

# New Eddies in the Current

The Newsletter of the Delphos Canal Commission

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## THE WAR TO END ALL WARS

A little over one month ago, on July 28, 2014, the world commemorated the anniversary of the start of World War I. It was on this date in Sarajevo, Bosnia that Gavril Princip assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie sparking a war that would cost more than fifteen million lives including more than 116,000 Americans and change the map of the world forever.

The Canal Commission Museum includes a number of items from the Great War in its military collection. Perhaps the most intriguing is a poster listing the names of all local men who were serving in the military. The poster, which was displayed in the front window of the Delphos Hardware (now ACE Hardware), listed the names of all men from Delphos and the surrounding area. Their status in the military was indicated with a blue pin indicating in camp in the United States, red pin meaning serving overseas and gold star indicating the soldier has been killed in the war. Check it out on your next visit to the museum and see if you have a family member on that list.

Also on display are a number of recruitment posters published by the United States government. These posters encouraged young men to enlist and prompted civilians to buy War Bonds to support the war effort. The posters celebrating War Bonds seemed to be particularly effective locally as Delphos led the country in the purchase of war bonds, known as Liberty Bonds, being the first city in the United States to oversubscribe their quote in October 1917.



*Just a few of the WWI posters on display at the Canal Commission Museum*

The World War I display also features a German machine gun. The gun, manufactured in Berlin, Germany, was brought back to Delphos at the conclusion of the war as a souvenir.



*German made WWI machine gun*

## The Marguerite Prepares to Dock Again in Delphos

When the Miami and Erie Canal was shut down for the final time in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the last canal boat in Delphos, the Marguerite, was permanently moored on the east bank of the canal south of First Street. In the 1920's the Marguerite burned to the waterline and her remains sank into the soft mud of the canal floor. The remains rested quietly on the bottom of the canal until the summer of 1987. At that time large planks were discovered in the canal bed during routine dredging. A local youth group, the Columbian Squires, under the tutelage of Fr. Chris Vasko, took on the task of excavating the site and removing any artifacts discovered. The more than 100 year old wooden hull of the Marguerite was carefully removed from the mud, preserved and safely stored away in a local barn.

Jump ahead to the summer of 2012. After a generation in storage, the remains of the Marguerite journeyed once again to downtown Delphos as the planks and timbers were brought to their new home in the Canal Commission Museum. In the ensuing months Commission trustees and volunteers have spent numerous hours planning and constructing the new exhibit displaying the Marguerite. Canal Commission President Lou Hohman explained the goal was to place the remains in the same position as they were recovered from the canal, although space issues dictated that some of the bottom planks had to be overlapped. Vice President Steve Dorsten explained further that the goal of the exhibit is to allow the visitor to experience the size and design of an actual canal boat. The Marguerite will also appear to be preparing to



*The Marguerite exhibit takes shape with the construction of the “deck” and addition of canal history panels and Lock 24 mural.*

“lock through” as it heads into a mural of Lock 24 skillfully painted by Kay Ahten. An added bonus to the exhibit is a series of panels on the Miami and Erie Canal donated by the Miami Erie Canal Corridor Association. They were mounted on the wall next to the Marguerite and explain the history and workings of the canal. The exhibit is undergoing final touches and will be ready for viewing during the upcoming Canal Days.

A grand christening of the new Marguerite exhibit will be held on October 12. Watch your local media for more information.

## Christmas Tree Festival

The Canal Commissions annual Christmas Tree Festival will once again be held, beginning November 29. As an added attraction to this year’s festival we are including a Nativity Scene exhibit. The Museum has a few, old Nativity Scenes to display but we’d like to invite YOU to share your Nativity Scene. It doesn’t have to be old, expensive or even store bought, just the Nativity Scene that your family displays for Christmas. The Scenes will be displayed for only one weekend and will be displayed safely behind roping with extra security. If you’d like to share your family’s heritage with us, please contact any Canal Commission Trustee.

## More Delphos History Donated to Museum



*Brooms label*



*John  
B.  
Best*

*World War I Uniform in the Military Exhibit*

The Canal Commission Museum continues to work to preserve the history of Delphos and the surrounding area. We constantly receive donations of items representing the history of Delphos. In 2014 some of the items we've received include two menus from the Cozy Ice Cream Parlor, a Lincoln Highway milk can, a World War I military uniform, labels from the John Best broom company and a program from Schiller Hall among nearly fifty items donated as of August 1.

If you'd like to donate an item please contact the Canal Commission. If you have photos or videos you'd like to share but not donate we can handle that, as well. We can scan your photos or transfer your video to DVD, add them to the Museum archives and return the originals to you.



## New Friends

We met some new friends at the Museum this summer. These enthusiastic youngsters stopped in one Saturday afternoon excited to see what the Museum held. Their most favorite items were the typewriters and the player piano. Each got their turn pumping some WWI era favorites out of the player piano. Their last question before they left was, "How do we volunteer!!"

## Annual German Dinner

The Canal Commissions annual German Dinner will be held October 5. This delicious meal will contain the usual German fare: brats and 'kraut, hot German potato salad, applesauce, roll and dessert. Tickets for the carry-out only dinners are only \$8 and can be obtained at the Museum or from any Canal Commission trustee. Meals will be available for pickup from 11:00am-1:00pm behind the Museum.

## George Kihm and the Delphos Reds

Earlier this spring we highlighted deaf-mute baseball player George Kihm in our monthly On The Banks of Yesteryear feature in the Delphos Herald. One source of information for the article came from Delphos native Martha (Stallkamp) Kihm, George Kihm's daughter-in-law. Martha, who passed away at 100 on April 22, and her son Dave, provided us with copies of newspaper articles and photos, all of which they later donated to the museum. Included in the donation was a photo of George in his Columbus Senators uniform, a tribute from a Columbus newspaper and a photo of George's teammate on the Delphos Reds, Romer Grey, brother of Zane Grey.



*George Kihm, far left, and some of his Columbus Senators teammates*

## Meet the Trustee

Kelly North grew up in St. Louis, Missouri and graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in business. After a short stint in sales and support at a food broker, she then worked in Human Resources for ten years. She now works as a stay-at-home mom.

In between running her children to their various activities, she volunteers at school, her church, Girl Scouts and, of course, at the Delphos Canal Commission. Her interests include reading, travel, hiking, birding, photography and history. Even though she is not a Delphos native, she enjoys the history of Delphos and the Miami & Erie Canal.

Kelly moved to Delphos in 1996 with her husband, Andy. They have two daughters, Audrey, 12, and Elyse, 9, one dog, Baxter, and one turtle, Franklin.

From the Archives



*A stereoscope view of the Lytle Block, built in 1870 where the old Commercial Bank building stands today*



*Stadium Park swimming pool and football stadium, built by the WPA in 1940*

# Delphos Canal Commission

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## New Delphos Canal Commission Shirts Available



New shirts are available at the Museum! Children and adult sizes in a variety of colors. They start at only \$10!

Visit our Museum store for other neat, history-related items including playing cards, books, hats, etc... Proceeds from your purchases support your Museum.