

New Eddies in the Current

The Newsletter of the Delphos Canal Commission

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In Memorium

In less than a year's time we have lost another friend and fellow trustee. Betty McKowen passed away on January 25, 2014, after several months illness. Betty began her tenure at the museum following her retirement from the Commercial Bank. She served as archivist and was our go-to person for the history of early Delphos and its first families. Betty was always ready to man the museum for special events like Canal Days and Hometown Christmas. The Christmas Tree Festival was one of her favorite museum events. She worked tirelessly to help with any project the Museum undertook. Our sympathies go to her family.



BOATMAN'S BREAKAWAY BENEFIT DINNER

Date: Sunday, March 23, 2014 - 5:30 PM

Location: K of C Hall, 1011 Elida Ave.; Delphos, OH

Cost: \$25.00 per person, by presale only. There will be a cash bar.

Please contact Marilyn Wagner at 419-692-4496 for reservations.

Guest speaker for the evening will be Preston Bartlett presenting "South of the Summit: Loramie to Cincy". Preston is an avid day hiker and is a member of both the Buckeye Trails and the Dayton Hikers. He will give us inspiration on what a trail along our section of the canal could be.

Busy, Busy, Busy

Since the last newsletter, much has happened. September brought Canal Days. We were open Friday night, all day Saturday, and Sunday after the parade. Some demonstrations and hands-on activities were available on Saturday. To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Lincoln Highway, we entered Teman's old Sear's car in the parade with the theme "Cruisin' the Lincoln Highway."



Steve and Sandy Dorsten, Kay Ahten and Bob Ebbeskotte prepare our Canal Days float. Tom and Marie Miller dress in costume to ride in the parade.



In October we had our annual German Dinner which earned us about \$800.

Then it was tree time. We started in late October setting up Christmas trees for our Saturday after Thanksgiving opening. This year we again had a little over 100 trees. The work hours involved are huge. It takes a lot of volunteers.

The Christmas Tree festival drew a big crowd this year. Below are pictures of the first graders from Franklin Elementary and part of the many, many visitors we had during the Kiwanis Hometown Christmas event when we served cookies and hot apple cider provided by trustees Dorothy and Elmer Hoffman and Mike and Barb Miller.



While the Christmas trees were out of the storage room, we took the opportunity to add more shelves and reorganize it. Dorothy managed to mix work with play to make the job more fun.



and insulation were removed. New LED light fixtures are being installed to replace the old fluorescent. LED lights were chosen for their energy efficiency and LED light does not degrade the paper and cloth displays like fluorescent. Once completed the long awaited canal boat Marguerite remnants will be set up to greet all incoming visitors.



Thanks to the carpentry skills of Dave Burnett and the painting skills of Kay Ahten, we now have a new sign to roll out signifying we are open. The old one kept getting blown over so the new one has a wider

base and larger wheels. Dave even put a handle on it!

Display cases were moved and scaffolding installed to allow electricians to install electrical conduit and outlet boxes in preparation for new lighting fixtures. Next sheets and sheets of plastic were brought in to cover all the displays and flooring. Painter's then came in to paint the original tin ceiling that was exposed last summer when the suspended ceiling

The second floor has not been neglected. A plank was attached to the brick wall so we could display pictures and memorabilia pertaining to entertainment, including the Capitol Theater, Opera House, and Neely Edwards, a silent movie star who was born Cornelius Limbach in Delphos in 1883. The brick wall is very old and we did not want to put too many holes in it.



Volunteer Day

The Delphos Canal Commission sent out a call for volunteers to participate in a canal cleanup project. Ten people answered the call and braved single digit wind chill and a frozen canal on December 30 and 31 to clear trees and brush between Cleveland Street and the Railroad and North of Clime Street behind the Annex. Trees were removed and chipped from the west bank or towpath. Assistance was provided by the Grand Lake St. Marys State Park Canal Land program that provided an employee and chipper to be used along side the canal commission's chipper. The Delphos Canal Commission continues to sponsor such events to improve, enhance the canal corridor in Delphos and prepare the towpath for future improvements.



Another clean-up will be scheduled soon to finish the south end job. And of course, we will have our regular clean-ups in June and September.

Winter Hikes

Sam Bonifas led a group of 15 on a hike along the canal from the museum north to Jennings Creek on January 1. On February 2 another hike was taken to the south. When they returned to the museum Teresa Bradstock had hot chocolate and cookies waiting.

Sam is a Canal Commission member as well as a board member of MECCA. He also belongs to the Buckeye Trail Association where he is the Delphos Section Supervisor, working with others to keep the trail along the canal cleared. He was the first president of the Harbor View Museum in Oregon, OH. He leads hikes and is very helpful to hikers passing through our area.

Meet the Trustee

Bob Ebbeskotte is our newest trustee. Bob grew up on a farm just outside of Delphos and in 1981 graduated from Delphos St. John's. In 1984 he received an associate's degree from The Ohio State University in greenhouse management and is currently greenhouse grower at Indian Trail Garden Center in Columbus Grove. He is active with the Delphos St. John's Alumni Association, Hall of Fame, Athletic Boosters and Parish Maintenance Committee. He also serves on the board of the Museum of Postal History. He is passionate about local history and preserving and sharing it with others. He has agreed to become editor of *The New Eddies in the Current* so you will be seeing some changes in the next issue.

Our Beautiful Downtown



Although this picture has been on Facebook and the front page of the *Lima News*, there are probably some who didn't see it. The photo was taken by one of our members, Arnita Yoder, a math teacher at Jefferson High School, and enhanced by one of her former students, Lindsay Kehres. It gives a very magical view of Main Street looking north.



We joined the Ohio Local History Alliance in November. This group is a division of the Ohio Historical Society and holds regional conferences yearly as well as a state-wide conference. We hope to learn a lot from the alliance which includes professional museum personnel as well as volunteers like us.

BRRR!!!

We recently received this picture of Lang's Elevator. It was taken in January, 1917, when corn was 8 cents a bushel, and notes the temperature is zero. Fred Osting, Fred Elwer, and F. Suever are identified. Delphos Monument on First Street is now located on this site. That's the old Diesel-Wemmer cigar factory in the background. I'm sure there are other old photos out there that could be shared.



We also joined the Lincoln Highway Historic Byway. The number of people traveling the Lincoln Highway is growing and this group, which is responsible for the Lincoln Buy-Way garage sale, will help promote our museum and Delphos.



What's Old that's New



Found in the basement of the old Commercial Bank Building, now part of our museum, this clock was used by a security guard as part of his daily patrol. When a station key was turned, an embossed impression made on a preprinted paper dial within the clock would record the location and time, thus providing a record of the time a watchman visited checkpoints. A plate on the inside states that the next time the clock needed oiled was July of 1947.



We aren't sure what it is, but we know it is old. Charley Sheeter took over the Opera House from his brother from 1897 to 1912. Kenny Wiegung donated this Opera House Saloon and Restaurant item and thought it might be a lens case or a coin purse.



We are always happy to receive items that say "Made in Delphos." This mechanic's creeper is one such item. Huffman Mfg was established in Dayton in 1924 to produce bicycles. They opened an automotive division in Delphos in 1951 and changed their name to Heffy in the mid-1970's. Huffman in Delphos was sold to KP Industries in 1982. James Pohlman donated this item.



The Ladies Auxiliary of the Eagles recently gave us one of the uniforms worn by their drill team which won several national and state titles in past years

We have also received Cub Scout and Boy Scout uniforms and miscellaneous accessories from Gregg and Naomi Neth so we are working on a Boy Scout display to go with the one we have for Girl Scouts.