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NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA January 2023



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Volunteer Highlight: Rosalie Wilson

Each month, we want to highlight one of our many volunteers in recognition of

New Video Ventures



It is no secret that Canal Park has a wide variety of amazing things to see and do. Additionally, there is a ton of fascinating history to share from the Canal Era, most of which is new to our visitors! In an effort to reach more people locally and beyond, we are aiming to produce more video content for 2023. We have a few new examples to share with you, and feel free to view at your leisure!

Above is a screenshot from our recent promotional videos for group tours and school tours. These videos were made possible in part through a grant from the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, and we are grateful for their support in attracting greater tourism to our area. The [group tour video may be viewed here](#), and the [school tour video may be viewed here](#), both at our [YouTube channel](#). Please share these videos with anybody who might be interested in scheduling a school or group tour here at Canal Park!

their service and to share ways that you can get involved in our mission of preservation, education, and recreation.

This month, we'll hear from Rosalie "Rosie" Wilson.



What is your volunteer role at the Canal?

I am on the Archives Committee and work with donated items, sometimes mailing out things to donors. After the Archives Committee meets, I enter the accessions [new items] into the database. I mark the items with the appropriate number, and I have those artifacts stored or placed in the correct building or exhibit.

How many years have you been volunteering, and how did you get involved?

I am from Lafayette, loyal to Jeff High School and Purdue, and when I got married we bought a farm in Delphi. Now I live out in the country near Delphi, and this is my 17th year in Archives, which I joined at the beginning of its existence. There was a big meeting to start up an Archives Department, and David [Kelly] and I ended up



While we love hosting tours and sharing immersive history with guests, we also have a very active events venue at the Canal Center. Above is a screenshot from a recent video tour we filmed, and our goal is to show our beautiful facilities to potential clients. In addition, we can use such videos to address frequently asked questions and to share the park with people from further away!

being the two archivists. I'm not sure how that happened! He was so much fun to work with.

I actually started volunteering with the Canal about 43 years ago with my children, and we planted trees and did other outdoors projects at Canal Park. I was a leader for Cub Scouts, Brownies, 4-H, and Youth Fellowship.

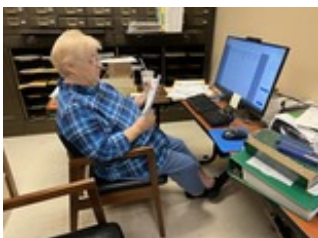


What is your favorite part of volunteering at the Canal?

I like seeing all the different things that come in. I get to research and learn the backstories of all the items donated. Some of the stories are astonishing.

Anything else you'd like to share about your volunteer experience?

I hope there are some people out there interested in joining the Archives team, because I will soon have to retire from it. I will be 85 in March. I enjoy doing Archives, and it's really fun. I would hate to see the work stop, because it's important. And with the internet, you can find all sorts of history.



In the past year, we also launched an account on TikTok, a video sharing social media platform. It offers simple, fast video editing which can then be easily exported to other platforms like Facebook. You can view any of these videos anytime without creating a TikTok account by visiting [our homepage there](#). A new series we started for 2023 is "Fast Facts Friday," where we share a tidbit of Canal Era history in a quick, easy-to-share format.

As Rosie said, we need new participants to keep the Archives Department going! If you would like more information, we can get you connected. Click the link below for more information about volunteering with us.

[VOLUNTEER TODAY!](#)

2023 Event Calendar



2023 Event Schedule

Events & Festivals		
May 6	Village & Trails Spring Cleanup Day	9-12pm
May 28	Canal Season Opening Day	1-4pm
June 18	Pioneer Village Crafters & Decorists	1-4pm
July 1	Canal Days Festival	10-4pm
Aug 13	50th Park Day in the Pioneer Village	10-4pm
Sept 9	Canal Season Closing Day	1-4pm
Oct 17	Wabash & Erie Canal Annual Meeting	7pm
Oct 21	Village & Trails Fall Cleanup Day	9-12pm
Nov 4	Walk the Trails Day in the Park	1-4pm
Nov 8	Christmas at the Canal Festival	10-4pm
Dec 24	Day After Christmas Walk guided tour	1pm
Saturdays May 20 through Sept 9		
Canal Boat Rides 1:00 & 2:00pm*		
Pioneer Village Crafters & Decorists 1-4pm		
Interpretive Museum** Reed Case House Tours** Kids Canal Playbook		
1530 N. Washington St. Delphi, IN 46123		
Closed January, February, Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day		
Lunar Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day		
*Visit www.wabashanderiecanal.org or call 765-564-2870 for details		
Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok		

There are not a lot of public events happening at the Canal right now, but you can still get excited for the new season coming your way this year!

We invite you to [visit the Events page on our website](#) to check out the 2023 calendar. There will be plenty of things to do, and Canal Season will be extended by **two weeks** this summer! That's right: every Saturday afternoon from May 20 through September 9, you can ride *The Delphi*, tour the museum and Reed Case House, and visit the Pioneer Village.

Additionally, we will still host other favorites such as Canal



As always, any new medium is merely the vehicle by which we can fulfill our true mission: education, preservation, and recreation. It is exciting to think of new viewers learning about all that Canal Park offers, spurring them to share what they have seen and learned, and bringing new faces to experience the history of Carroll County and the Wabash & Erie Canal!

Schoolhouse Fixes



A popular destination at Canal Park, especially for school groups, is the one-room schoolhouse. Over the fall, there were some maintenance items identified that required attention from the intrepid Monday-Wednesday-Friday Crew. Thanks to a generous donation from Mike and Pamela Luenz, the crew was able to replace a section of flooring that required reinforcement, plus repair several sections of roofing that had developed holes.

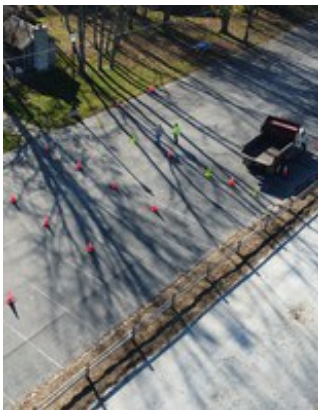
Days, Christmas at the Canal, and other monthly specials. We look forward to seeing you at the Canal this year!

Plow Training



We might be serious about preserving and sharing history, but that isn't the only way that Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal participates in community life!

Recently, we were happy to partner with the City of Delphi, offering our spacious parking lot to be used for training future snow plow drivers.



Board member (and expert driver of anything with or without wheels) Dale De Young helped organize and lead this training, and he reports that the trainees passed their tests!

If you live in Delphi or use local streets this winter, don't forget to thank City employees for their tireless



Above, you can see Mac Carlisle (right) and Brice Crowel (left) working on the new section of flooring. The crew really went the extra mile, fine-tuning the texture and stain of the new wood to match the old flooring. The new surface is much more sturdy, and we will be ready to welcome new visitors of all ages to enjoy a taste of what school was like for our forebears.



This is a key element of our mission at Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal: preserving historical structures that convey relevant Canal Era history. It is not easy to preserve these buildings, but it is vital to ensure that local history is accessible and engaging! We thank the Luenzes for this donation, and we are grateful for all the friends of the Canal who contribute annually to keep this magnificent history alive!

New Kids' Activity Book Is Here

supporter. Every little bit helps bring history alive for future generations to enjoy and learn from. We are looking to enroll 50 members in the exclusive 468 Mile Club, and we are about halfway to our goal! [You can give online at this link](#) (you can even choose to pay in smaller monthly installments), or you can [download the Supporter Form to print and mail to us at this link](#).

Did you know...?



You can hold your wedding, corporate meeting, or birthday celebration at the Canal Center?



We offer a variety of options for each different type of event. We offer free wifi and can accommodate up to 300 guests!

[Save your date today!](#)



Canal Era trivia, and it's all ready for all ages to explore.

This book is dedicated to Jim French and Roseland McCain, pioneers of Canal Park who were both passionate about serving and investing in children. We are thankful for the generous gift from our new friends, and we look forward to sharing this new opportunity to get engaged with history!

Political Ruckus: Did You Know?



Looking at today's political landscape, one might think that we have devolved into a hopeless situation where chaos and disorder reign supreme, as long as the antics can attract enough attention and make headlines. However, if we look back at accounts of 19th century politics, it might give us hope: life in the political world has always been a mess!

The account we look at today is from Ben Stuart's *History of the Wabash and Valley* (1924). In it, Stuart summarizes a late canal boat excursion from June 1874, centered around the Democratic Congressional Convention for the 9th Congressional District, held at Covington, Indiana.

One prospective candidate for election was Judge Barney Daily of Delphi. Daily organized a large group to go to the convention in Covington, and they hired a troop boat to transport them there and back. The crowd of about 75 people, including a full band, departed Franklin Street at around 11:00 AM. It was an oppressively hot day, and there was not enough alcohol on board to keep spirits high. However, people still danced and partied to the band's music as the boat crept along.

At Americus, a lumber transport boat was sitting vacant inside the lock chamber, and the party had to stop while the lumber boat's crew was located to remove their boat from blocking the way! Further on, near Lafayette, the sheriff stopped Daily's boat with attachment papers, and the group was forced to stop until a bond



For a complete list of activities please visit us at www.wabashanderiecanal.org

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could be filed to have the boat returned.

Yet further on, the poor canal boat ran aground because some "heartless Republicans" had flung open the lock gates and left them open at three different instances, which drained the canal and left it impassable. If the lock-vandals had been caught, it was hypothesized that Judge Daily would have had them sent to "Africa or some hotter place," or worse, he "would have hung every one of them."

With the boat stranded and useless, the party had to break up and find their way piecemeal the rest of the way to Covington. A small detachment was left behind to guard the boat against marauding Republicans, if that's any indication of how tense the political climate was!

By the time Judge Daily finally arrived, he and his whole group were a messy, sweaty sight, and he rescinded his name from candidacy. Instead, by Stuart's account, the convention became a free-for-all party, with plenty of eating, drinking, and lots of animated speeches.

Some took the train back home to Delphi, arriving at around 11:00PM, while others were able to get the boat home by 2:00AM, completely exhausted from the excursion. To quote one party member of the day, "It was real aggravating, but still quite diverting."

So, if this anecdote tells us anything, it's that political maneuvering is a very old practice, and perhaps some of today's vicious tactics are not quite as alarming as practices of the past!

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