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# *Friends of the Stockdale Mill*

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Summer 2007

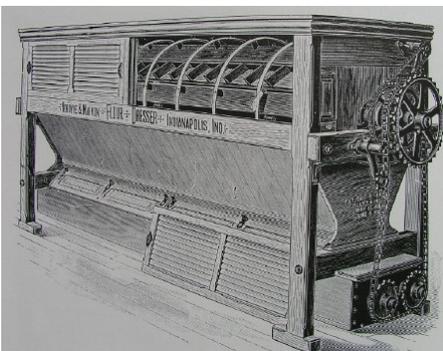


## Around the Mill

Our Stockdale Mill team of volunteers continues to do a wonderful job. They have been busy with restoration, maintenance, river clean-up, mowing, cleaning, landscaping, welcoming visitors, giving tours, scheduling special tours, training tour guides, making and putting up road signs, cutting timber for planking, planning, doing correspondence, doing historic research, updating our web site, and putting out this newsletter. Without dedicated volunteers, not much would be happening around the mill.

Our “millwright” volunteers continue to restore the building and machinery. Two large wheat bins have been converted into work areas. The flour purifier dresser has been repositioned to allow for improved traffic on the top floor. The big swing sifter is once again swinging. As predicted, the mill sways in rhythm with its motion. Though still needing additional restoration, this machine offers quite an experience for visitors.

Each Monday volunteers tackle one or more jobs. Restoration is continuing with the rebuilding of the wheat dump bin and wheat drag. These are located behind the wagon scales in the weigh shed and also under the basement. Only a pile of metal parts gave a clue as to how it oper-



*Purifying  
Flour  
Dresser*

(bolting  
sifter  
with a  
fine silk)

ated. But today it is taking shape and will soon be working.

Our mill was well represented at the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills district meeting. Several couples traveled to the SPOOM meeting at the Mansfield Mill in Parke county where ideas were swapped with other mill operators. Mill volunteers also toured the Wabash & Erie Canal Park in Delphi. The mill participated in a historic preservation conference in Wabash and at an ACRES conference in Fort Wayne. A program was given to residents at the Peabody Retirement Community. New volunteers are always welcome to join our efforts – just let your wishes be known.

Be on the lookout for new road signs pointing the way to the mill.

Dwight

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## Celebrating Our 150th Year



Join us for birthday  
cake at the mill.

After the  
duck race  
Sunday, September 9

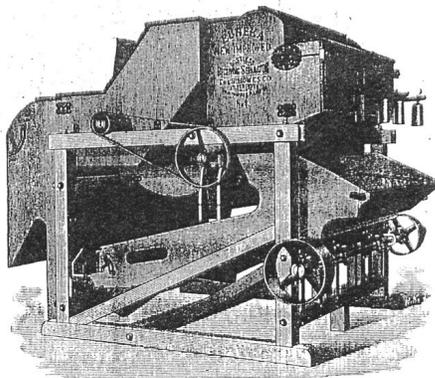
## Wheat Processing

Mill volunteers are currently working on restoring the wheat dump bin and drag. Wheat was received at the Stockdale Mill in the weigh shed on the north end of the mill. If brought in bulk in a farmer's wagon, the wagon was weighed on the large scales. A hand winch raised the front of the wagon and the wheat was dumped into a bin below the driveway floor. The wagon then was weighed empty to determine the load weight. If the wheat was brought in bags, the bagged wheat was weighed on the floor scales and dumped into a bin via a trapdoor. The farmer was either paid for the wheat at market price, or the miller "exchanged" the wheat at 30 pounds of flour for each bushel (60 pounds) of wheat.

A drag line (chain in a trough) brought the wheat into the mill. It was lifted to the top floor by bucket elevator. Here it was cleaned by a "receiving separator". Wheat first passed through a "fanning mill". A fan blew off the chaff. Vibrating screens removed straws and foreign material. The wheat then dropped into large storage bins.

When wheat was needed for milling, it was sent to a "scouring machine" to knock off the thin fuzzy outer layer of the grain. The wheat then went to a "tempering" bin and held for several days until the moisture content was proper for milling. The wheat was again scoured, then sent to the milling hopper, now ready for grinding.

The "EUREKA"  
Double Receiving Separator



## Special Festival Hours

*Roann Covered Bridge Festival* tour hours:

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Sept 6</b>	<b>4-6</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Sept 7</b>	<b>4-6</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sept 8</b>	<b>10-6</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sept 9</b>	<b>12-4</b>

### Do you have any of these **Items to Donate** for display ?

- \* Roann Roller Mills printed items
- \* White Loaf Flour printed items
- \* Cotton feed bags
- \* Weights for platform scales (with slots)
- \* Windmill
- \* Pot-belly stove
- \* Millstone
- \* Old carpenter's workbench
- \* Antique Hoosier kitchen with flour bin
- \* Old wagon with wooden spoke wheels

*\* Back by popular demand\**

## Festival Special – Oil Painting

Enhance your home or office with an original oil painting. Local renowned artist Betty Dawald has donated her framed scene of the mill for a fund-raiser. Tickets at \$1 each will be offered during the festival. The painting will be awarded at 1:00 PM, Sunday, September 10th.

# Water Over the Dam

Joe Krom

*{A series about people who grew up in and around  
Roann, Stockdale, and the Stockdale Mill}*

For the six children of Addison and Norma Krom, the mill mostly meant work. They all recall the endless autumn leaves that were pulled from the mill race. Dusting, bagging flour, and milling tasks were the stuff of life. But the mill was also a great hide-and-seek place, there were bag-cart races around the main floor, and bicycle races around the driveway loop where the covered driveway was imagined as a grandstand.

Tom, the oldest, recalls being confined to the office as a preschooler. By 2<sup>nd</sup> grade he graduated to helping pack flour. Grandpa (James H. Deck) ran the packer and set the bag on the scales, Tom added or removed a bit of flour to balance the scales, and dad (Addison) tied and stacked the bags. He recalls the entire east side of the main floor stacked tall with 25# bags.

Dick relates the time that state environmentalists showed up to test the river water. They set out to prove how much the mill was polluting the river due to the practice of dumping corn cobs and oat hulls into the river. Tests showed that the water below the dam was actually better than the water above the dam. They packed up and left, never to be heard from again. Dick says that as a teenager, he knew before they tested that the dam aerates the water and would show higher quality below the mill.

It was customary to stop work and give a tour to anyone who requested one. Joe was once operating the mill during his senior year. Three men in suits stopped and requested a tour (suits were never seen in the mill). At the end of the tour, he learned that one of the men was the Hoosier comedian Herb Shriner.

Jane tells of the year the ice broke up in the spring with large slabs 15'' thick piled up below the mill. She ventured out on the ice sheets and slid around, impervious to the dangers involved.

It was a common practice among the boys to build a raft out of anything available that would

float. The raft would be propelled upstream by a pole and would float back down to the starting point. Once, John's pole stuck to the bottom and he was pulled into the water. He soaked his new work boots, which mother had warned him not to do.

As a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader, Sue and her friend Margie Hanes went for a walk. They headed for the concrete arch bridge that preceded the current SR16 bridge. Mother was beside herself when she witnessed the two children walking on the 18'' wide wall of the bridge.

Through it all, all six Krom kids grew up none the worse for wear.



## **GREAT EEL RIVER DUCK RACE**

Sept 9 2:00PM At the dam  
*All proceeds go to historic preservation  
at the Stockdale Mill.*

## **Come Visit**

Public tours are available each Saturday from noon to 4:00 PM through October. Special tours may be arranged for your family group or organization.

Stockdale Mill Foundation  
c/o Dwight Fouts  
310 W 550 N  
Kokomo, IN 46901

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The Stockdale Mill Foundation is a non-profit Indiana corporation with the purpose of preserving the Stockdale Mill. All donations are used 100% for historical preservation and restoration. We invite you to come experience what our dedicated volunteers have prepared for your visit.

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SUMMER 2007

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\* \* DONATION CARD \* \*

To: Stockdale Mill Foundation

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Note :

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