

Historical society seeks grant

Group plans to conduct survey of local buildings

By MELANIE KING
Herald Journal Staff

The White County Historical Society will apply for a \$33,000-\$35,000 federal grant in November to survey historical structures in White County.

The figure is based in the size of the county, said Andy Harmon, of the historical society.

The society will be applying through the Historical Landmarks Foundation for a grant from the Indiana Division of Historical Preservation, which receives much of its funding from the Department of Natural Resources.

The funds for the project could be released in May or June, and work will then begin June 1992, he said. A team of three to five people from the

Historical Landmarks Foundation will comb White County for historical structures.

The survey would end by Sept. 1, 1992, and a publication might be released by Jan. 1993, Harmon said.

The historical society has saved a third of the money needed to do the survey, he said. The survey will need \$33,000-\$35,000, but grants in the past have been only given for two-thirds of the total amount needed for the surveys, Harmon said.

"Anyone could do this," he said, "but we decided it's more of a historical type of thing."

A historical structure is anything built before 1940, Harmon said. It doesn't have to be a building, it could just be an outhouse or a well.

Approximately 750 books about the history of White County will be

made and sold to reimburse the historical society for the money that it will be spent on the project.

The survey will also alert the society as to which structures should be included in the National Register of Historic Places. The register was started by The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 which states that the federal government has a policy of preserving the nation's cultured resources.

An application will be submitted for each structure that the society members think should be in the register, Harmon said.

There are drawbacks and benefits of having a structure on the National Register of Historic Places, Harmon said.

The owner will not be able to alter any of the historic significance of the structure, such as changing

the line of the roof, he said.

But, funding would be available for restoration of the structure, he added.

The significant purpose of the surveys is that the public will have an easier time discussing the destruction of historical structures with their local governments, said Marsh Davis of the Historical Landmarks Foundation.

The survey will identify properties to prevent loss, he said.

"It's not a hindrance, but a help," Harmon said.

Approximately half of the counties in Indiana have already been surveyed. Approximately three to four surveys are done a year in Indiana. In 10 years, all the counties in Indiana will be surveyed, Harmon said.

Three White County buildings are



ANDY HARMON
Discusses grant application

on the national register. They are the Anson Wolcott House, in Wolcott; and the James Culbertson Reynolds House and the Twin Lakes Administrative Building (South Grade School), both in Monticello.

CDC looks beyond past financial woes

MELANIE N. KING

Herald Journal Staff

Comprehensive Developmental Centers Inc. has survived the financial difficulties of a year ago and CDC officials are now looking ahead.

Executive Director James S. Bibby highlighted the annual report during the monthly CDC meeting on Tuesday.

The organization helps mentally retarded and developmentally disabled individuals.

"A year ago there was some doubts how we would end fiscal '91," he said. "We have reversed financial problems. We are far from being done, but we have made a start."

Goals Bibby says he feels CDC has achieved are a nearly balanced budget and expansion of the replacement fund.

He said he thinks CDC also needs to work on clearly defining work in workshops, selectively training and recruiting volunteers, growth in CDC classes, negotiating with local schools, completing staff education, and meeting the needs of local consumers outside of government funds.

In the 1991 annual report, Bibby said normally he would give a

checklist of things that have been accomplished during the year, but no goals were set last year because of financial concerns. CDC officials were afraid the center would no longer be operable.

"At the time it seemed a bit presumptuous to set down a list of the usual goals when I was not even certain we would still be here by June 1991," Bibby said.

In other business, the CDC members chose board members.

Retiring CDC board members are the Rev. Don Arterburn, Monticello, representative of White County; Phyllis Bisbis, DeMotte, representing Newton County; Dr. Peter Dyer, Monticello, representing White County; Jeffery Rider, Delphi, representing Carroll County; and Donna Romein, Delphi, representing Carroll County.

New board members are Linda Burks of Monon, Marion Roth of Monticello and Cecil Shinneman, Monticello, all representing White County. Also new on the board are Richard Holmes, Flora, representing Carroll County; and Bonnie Hall, Roselawn, representing Newton

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County.

Current board members also include Marguerite Boeger, Delphi; Ken Brooks, Rensselaer; James Facemyer, Chalmers; Mary Jeane Gray, Fowler; Bonnie Hall, Roselawn; Larry J. Harris, Rensselaer; Ray Paxton, Fowler; and Larry G. Whaley, Kentland.

CDC members also listened to guest speaker John Dickerson, executive director of the Indiana Association for Retarded Citizens.

"We have the challenge of mak-

ing everyone of our people fit in, to make every dollar we spend counts," Dickerson said of ARC and CDC.

CDC officials gave a certificate of appreciation to Sen. Katie Wolfe, D-Monticello, and State Rep. Claire Leuck, D-Fowler, for their help in getting government money for the organization. A certificate of appreciation was given to Mary Margaret O'Malley, who was board president for two months of the 1991 year.

Bank customers warned of scams

State and Savings Bank has received unconfirmed reports of telemarketing fraud operating in White county.

According to Connie M. Brisbin, marketing officer for the bank, telephone solicitors offer products or services over the phone, and the consumer is told to give the solicitor their checking account number. A draft is then processed to debit the checking account. The account is debited, but the consumer does not receive the goods, she said.

"Consumers should not give out bank account or charge card information over the phone unless they know the person or firm is reputable," she said.

If a consumer has fallen victim to this scheme, they should contact their bank immediately, Brisbin said.

Draft processing companies claim to have each consumer's authorization to process the drafts, but the banks receive no written authorization from the consumers, and the consumers have not signed the drafts, Paul G. Fritts, FDIC executive director, said.

"Since funds are transferred out of the draft processor's account as soon as the banks will allow it, banks that carry the account and those that debit customer accounts without the proper authorization may suffer substantial losses," Fritts said.

There are several telemarketing scams currently in operation.

- The Visa and Mastercard scam: The consumer receives a postcard stating that because of their excellent credit, a Visa or Mastercard with low interest rates is available to them if they call a phone number in the next 48 hours.

When the consumer calls the number, they are told they can receive the credit card for a one-time fee of \$119.95, and this fee will be debited from their checking account. The operator tells him anything it takes to obtain his checking account information.

The consumer is left with the impression he has a guaranteed low interest rate credit card. If the consumer receives anything at all, it is simply a list of banks that offer a lower interest rate credit card. While some consumers may have actually authorized the company to debit their accounts, others have not.

- You have won a prize scam: The consumer receives a postcard and is asked to call a number within 48 hours to claim their prize. When he does, he is told he has won a car, trip, fur, or something else and all charges, taxes or some other charge. The consumer thinks that for only \$398.50 he is the proud owner of a new Corvette, or whatever, and may authorize the company to charge his checking account.

- Let us sell your car scam: The

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US POST OFFICE

BUFFALO

IND 47025



SPECIAL DELIVERY

Neither rain nor sleet nor even a postal building that's too small will stop Buffalo Postmaster Mary Parish from sorting letters for the small community's residents. The U.S. Postal Service is

looking for a new location in Buffalo since its current location is becoming too small to serve the residents of Buffalo.

Photo by Melanie King

Postal officials seeking larger quarters in Buffalo

By MELANIE KING
Herald Journal Staff

BUFFALO — The United States Postal Service in Buffalo is looking for a bigger space to serve the residents of Buffalo.

"We've just outgrown it," said Mary Parish, the postmaster for the town. "The building doesn't have running water or a bathroom."

The 237 post offices boxes at the current location are also full, Parish said. Buffalo residents that have signed up for a post office box are on a waiting list, she said.

"We need more boxes and we need a little more space," said Will Hohman, the real estate specialist who is handling the project.

The Buffalo Centennial Souvenir Book, a history book for Liberty Township, said the National Archives indicates the first post office in Buffalo, or Flowerville, was established on Sept. 11, 1856. It was maintained until 1886, when Buffalo was platted.

The first postmaster for the area was Avery A. Cole.

The post office finally moved to where it is now in the late 1940s. Russell Reames, who was

then postmaster, built the post office on the Conwell property after beginning his term in 1948.

"We're like a 'Little House on the Prairie' building," Parish said.

The rental-lease on the current property is ending, Parish said.

Postal officials are advertising to lease a 10,000-foot space from a building that is already built. They are also interested in anyone who will build a building of that size which the post office can lease.

The space must have parking for four customers and two employees, plus being accessible for the handicapped, the advertisement said.

Applications for the post office are due Friday, but Hohman was unsure when a decision would be made.

"I'll have to see what we'll get," he said.

Interested persons can send applications to Hohman's office at the Realty Management Branch Facilities Serving Center, United States Postal Service, 222 S. Riverside Plaza Suite 1200, Chicago, Ill., 60606-6155 or leave them at the Buffalo post office, where they can be picked up.

Man spent most of his life in prison

4/11/04

Inmate gives inside view of why prisoners want pen pals

Editor's note: The state prison complex under construction near Carlisle will soon be filling with inmates, some of whom may want pen pals. *The Times* recently received a request from a Hoosier inmate asking that we publish his plea for correspondence, which in turn prompted an examination of the pros and cons of becoming a pen pal. Here is an interview with the inmate.

By MELANIE KING
Times Staff Writer

Inmates who have little or no contact with the outside world often seek correspondence with a pen pal to alleviate the loneliness. Jim McCabe is one such prisoner.

McCabe has spent a total of 33 years behind bars, including the last 14. The 57-year-old said he lost touch with his friends and family.

"My wife was talking about divorcing me and my family is dead, except for two sisters who I haven't talked to for 14 years," said the inmate at the Indiana Youth Center, Plainfield.

"I have been in trouble since I was 14, so I think they have reason not to speak to

me," he said of his remaining family.

McCabe said he is no longer interested in finding a pen pal, because he and his wife, Ann, are back together. They married eight years ago after becoming pen pals while he was in prison.

"I'm faithful to my wife," he said. "She brought me to the Lord."

McCabe said he sent letters to 50 newspaper editors asking them to publish his appeal for a new pen pal. McCabe said he received two replies from potential correspondents.

While prison officials note that social programs — including some of a religious nature — are available, McCabe said he did not take advantage because he felt God didn't care.

"I kind of felt that God let me down because my wife was talking about leaving me," he said. "My faith wasn't as strong." But he noted that he did take part in such programs at the Michigan City prison, where he previously served 14 years.

Like many inmates, McCabe refuses to detail the five separate crimes that put him behind bars for most of his life. "I first went to prison in 1957, when I was 22 years old,"

said the inmate from Crooksville, Ohio.

"I was in for two years and was out 31 days" before committing another crime and returning to prison, he said.

The last two prison sentences are the longest McCabe has served. The first was a 12 year, four-month stint, after which he stayed out of prison for 17 months.

McCabe was then convicted of criminal deviate conduct and confinement and received a 20-year sentence, according to a prison spokesman.

"I had the idea that alcohol was the reason why I was in and out of prison so much," McCabe said. "I know better now."

While prison officials note some prisoners seek correspondence as part of a money scam or for other ulterior motives, McCabe says the inmates he knows are sincere in wanting a pen pal.

McCabe is scheduled to be released Jan. 25, 2003, said Clarence Trigg, superintendent of the Indiana Youth Center.

A pen-pal clearinghouse exists for anyone wishing to correspond with death-row inmates:

Endeavors Pen Pal Bank
P.O. Box 23511
Houston Texas, 77228-3511