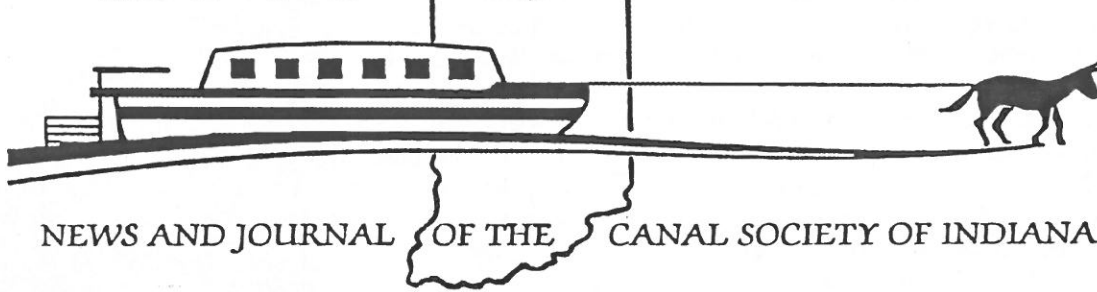


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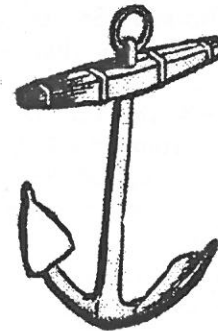
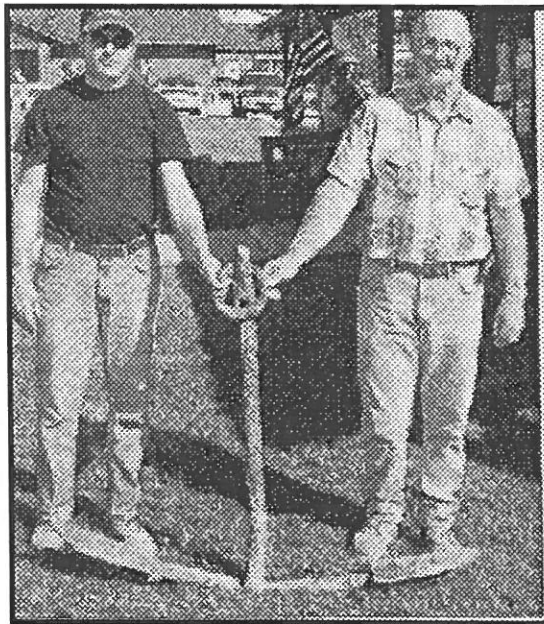
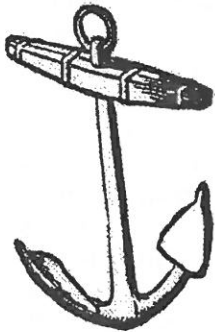
NEWS AND JOURNAL OF THE CANAL SOCIETY OF INDIANA

VOL. 2 NO. 11

P.O. BOX 40087 FORT WAYNE, IN 46804

NOVEMBER 2003

ANCHOR'S AWAY



This rusty iron anchor was found in the canal near Bloomfield in Greene County, IN by Donnie Albright (left) while excavating dirt for a drainage ditch. He and Marlin Hastings (right) are employed by the Greene County Highway Department. The anchor may 140 years old. Photo courtesy Bloomfield's *The Evening World*

Features

1. Crew Finds Anchor
3. Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site
5. GENI Publishes Maps
6. Annapolis and Its Wabash & Erie Canal Connections including Joseph G. Cannon
15. Canawlers At Rest: David Francis Comparet
18. News From Delphi - Loomis Speaks on Ohio's Canals, Youth Rescue Flood Damaged Trails

CREW FINDS ANCHOR

By Carolyn Schmidt

Anchor's away! It will likely be exhibited for the public in Greene County to increase awareness of the Wabash & Erie Canal.

A crew from the Greene County Highway Department worked along the old Wabash & Erie Canal prism at David Hill Farms off County Road 150 W, north of the Veteran's Memorial Bridge and west of Bloomfield, IN on Tuesday, September 16. Donnie Albright of Linton, IN uncovered an anchor laying flat 8 feet down in the canal near its bank while cleaning out a ditch with his excavator to drain a wet spot. Albright saw the tip of something iron sticking out of the ground. He thought it

EDITOR: CAROLYN SCHMIDT

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was an old railroad iron since the old rail bed ran on the canal towpath. Railroad iron is a common find. He needed help to remove the very long piece. He called Marlin Hastings of Bloomfield, IN, who was hauling away the excavated dirt. Hastings came to Albright's aid. The two men hoisted the rusty iron from the canal up onto the old railroad bed. They were surprised to find the iron was an anchor possibly used by a canal boat. Albright was going to take it home but the County Commissioners asked that it be displayed for the public.

The anchor is in the possession of David Hill, the property owner, who hopes to clean it up and donate it to the restored Greene County Courthouse for exhibit. He was very surprised to see that the anchor is in such good condition. It is approximately 3 ft. by 5 ft. in size, is solid iron and weighs around 100 pounds. There is an iron ring at the top through which the rope was tied. On either end of its bottom bow are spade-like pieces that are bolted on with carriage bolts and square nuts.

On Thursday September 18, Hill took the anchor to the Greene County Historical Society office to meet with Albright, reporters and Canal Society of Indiana (CSI) members Dr. Ed. Bortner from Newberry, IN; Norman Klass from Coal City, IN; and Dr. David Combs M. D. of Vincennes, IN. Bortner has studied the Greene County section and Klass the Clay County section of the Wabash & Erie Canal. Several years ago Klass raised money for two Indiana State Format Markers that were placed at the Eel River feeder dam and on the cross-cut portion of the W & E Canal in Clay County.

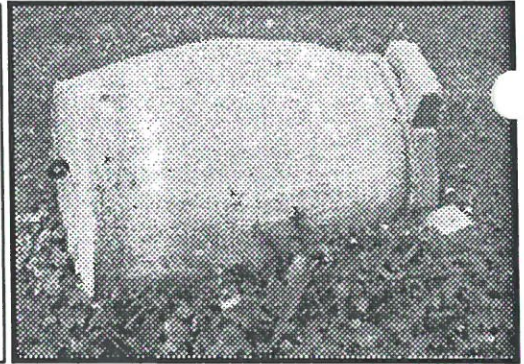
Klass said the anchor was a major find and CSI would be interested in seeing it placed on public view. He noted that canal artifacts are on display in the Indiana State Museum. In determining how old the anchor might be, he said it could be as much as 140 years old since the canal was active in Greene County from 1850-1862. As far as its value, the iron in the anchor or the anchor itself does not have much cash value as such. It is valuable because of its history.

Albright says the anchor should be owned by the county and displayed either in the courthouse or in the Greene County Historical Society's office on the courthouse square. The others also agreed that it should be displayed for all county residents to appreciate.

The historians determined that since the anchor was found by the canal bank it probably was used to anchor a canal boat. Even though Indiana's Wabash & Erie Canal was built to hold four feet of water and the boats had fairly flat bottoms, anchors were often needed in rivers or lakes. Canal boats entered the west fork of the White River near where the anchor was found to cross in the slackwater created by the dam at nearby

This anchor, found in the W & E canal at Antwerp, OH., was used like a snubbing post. The wood of the barrel has rotted away.

Photo by
Bob Schmidt



Newberry. In Antwerp, Ohio a wooden barrel was filled with bricks and concrete with a ring attached for the rope. The use of cement indicates that the anchor was made near end of the canal era in Ohio, which was later than in Indiana.

CSI headquarters was notified by both Bortner and Klass about the find. Bortner took pictures. Klass did a great job relating the history of the canal to a reporter from *The Evening World* of Bloomfield, IN. That paper and the *Linton Daily Citizen* carried articles about the men finding the anchor and the canal's history in their Friday, September 19 editions.

Ground was broken in Ft. Wayne, IN on February 22, 1832, five years after the U. S. Congress provided a land grant on March 2, 1827 to build a canal connecting the waters of Lake Erie with the Wabash River. Construction began to the west with the canal reaching Huntington in 1835, Logansport in 1838, and Lafayette in 1841. Work to the east was slower and the canal wasn't opened to Toledo, OH until 1843. Another land grant funded further digging to Terre Haute by 1849.

In the late 1840s the "Cross-Cut" canal joined the Wabash & Erie at Terre Haute to the uncompleted Central Canal route at Worthington. Later part of the Central Canal route was dug as part of the Wabash & Erie and joined in 1853 to the already completed 20 miles out of Evansville. When finished the 468-mile-long Wabash & Erie Canal was the longest canal in America.

Fort Wayne was the summit of the original canal. When the canal was extended to Evansville, a second summit of 78 feet had to be crossed by the cross-cut section between the Wabash and White Rivers. Water for the cross-cut was provided by the Eel River feeder and the Birch and Splunge Creek reservoirs. Work on the cross-cut began in 1836, was stopped in 1839, and was completed in 1850 as part of the Wabash & Erie Canal.

By 1862, sections of the canal below Terre Haute were closed. Little by little the canal diminished northward until it was finally auctioned off in 1876 by the canal trustees.

PLAQUEMINE LOCK STATE HISTORIC SITE

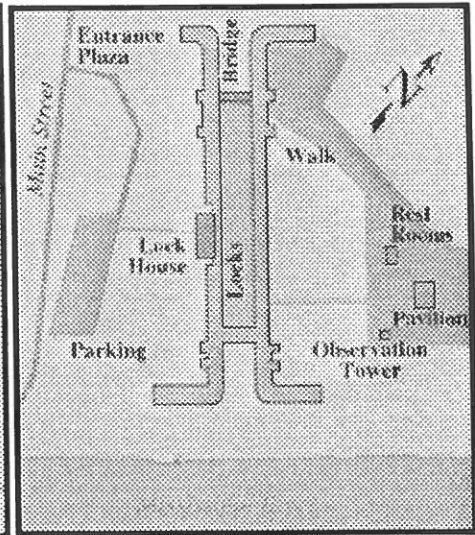
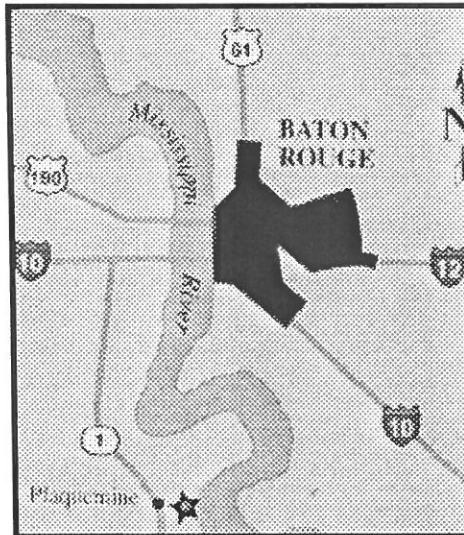
By Sue Simerman

Are you planning a trip to New Orleans sometime in the future? If so, please do not miss the opportunity to visit Plaquemine Lock. It is located at Plaquemine, Louisiana on the West side of the Mississippi River, southwest of Baton Rouge. My husband Steve and I feel very fortunate to have seen it since the town had a strong support group that wished to destroy this site in order to put through a new four lane highway.

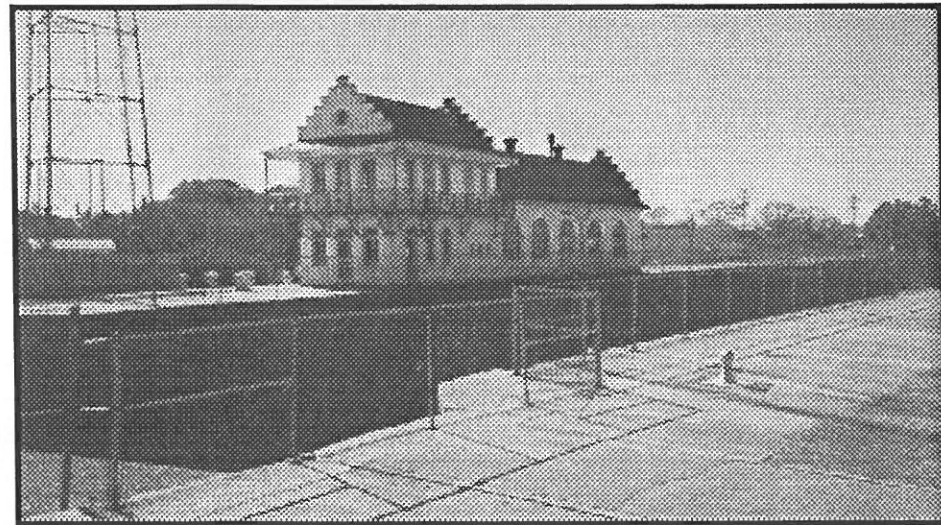
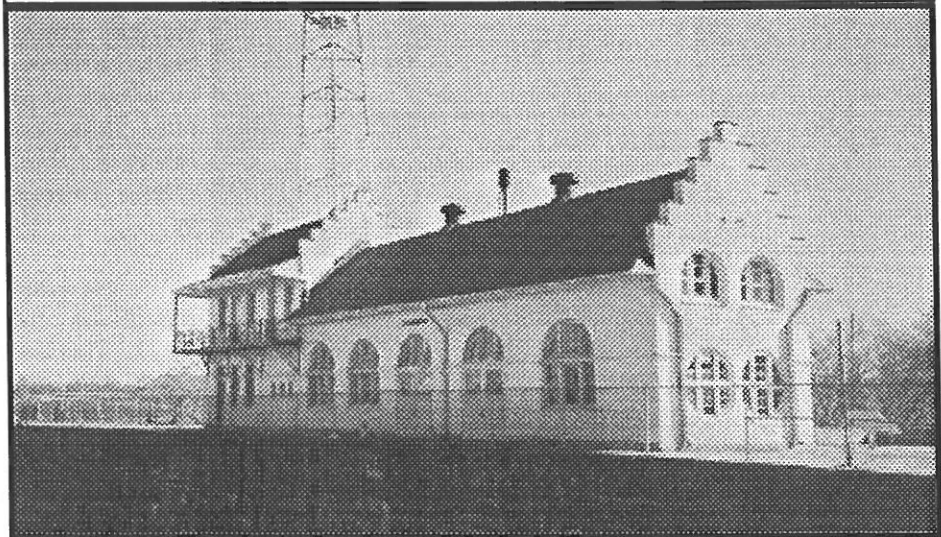
Gary James Hebert, of the newspaper, was instrumental in proposing an alternate route for the road and for saving the lock site. For his efforts he was honored with the lockhouse being called the Gary James Hebert Memorial Lockhouse. Today, it is the visitor center and museum.

Bayou Plaquemine enjoyed a long history of being a navigable waterway into the interior of Louisiana. Pierre le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville noted in his 1699 journal that a large amount of debris was lodged at its mouth. It was dredged and widened for the use of most vessels that plied the waters of the Mississippi for over 150 years. Repeated flooding of Iberville Parish made it necessary to do something. After the Civil War, a levee was constructed to function as a dam and walking bridge across the mouth of the bayou, but it cut off access for through-traffic from the bayou to the river.

Iberville Parish residents asked Congress for a lock system to control the water level. They also needed a way to move their products. They had timber and thus extensive sawmill operations in the

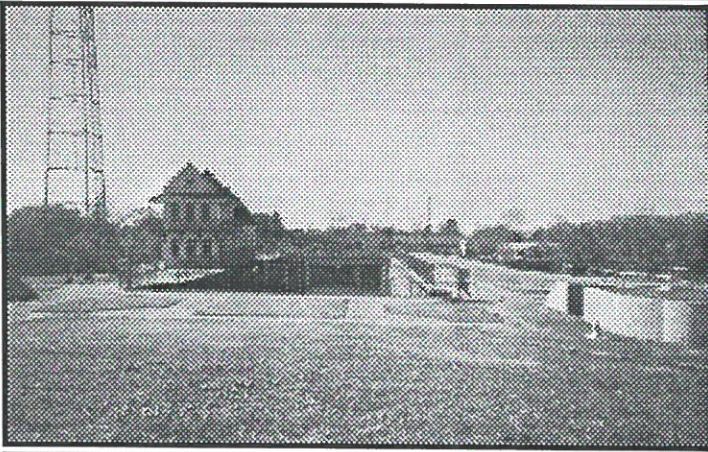


Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site: The above locator map for the Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site outside of Baton Rouge, Louisiana and the map of the lock park are courtesy the State of Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism.



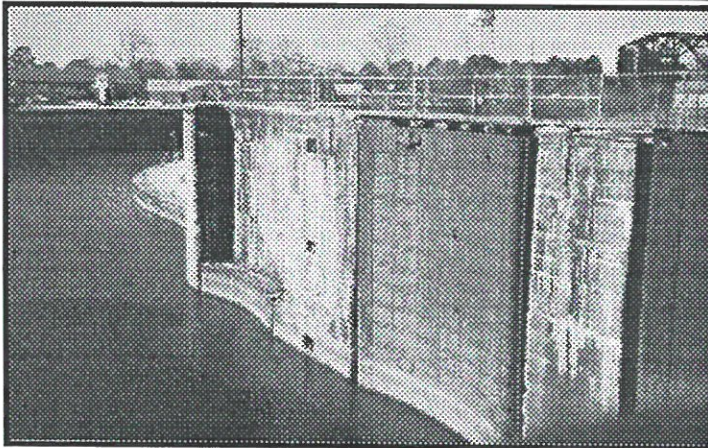
Top: The Plaquemine Lockhouse - Behind the round windows once was located the access to the boilers used for steam power. Photos by Sue Simerman

Bottom: A view of the Plaquemine Lock and Lockhouse from the Mississippi River side. Today the lockhouse serves as the visitor center and museum.



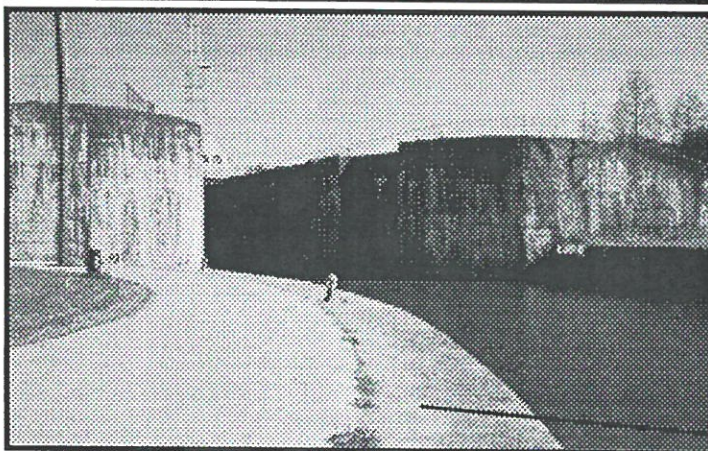
Commission that designed and built the Panama Canal that opened to traffic in 1914, was the designer of the Plaquemine Lock. It was significant for having the highest fresh water lift of any lock in the world - 51 feet. It used a gravity flow principle that was converted later to use hydraulic pumps.

The lockhouse has a white glazed tile exterior. There was no electricity when the lock was built and the white tile was useful for reflecting light from the locktender's and boat's lanterns. The locktender's house was built nearby to the north. Now there is a pavilion that retains the shape and style of the house.



World War II river traffic put a severe strain on the lock's capacity. There was a demand for a larger lock. It was constructed further north at Port Allen. It began operation in 1961.

Plaquemine Lock was in service for 52 years. Thirteen years after it was closed, the Corps of Engineers built the levee that cut off access to the lock and the mouth of Bayou Plaquemine. The people of Plaquemine now must access the Mississippi by going west and taking another bayou and Port Allen Canal north to Port Allen. This is an alternate route of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. They also can go south to Morgan City.



It was designated a significant historic site and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. The State of Louisiana took over ownership from the Corps of Engineers in 1978. It has a 40-foot tall observation tower overlooking the Mississippi River and the lock complex.

Top: The levee at the bottom of the picture for the Mississippi River runs across the former entrance to the Plaquemine Lock.

Center: Looking west at the north side of the Plaquemine Lock the first gate is missing or was it ever installed? The bayou makes a right turn then a left turn near the upper right corner of the photograph.

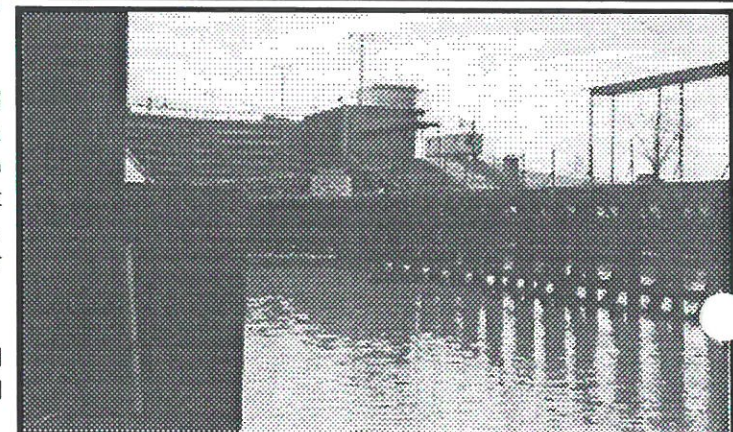
Bottom: The inner concrete of the sidewalk appears to be the original at the Plaquemine bayou approach to the lock.

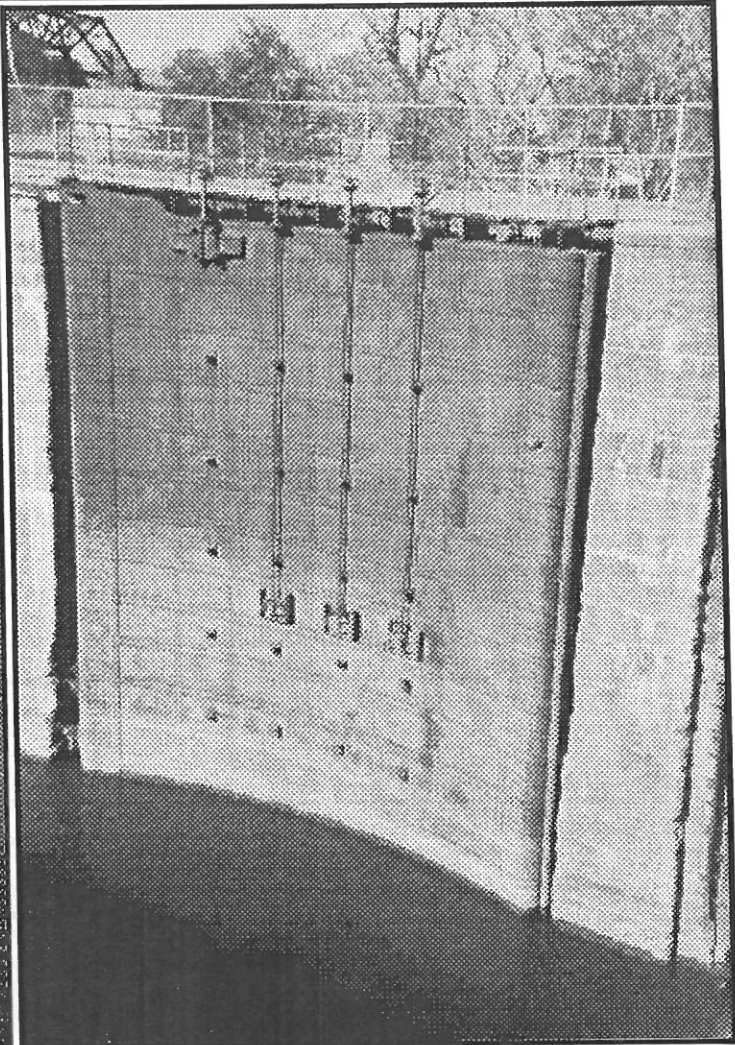
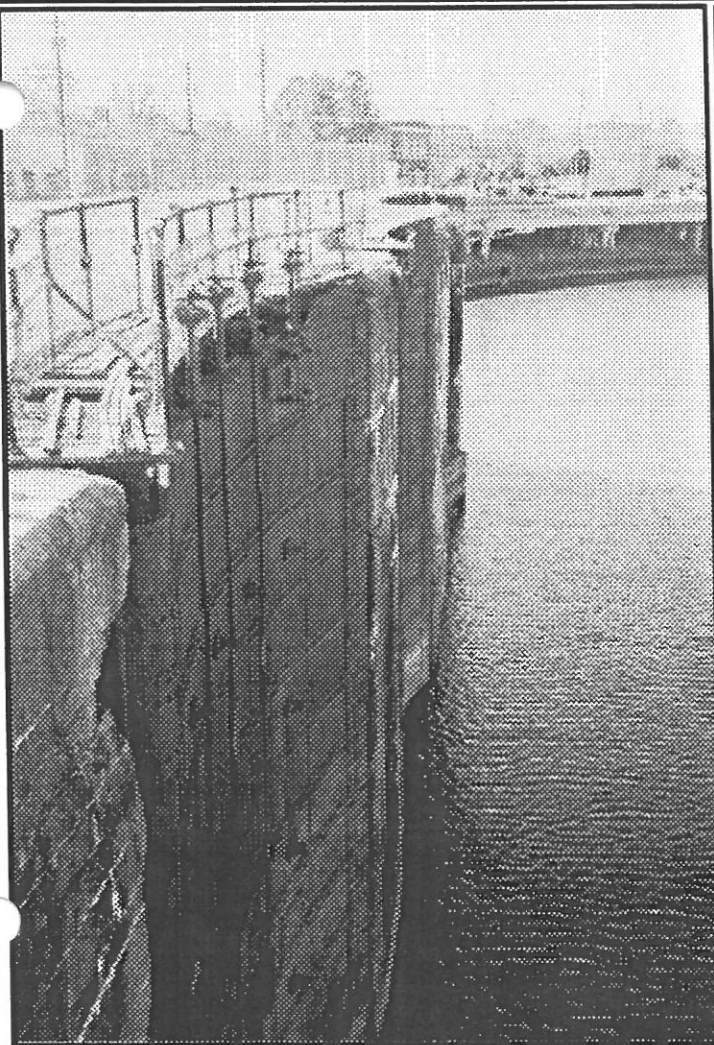
Below: The Port Allen Lock Photos by Sue Simerman

early 1900s. Sugar cane and rice are the main agricultural commodities. Today, all of southern Louisiana is involved in oil production and refining.

The Plaquemine Lock took 14 years to build (1895-1909) and was constructed by convict labor. A channel was created with a depth of 6 feet and a width of 60 feet. Later these measurements were modified. It had a grand opening date of April 9, 1909. By 1925, Bayou Plaquemine had become the northern terminus for the Intracoastal Canal System.

George W. Goethals (1858-1928), famed chairman and chief engineer of the Isthmian Canal





Left: Note the wooden planks on the gate walkway on the south side of the Plaquemine Lock, looking west.

Right: This is one of the curved gates on the north side of the Plaquemine Lock.

Photos by Sue Simerman

GENI Publishes Maps

The Geography Educator's Network of Indiana (GENI) have just published a wonderful 35-page, glossy booklet of brightly colored maps and a 157-page loose-ring binder educator's guide for use by educators from elementary schools through college. It is entitled **Indiana in Maps: Geographic Perspectives of the Hoosier State**. Funding for the project was provided by a partial grant from the George F. Cram Company, Inc. and the Lily Endowment.

The various maps show Indiana's counties and county seats, bedrock geology, mineral resources, oil, gas, coal, elevation, hydrology, annual temperature and precipitation, tornados, natural regions, wetlands, Indiana from space, aerial Indianapolis, roadways, agriculture, urban development, population density,

nativity in 1870, diversity, faith, Indian land cessions, Indiana history, territorial growth and statehood, median income, U. S. congressional districts, education, changes in employment and even basketball. The canals are shown on the Indiana history map along with the National Road, Buffalo Trace, important battles, historic sites and events, major cities, rivers and streams, and counties. A corresponding 8-page canal section developed for grade levels 7-12 is found in the guide. CSI granted permission for the inclusion of an article by Bob and Carolyn Schmidt entitled "Impact of the Canal Era on Indiana Geography" that appears on the CSI website www.indcanal.org Credit is given to the society and to the Schmidts. This is followed by a worksheet about Indiana canals and railroads that teachers may copy for classroom use. Another page gives possible answers for the questions.

The students are then to draw free hand maps from memory after looking at the Indiana history map.

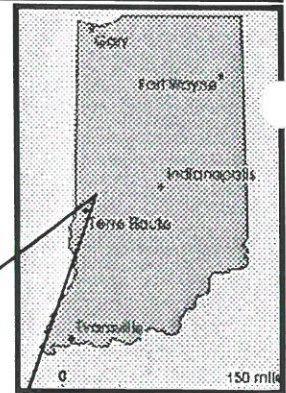
Besides the canal section the educator's guide includes a map scavenger hunt, questions about a student's county, crossword puzzle, projects about limestone, waterways worksheet, making a climograph, cemetery worksheet, tornado project, "roots" project, geography in literature, car bingo, reproducible maps on which students write things, etc.

Educating today's youth will help with canal preservation and restoration in the future. CSI would like to have an elementary and secondary teaching unit on canals, such as the one on the I & M canal, available for classroom use. **Indiana in Maps** is a great resource and is a step in the right direction.

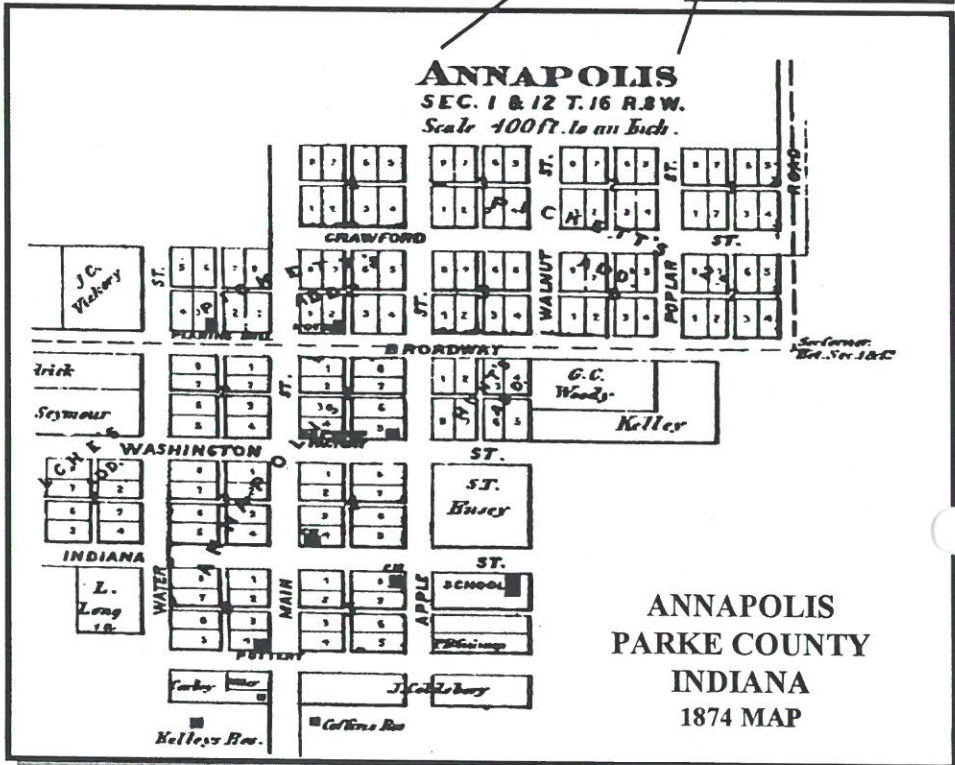
ANNAPOLIS

AND ITS WABASH AND ERIE CANAL CONNECTIONS

By Charles Davis



As it has been established, Annapolis, IN was an industrious town during the Wabash and Erie Canal era. Like the Sugar Creek Foundry and the surrounding areas, their wares were shipped by canal via Blues Bridge road to the Feeder Dam on Sugar Creek. The following stories are eye witness accounts about Annapolis, its people and the kind of life they lived during canal days. The first story was written by Maurice Murphy (b. 1892, d. Sept. 12, 1930, buried Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis, IN). He interviewed many people in Parke County and wrote these historical articles. This one appeared in the Rockville Tribune on Tuesday, May 26, 1914.



ANNAPOLIS
PARKE COUNTY
INDIANA
1874 MAP

**A Busy Town In The Fifties
Now Leading a Quiet Existence
Such Is The Old Town Of Annapolis**

In a recent article in The Tribune, Wycliffe Vanlandingham was quoted as saying that at one time more goods came by river for Annapolis than for any other town in Parke county. Considering the fact that Annapolis is now a small town leading a quiet existence, this statement seems remarkable, but it is quite true. Not only was the town a trading center, but it was a thriving town, one of the largest in the county. Not many are living who remember the town as it then was, but William L. McIntyre, of Marshall, and Jesse B. Connelly, of Rockville, remember well Annapolis in the fifties and have kindly furnished the material for this article.

Annapolis is one of the oldest towns in this county, but the exact

date of its founding is not certain. John H. Beadle, whose reliability as a historian cannot be questioned, fixes the date at about 1825 or 1826. Bloomingdale was founded soon after, but the two villages never united in spite of the fact that numerous efforts were made in the early days to bring this about. The Friends or Quakers, settled around Bloomingdale, but Annapolis never has had a Friends church, the early settlers being mainly Methodists or United Brethren. The town was laid off by John Moulder, who laid off the west part, and William (Red Bill) Maris, who laid off the east part. Later Nuba Hunt laid off a block east of Apple street and between Washington and Broadway streets,

Nathan Pickett Sr. laid off two additions in the north part of town and William Welch laid off an addition west of the original plat. Mr. Connelly came to Annapolis as a small boy in 1840, and Mr. McIntyre came there from Clay county in 1851. Merely saying that Thomas Woody was the first merchant and the first blacksmith, and that John Moulder was the first harness maker and the first postmaster in the town, we will leave the rest of the history of Annapolis to our informants.

"I came to Annapolis on April 2, 1851," says Mr. McIntyre, "and I lived there most of my life. I remember well the old town when I first came there. There were four doctors there in the fifties: Dr.

Horace Cannon, father of Joseph G. Cannon; Dr. Elias McKey; Dr. John S. Ware and Dr. Hobbs. Samuel Ensey had a store on the west side of the Square, Thomas Woddy had a hotel on the west side of the Square and Nathan Pickett and a man named Siler had stores there. All of these stores were large and Mr. Ensey sold more goods than any merchant in the county except George McDonald, who had a big wholesale house at Montezuma. Mr. Siler's store went out of business in 1851, the year I came to Annapolis, and the same year Dr. Cannon was drowned in Sugar Creek. The accident happened about where Rockport bridge now stands, but his body was never found and his bones lie buried somewhere in the bed of Sugar Creek. There were five shoe shops in Annapolis in those days and tanneries run by Jethro Coffin, Dave Maris and men by the name of Best, Laughlin and Bundy.

Annapolis was a prosperous town in those days and there were a number of prominent families among them the Enseys, Connellys, Woodys, Lees, Welchs, Hunts (there were two distinct families of Hunts, the families of Nuba Hunt and Isaac Hunt) and also the Picketts, although they lived north of town. However, about all the old residents are gone. All that I know that are still living besides myself, who knew Annapolis in her palmy days, are Jesse Connelly, Ransom Atcheson and William Welch."

Merchandise was as stated carried on a large scale and one store would perhaps sell from \$15,000 to \$20,000 worth of goods each year. Most of the goods if they could not be bought around home, were shipped by river or canal to Montezuma or West Union, and sometimes hauled in wagons from Cincinnati, Louisville or Madison. Raw sugar was bought by the barrel and cost from three to five cents a pound. Thomas K. Harvey, a man living on the other side of Sugar Creek, would buy green coffee by the sack and after browning it, drink it in

abundance three times a day. Pork was sold at \$1.25 a hundred pounds net, delivered, and was usually shipped by river to New Orleans. However pork packing never was a prominent industry at Annapolis and, with the exception of one year when S. T. Ensey and Robert Ramsey had a pork packing establishment, pork packing was almost unknown there. Stoneware was taken into the country and traded for farm produce. Eggs were sold at three and sometimes two and one-half cents a dozen and even then were often thrown away at slack seasons of the year. Among other industries that McIntyre remembers are Hunt's blacksmith shop and carriage shop and the harness shop started by Samuet Vestal, later run by Mr. McIntyre himself.

A foundry was located at Rockport and a cannon was once molded there for some celebration at Annapolis. A local dare-devil assumed the terrible task of firing the cannon. The terrible weapon lay on the ground and the audience fairly trembled while he prepared to fire it. He finished the job and also the cannon for the explosion tore it to pieces although nobody was hurt.

Annapolis has been singularly free from calamities. A cyclone came through the south part of town many years ago and did some damage and did still more damage in the country, but on one was killed. The east side of the square burned in 1878 and the west side in 1881, but otherwise Annapolis has suffered but little by fire.

Mr. Connelly and Mr. McIntyre both remember well the religious history of Annapolis. The Methodist church was built in the town, though the United Brethren camp meeting northeast of Annapolis forms an important part of its early history. A United Brethren church stood on the road a mile east of Annapolis and the camp meeting grounds were a quarter of a mile north, on a road long since abandoned. A "glorious good time" was enjoyed by all the campers and

many warm times were experienced when the meetings were at their height and many souls were saved there."With speech and prayer and song and shouting," says Mr. Connelly, "the people were made to rejoice in a better life. Now this would be called religious ecstasy to pass away with the intermission of time, and yet many years afterward I observed these same people holding fast the faith and always seemed near the Kingdom."

Among the preachers who used to call to repentance at the old camp meetings, Mr. McIntyre remembers Rev. Wimsett, a very earnest and noisy preacher who "made everything blue", and Rev. Canoyer and Rev. "Jimmy" Griffith. Singing was an important part of these meetings; it was not artistic, of course, but it contained what many teachers of voice have to strive long and hard with pupils to get them to attain--feeling and expression.

The camping feature of the meetings was always delightful for the grounds were in a beautiful grove, and springs of refreshing water were abundant. One thing alone marred the beauty and sanctity of these seasons of spiritual bliss--a crowd of mischievous boys, some of whom are now among the respected citizens of Parke county, and one of whom (Joseph Gurney Cannon) is now a prominent politician and former speaker of the national House of Representatives. (1903-1911)

Of the families prominent in the old camp meetings, Mr. Connelly names the Rawlings, Engles, Teagues, Tuffs, Hockets, Hunts, Marises, and McDaniels and added, "Wherever you find one of the descendants of those sturdy old people, who were active in the meetings, you are almost sure to find the man a good citizen, moral and upright, and the daughter the mother of a good family." **MAURICE MURPHY**

The other article was written by John T. Campbell and was printed in the Rockville Republican on

January 15, 21, & 27, 1909. You can see in the Devils Den story published in the 2001 Summer Issue of *Indiana Canals* and in others that Capt. J.T. Campbell worked on the Wabash & Erie Canal when he was young and wrote of his times spent there.

Old Annapolis
Joe Cannon's Early Home
As He Was Then
Interesting Stories.
by Captain John T. Campbell

I first saw Joe Cannon, to learn who he was, about the fall of 1853. I had gone to Annapolis to work in Gifford and Evans' cabinet shop to make bedsteads. Joe had commenced to clerk and sell in Samuet. T. Ensey's general store and still had on his best clothes. I was going north on the main street of the town and saw Joe in the buggy shafts acting horse, taking Sam Ensey's buggy to the stable shed. He wore what was called a plug hat, a linen duster, doeskin cashmere pants and fine, well shined boots. He was a neat, square figure physically, and as spry as a young dog. I asked my companion "Who is that well dressed fellow pulling Ensey's buggy?" The answer was, "Joe Cannon. He has begun clerking in Ensey's store." I knew him by reputation but had never met him. I traded some at Ensey's and soon became casually acquainted with Joe who generally waited on me. The next summer we became fairly intimate.

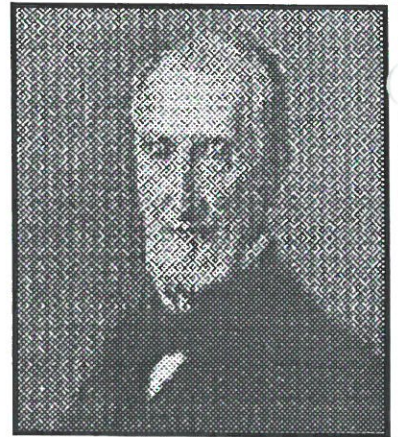
The stores of that time were all, and always, a night loafing place for the boys who were uncertain whether they were still boys or young men. Joe was three years, less 14 days, my junior. He was better informed in general matters than I and was smart. He was a ready, fluent and generally eloquent speaker and was always one of the debaters at the debating club every winter. It also included the most intelligent men of the surrounding country for say three miles distant from the town. It was no uncommon occurrence for

JOSEPH GURNEY CANNON

1836-1926

Illinois Republican
U S. House of Representatives

Painted by William T. Smedley
U.S. Congress Biographical Directory



"Uncle Joe"
"Hayseed"
"Foul Mouth Joe"

1836 Born Guildford, Guilford Co,
N.C. on May 7

1840 Moved to Annapolis-Bloomington,
IN

Studied law at Cincinnati Law School

1858 Admitted to the bar & practiced
law in Terre Haute, IN

1859 Moved to Tuscola, IL.

1861 to 1868 Illinois - 27th judicial district State's attorney

1873 to 1891 - Republican 43rd -51st U.S.Congresses

47th Chair-Committee on Expenditures Post Office Dept.

51st Committee on Appropriations

1878 Moved to Danville, IL

1890 Unsuccessful in reelection to 52nd U.S.Congress

1893 to 1913 - Elected to 53rd-63rd U.S.Congresses

54th-57th chair Committee on Appropriations

58th -61st Committee on Rules

58th - 61st Congresses (1903-1911) - **Speaker of the U.S. House
of Representatives**

1908 Chicago Republican National Convention received 58 votes for
presidential nomination

1912 Unsuccessful in reelection to 63rd U.S. Congress

1915 to 1923 - Elected to 64th -67th U.S.Congresses

1922 Declined renomination for 68th U.S. Congress

1923 Retired from public life

1926 Died in Danville, Vermilion County, IL on November 12, age 90
Buried Spring Hill Cemetery, Danville, IN

the debate to prolong itself to 10, 11 and sometimes to 12 o'clock at night in the winter.

Joe and I often sat till late at night on the horse blocks in front of the store and talked of our designs on the future. He was then about 18 and I was 21 years old. Joe at that early day often talked of going to congress. In a back room where he and other boys slept, the unpainted ceiling was written over with J.G. Cannon, M.D. His full name was Joseph John Gurney Cannon, named

for an English Quaker preacher. John P. Usher, then at that time renowned lawyer of Terre Haute and the Wabash valley, was a candidate for congress on the then new Republican party platform against John G. Davis, the Democratic nominee. Usher was a large, well set man, with a villainous, impudent face; light, long heavy hair; light, severe looking eyes. He spoke clear, loud and strong. I had something of a monotone, and spoke three to five words, then a noticeable pause as if drawing a

breath for the next five.

The Douglas Kansas-Nebraska bill, setting aside the Missouri Compromise about the time it had become old enough to be sacred, was the paramount issue before the country. That part of Parke county was almost solidly Republican. We all made it a hell for the few Democrats who sullenly said nothing in reply, but voted for Jackson at every election. Oliver P. Morton in that campaign -- the Buchanan--Fremont campaign -- first loomed into prominence. He had been a Democratic judge of the Circuit court of Wayne county, by appointment from Gov. Wright to fill out some unexpired term, and was put at the head of the state ticket of the new party to please the "Anti-Nebraska Democrats" of the state who were going into the new party. What a campaign it was for big meetings and long processions! All the party papers mentioned their crowds as 5,000 and 10,000 and very often up to 40,000.

In the army I had occasion to notice the space a thousand men occupied when massed by column of company and when I came back to civil life I measured many gatherings by pacing (stepping) the dimensions of the ground on which the crowd massed itself when the meeting was called to order, the band played and the speaker was introduced. I found that crowds had been greatly exaggerated in the past. I found the subsequent big crowds to range from 5,000 to 10,000 that had formerly been exaggerated at 30,000 to 40,000.

Morton had prepared, written out and committed to memory one good, telling speech which he delivered in every county in the state. All his points, his flashes of wit and his few jokes came in at their manuscript place. I heard him three times that campaign, and got his speech "by heart."

Henry W. Lane of Crawfordsville was the most magnetic speaker then in the state, perhaps in the nation. His speeches were clearly

impromptu. He was a slim, tall, angular man, and when in repose about the ugliest man I ever saw. But when animated in his speech was the most graceful in his gestures when were continual, and he was then really handsome. He would lean backward, throw his arms outward and upward, palms to the front. In his "rear backs," as they were called by the Democrats, his head, neck, body and thighs (which were very long) would be in a straight line, with a right angle at the knees. In his "rear backs" I have often seen the line of his head, body and thighs lean back to an incline of 45 degrees or a carpenter's "half pitch." I have watched him by the hour to see how he could recover from such a position without staggering, but he always did. I never saw him stagger but once, and then he had not leaned back much. All the boys who aspired to be public speakers tried to imitate him. Some did fairly well at the attempt, but there was only one Henry S. Lane in the world in that achievement.

Joe and I attended most of the great meetings and often talked over the speeches and the speakers. He always had a man's head on him. He was always serious, seldom a joke or laughed at one, though he often gave a sort of sickly smile when others laughed.

At that time Annapolis beat the world for tricks and practical jokes. It was outrageous the tricks that were played on young men and boys that were strangers in the place. I never knew Joe to be engaged in any of them. His oldest brother, Dr. Elisha Bates Cannon, was often a leader in such devilment. This brother became an expert surgeon, but was so dissipated that he did no good for himself or family. The second son, Isaac Newton Cannon, who died at about the age of 17, was said to be the brightest of the four boys. I never saw him. He was said to be a born orator. Joe was the third son. William Penn Cannon, the youngest, was a curiosity. He was an albino. Had white hair like an

old man, white eyes, and was so near-sighted that when he read without glasses he put the paper against his nose. He decided to become a banker when barely in his teens and did so, successfully.

January 13, 1909, cont.:

It would be impossible to write the career of anybody in that "ripsnortent--roarin' town," in consecutive order or time or occurrence. The town was a law unto itself. It was independent of all the other towns near it and generally antagonized them, especially Rockville, the county seat, which was as different in character and characteristics as could be. Rockville was dignified, phlegmatic, austere unsociable to strangers, though on acquaintance was found to be composed of excellent people.

Everybody from about Annapolis was a public speaker. The Quaker neighborhood at Bloomfield quarterly meeting, now Bloomingdale, was considered as part of Annapolis then. When any citizen of the Annapolis region aspired to a county office, he was either summarily suppressed, or unanimously espoused by the community, and if espoused was carried triumphantly into office. As soon as he was installed into his office his old neighbors and backers began to throw clubs at him for as little cause as they had espoused him, so that with one exception out of seven they never returned to that locality after serving their official terms. but stayed in Rockville or went west. While this characteristic made the people there smart, shrewd and cunning, it did not make them reliable and enduring friends to anybody.

Joe Cannon grew to manhood in such an atmosphere as that. His father was a prominent man in that part of the county and a popular doctor. Much of his practice was north of Sugar creek and there was no bridge then from Crawfordsville to the Wabash except at the Narrows (Turkey Run State

Park), six miles above and east of Wright's Rockport mills. Dr. Cannon had a rather large white pacing horse called Gilford. If he had occasion to cross Sugar creek when it was too full to ford it, he swam it on Gilford. One day in the spring of about 1850, he got a call from north of the creek. He said to his partner, Dr. Elias Mackey, "Doctor, you think old Gilford can be forced into service today?" I don't remember what reply Dr. Mackey made. But it was such a common occurrence for Dr. Cannon to swim the creek on horseback that little was thought of his purpose then. But Sugar creek was bank full and had a current of about six miles an hour. Arriving at the creek at Rockport Mills he rode along the steep bank to find a clear place to ride on a run and leap into the stream. He was obliged to make that leap in order to reach the opposite low bank and a high bar about three times the width of the creek, lower down as the stream current would carry him rapidly downward in swimming across. If he should miss that landing, a steep bank set in for about three-quarters of a mile where a horse could not possibly get up. Several men were present and urgently advised Dr. Cannon to not take such a hazardous venture. In assuring them that he and Gilford could make it all right, he forgot to take the bridle reins out of the martingale rings, and on a run the horse leaped into the surging stream, going clear under and coming up all right and was swimming for the north side all right. At mid stream he met a bunch of frothy foam as large as a horse and Gilford was afraid of it and turned down stream but Cannon in pulling the right rein to hold Gilford to his course, because of the martingale, pulled the horse's nose down into the water. This strangled him and he threw his head back and sank, rider and all out of sight. As he came to the surface Cannon was still in the saddle and still pulling to rein to hold the horse on his course to the north. This, as before, pulled Gilford's nose into the water and not

having recovered from his immersion he floundered spasmodically and sank again, going down sidewise. When he came up again Dr. Cannon was gone and was never seen again. Some year or so later a part of a vest with a shoulder blade (scapula) and collar bone (clavicle) attached, were found below the feeder dam, three miles down the creek and recognized by young Dr. Cannon, the eldest son, as the vest of his father. These were buried in the Quaker graveyard at Bloomfield. The people collected from miles around and several hundred were on the two banks. Fishing, dragging, sounding, diving and firing of anvils were resorted to but to no avail. People were asking and answering all sorts of questions about the manner of the drowning. Quite a number spoke of it as a foolhardy venture.

Young Dr. Cannon, the son, heard some of the remarks and it greatly incensed him. He stormed out. "It was no foolhardy act at all, but perfectly sane." He ran to where the horse was still hitched to a buckeye sapling, mounted him, rode him on a fast run and leaped into the stream 20 feet before touching the water, horse and rider going clear under, coming up and swimming across some distance down the stream. Then he rode up the stream on the north bank, and with a run, leaped from a still higher bank, going under again and swimming to the south side. Then a third run and leap to the north, then a leap to the south, all successful. "There now, you can see there was nothing foolhardy about it," said Dr. Elisha Cannon, then about 18 years old.

I was not present at any part of this sad incident, but I have often heard it described by those who saw all or some of it. I heard Dr. Mackey and Dr. Dare talking about it one Sunday afternoon several years afterward, and Mackey said there was no necessity for such a risk, but that Dr. Cannon wanted everybody to know that there was no effort he would not make, nor no risk he would not take to serve on of his

patrons.

Dr. Cannon was much such a looking man as his son Joe was at the age of 40. A neat figure and a most dignified and graceful horseman. He showed his vest on old Gilford. His son Elisha, the eldest, and also a doctor, looked the most like him -- sound as a log and straight as an arrow, and of wonderful strength and activity. I have seen him in a scuffle with several of the strongest men about the town and he always dirtied their backs.

Dr. Horace Cannon was born and raised in North Carolina, in Gilford county. About 1845, several Quaker families inherited slaves in North Carolina and Dr. Horace Cannon was deputed to bring them to Indiana, as they could not then be set free in North Carolina. O, what a howl of indignation was set up against him for that mission! He received several anonymous letters, threatening to assassinate him and burn his house. His son Elisha was never in sympathy with this father's anti-slavery principles, but Joe was. Joe was always scolding and rebuking "Lish" to his face, but always defending and apologizing for him behind his back.

"Lish" got but little practice while he lived in Annapolis. People were not inclined to transfer their confidence in the father to the son. I never knew him to have but one case--that of a young man, Lloyd Pollard, living north of Sugar creek, who was a pauper. He had an abcess which discharged internally. Young Dr. Cannon decided on a tapping operation. He invited three other doctors to be present and assist him. They each guessed about double what the others did and they laughed at him, but his guess proved correct. The young man got well, lived to be about 70 years old, and acculated a considerable estate, notwithstanding he was at last eaten up with cancer on the under lip. Whether or not young Dr. Cannon got any compensation, I never knew, but probably not.

William Penn Cannon, as

before stated, was very near-sighted. He was a decided character. The boys, as boys will, were always playing tricks on him. They would flip little stones and clods of dirt and hit him. He could not see who did it and he would always call out, "Here, Watch, sick!" calling to his dog to bite his tormentors. He was then about 13 and took writing lessons of an old wooden legged Quaker named Mills, whose wife Ruth set the copies. Mills sang the rules, and kept order in the class. Bill was accused of some breach of order and would not apologize for it and Mills expelled him from the class.

The school was held in the upper story of a corner frame building, and there was a corner broken off of one of the very top window lights. The water spout was loose at the corner of the house and Bill tugged at it till he got it loose from the top. Then he turned it bottom end up so the turnout angle would go through the broken pane and put his mouth at the lower end up so the turnout angle would go through the broken window pane at the top. He put the short angle end through the broken pane and put his mouth at the lower end and talked through the pipe. It seemed to multiply the sound like a bugle, and made so much noise in the classroom that nobody could give or hear instruction. Old Mills came down the stairway. I could hear his peg leg on the stair steps, but Bill was so engaged calling over the rules for writing, Dot you i's as high as the t's. and Bill would add, "Cross your t's as high as you please." Mills slipped up and caught him by the coat tail. Bill dropped the water spout, and it fell across the street with a crashing sound. Bill tried to run. Old Mills was strong in his arms and held on, but being obliged to use a cane with the other hand, he could not shorten his grip of Bill's coat tail. Bill headed for the center of the street-crossing where there was a big mud hole 20 feet wide and two feet deep in the middle. At the edge of the mud Bill saw if he turned to the right or left

Mills would shorten his grip, so he lunged headlong through the mud, but grabbed Mill's coat sleeve to pull him in also. In the deep mud Mill's stiff wooden leg could not be raised to step over the mud and he fell headlong, butting his head against Bill's rump and threw him also headlong in the deepest of the mud. That broke their holds and Bill struggled on to the opposite side and ran down the street south for home. Mills wiggled out a length. Never did two hogs emerge from a mud hole worse smeared that did Bill and old Mills.

Whether Bill's tuition was ever paid or ever demanded, I have forgotten, if I ever knew. This episode was after dark and in late winter or early spring, of about the year 1855. I was going north on the sidewalk, then a single plank, and saw the water spout swaying right and left between me and the lighted window, and as soon as Bill began to sing the writing rules through the spout, I knew his voice, and stood near to see what was going on.

There was no intoxicating liquor sold in Annapolis then and very little smuggled in; yet the boys of the town were the most rowdyish in the whole state. This rowdyism was generally meant to be harmless, more boyish fun, but it often ran into serious harm. One moonlight summer night there were 20 to 30 boys and young men having a time. Some of the country boys were in. After many other ridiculous capers had been cut, it was proposed that we have a song from Joe Belton, a jour. (journeyman) blacksmith from Waveland.

Joe Cannon was called on to introduce the great soloist. Joe mounted the horse block in front of Maris' store and made the following speech preliminary the great song: "Ladies and gentlemen" (ladies absent, the listening from behind all the gate posts in hearing,) "Give me your attention while I detail to you the virtues of the great, renowned Joe Belton, who comes among us loaded with the applause of great audiences in Central Africa. He is a

most remarkable phenomenon. He has out-howled the wolf; he has out-bellowed the bull; he has out-hooted the owl; he has out-roared the lion; he has out-chittered the mocking bird; he has out-katied the katydid; he has out-whipped the whippoor-will. His mother was a Hottentot and his father was a Turk, and " -- at that instant Joe Belton struck him over the rump with a clapboard that cracked as loud as if it had been struck against the side of the house and called, "Here--no, more of that." The orator leaped from the block ten feet and hobbled off rubbing the spot Belton had so suddenly warmed on him. Belton then mounted the block and began to sing "Lille Dale," in a most affected style. Ere he was half through the boys on the outskirts of the crowd when they began pelting him with dry cow dung, which was abundant in the street, and drove him from the block. How suddenly great public favorites fall from their white heat popularity.

Joe Cannon got his money back in the fall of Belton. After Joe had saved his money to read law with John P. Usher--afterward secretary of the Interior under Lincoln--and had spent about a year in Usher's office, he attended the Cincinnati Law school. He came back to Annapolis with his sheepskin under his arm, the wool all pulled off, but it showed that he was authorized and qualified to pull the wool over the eyes of a jury, or a county justice of the peace.

There was a big temperance meeting on at the Methodist church in Annapolis when he came home. As soon as the speakers on the program were done there was a strong call for "Joe Cannon." All present wanted to hear a real Joe Cannon speech, with the added frills the law school had put on him, and they got it. But not as they expected and desired. They wanted and expected a knockdown and drag out speech, with more than Joe's usual power. He had left Annapolis with a clean shaven face. He returned with a full-grown heavy, golden beard, beautifully wavy and nicely pointed

below the chin. He wore a spike-tailed, professor looking dress coat. He came into the pulpit, where all spoke, and delivered the most affected speech I ever heard from anybody. He evidently tried to imitate some of his law professors in their lectures to their law classes. He abandoned his strong, bold, aggressive manner, and assumed a condescending style, with a low, affected voice and exceedingly modest gestures, leaning forward and bowing to those immediately under him, ignoring the rear of the packed house. His remarks were exceedingly common place. I remember only one paragraph of his speech:

"Temperance is enborn and coonsteetutinal weeth me. Eeet ees the pap wheech I sooked from me moother's breest." &c.

The boys were wont to declaim it long afterward. There was no applause at its conclusion. I never knew him before to fail to bring down the house. So far as I know that was his last effort at the affected.

I have heard him several times since, and he makes his old time Joe Cannon speeches. He had two or more small cases before a justice of the peace before he left Annapolis for Shelbyville, Ill. His old townsmen said one to another, "We have lost our Joe Cannon. Did you ever hear the like of that speech the other night?" Another said, "He has spent a heap of time and money to make a d--d fool of himself." These are but sample remarks. Place the sign of infinity for quantity.

About the summer of 1855 there grew up a town feud in Annapolis, in which the entire population took a hand. A certain prominent man's wife and her daughter told a bad story concerning another man's wife, to the effect that when she was a little girl she had committed indiscretions with boys. The latter woman's mother had died when she was about 12 years old and her father, a reputable citizen, a cabinet maker and class leader in the Methodist church, could not keep

house and do his outside work, too. He was trying to do so with the help of his only child. It was during this time that the reported delinquencies were stated to have occurred, and at an age when a girl is not capable of taking care of herself. It was cruel to tell it on her, even, for she had married, and was conducting herself prudently when the scandal was published. The woman's husband was not exceedingly bright and was induced to bring suit against the husbands of the two women for slander. One of these told me afterward that a rival merchant was very active in urging the suit. That I think was true, but not so much to injure his rivals as in sympathy with the accused.

John P. Usher, then the most conspicuous lawyer in western Indiana, and afterward Secretary of the Interior under Lincoln, was employed by the defendants; and some local attorney whose name I have forgotten; and W. F. Linden of Shelbyville, Ill., a Democratic member of congress and the most noted lawyer at that time of eastern Illinois, were engaged to bring the suit. The case was fought hard but the jury gave a verdict in favor of the defendants. All the adult population of Annapolis attended the trial which lasted about a week. The people were two to one for the complainant. While the woman and her daughter were not held to be untruthful women, they were held to be too free in speaking of their neighbors. For a time the feud ruined the Methodist church. Everybody, men and women, talked as freely about the case as was done during the great Beecher-Tilton trial of 1872.

One Sunday afternoon during the Annapolis trial, Bill Lee, a jour. (journeyman) cabinet maker; George Holloway, a jour. carpenter from Crawfordsville; Joe Cannon, a clerk in Ensey's store; and myself, then a contracting carpenter, age 22, went to Pickett's woods pasture and wrote (and edited) four papers. Lee's was "Dishwater Over the Fence," mine was "The Annapolis Tribune" (I was

then reading *The New York Tribune*), but I forget the titles of Holloway's and Cannon's papers. These were dropt (dropped) on the streets that night and if nobody else found them Lee was sure to. But he managed to inveigle someone else into finding part of them. They were past (passed) around and read all over the town for several days afterward. But that led to the issuing of counter papers and some of the most outrageous scandals were promulgated through them. Some people who were much amused at and applauded the first papers, were most furious at the later ones. The great trial was elaborately reported and commented on, and some of the witnesses were scored till they would have been glad to hide in a crawfish hole. Very few families and especially their women escaped being "tarred" by those sticks. Dozens of different papers were issued, very few of which I knew the authors of, or could make a probable guess. I was hard hit by some of them, but I could not and did not offer protest or denial.

I don't know that Joe Cannon had any hand in getting out others than the first issue. One of his news items was about thus: "The steam ship Kerr came into port of the 4th inst., loaded down to the guard with scandals, affidavits, witnesses, lawyer, jurymen &c., for the great trial" (Meaning one of the defendants.) Joe was then about 19 years old. He could wink an approval with one eye and frown a rebuke with the other till no one would know which side he was on, and so far as I remember he was not openly accused or much suspected of having any hand in the publishing work.

Ensey's store, a long, one-story building with a platform at the east end, was the common ground for loafing to assemble in the summer evenings to discuss the great trial till the subsequent papers produced such a crossed, oblique suspicion that the leading men refuse to read or hear read any more papers. Some who were at first against the defendants took their side because of

the roastings they themselves got from the later papers. The second letter is from Gen. W. H. H. Beadle:

February 3, 1909

With two supplementary letters Capt. Campbell's interesting reminiscences of Old Annapolis are concluded this week. The first of these is from Dr. E. D. Laughlin of Orleans, Ind., who was an Annapolis Boy. It is as follows:

Capt. John Campbell
My Dear Friend and Companion in the
Days of Old Lang Syne

I came home yesterday to find your manuscript waiting me for review and today I have gone through it carefully and so far as my knowledge goes there is but little room for correction, if any. I think it is very correct, so far as my knowledge goes, for much of the latter part of it transpired after I left Annapolis in 1855. In regard to that horse that Dr. Cannon rode at the time of his drowning: He was a flea-bitten gray and his name was Gilford. The doctor bought him of a man named Don Carlos who brought him from Gilford county, North Carolina; the county for the high regard he had for his old home. This history I got from Dr. Dare.

I might say in passing that Dr. Cannon trained his boys to debate. Many times I have heard them on the north porch of his residence of summer evenings discussing questions, while the old doctor sat as both judge and umpire. He told me he thought it a good idea to have boys and young men trained in the art of debate and on one occasion he invited me to be present. He encouraged me to study medicine. He gave as a Christmas present a slip of paper on which he had written: "Study medicine, I can and I will," with the remark, "If you will make an effort to carry that thought out you can't fail," And I did. You know the result. I have always held his memory in high regard.

You did not speak of his having been prosecuted for bringing the Negroes into the state and fined. Refusing to pay the fine, regarding it as an act of persecution, he let the sheriff sell a horse (a dark brown horse). At the trial the prosecutor had the Negro as a witness and Cannon had no doubt trained him. At any rate, when the Negro was asked, the date of his coming into the state, he replied: "Dono sur; I kep no count, didn't ever spek to be col on." They could not get him to convince Cannon. Afterward someone remarked to Cannon: "Negro mighty uncertain," and he replied, "Yes, and a white man is more so."

This leaves me well, and with many wishes for your happiness and prosperity, I am as ever your old time friend,

E.D. Laughlin.

Dear Captain Campbell:

Please accept my thanks for copy of The Rockville Republican, which I read with much interest. I had told you I am writing some stuff for the Tribune. I write now to speak particularly about those "North Carolina" slaves, the coming of which to Parke county aroused Joe Cannon to very strong anti-slavery opinions. They were Alabama, not North Carolina slaves. Some members of families in North Carolina, not themselves Quakers or opposed to slavery, strayed off to Alabama, acquired wealth and slaves, and died without direct descent and heirs. A part of the estate of one of those fell to Quaker relatives--Woodards and others in Parke. Considerable money came also

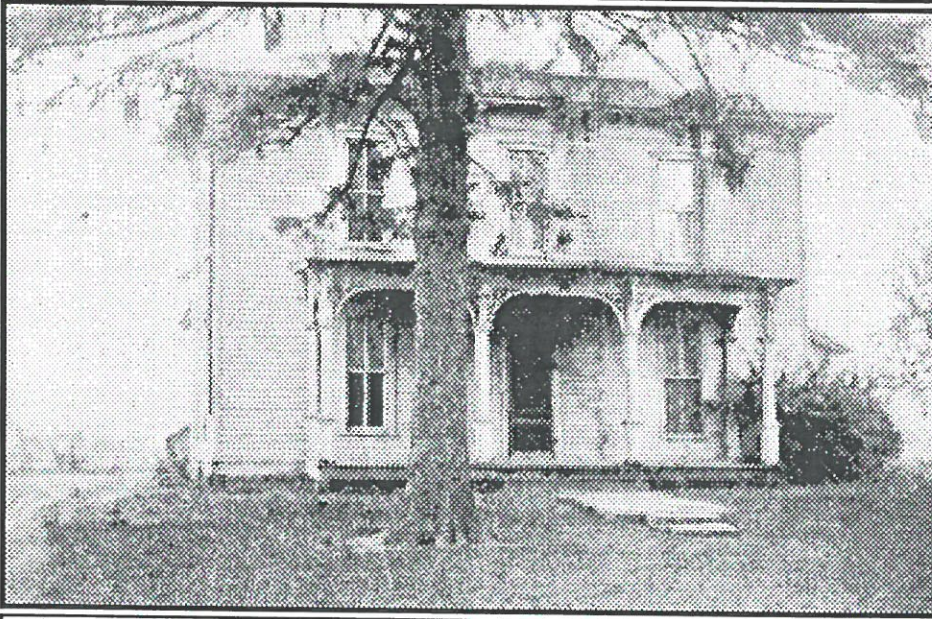
Dr. Cannon (elder) went for the people and money, brought them by river to the Wabash and up that stream to Parke. A considerable hostile force assembled to prevent their landing. Cannon borrowed a shot gun from the captain of the boat and fearlessly headed the procession to the shore.

The money was used to buy little farms for the Negroes; homes in town for the carpenters and blacksmiths. Then followed the prosecution of Cannon. I often heard of it and probably read it all. The main point is the slaves were from Alabama and the decedent was not a Quaker; some of his heirs were. Uncle Joe studied law with John P. Usher, who had defended his father ably and fearlessly.

Yours Sincerely,
W. H. H. Beadle
Madison, S. D.
Jan. 21, 1901

In sending Gen. Beadle's letter, Capt. Campbell in reference to the correction of his statement about Dr. Cannon's mission to the south says: "I had been out of the county for nearly three years and came back while the excitement was still on, but I suppose I got the true history mixed a little. Dr. Laughlin's letter adds a little to mine about that affair. I don't know who these Negroes were or if they were settled in and stayed in Parke county, unless the Bass brothers were a part of them. Dick Bass, a large quadroon, was a fine carpenter and a wit. His brother, the preacher, name forgotten, was also a carpenter. They moved to Howard county about the Civil War times. Hon. John E. Woodard can tell all about it, if it happens to interest him."

At one time Annapolis had a population larger than Chicago, was a chief trading center between Danville, IL and Cincinnati, OH., and was considered as



"Uncle Joe" Cannon lived in this house in Annapolis, Parke County, IN, from 1840-1854.

Photo courtesy the Vermillion County Museum

of years ago by its owner, Gerald Bayless of Bloomingdale. The staircase and fireplace mantle were salvaged, but the lumber was burned. It was the last house of its kind in town.

Joe Cannon is still remembered there for the time he arrived with a fancy matched team of dark brown horses, new harness, new carriage, and driver to address a homecoming reunion. He was dressed like a dignified VIP to show how successful he had become. Between 400-500 people came to the beech grove to hear him speak that day. In his speech he said that work was no hardship then and there were no class distinctions in Annapolis, but those who did not work were asked to leave town. He credited his success in legislative life to the debating society in the Quaker Settlement on the Wabash saying "(We) took sides and debated questions that were beyond our intimate knowledge but we learned to think on our feet, to think and talk at the same time, something that is not always observed by members of Congress."

a site for the state capitol. When Joe lived there the town had several hundred residents, general stores, a hardware store, an implement store, a pottery, a foundry, sawmills, and mines. They made barrels, coffins, furniture and pumps. The farmers planted corn, wheat, oats and rye. They shipped pork by river and canal to Cairo, Memphis, and New Orleans. But in 1878, with the coming of the ID&S Railroad (later the Baltimore and Ohio, many of the buildings were moved to Bloomingdale along the rail line. The Depression and World War II took their toll too. Today there are no stores or industry in Annapolis — just weathered gray houses and a

few trailers.

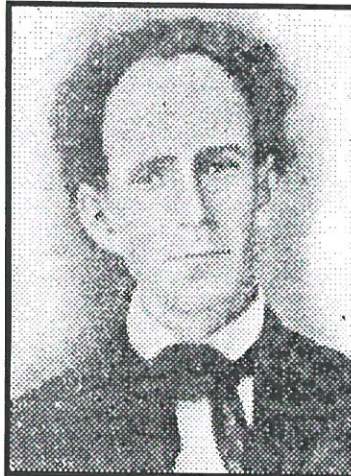
Even though the town faded away, one farmhouse (the boyhood home of Joe Cannon) remained for decades as a tourist and bus stop during the annual Parke County Covered Bridge Festival. A historical marker was erected outside of it.

Unfortunately the home stood vacant for 15 years and became an eyesore. The Parke County Historical Society didn't have funds to purchase it. Someone had an idea to move it to Billy Creek Village at Rockville, IN but nothing came of it. It was torn down a couple

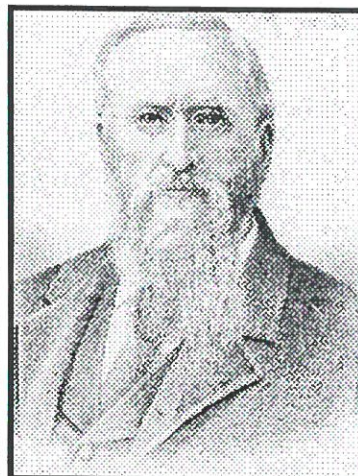
The mansion Joe lived in from 1878-1926 in Danville, IL was located at 418 N. Vermillion. It was the finest house in town. It met the same fate as his boyhood farmhouse. It was razed in 1947 to make way for a parking lot.



JOHN H. BEADLE



DR. HORACE CANNON



JOHN T. CAMPBELL

SAMUEL T. ENSEY

Parke County Republican
August 11, 1887:

Samuel T. Ensey was born Jan. 15, 1811 near Dayton, Ohio. He married Elizabeth Harris of Montgomery Co., Ind. Mar. 4, 1841. He died at his residence 609 North 7th Street, Terre Haute, Indiana. Was buried in High Lawn Cemetery - a son survives, Newt Ensey of Judson, Parke Co., a merchant there.

CANAWLERS AT REST

DAVID FRANCIS COMPARET

b. Mar. 6, 1826

d. Oct. 11, 1903

By Cynthia Powers

Painting by Morris R. Perry from "Pioneers
Resting in Historic Lindenwood"



Six years after his father, Francis, arrived in Fort Wayne, David Comparet was born (March 6, 1826). His connection with the Wabash and Erie Canal followed in the footsteps of his father. In 1843, when David was only 17, he was on the committee for the grand celebration held on July 4 when the canal opened from Toledo, OH to Lafayette, IN.

David was educated in Fort Wayne and at St. Mary's College in Kentucky. A few years later (1847) he and his brother built a warehouse at Columbia and Lafayette Streets in Fort Wayne. He also worked with his father in building various mills and dams. David remembered his father's involvement with the "construction of the dam at Rome City, which formed the reservoir....known as Sylvan Lake," which was to supply water for a canal connecting the Wabash and Erie Canal to Lake Michigan. At one point David operated 6 canal boats and 2 steamers. From Fort Wayne you could travel to Toledo by packet boat for \$3.25; to Lafayette for \$3.75.

David's marriage in 1846 to Sarah Henrietta Columbia, daughter of Capt. Dana Columbia, a pioneer businessman and canal boat captain, took place at the Catholic Church. The ceremony was performed by Father Julian Benoit, the bridal party having been accompanied to the church by a military band.

In 1850 David and his brother admitted C.H. Hubbell into their firm thus becoming Comparet, Hubbell & Company. This firm operated until after the close of

D. F. COMPARET,

PORK PACKER,

MILLER & COMMISSION

MERCHANT,

FORT WAYNE, IND.

General dealer in all kinds of Grain, Seed, Fish, Salt, Produce, Agricultural Implements, &c.

BEST BRANDS OF FAMILY FLOUR,

☞ Liberal Advance made on Produce in Store ☞

Agent for Fairbank's Scales.

Lower end of Columbia and Lafayette Streets.

FORT WAYNE, Ind.

the Civil War.

In January 1856, when the temperature had fallen to -21 degrees, the "church ladies" of Fort Wayne held a benefit supper to help the poor. More funds were needed, so the ladies announced they would hold a "Calico Dress Ball" to raise the rest. It was scheduled to be held at the Rockhill House. This led to a squabble; some were not comfortable with the perceived elegance of the Rockhill House, and some objected to dancing and drinking. So a competing event was organized called "the People's Calico Dress Ball." David Comparet was among those promoting the latter event. Ladies were to wear "Plain calico dress," and then the next day donate the dress to the poor. After both events had taken place, it turned out that the People's Ball had raised more money, even though attendance had been about equal. Altogether over \$400 was distributed to 92 families in the form of fuel and groceries. (The ladies concluded that many of the recipients were foreigners and Catholic, and that much of their distress had been caused by intemperance.)

In 1859, David was among those who purchased 153 acres, to be developed as Lindenwood Cemetery. He was also a Mason and an Odd Fellow until later in life when he resigned from both.

In 1865 he was one of the first officers of the Merchants National Bank, located at Berry and Calhoun Sts. Although it was "considered safe, conservative, and well managed," it went out of business in 1874.

About 1888 David opened a commission house on East Columbia street. He was forced to retire from it by his last illness.

Mr. Comparet died at his home, 931 Liberty St., at noon on Sunday Oct. 11, 1903. His obituary was published in the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette the next

day. Part of it follows.

"Mr. Comparet had been ill for three months and at no time during his sickness was his recovery looked for. It was the first illness of his long life, but its seriousness was recognized at once. The disease was tumor of the bowels, which led to slow blood poisoning. He became ill in July and was compelled to take to his bed immediately. Several days ago, the disease reached a crisis and his decline since then had been rapid. Realizing that his end was approaching, Mr. Comparet, from his bed chamber, directed the sale of his commission business.

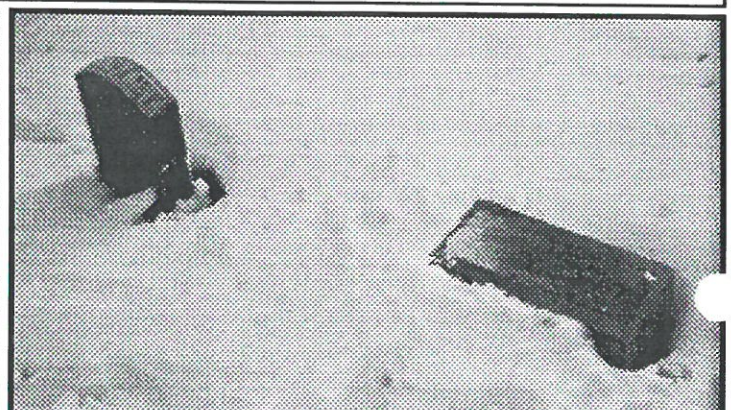
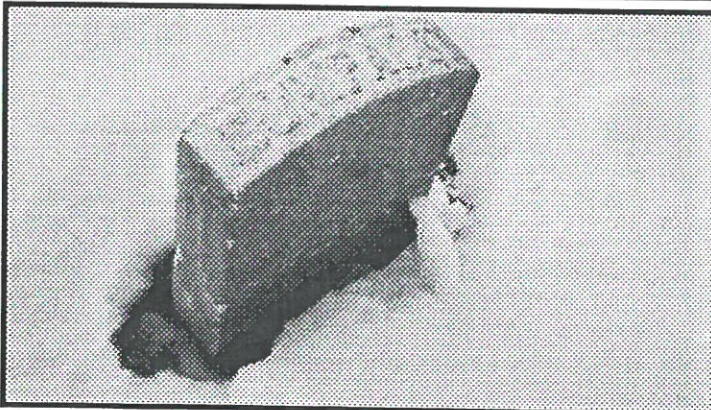
"Mr. Comparet retained all his faculties up to within a few hours of his death. He had a remarkably retentive memory, and his recollection of men and affairs of early days was perfect. He was a good conversationalist, and knew the history of Fort Wayne for the past century in every detail....He retained perfect health up to three months ago.....he liked to boast that he had never spent a day in bed except when he was disabled in an accident in his mill, many years ago. The accident permanently crippled his left hand, and he never regained the use of it."

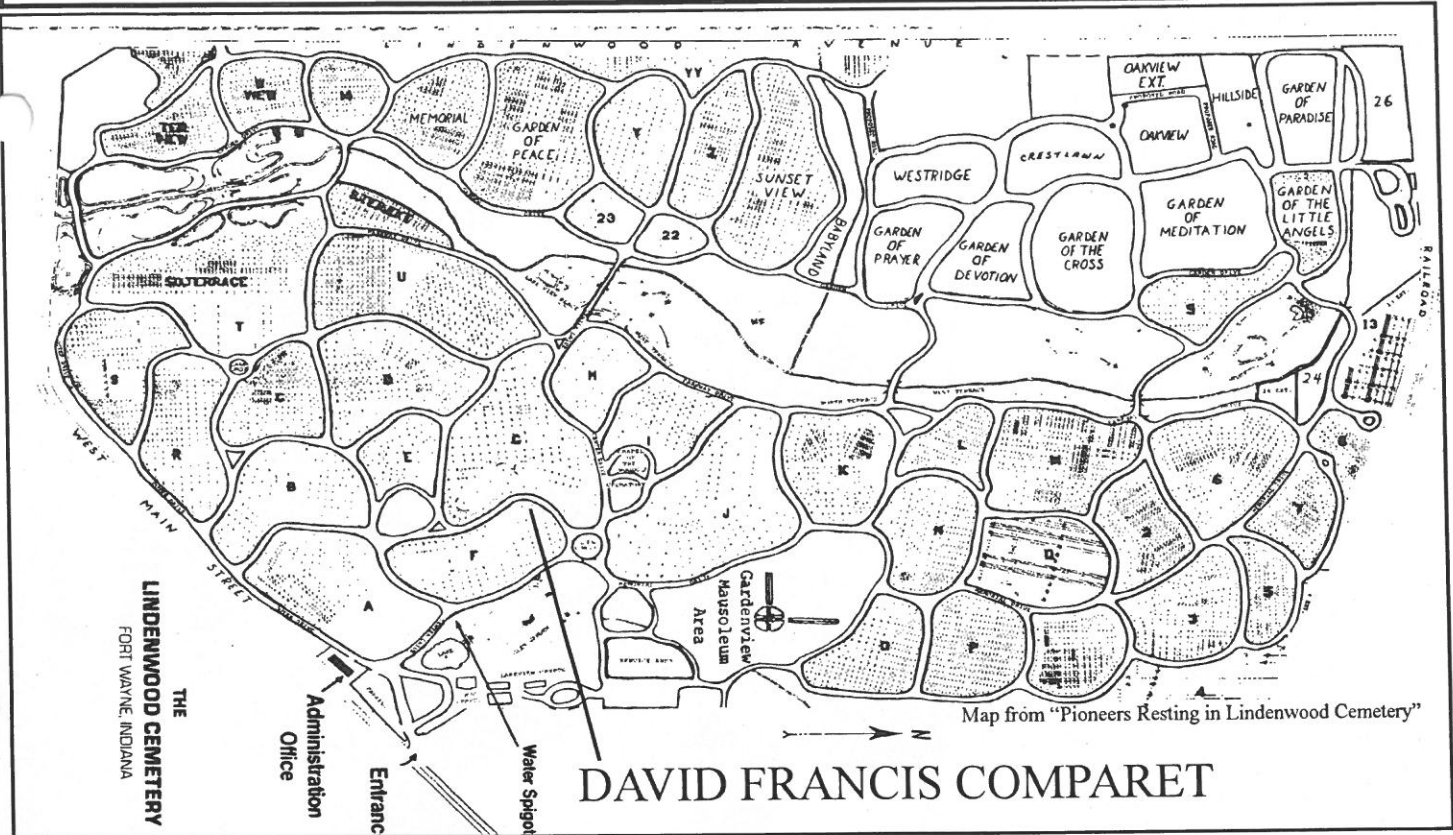
His funeral arrangements were delayed until the arrival of his son William from North Carolina. His other surviving children all lived in Fort Wayne: Thomas L., Charles, and Addie H. Matson. Another daughter Francis A. (Fannie) had died of typhoid fever at age 37, in 1885. Mrs. Comparet also survived.

David is buried next to his wife, Sarah Henrietta Columbia, in Lindenwood Cemetery, section F. Lot 4. To the left of their markers is one for Fannie, and nearby is one for C.M. Comparet, 1848-1930, (their son Charles).

Left: Gravestone of Francis (Fannie) A. Comparet in Sec. F of Lindenwood Cemetery, Ft. Wayne, IN.

Right: Stone of David F. Comparet (1826-1903) and Sarah Henrietta Columbia Comparet (1827-1909) is to the right of their daughter Fannie's stone.





DAVID FRANCIS COMPARET

Sources:

Fort Wayne Journal Gazette for Oct. 12, 1903; located by the helpful staff of the Allen Co. Public Library periodicals dept.

Fort Wayne Weekly Sentinel. Nov. 25, 1885. p. 1.

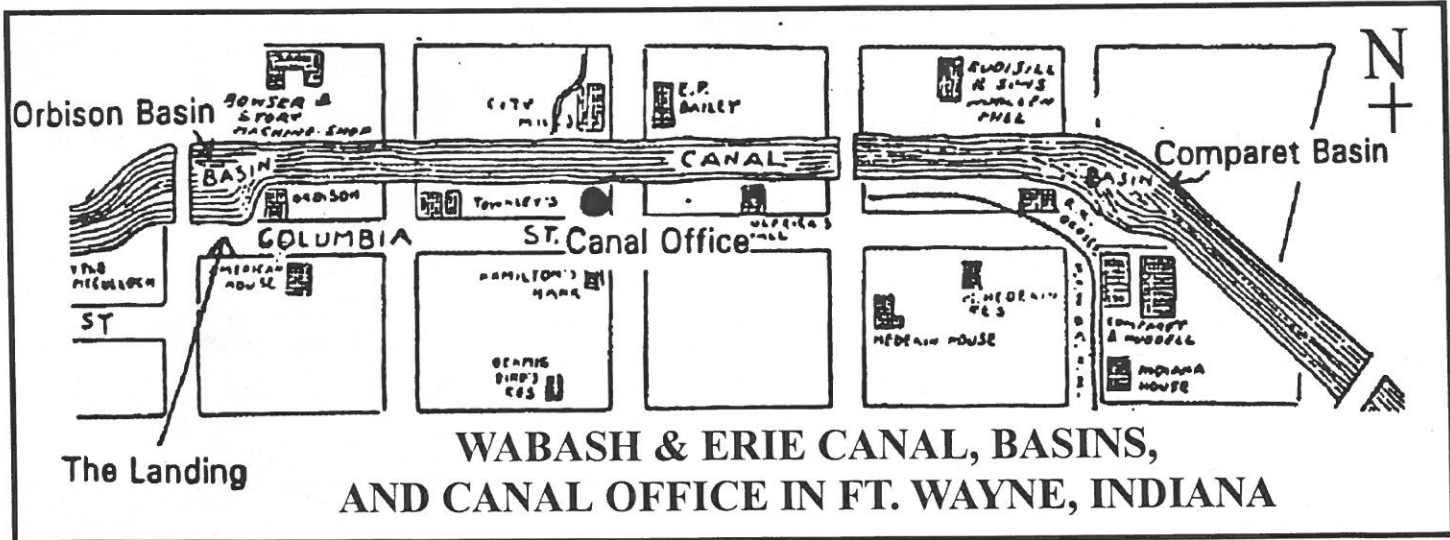
Griswold, B.J. Pictorial History of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Robert O Law Co./Chicago, IL. 1917.

Mather, George. Frontier Faith. Allen County Fort Wayne Historical Society/Fort Wayne, IN. 1992.

Old Fort News. Vol. 54 No. 2. Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society/Fort Wayne, IN. 1991.

Pioneers Resting in Historic Lindenwood. Lindenwood Historical Foundation/Ft. Wayne, IN. 1989; also directions to grave site given by Lindenwood Cemetery staff.

Poinsatte, Charles. Fort Wayne During the Canal Era 1828-1855. Indiana Historical Bureau /Indianapolis, IN. 1969.



WABASH & ERIE CANAL, BASINS,
AND CANAL OFFICE IN FT. WAYNE, INDIANA

The Comparet Canal Basin was built on the flood plain where the three rivers meet in Fort Wayne, IN. It became a turnaround basin for canal boats. On its north side were two mills that used falling canal water to drive their wheels. Four mills on the south side did not have enough fall and converted the canal water to steam power. The three elevators could process 8,000 bushels of grain each day. The corn-sheller warehouse could deliver 2,500 bushels daily. This became the country's largest milling complex. David and Joseph Comparet had a fleet of grain boats that ran from Ft. Wayne to Toledo and a rail spur to transport their grain.

NEWS FROM DELPHI

LOOMIS SPEAKS ON OHIO'S CANALS

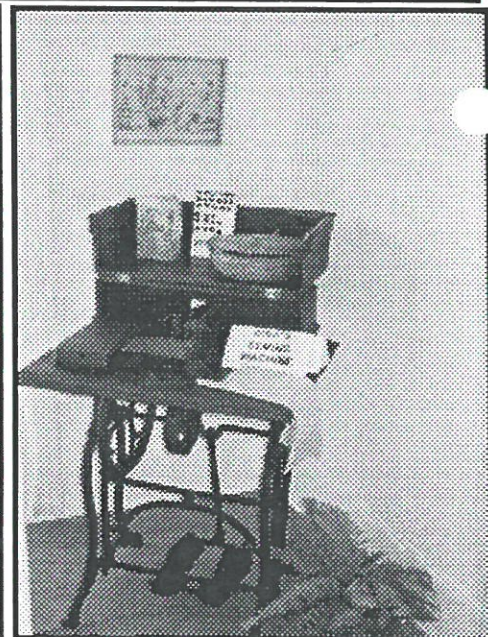
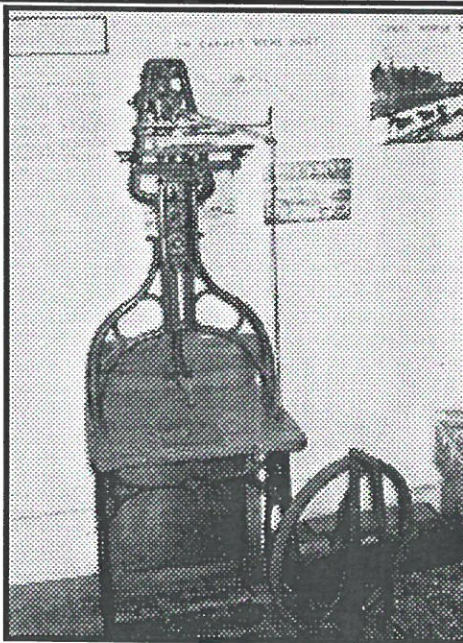
Linn Loomis, a canal historian, who is a member of the American, Indiana, New York (State), and Ohio Canal societies, many other historical groups, and author of several Ohio canal histories, came from Newcomerstown, Ohio to speak in Delphi. His talk entitled "Here and Now--Ohio's Canals" was given on Wednesday, September 24th at 7:30 PM in the Wabash & Erie Canal Conference and Interpretive Center at Canal Park. He also had his books *Here And Now - Ohio's Canals: The Background Of Ohio's Canal System* and *Here And Now - Ohio's Canals:*



The Sandy And Beaver Canal available for those wanting to buy copies. The Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc. hosted this public event.

Loomis presented slides of canal features and canal routes in Ohio and related the history of these sites to remnants visible today. In many instances Ohio has more artifacts remaining of their nineteenth century canal system than Indiana. It didn't liquidate the land containing these historic waterways at the end of the water transportation era as Indiana did with an auction sale in 1876.

The Canal Center and the nearly completed galleries of the Interpretive Museum were open to the public that evening for this special event. Regular museum hours are: Saturday 10-4 PM. and Sunday 1-4 PM.

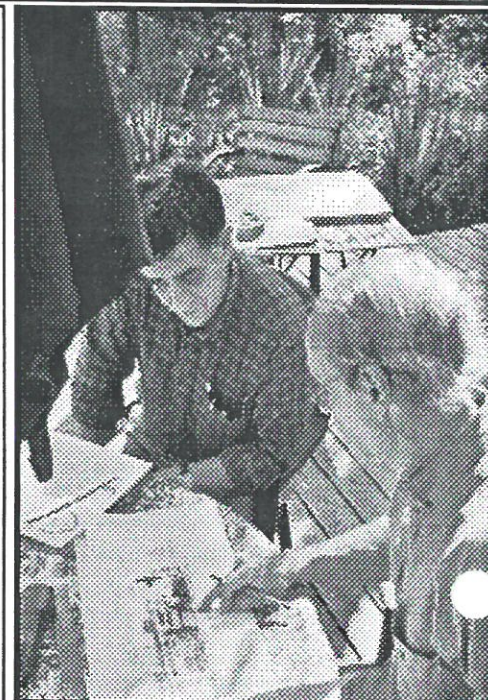


Top left: The Craft Shop in the new canal center museum will display strange and unusual machines such as this pantograph that was used by Dan McCain's great grandfather in the 1800s to scribe letters and line images on silverware, clocks, watches, etc. in his jewelry store.

Top right: Items such as this 1850s sewing machine will be displayed in the Craft Shop on a rotating basis. The museum designers are seeking old canal era tools for the shop. These may be donated or loaned for display.

Center: The Canal Conference Center can be rented for meetings such as this one. So far ten wedding receptions, dozens of meetings, numerous reunions, and board meetings are on the calendar.

Bottom: Tom Castaldi and Terry Lacy work on the many graphic panels for the museum galleries. Photos by Dan McCain



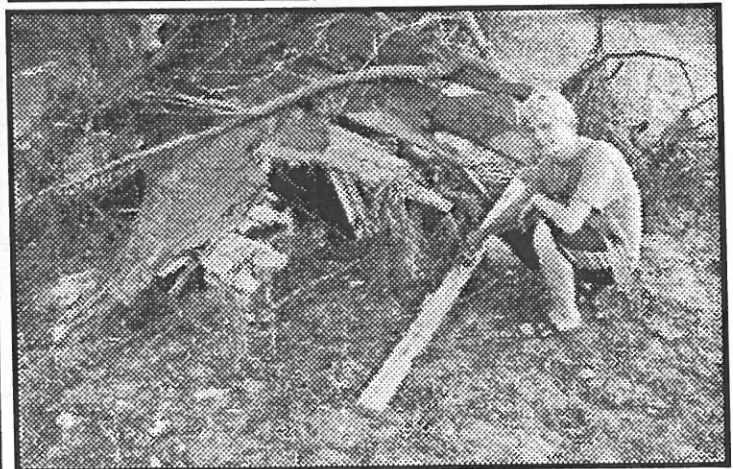
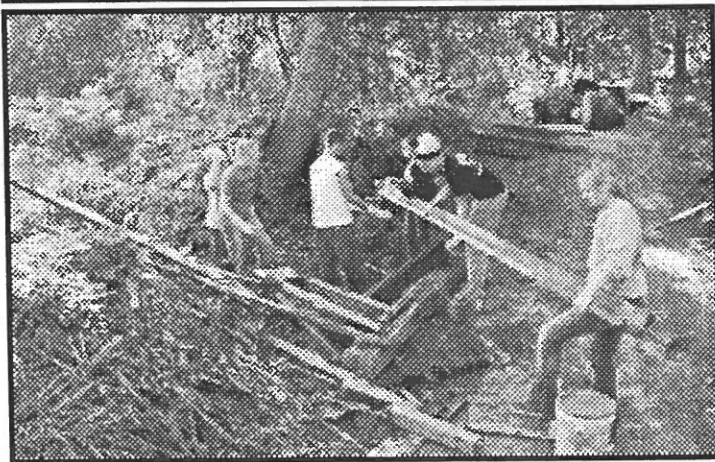
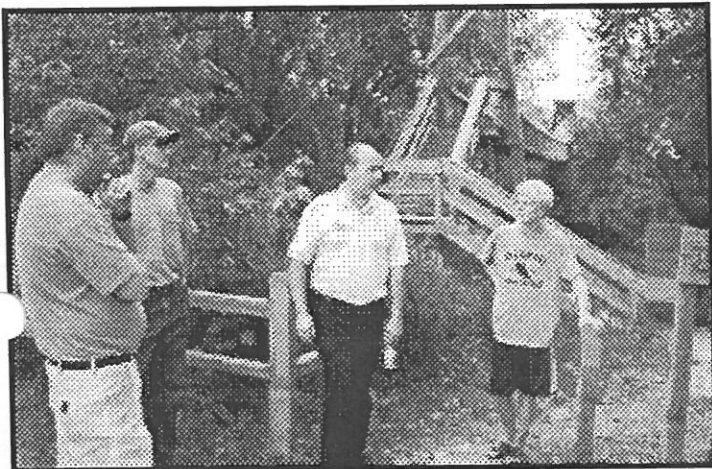
Youth Rescue Flood Damaged Trails

By Dan McCain

In the third week of September three different sources of youthful energy came to the rescue. Their tasks were focused on restoring the flood damaged trails and facilities along Deer Creek in Delphi. Tuesday and Thursday morning netted "community service" from High School students and Saturday produced fifty scouts and community adults (some with equipment) to nearly complete the job of trail restoration. High School students were treated to lunch compliments of Blimpies and Monical's Pizza, while the Saturday group was treated to free "Ote Meals" by the local Psi Iota Xi sorority.

The largest volunteer group of helpers were Juniors and Seniors from Delphi Community High School. They were led by a challenge from Principal Mr. Brakel to "give back to the community through personal service" -- and that they did. Dozens of students swarmed onto the recent flood ravaged areas of trails near Trailhead Park and in Riley Park to restore these community facilities. Like bees in a nest or ants from an ant hill, the many arms and legs teamed up through two mornings to carry refuse to dumpsters or pile onto burn piles for disposal. Hazardous plastic, glass or other materials not to be burned were properly collected and placed for removal by the City of Delphi.

Work at the Trailhead site was coordinated by the Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc. and Delphi Historic Trails volunteers while associated work at Riley Park was headed by the City Park Superintendent.



Top: Jay Scott, City Street Supt., and his assistant, Mr. Brakel , High School Principal, discuss plans for debris removal with Daniel Carbaugh, Eagle Scout candidate.

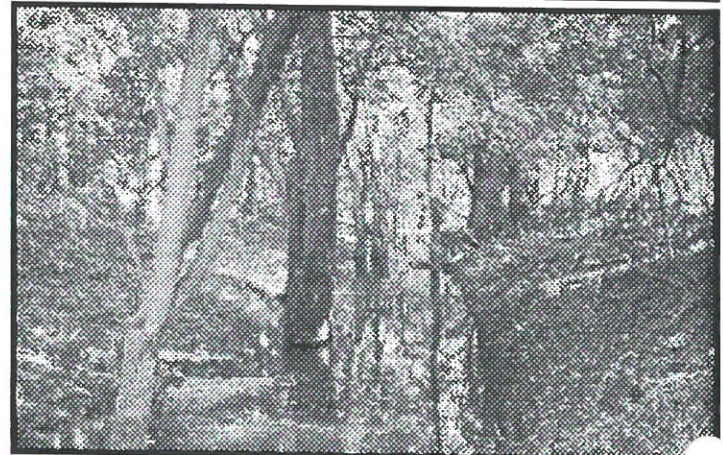
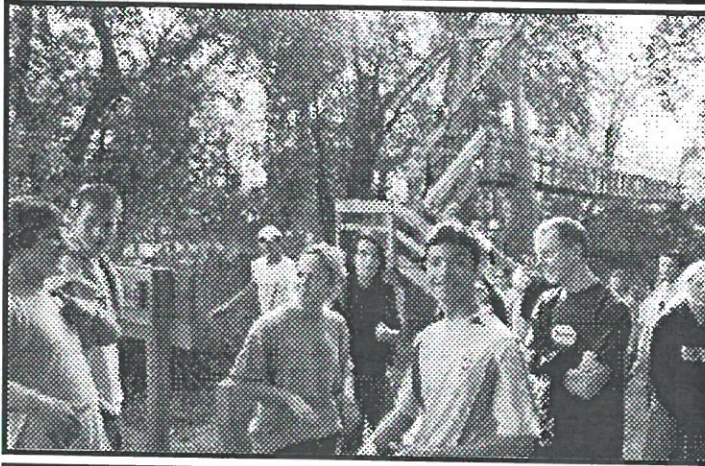
Top: Daniel Carbaugh selected a portion of Happy Jack's Loop Trail along Deer Creek for his Eagle project.

Bottom: Vast amounts of debris that floated in during the July flood impacted Delphi's trails and nearby facilities. Boy Scouts pulled out and burned trees and limbs while hazardous materials were bagged for proper disposal.

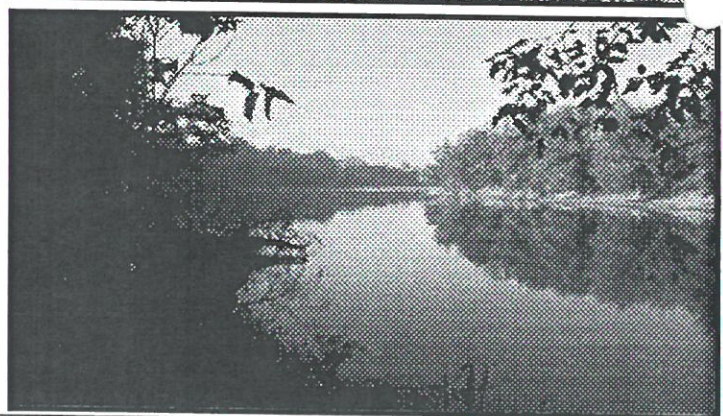
Bottom: Here are parts of the Riley Park Bath House that floated downstream nearly a mile and became lodged in trees along the trail.

Photos by Dan McCain

BOY SCOUT EAGLE PROJECT



Delphi High School "Community Service" Project



Top: High School students assembled early in the morning fresh and ready to pick up debris. Their work area was just downstream from the Trailhead Suspension Bridge that spans Deer Creek. Miraculously this bridge survived the flood unlike the similar bridge in Riley Park, which went down in the July flood.

Bottom: A bon-fire helped dispose of refuse gleaned from the July flood as students flush out "one piece at a time" from the Robbins Trail near Sunset Point where Deer Creek joins the Wabash River.

Top: High School students spent two mornings last week gleaning boards, tree limbs and debris from the Delphi Historic Trails area near Deer Creek junction with the Wabash River southwest of Delphi. Access to this site by hikers is through

Trailhead Park from the south or the VanScoy Towpath Trail from the north. At one time in the mid 1800s this area was part of the Wabash & Erie Canal.

Center: Debris has been removed from this section of the old Wabash & Erie Canal. From 1840 to 1874 this section was part of a lake formed by a rock crib dam on Deer Creek and served as a "slack water" crossing for canal boats traveling between Delphi and Lafayette. For more history and details of this man-made waterway visit the new Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center.

Bottom: The beauty and serenity of the Wabash can be enjoyed from Sunset Point on the Delphi Historic Trails 7 mile system, a part of Indiana's partially completed Wabash Heritage Corridor Trail.

Photos by Dan McCain