

# New Eddies in the Current

The Newsletter of the Delphos Canal Commission

Volume 19

September 2009

## What's Old That's New at the Museum by Betty McKowen, Archivist

Our trustee, Pete Hofmann, donated a steam era rail jack which was used by the railroad companies when it became necessary to replace railroad ties. This rail jack could be used to lift the rails and hold them long enough for the old ties to be pulled out and the ties installed. Thanks Pete.



Ruth Michael, our faithful member and volunteer, brought in a dozen large wooden pegs. These were used in the construction of barns to hold the timbers together. This method was used before metal spikes were available. We estimate that these were used for many, many years—probably from early 1800 to approximately 1930. Bring in the youngsters in your family. See if you can convince them that they really did hold up the barn.



Our great supporters and members, John and Linda Bruce, once again sent articles from Linda's ancestors who owned the Newton Mop Factory in Delphos. Wall-[mounted Liberty Dinner Chimes were marketed as luxury items and hung in the Newton home at 328 West Third Street in Delphos. They also contributed a dress that was worn by Mr. Newton as a small child in an era when very little boys also wore dresses. Would the boys in your family believe that boys actually wore such a thing?

## **Meet the New Trustee**

Our latest addition to the board is Jim Brokamp, who moved to Delphos in 1980 and lives in the house his grandparents built in the early 1920's. He has a BS degree in Business Management from Findlay College as well as an Associate degree in Marketing from Rhodes State College.

He presently is in his 10<sup>th</sup> year at Husky Lima Refinery in Process Operations and before that he worked at Kill Brothers in Delphos for 27 years.

Jim's interests include travel and history. He recently hiked the Grand Canyon and went hot air ballooning over the Sonoran Desert. His love of history has led to his collecting, researching, and cataloging merchant tokens of Ohio for the past 40 years. He has been a major contributor to the book "Ohio Merchant Tokens" and received 2 literary awards for published articles.

We are looking forward to his contributions to this newsletter on occasion as well as to his expertise on the history of our local and area merchants.

## **Renovation Update**



Our building renovation is moving very slowly but progress is being made. The restrooms are completed and have received many compliments. The dry-wallers are presently enclosing the new staircase at the front of the building. This has to be completely fireproof and must pass inspection by state officials. Preparations are now being made to tear out the old restrooms and basement stairs so work can begin on the second set of stairs to the basement. We have to have 2 fire exits from the basement and from the second floor. Luckily we can use the fire escape at the back of the old Commercial Bank building for the second floor exit. When all that is completed, we can begin work on the lift (elevator) which is what started this whole project.

## **Eagle Scout Projects**

We now have our own web page, thanks to Mike Truesdale, Troop 45.. The address is: [www.delphoscanalcommission.com](http://www.delphoscanalcommission.com).

Another scout, Brion Wreede, from Troop 42 built a brick forge which will be part of a blacksmith exhibit in the museum.

We are so fortunate to have such talented and dedicated youth in our community.



# *Friends and Volunteers*

## Open-House Fund Raiser

A big thank you to Bob and Sue Looker who so graciously opened their home for tours on April 5. Around 200 people took advantage of this chance to see the beautiful renovations the Bookers made to the house. Many thanks also to Arnie and Jill Mohler of A & J Woodworking, and to Touch of Nature and Flowers on Fifth for donating door prizes and raffle items.



## School Groups

We always have several local school groups tour the museum in May. This year, we also had 200 fourth graders from Shawnee in one day; half in the morning and the other half in the afternoon. We are very thankful for the volunteers who assisted us in making this and all the “big” tours a learning experience for the students.

## Lincoln Highway Sale



We cannot give enough thanks to those of you who helped with the Lincoln Highway garage sale, either by donating items or by physically helping. This is a very labor intensive project...pricing, carrying, hauling and setting up tables, displaying merchandise, etc. And when it's over, packing up unsold merchandise, taking down tables...you get the picture. We raised almost \$500.00.

Brenda Hoersten again donated the use of her building, Kreative Learning, on 5<sup>th</sup> Street which is the historic Lincoln Highway. Thanks, Brenda.

Can you identify the business and location of each picture?

(Hint: they all had to do with food.)



Give up? Call or visit the museum for answers.

## For Your Information

The State Library of Ohio and Ohio Historical Society have launched the Ohio Memory – Next Generation website ([www.ohiomemory.org](http://www.ohiomemory.org)). The website, a redesign of the Ohio Memory project, features 75,000 historical images and information from 330 archives, historical societies, libraries and museums.

“People are used to one-stop shopping and retrieval of information. The new website allows users to find documents, portraits, and photographs on any given subject quickly and

Jo Budler. “It is wonderful

Ohio Historical Society

collections to a new and

“We are beginning to scan

Ohio state government

scanning annual reports

1900s. Current titles include: *Annual Report of the Ohio Soldiers’ and Sailors*

*Orphans’ Home; Ohio Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb; and*

*Annual Reports of Longview Hospital,”* said Jim Buchman, head of Patron &

Catalog Services at the State Library of Ohio. “These publications include rosters

of individuals and will be of interest to the genealogy community.” For example, a

recently scanned document is the [Known military dead during the Spanish](#)

[American War and the Philippines Insurrection, 1898-1901.](#)



easily,” said State Librarian

that our partnership with the

allowed us to move our

improved platform.”

print materials from our rare

collection. The staff is

from the 1800s to early

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## Delphos Canal Commission Membership/Donation Form

**YES! I want to become a member of the Delphos Canal Commission**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Support Level:**

Individual \$20     Family \$30     Student or Senior \$10     Sustaining \$125

Patron  \$250

I am interested in making an endowment gift; please contact me.

**I can help with the following volunteer tasks; please contact me:**

Newsletter     Special Events     Trustee     Carpentry/work party

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Every member counts. Thank you for your support!

Please mail this form and your payment to:

Delphos Canal Commission

PO Box 256

Delphos, OH 45833

**The Delphos Canal Commission is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowable by**