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Saturday is call-out for flower planters

Those who enjoy Delphi's Canal Park and 10-mile trail system are invited to help beautify them by planting flowers.

Canal Board president Dan McCain said volunteers can come this Saturday for an organized planting day, or they can adopt a favorite location and plant and maintain it whenever they like.

Flower coordinator Pat Draper advises those who select their own locations to avoid areas that may flood or where foot traffic is excessive. Those who adopt a spot for the season can let Draper or McCain know, and a Trail Treasures sign will be installed at the location.

Those who plan to come on Saturday (one of the designated Third Saturday Workdays) should assemble at Canal Park at 9 a.m.

Draper said the Canal Association will have some flowers for volunteers to plant, but if they have perennials in beds that still need thinning or they just want to go out and buy

a flat of annuals, the donated flowers would be appreciated.

Lois Mears specializes in locating wildflowers on her farm and could use some help transplanting them to the appropriate trail areas.

"The sunny, shady, wet and dry plant environments along the trails provide a wide array of locations for these native species," she said.

McCain said groups and individuals of all ages are welcome to come to the planting day. He reminds volunteers that while they're at Canal Park, they can take a ride on the canal pontoon boat. It operates each Saturday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., and also on Sundays at 2.

The Interpretive Center is open to visitors on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (and on Thursday, Friday and Sunday from 1-4).

After flower planting, volunteers can also take a walk along the trails.

Canal Park is located on Washington Street.

Canal Center showcases working primitive loom

Comet staff report

The Wabash and Erie Canal Association received an unusual three-harness loom last December as a donation from Conner Prairie Pioneer Settlement, south of Noblesville.

The original structure of the 200-year-old cantilevered barn loom is in excellent condition and was quickly assembled. A new seat and treadles already had been hand-made and arrived with the loom; however, Gordon Stevens, local weaver and Canal Board member, soon ascertained that several critical pieces were missing, including the reed and all parts of the heddles.

Fortunately, Dorothy and Ron Baker of Lafayette became interested in helping to complete the loom and put it in working order. Dorothy is president of the Lafayette Weavers Guild. The Bakers took on the task of making 900 string heddles ("eyes" which carry the warp) and extra rollers to hold two of the three moveable parts. To complete the restoration, the craftsmen borrowed most of the missing parts from two other looms stored on Canal Park property.

Over a two-day period, the Bakers worked with Stevens, Bill and Pat Draper of Delphi, and Susan Feller, educational coordinator at the park, warping the loom while they explained the function of each part. The Bakers also provided all of the thread used as warp and weft for the project.

In April, Cindy and Bill Ruesink, who are three-heddle loom specialists from Madison, visited the canal with Pat Thalhauser from Decatur, Ill., Margaret Spear of Charleston, Ill., and Kathy O'Neal from Gary. All are weavers familiar with a wide variety of looms.

The five visitors, along with the Bakers and canal volunteers, were able to hang the heddles and rope the treadles in the proper arrangement to produce a working three-heddle loom, ready for the weaver to begin producing a type of early fabric called "jean." "Jean" was used to make work clothes that were not only rugged, but could easily be kept clean by boiling without shrinking the fabric.

Visitors may see this unusual loom in the Livery of the

Interpretive Center at Canal Park, Friday and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m., Delphi. Open hours are Thursday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Local weaver

Gordon Stevens is pictured with the barn loom that was donated to the canal association by Conner Prairie Pioneer Settlement. Stevens has been coordinating the project to put the loom back into working order. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald



Loom restoration

Dorothy Baker, pictured, and her husband, Ron, made 900 string heddles for the canal association's loom. The heddles were missing when the association acquired the 200-year-old loom. Photo provided

Looking Back

From the files of Hoosier Democrat, Delphi Journal, Journal-Citizen and Carroll County Comet.

10 YEARS AGO

The big news at Monday's Flora Town Council meeting was actually sitting all red and shiny in close proximity right next door. When it was announced that the Town was in possession of a new 100-foot ladder fire truck, Councilwoman Joretta Tinsman voiced what others had speculated over, "I'm just so glad it actually fits in the firehouse."

Doug Abdon has purchased the Chrysler-Plymouth-Dodge dealership in Flora from John Walls. The new owner plans to continue both the new and used car lots in Flora.

25 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coomey, Delphi, have received word that their daughter, a lyricist in Nashville, Tenn., has had her song, "I've Been Waiting For You All My Life", recorded by Paul Anka. Anka introduced it from the stage in Las Vegas. It also was seen by various Delphi residents when Anka sang it on the Phil Donahue Show, John Davidson and American Bandstand.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick T. Bishop and Mr. and Mrs. Marshall



Buick, year unknown

McCammack, both of Flora, were in Rome when the Pope was shot last Wednesday. The two couples had visited St. Peter's Square prior to the incident and were in the sistine Chapel at the time of the shooting.

50 YEARS AGO

Lack of information was the chief development this week in the uncertainty surrounding the status of the Flora plant of the Capehart-Farnsworth Company. The Ben Gross Corporation of New York purchased the plant and equipment, but future plans are uncertain. The plant, which has employed between 200 and 400 people, is gradually grinding

to a halt. As each department of the factory completes its current orders, workers are being laid off.

Republican and Democrat parties in Carroll County reformed their organizations Saturday and took first steps looking toward the November general election.

Both groups re-elected their chairmen and the GOP returned to office the entire slate for officers which has served the past two years.

75 YEARS AGO

C. J. Smith of Delphi is making the necessary arrangements to discontinue his stock yards at Colburn and Rockfield and up-to-date yards will be built in Delphi, presumably near the old paper mill along the Wabash railroad. It is estimated the yards will cost about \$10,000 and will prove a great benefit to the community as it will bring farmers from all over the country to the Smith stock yards as he pays the price and is a fine fellow.

Plans are being made at Flora to furnish free motion pictures on the Main Street or at the park beginning Friday night, May 18. They are to be sponsored by Flora merchants. The first band concert there will begin the first Wednesday night in June.

100 YEARS AGO

The order made several weeks ago by Frankfort barber shops to charge five cents extra for shaving the necks of patrons, has been revoked. The order was an unpopular one with patrons and objections became so strong that the boss barbers decided to call it off.

About thirty friends gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F.M. Langston in Burlington township last Sunday to remind Mr. Langston of the fact that he had arrived at his 52nd birthday anniversary. The affair was intended as a surprise and as such was a success. A pleasant time was reported.

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