcommission.com) and click on the Facebook link. Then click on "photos" to see all the different albums.

The other 2 pictures are also at Stadium Park. Note the white block building in the lower left corner of the aerial is the same building shown in the picture on the left.





## **Meet the Trustees...Steve Dorsten**

After 38+ years in the State of Ohio Canal Lands Program, Steve retired October 31, 2011. Starting July 1973 as a laborer he worked his way through the ranks to canal lands manager.

Married to Sandy for 34, years they have two sons, a daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren. Steve is a lifelong resident of the Grand Lake area and attended Celina public school and Wright State University Lake Campus.

During his employment at the State of Ohio he partnered with many organizations and events. Steve has always seen the value of all the organizations in the canal corridor and believes they are a driving force in making the canal system a vital resource and asset to communities. His love of history and outdoors, in particular the Miami and Erie Canal, has brought him to become a board member of The Miami and Erie Canal Corridor Association, The Johnston Farm and Indian Agency, Franklin Township Green Space Committee (south side of Grand Lake) and now The Delphos Canal Commission. He is also a canal volunteer for the Grand Lake State Park.

Steve and Sandy continue to assist and participate in canal corridor events such as Walk with Nature, National Trails Day, canal cleanups, historical tours, and presentations.

Steve's expertise will be invaluable and we are happy to have him aboard.

## **Boatman's Breakaway a Gala Event**

Many people were responsible for the success of the first Boatman's Breakaway held in the museum last spring. Baked to Perfection made a cake which was a replica of the Marguerite and which tasted as good as it looked. Pete and Mary Hofmann cooked a delicious buffet meal and the youth group from Trinity United Methodist Church were on hand to assist with serving and bussing tables.



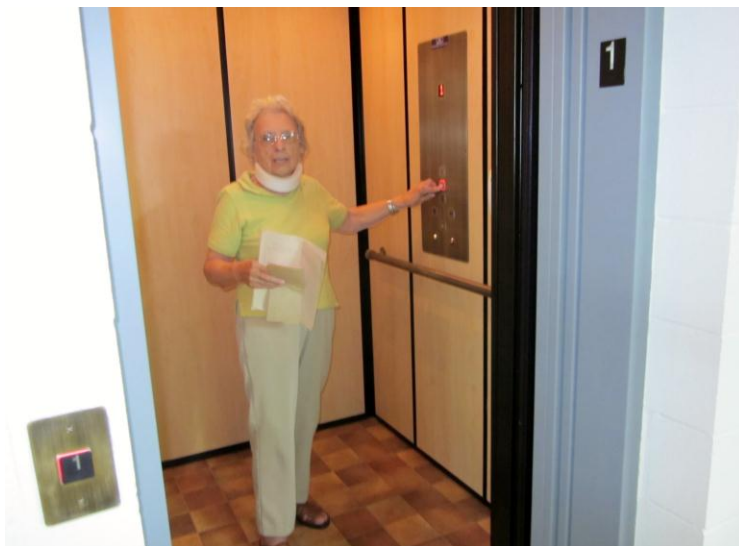
Julibee Winery furnished liquid refreshments while Bob Ulm provided dinner music during the evening playing our newly refurbished player piano. Tables and chairs for the event were donated by Ace Hardware.

## Elevator

At long last our elevator is finished! It took 2 state inspections, but it is now fully operational. For our patrons it means access to the basement and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor displays if our stairs are too challenging. For us it means no more lugging heavy objects up and down stairs. Well, most of the time! It's not a very big elevator.

It has been a real odyssey...starting several years ago with putting a door between the 2 buildings on the second floor, then adding a new set of stairs at the front of the building, 2 handicap accessible restrooms, a second set of stairs at the rear of the building and finally, the elevator. In between there was a lot of blood, sweat and tears as displays had to be moved to a new location or stored, messes had to be cleaned up, etc. Through the whole "mess" we remained open and visitors were very understanding of the chaos.

To save money, work was done by trustees and volunteers when possible, but much of it had to be done by contractors. An appreciation luncheon for businesses that helped us complete our many renovations over the past several years was held in June. Attendees



included members of the Arnold Dienstberger Foundation and the Canal Days committee for their generous monetary donations, Grothouse Plumbing and Heating, Lehmann's Furniture, Luersman Brothers Home Improvement, Mark Geier and Sons, Midwest Accessibility, Pohlman Builders, Razinger & Associates Architects, Rural Machine & Iron Works, and Schwinnen Electric, and Wannemacher Masonry. Most of these are local contractors.

Shown here are the interior of the elevator at the first floor and the entrances on the second floor and the basement.



## **A Look Back by Linda Baker**

Although the Delphos Canal Commission has only been around for about 25 years, there are a lot of people who helped pave the way. John Wahmhoff, a druggist in Delphos, began collecting historical artifacts from people in the early 1900's. He soon ran out of storage space and realized it was time to start a museum. He found the space for it in the Public Library basement and formed the first Delphos Historical Society in 1915.

Wahmhoff died in the 1930's, about the same time the library said they needed the basement space for themselves, so the items were stored in various places, suffering from fires, water damage, breakage and pillage every time they had to be moved. In 1974, probably motivated by the country's upcoming bicentennial and by the fact that the public library had built on a new addition and offered what was the old Carnegie Library for a museum, an energetic group formed to reactivate the historical society and the museum. The trustees elected in 1976-77

were Bob Holdgreve, Joan Belt, Jackie Cohen, Gene Williams, Dick Schwinnen, Ray Schuck, Eileen Nichols, Helen Schweiterman, and Ann Schwinnen. Others involved included Donna Holdgreve, Helen Kaverman, Leah Hohenbrink, Marie Myers, Leslie Peltier, Janet Endsley, Marie Grothouse, Mabel Rogers, Polly Conlon, Helen Rozelle, Mel Westrich and Margaret Cauble. Later trustees included Dorothea Peltier, Darlene Kemper, George Bilbrey, Nancy Rose and Ron Leonhart. This historical society museum was very active through the 1980's, but by 1995 Bob Holdgreve was the only original member still active.



Meanwhile, across the canal, a group of boys found the remains of a boat named the Marguerite and a new group formed...The Delphos Canal Commission. In 1992 the Commission purchased its first major property, the old Commercial Bank building, and began setting up displays. Early in 1994 the Delphos Historical Association collections were brought to the Museum Center where they were exhibited along with a reproduction log house and restored 1846 hewn barn. With the move, all of Delphos' rich history could be viewed in a single complex. In 1999 the two groups merged.

It soon became evident that more space was needed and early in 1996 the vacated Sundry Store (the old Grant store) next door was purchased. Within 6 years (2002), thanks to the generous donations of many people, the first floor and basement of this building became crowded and plans began to form for opening the second floor and installing a new elevator in the old shaft that existed.

Today there is a door connecting the two buildings on the second floor, new stairs have been built, and the elevator is up and running. The exhibits have been reorganized with plenty of room for the Marguerite so she can finally have the home she deserves.