

## Meetings

### Double Dozen EH

Mary Ellen Johnson was hostess at the March meeting of Double Dozen Extension Homemakers, with Susie Dyke assisting. Barbara Ottinger was a guest.

The birthdays of Margie Albaugh and Lona Yeakley were honored, as well as the anniversary of Susie Dyke.

Selections for next year's Leader Lessons were collected, and Wellness Brochures were distributed.

New officers for the year are: Lona Yeakley, president; Margie Albaugh, vice president; Elizabeth Mylet, secretary; and Susie Dyke, treasurer.

A contribution to the Cancer Society was made in honor of the late Mary Martin.

Two lessons were presented – "What Do Quilts Tell Us?" by Barbara Dillon and Betty Bell, and "Healthy Homes – What to do about Mold" by Virginia Marcellino.

Barbara Dillon presented the Health & Safety lesson concerning checking expiration dates.

Helen Forgey and Betty Bell were prize winners.

The next meeting will be April 3 with Virginia Marcellino as hostess.

### Tri Kappa

The Associate Chapter of Tri Kappa met March 13 at Solomon's Grille.

Members brought high school photos of themselves and tried to guess who each person was. They played 'name that tune' to records from the 50s and 60s.

A convention to be held in April was announced.

The chapter will hold two meetings April 10. The regular meeting will be at 11:30 a.m. at Wildcat Creek Bed & Breakfast. Both chapters will be present for the anniversary party at 6:30 p.m. at the Canal Interpretive Center.

The birthday pig was fed by Linda Carroll, Pat Duff and Annette Manahan. Party prize went to Shirleen Dimmitt.

Committee in charge was Linda Carroll, Mary Helen Abbott and Pat Robbins.

## Cooper, Herbst pledged



Jessica Nicole Cooper and Justin Lee Herbst, both of Delphi, were united in marriage on Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. The double-ring ceremony was held at Pittsburg Missionary Baptist with Creta Hollis officiating.

Parents of the bride are Laura Fryman of Delphi and Gary Cooper of Creve de Coeur, Ill. The groom is the son of Rebel Rathbone of Delphi, Donald Herbst of Fowler, and Alan Rathbone of Rossville.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Rebel Rath-

bone and Gary Cooper were the witnesses to the marriage.

Chance Jaelyn Habbinga of Delphi served as ring bearer.

The bride, a 2000 graduate of McCutcheon High School, is attending Indiana Business College in Lafayette.

The groom graduated from Delphi Community High School in 2002. He is a professional MMA fighter for Colosseum Combat and is employed at Delphi Limestone.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbst are residing in Delphi.



### Hoosier Homestead Award

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, left, and Agriculture Director Andy Miller, right, recently presented the Andrew Blair Austin family with the Hoosier Homestead Award in recognition of their more than 150-year commitment to Indiana agriculture. The farm, located in Carroll County, was established in 1845. The Austin family joins nearly 4,500 Hoosier Homestead farms. To be named a Hoosier Homestead, farms must be owned by the same family for more than 100 consecutive years and consist of more than 20 acres or produce more than \$1,000 of agricultural products per year. Photo provided

## Benefiels to celebrate 40th

Rosie and Gene Benefiel are celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary.

A surprise party/hog roast will be held April 14 at 4 p.m. at the Buxton Christian Church

in Fredonia, Kan.

Cards can be sent to Rosie and Gene Benefiel, Julie Lane, 11661 Jade Rd., Fredonia, KS 66736, or emails to Danny-Lane@terraworld.net

## What's Happening Elsewhere

Wednesdays in the Wild will host the program **BIRDS THROUGH CARVINGS** April 4 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Lilly Nature Center. Russ Mumford, avid birder and co-author of *The Birds of Indiana*, will talk about

birds using examples he has carved. The center is located on the north side of Lindberg Rd. between Northwestern Ave. and McCormick Rd. in West Lafayette. Call Mary Cutler at (765) 567-2993 for information.

# Former Carroll County judge receives Freemason Grand Lodge award

By Kevin Schnepf  
Staff writer

Former Carroll County judge John Reed Smock was presented a 75-year service pin, another pin which read "proud to be a freemason" and a homemade cane at the March 22 Freemason meeting at Mt. Zion Lodge #211

in Camden.

Indiana Freemason Grand Master John Barkdull gave a history of Smock's service to the organization when he presented the gifts.

"This is a rare occurrence indeed," Barkdull, who had never presented a 75-year pin before, said. "This is a very prestigious

event we get to be a part of. All we can ask is that we never forget."

The cane was made by Freemason Fred Hartman, who said he made it after he heard from Smock's daughter the 77-year member could still walk.

Smock, a member of the organization since June 4, 1929,

practiced law for a short time before he joined the FBI during WWII.

He said when he attended Indiana University to study law at age 19, the only person he knew on campus was attorney Ralph Hanna, who lived at Acacia Fraternity, a Freemason establishment on campus. He ate with Hanna and other members for two years until he was old enough to join the fraternity.

Smock joined Mt. Olive Lodge in Delphi June 4, 1929, was named a Freemason apprentice in July that year, then attained his fellow craft degree the next month. In September, he reached the degree of Master Mason. He joined Acacia in October 1929.

By 1936, he had risen through deacon and warden positions to become Master of Mt. Olive lodge. He was presented his 50-year pin at Mt. Olive on Feb. 5, 1980. Mt. Olive lodge eventually consolidated with Mt. Zion lodge in Camden.

As an attorney, Smock joined the FBI at the beginning of WWII. He moved around during that time, but settled back in the Lafayette area. When Carroll Circuit Court Judge Watson McCormick died unexpectedly in 1972, Gov. Bowen appointed Smock to the position. Following the interim appointment, Smock was elected to another term.

Lodge secretary Bill Veach said Smock's achievement was scarce but one he was glad to see.

"We were tickled to death John could be there," Veach said. "It is a rarity and we were glad to honor him."

## 'Indiana Grand Lodge Award – 75 years a Freemason'



So read a pin presented to former Carroll County judge John Reed Smock, who was honored for 75 years of service as a Freemason at a special presentation March 22. On hand to present the award was Grand Master of Indiana John Barkdull. Smock's history in the organization was read while he was given the pin, another pin and a cane. Pictured, left to right, are Barkdull, Lodge Master Chris Dyke, Smock, and special guests Sandy Smock Grady (his daughter) and Mary and Tom Ives. Comet photo by Kevin Schnepf



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## Plenty of volunteer jobs for canal/trails activities

### Comet staff report

A call-out for new and present volunteers for canal and trail activities is set for Tuesday, April 3, at the Canal Interpretive Center in Delphi.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. but volunteers are invited to come earlier if they would like to review some of the recent plans for trailside interactive enhancements. The planner for this project is Len Mysliwicz, who conceived the Interpretive Center exhibits and galleries four years ago.

Volunteers help with Canal Park activities, build and maintain trails, plant flowers, work on restorations, and are canal and trail hosts and ambassadors. They work and also have a lot of fun.

Recruits are needed to become "canal boat captains" for the weekend jaunts on the pontoon boat. Rides have been offered to the public for the past two years. Today's pontoon captains may advance to boat captains when the replica canal boat is completed in 2009.

Included in the trail building efforts is one shorter trail loop behind Dairy Queen/Pizza Hut. It involves re-erecting an old iron bridge over the canal this summer. Another longer trail involves a picturesque area east of Delphi where an old pioneer road scribed the landscape on the historic Bowen Farm.

Education coordinator Susan Feller, a retired teacher, will be at the meeting gathering input and soliciting more volunteers for the expected onslaught of school tours. She needs persons who like to work with children. The Interpretive Center in Canal Park has become a popular place to bring children, especially fourth graders studying Indiana history.

On a regular basis, the Canal Association needs sin-

gles or couples to help greet the public during Interpretive Center public hours. At a minimum, the facility is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sundays from 1-4 p.m. and on other special days when the Case House is open, too. There are three three-hour shifts on each weekend.

Those interested in volunteering for any of these activities are encouraged to attend this orientation meeting.

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Closed Saturday, March 31st