

VOLUNTEER UPDATE – AUG 14, 2009

## VOLUNTEER PROJECTS GO ON AS THE SUMMER PROGRESSES

We had visitors from out of state. These volunteers from the Illinois & Michigan Canal Corridor came to check our progress. They are docents /interpretive specialists that portray the 1850s life and times. They perform their dialog in "first person" for groups that come to the I&M corridor west of Chicago.



They admired our newly completed *GUARD LOCK* at the southwest end of our Canal Park in Delphi, IN.



Our Monday-Wednesday-Friday volunteer crew has just about outdone themselves creating this brand new replica stone chamber and wooden gate exhibit where no structure existed before. All the cut stone, gates and iron work was brought in and assembled this spring and summer.



Detailed features recreating the historic Paragon Guard Lock site two miles to the north include a swinging wicket gate controlled from above with a "key" (lever). All iron work was created by longtime volunteer craftsman Roy Patrick.



When gates are closed in a real *Guard Lock* operation it would be denote protection of the canal section below when a major flood was underway. This replicates the protective structure in the mid-1800s at Paragon at the entrance/exit to the Wabash Lake just west of Carrollton and Milkhouse Roads a mile north of Delphi. The dam built in 1838-39 was downstream at Pittsburg.



In addition to the *Guard Gate* at Paragon there was an adjacent bridge just above the guard lock chamber (note the arched black iron railing for reference in the next picture below). Next is an historic picture of a "change bridge" along New York's Erie Canal. It allowed towing animals to change sides without dropping the rope as they moved from one side of the canal to the other and went on their way.



Featuring historic bridges makes us aware of maintaining our 1873 wrought iron "RED BRIDGE" in Canal Park Annex. Recently Bob Tyner volunteered to repaint the fading color and make this beautiful bowstring arch look new again. Volunteers moved / restored this relic from nearby Camden as a trail conveyance 10 years ago.



And the work goes on. The railroad baggage building has just been stabilized and painted. Earlier volunteers built the stone foundation. Now the repaired building is ready for a new "standing rib" old fashioned roof. We went shopping for the metal panels this week and a blessing came to us -- Scott and Steve Mathews who own a lumber yard south of Burlington donated enough to complete our restoration.



YOU AIN' T SEEN 'NOTHIN YET! Stay tuned, we have another *BIG* volunteer project to begin this fall.