

## Lehnert Building—Knights of Pythias— Del Main Apartments

By Bonnie Maxwell

### Mission

The mission of the Delphi Preservation Society is to support the preservation, protection and restoration of historic structures in the greater Delphi area from the threat of neglect, obsolescence, and the pressures of a modern society.

To achieve this mission, the Delphi Preservation Society will support, encourage, inform, and educate the public as to the architectural significance, history and heritage of the greater Delphi area.

### Board of Directors

Greg Norman,  
*President*  
Lynn Corson,  
*Vice President*  
Carol Wellnitz,  
*Treasurer*  
Julie Knoeller,  
*Secretary*  
Anita Werling, Chair  
*Opera House Advisory Board*  
Hannah Germond  
Joe Kitchel  
Kevin Kologinsky  
Jane Miller  
Dick Traeger  
Craig Wellnitz

**Delphi Columns**  
**Editor**  
Craig Wellnitz

On the southwest corner of Main and Market streets is a three-story Italianate concrete-parged brick apartment and business building which has stood since 1869. "M. Lehnert Furniture" and "Battle Ax Plug"-- in faded paint--are still visible on the upper west side of the structure.



Lehnert building, early 1900s. (Photos: C. E. Gerard Collection.)

The north half of the building was built by Michael Lehnert. Born in Germany in 1832, he emigrated to Lafayette in 1858 where he learned the cabinet-making trade. He moved to Delphi to purchase the business of John Culler. At that time he erected a frame building for his shop fronting on Main Street. By 1869 his prosperity led him to remove that structure and build a replacement for Lehnert's Union Furniture Store.

In 1866, he married Elizabeth Ruffing, daughter of John and Mary Ruffing. Michael and his family lived on the second floor of the new Lehnert building. Their two sons Frank and Charles joined Michael in the furniture business and succeeded him at his retirement in 1897. At that time, they still made much of the furniture that was sold in the store. In 1900 they sold out to the Delphi Furniture Company.

By 1886, Bartley Lyons had a saloon in the eastern half of the building, and there was a saloon in that location for at least twenty years. In the early 1900s T. D. Thayer Furniture, a pool hall, and lunch room occupied the first floor.

In 1911 the Knights of Pythias bought

the building, doubled its size back to the alley, and remodeled the third floor into a large lodge room and banquet hall. A.M. Clauser was the contractor, and the building was made of brick "overlaid with imitation white stone." Clauser's bid of \$9,548 for the "Castle Hall" excluded heating, plumbing, and stone veneering. The K of P planned to use the second floor as a hospital, but it was instead used as social parlors. At that time, it was the largest K of P lodge in Indiana.

From the time of the building expansion in 1911 until 1930, Adam Grimm and Son's Furniture and Undertaking business was located in the ground floor. By the 1930s the ground floor of the building was a tire shop and gas station, and by 1941 automobile sales and service.

It later housed a Kroger store for many years and Kelly's Cardinal grocery. A part was used for the Carroll County License Branch. The upper floors were the Sieber Apartments.



K of P building with Grimm and Son's Furniture Undertaking.

The building is now owned by Joe Hildebrandt and houses H & R Block, Birthright of Indiana, Gangwer Insurance, and Del Main Apartments.

**Editor's Note:** This feature article is the second in a series on buildings within the Delphi Courthouse Square Historic District, placed on the National Register of Historic Places in March 2010.

### Inside this issue:

*The Lehnert Building* 1

*Delphi Preservation Society activities* 2

*Delphi Courthouse Square Historic District Awarded.* 2

*Upcoming Events* 4

*President's Message* 4

*Membership Application & Business Sponsors* INSERT

# Recent Goings-on with your



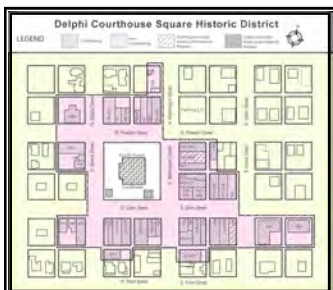
A group gathers around the jewelry case during “Matters of the Heart” special exhibition of jewelry and pottery in the Opera House Gallery of Contemporary Art. At left Dawn Cooley (in red) talks about her jewelry.

“The Art of Beadworking” was the topic of Dawn Cooley’s (standing, right) presentation at the Gallery in February.



When the weather did not cooperate, the Carroll County Arts Council’s first annual “Celebrate the Arts” festival needed a place for artists out of the wind and rain. The DPS Opera House Gallery of Contemporary Art offered its available space as did exhibitors in the Courthouse. The Festival was a success.

**Delphi’s Courthouse Square Historic District is now on both State and National Registers of Historic Places...**recognizing more than 42 properties in Delphi’s historic



**We are so very proud...**

From a list of 14 nominees, Delphi Preservation Society’s Anita Werling was awarded the Bison Financial Group’s Crystal Bison Award for Volunteerism. The award included a \$500 donation to DPS.



Upon receiving her award, Anita stated, “I only have one pair of hands, but our volunteers bring thousands of hands. I am very honored.”

## Delphi Preservation Society



The Parks-Bankman house at 203 E. North Street won the DPS Recognition Award for *Historic Residence Pre-1920*. The Italianate brick was built in the 1860s. The present owner, was not able to attend.

Bill and Andrea Smothers accept the DPS Recognition Award for *Historic Residence Post-1920* for their Craftsman-style frame bungalow on Front Street with tapered columns on the brick porch, exposed rafter brackets, and open gables.





# Delphi Preservation Society

The Delphi Rotary Club sponsored “An Evening for the Opera House” at the Opera House Gallery of Contemporary Art. The event was hosted by local Rotarian, Martin Krutak, manager of ALCO.



Guests engage in delightful conversation as they stroll the art gallery during the Rotary fund raising event listening to strains of piano music provided by Hannah Germond.



Guests enjoy the catered hors d’oeuvres from Custom Select Catering and sample wine from Wildcat Creek Winery. A silent auction was also held with items donated by local businesses. \$2,000 was raised.



## y Presents Five Recognition Awards at Annual Membership Meeting...



Delphi Public Library received the DPS Recognition Award for *Historic Commercial or Public Building*, accepted by Kelly Currie, DPL Librarian. The 1905 red brick classical revival-style structure is a Carnegie Library.



Bonnie Maxwell received the *Charles Gerard Historic Archival Award* for her efforts in preserving and making available important Carroll County resources including reprints of Helm's 1882 *History of Carroll County* and the 1874 *Illustrated Atlas of Carroll County*.



Tom Atkinson (left) presented the *Atkinson, Sanders, Rodriguez Leadership Award* to DPS President Greg Norman for his ongoing support of preservation activities in Delphi. A long-time member of the Delphi Preservation Society, Greg has been the driving force behind the annual Recognition Awards.





Delphi Preservation Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 161  
Delphi, IN 46923-0161  
www.delhipreservationsociety.org

Do you have an email address?  
You can help us save money by registering  
to receive our newsletter by email.  
Send an email to:  
info@delhipreservationsociety.org  
with "Subscribe" in the Subject line.

## SPRING 2010 ISSUE

### The DELPHI COLUMNS...

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Camden Youth Day & Parade**  
Downtown Camden and Park  
- June 5.

**6th Annual "Celebrate Wild-  
cat Creek**  
Adam's Mill - June 5  
*Canoe Trips, Artists, Food,  
& More.*

**Historical Re-Enactment &  
Rendezvous**  
Canal Park, Delphi - June 5  
& 6.

**Camden Community Fish Fry**  
Community Building - June  
12.

**Heritage Transportation  
Festival**, Downtown, Canal  
Park, June 19-20;  
Airport, June 20

**Hog Jog & Flora Home Tour**  
Flora Community Park  
Saturday - June 19.

**Volunteer Workdays ...**  
The fourth Saturday of the month  
from 9:00 a.m. to noon.  
Meet at the Opera House Gallery.

#### The President's Message... What an Amazing Year We Are Having!

Just five months into 2010, the Delphi Preservation Society is excited about the changes taking place in our community. The Courthouse Square Historic District has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as of March 31. New festivals have taken place on the Square this May with Cinco de Mayo and Celebrate the Arts 2010. The Rotary Club of Delphi has sponsored a grand evening gala in the Gallery raising \$2,000 to benefit the Opera House restoration effort. We are excited that a new business, MarthaRose on Washington Street, will be opening at 105 S. Washington Street location in late May, owned and operated by DPS' Traeger family. The DPS Diamond Dash, a 5K run/walk, set for September 18, is turning into a community-wide event. Two significant grants have been received that will ensure the replacement of the roof over the Opera House and fund an interior design plan for the restored theater. The Opera House Gallery of Contemporary Art is about to have its first anniversary after a wonderful first year.

With all of these projects underway and momentum building, the DPS Board was

faced with the reality that many of our Board members were at the end of their term limits and newer board members still in the learning curve. With this in mind, the Board asked the DPS membership to approve three changes to the Society by-laws:

*Board terms.* The number of consecutive three-year terms that may be served by a director was increased from two to three.

*Board of directors.* The number of directors was changed from nine to a minimum of nine, with the number being an odd number of directors.

*Officer terms.* The number of consecutive terms that a director might hold for a specific office was increased from three one-year terms to four one-year terms.

Members of the Delphi Preservation Society voted unanimously to make these changes at the annual membership meeting held May 19, 2010. Since May 2009, DPS has seen its membership nearly double and donations more than triple. This is due to the untiring work of our volunteers...people like you! Thank you for your support.

Greg Norman, President



*Thank you to Our Corporate Sponsors...*




**Butler Fairman Seufert**  
CIVIL ENGINEERS



**Indy Spine and Rehab, P.C.**  
Scientific, evidence-based care personalized to your lifestyle

Carmel 317.817.9900 • Delphi 765.564.1900



**R.W. TRAEGER & CO.**  
General Contractor

Dick Traeger  
203 E. Monroe St.  
Delphi, IN 46923-1226

Cell (765) 426-0701  
Fax (765) 742-6087



**REGIONS**

**Velligan Medical Services**  
Denver, Colorado

**WALLMANN'S**  
Quality Foods

123 East Franklin Street  
Delphi, Indiana 46923  
Phone: 765-564-3795  
Fax: 765-564-4047  
E-mail: wallmann@verizon.net

John McKean  
Jamie McKean

*Always At Your Service*

*...and Our Business Sponsors...*



**H.L. Ivey**  
Painting, Decorating and Handyman Services

Hank Ivey— Owner      310 W. Front St.  
(765)564-2018      Delphi, In 46923

**first**  
first financial bank

**DEIWERT AGENCY**  
*Neighbor to Neighbor*

Sam Deiwert      Pete Deiwert  
111 W. Franklin Street      2101 Kossuth Street  
Delphi, IN 46923      Lafayette IN 47905  
765-564-64644      765-448-64644  
sam@deiwertagency.com      pete@deiwertagency.com



**SUCCESS Through Great Promotion!**  
**Q Graphics**  
Quality Printing Services

800-545-6130  
765-564-2314 • 574-967-3733  
qgraphics@verizon.net  
www.qgraphicsinc.com

k. weatherwax  
**Photography**

Portraits  
Events  
Baby Plan  
Framing Service  
Storybook Albums  
Heirloom Photo Jewelry  
... more

107 S. Union  
Delphi, IN 46923

765-564-4626 OR 800-281-1624  
www.kweatherwaxphoto.com

Craig Wellnitz  
Attorney at law  
&  
Civil Mediator

1001 S Washington St  
Delphi IN 46923  
(765) 564-3500



**SANDWICH SHOP**  
"A Delphi Tradition"

Old Fashioned Soda Fountain & Grill  
Breakfast Any Time • Soups • Salads  
Hand Cut French Fries • Hamburgers  
Shakes • Ice Cream • Pies

112 E. Main Street      Delphi, IN 46923      (765) 564-6252



**RATIO**

ARCHITECTURE  
PRESERVATION  
INTERIOR DESIGN  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
URBAN DESIGN & PLANNING  
GRAPHIC DESIGN

RATIOarchitects.com  
RATIOblog.com

INDIANAPOLIS, IN/CHAMPAIGN, IL

**Delphi Preservation Society, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 161  
Delphi, IN 46923-0161  
delhipreservationsociety.org  
a 501(c)3 organization





## Become a Member...

You don't have to live in Delphi, or own a historic home to become a member of the Delphi Preservation Society. All you need is an interest in historic preservation and the architectural and cultural heritage of the greater Delphi area.

### *Benefits of Membership...*

- Informative and educational meetings throughout the year.
- Quarterly newsletter *The Delphi Columns*.
- Special events, including a program at Carroll County Old Settlers Celebration and Historic Home Tours.
- Association with others interested in historic preservation.
- Access to historic preservation professionals and tradespersons.
- Members First event notification.
- Member discount on selected items in the Delphi Preservation Society Gift Shop located in the Opera House Gallery of Contemporary Art at 109 S. Washington Street, Delphi.

## Become a Sponsor...



### FAÇADE SPONSORSHIPS

Updated May 1, 2010



Restoration of the façade has been funded in part through a Historic Preservation Fund grant provided by the National Park Service administered through the Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and by the City of Delphi through the Façade Improvement Program administered through the Delphi Main Street Association.

### *Become a façade sponsor...*

Sponsor a window, corbel, or transom on the façade of the Assion-Ruffing City Hall building. Your donation will support the restoration of the building and Opera House as a performing arts center. Sponsors will be recognized on a permanent plaque in the lobby of the restored Opera House.

### Annual Membership Categories

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (Under 18)  | \$ 10  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual  | \$ 20  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family  | \$ 35  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business<br>Includes business-card size ad in <i>Delphi Columns</i> | \$ 50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate<br>Includes above plus listing on DPS web site            | \$ 100 |

### Façade Sponsorship Opportunities

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Windows—Opera House Level (2 remaining) | \$1,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Windows—Second Floor (4 remaining)      | \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> End Corbels (2 remaining)               | \$1,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Corbels (39 remaining)            | \$ 300  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glass Tile Transom at 105 S. Washington | \$4,000 |

### Other Donation

- Other... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total Amount** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Method of Payment

- Check (Payable to Delphi Preservation Society, Inc.)
- Bill me in 4 quarterly installments (\$100 min. please)
- May we recognize your donation in our publications?  Yes  No

Signature for pledges \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



P.O. Box 161 • Delphi, IN 46923-0161  
www.delhipreservationsociety.org  
...a 501(c)(3) organization

