



Indiana Historical Bureau

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NEWS

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“Wabash and Erie Canal” state historical marker will be dedicated in Elnora, Indiana

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker is scheduled for April 14, 2007. The state historical marker honoring the Wabash and Erie Canal will be dedicated at 10:00 A.M. CDST (Local, Daviess County time)/11:00 A.M. EDST (Indianapolis Time), at the intersection of State Road 57 and State Road 58 in Elnora.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “Wabash and Erie Canal”:

A canal from Terre Haute to Evansville authorized 1846. Maysville Division along White River was over 23 miles long from Newberry through Owl Prairie (now Elnora) to Maysville; part of it paralleled what is now S.R. 57. Contracts were let June 1849. Construction was delayed by cholera outbreaks among workers, many of whom were Irish immigrants. Navigation between Newberry and Maysville opened June 1852. By 1853, Wabash and Erie Canal, America's longest at approximately 460 miles, linked Lake Erie at Toledo, Ohio with Ohio River at Evansville. By 1860, most of southern section no longer used because of repair costs and railroad competition. Entire canal in Indiana sold at auction 1876.

Everyone is invited to attend this dedication recognizing a part of Indiana's developing transportation and commerce system in the mid-1800s.

Historical markers commemorate significant Indiana individuals, places, and events, and they help communities throughout Indiana promote, preserve, and present their history for the education and enjoyment of residents and tourists of all ages. Via the Internet, that history reaches a worldwide audience. For more than 80 years the Indiana Historical Bureau, an agency of the State of Indiana, has been marking Indiana history. Since 1947, the marker format has been the large roadside marker, which has the familiar dark blue background with gold lettering and the outline of the state of Indiana at the top. There are approximately 500 of these markers across the state.

For a digital version of this release and further information about this marker, the state Historical Marker Program, and other resources about Indiana, visit the Indiana Historical Bureau Web site at www.IN.gov/history or call 317-232-2537.

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