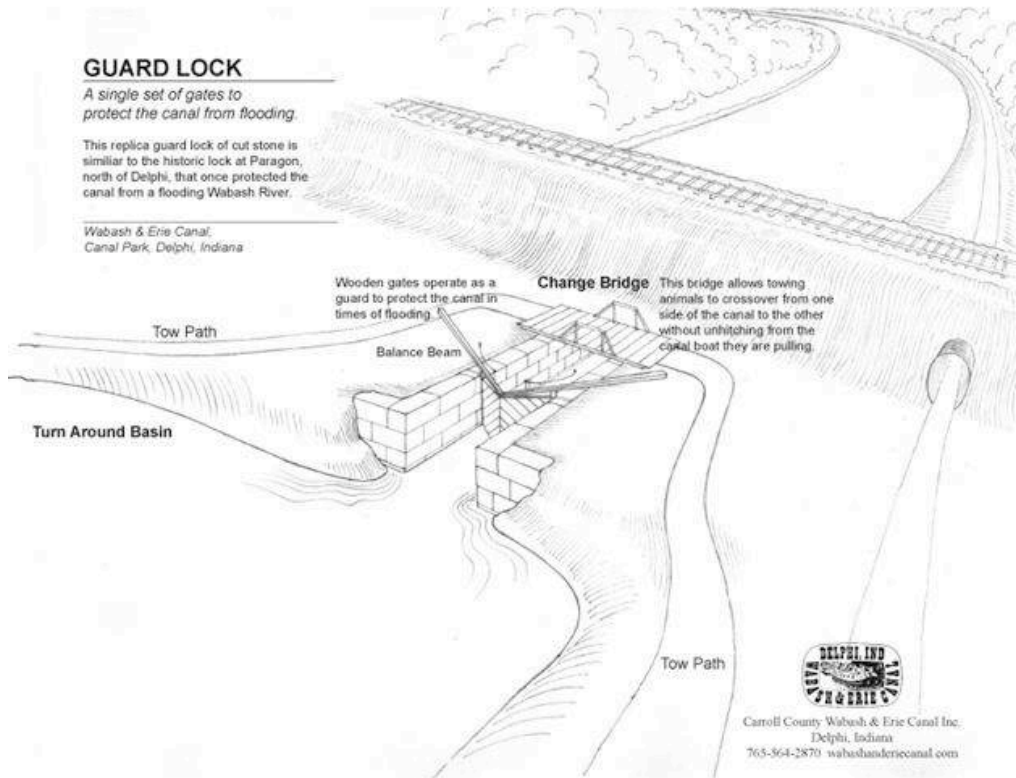


VOLUNTEER UPDATE – JAN 7, 2009

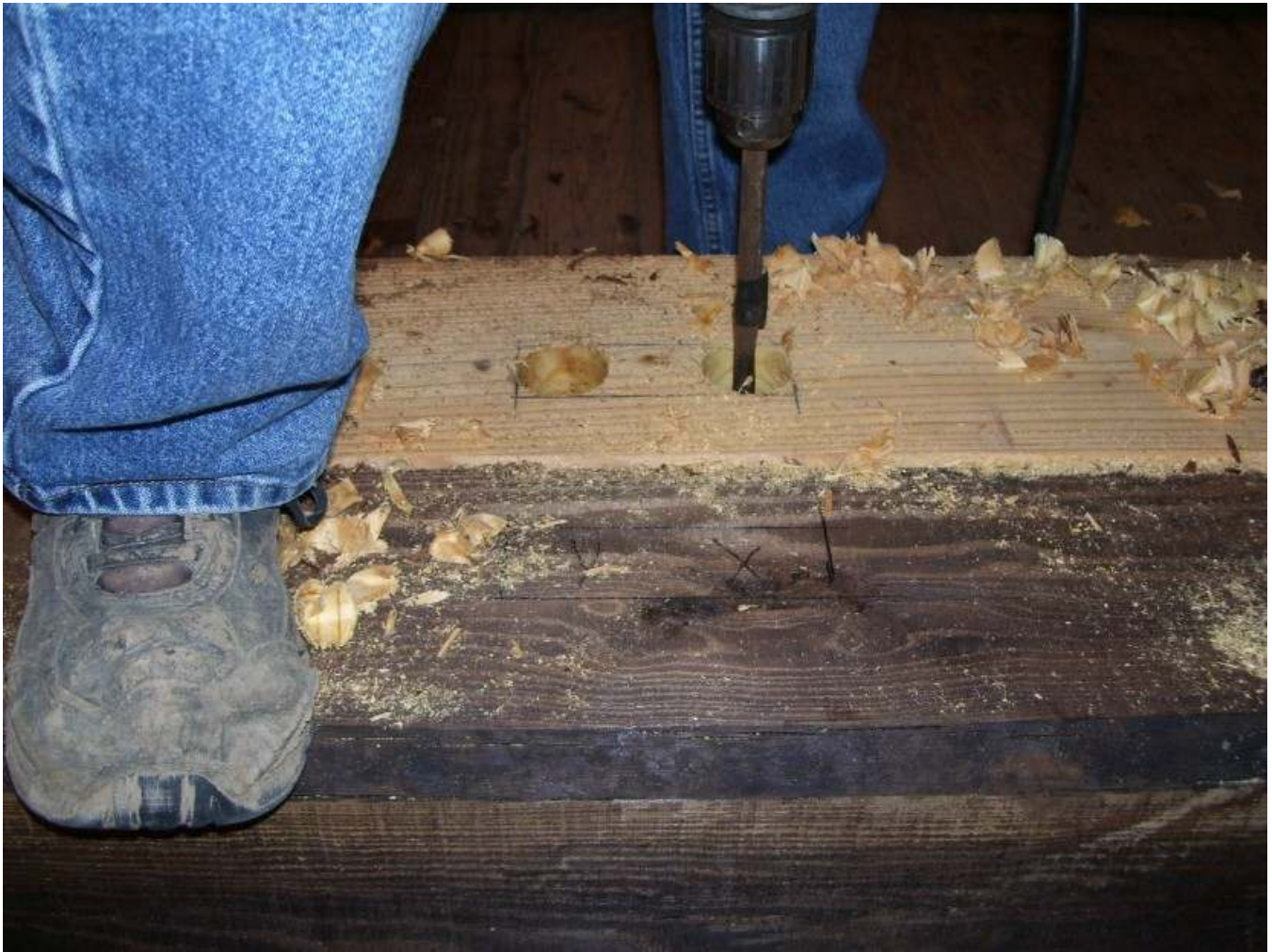


This outdoor interactive gate exhibit will be placed at the southwestern end of Canal Park

But the project begins here



Eight seasoned volunteers came together the first Monday in January to begin another exciting exhibit. This time the work is inside Ed Gruber's wood heated barn west of Delphi. Longtime volunteer Ron Dust (far left) now lives in Chicago but still comes monthly to volunteer his engineering talents. He moved back to be nearer his children/grandchildren but can't miss out on important beginnings like this beginning for the Guard Gate assembly. In the foreground are the "quoin post and the miter post" laying side by side while Al Auffart, a volunteer from Cutler, marks the position for the mortise and tenon joints. Vern Cripe also a talented volunteer from Delphi is ready to help cut the square holes in these massive timbers.



The first step in making a square hole is to remove some of the wood with a large drill. Then the hand work of shaping the hole with flat wide chisels and a special right angle square wood chisel will do the job. It just takes hours to make these mortices into the timbers but our patient volunteers regularly work M-W-F mornings throughout the year. This time the goal in mid-winter months is to complete two gates. Later these gates will be positioned inside the cut stone lined chamber yet to be placed in the canal near the southwest end of Canal Park next to the old Monon Railroad.



For over 10 years volunteer Roy Patrick (with grinder) has worked with the Canal Association on many intriguing projects. He and Bill Draper (left) have been instrumental in creating many of the museum exhibits in the Interpretive Center, moving, repairing, painting and erecting two historic iron bridges and now this work on making tenons in timbers to fit into the miter post and quoin post of the Guard Lock gates.

If there are retirees that have interest in volunteering and accomplishing this kind of work during the M-W-F weekday mornings we invite you to help us. Or if you own or have access to some of these special wood tools for making mortise and tenon joints and want to offer them call Dan McCain at 765-412-3208.

**The picture below shows the foundation work ongoing by sub-contractor LaPorte Construction. Michiana Contractors out of Plymouth has the prime contract with INDOT to build our Canal Boat Warehouse. This can be seen near Canal Park in Delphi north of the Stone Arch Bridge over the canal (Washington Street). The framing crew for this large historic looking warehouse building for storage of the new boat will begin by mid-January.**

