



Canal-side ride

Steve Carter, a member of The Indiana Wheelmen, rides his 1885 Columbia along the canal during the Heritage Transportation Festival. This high wheel bicycle was made in the 1870s and 1880s. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

Wheelmen turn back the clock at Canal Park

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

A past title holder in The Guinness Book of World Records took part in Delphi's Heritage Transportation Festival last weekend.

Steve Carter of Plainfield and fellow members of the Indiana Wheelmen, a vintage bicycle organization, were on hand at Canal Park in Delphi. They brought with them several old-fashioned bicycles, all built before 1900. To the delight of onlookers, they rode their cycles along the canal towpath, dressed in period clothing.

One of the bicycles was Carter's 1885 Columbia, a high wheeler called "an ordinary." He said the diameter of the larger front wheel measures 52 inches.

In 1992, Carter set a Guinness World Record with his Columbia, in "High Wheels Transcontinental Crossing." He recreated a ride made by Thomas Stevens in 1884 from San Francisco to Boston. Stevens rode a 50-inch Columbia high wheel, covering over 3,300 miles in 104 days.

Carter rode approximately the same route, documenting 3,428 miles in 33 days, seven

hours. His record held for several years before being broken.

"The Wheelmen is a national organization with international membership," Carter said. "The Midwest has the most members. Our Indiana Wheelmen has a membership of about 50 families."

The total membership of the nonprofit organization, according to The Wheelmen website, is more than 1,000. Carter is a past national commander and past national historian of the organization.

"We try to re-create the golden age of cycling (1880s and 1890s)," Carter said.

Members collect and restore antique bicycles, and go to meets, seminars, and social events. They display, demonstrate, and go on rides with each other. One ride is called the Century Ride, which is 100 miles in one day.

The Wheelmen takes its name from The League of American Wheelmen, which existed in the 1880s.

Carter said the bicycle gave an alternative means of travel to the horse.

"The bicycle is always saddled," Carter said. "It can go as great a distance as a horse and it never has to be fed."



Vagaband plays bluegrass at Coffee Beat

Delphi Public Library is the stage for the monthly Coffee Beat which features local, live entertainment. Four-member string-band Vagaband is featured June 21. Playing old-time, traditional, bluegrass, Celtic and folk songs, the group will "wow" you with diverse talent and bring a smile to the face for the entire evening. Music starts at 7 p.m. Coffee and desserts are available. Guests should enter the library through the Indiana St. entrance. Pictured, left to right, are Linda Hicks, John Howland, Noemi Ybarra and Sharon McKnight. Photo provided

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Business Briefs

KAREN WEATHERWAX of K. Weatherwax Photography in Delphi participated in the 28th session of M.A.I.P.P. the first week in June. The institute utilizes the facilities of the University of Northern Iowa to bring a unique educational experience to photographers. More than 200 professional photographers from 20 states studied with 10 nationally recognized photographers.

Weatherwax's week was with Michael Taylor and Monica Sigmon with the main emphasis on lighting, posing, digital techniques, and marketing.

Weatherwax is a member of Professional Photographers of America and Professional Photographers of Indiana. She specializes in portrait photography.

GLENDON WOLFE of Norris Insurance was recently named to Celina Insurance Group advisory board for a two-year term. The advisory board of seven members is selected by the company and made up of its most profitable and prominent agents. The board works with company directors to develop and implement policy and changes to help better serve policyholders as well as agents.



Wolfe

JENNIFER JESSIE has joined the staff of Clapper Funeral Services, owners of Hartzler-Clapper Funeral Home in Brookston, Foster-Clapper Funeral Home in Wolcott, and Clapper Family Funeral Home in Monon. Jessie will be a family service counselor/marketing director, responsible for assisting families with family service follow-up and pre-arranged funerals, as well as overseeing advertising and marketing for all locations.

She is a graduate of Frontier High School with college course work at Ivy Tech State College and Indiana Wesleyan University. She recently obtained her Resident Producers Life License in the State of Indiana.

A life-long resident of the Brookston area, Jessie is the daughter of James and Jamie Buntin. She resides in Brookston with her husband, Rick, and twin daughters, Sara and Samantha.

LISA PERRY has opened a real estate office in Delphi.

Perry has been a real estate agent for over six years and a real estate broker for the past three years.

"Working with other agencies has given me a lot of experience," said Perry. "I have wanted to be more involved in the Delphi community and opening my own business will help me do that. The real estate market is slow everywhere and I have some new, innovative ideas to get your home to the person who wants to buy it."



Perry

Perry and her husband, Mike, have an 11-year-old son, Jarek. Her phone number is 765-427-0145 or email her at LisaPerryRealEstate@gmail.com