

# Historic Hoosier Hills

RESOURCE, CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

# Newsletter

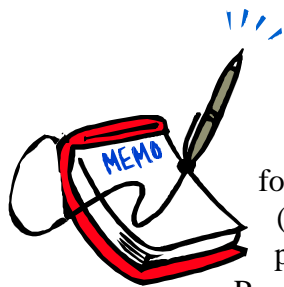
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## SAVE THE DATE!

The *Annual Meeting* of the *Historic Hoosier Hills Board of Directors* is set for *Monday, April 23 at 6:00 P.M.* at the Reservation Restaurant in Milan (Ripley County). Program will be on the proposed High Speed Rail Service planned for Indiana and the midwest region – speaker is Dennis Hodges, Vice President of the Indiana High Speed Rail Association based at Merrillville. More information will be available in coming newsletters.

## Hanover History Class Helps with Oral Histories

In the two weeks following Thanksgiving, the Communications Research and Methodology class at Hanover College conducted twenty-seven interviews with former employees of the Jefferson Proving Ground for the JPG Heritage Partnership oral history project. The collection of the oral histories is crucial in the preservation of the history of the proving ground.

Communications Research and Methodology taught by S. A. Welch, Assistant Professor of Communication, teaches students the process of social science research. Participation in the project enabled students to contribute to the gathering of data in an ongoing project and learn about research by doing research.

Ken Knouf, JPG Site Manager and Partnership committee member, drafted the questions to be posed to the employees. Ruth Turner, working with Barbara Truesdell at the Oral History Research Center at Indiana University ([www.indiana.edu/~ohrc/](http://www.indiana.edu/~ohrc/)), edited the questions and assisted Kay Sudhoff, Partnership staff, in scheduling the interviews.



It is the hope of the Heritage Partnership that the interviews will be housed in the museum and visitor center the Partnership is working to establish at the former proving ground. Andy Bard,

senior student from Austin, said that hearing the history “live” was intriguing. Bard is one of the students who wish to remain active with the oral history project.



Jeremy Edwards, senior Communications major from Gallatin, Tennessee, said that the interviews were a “good way to get our feet wet” by gathering data. While the people interviewed had ‘good things to say about their experiences’ at the proving ground, Edwards found it interesting to contrast people’s different perceptions because they had different reactions to the same work experiences.

In addition to learning about research, the students enjoyed meeting community members. Sarah Trumbore, senior from Versailles, Kentucky, encourages other students to participate in the project because it was such a rewarding experience to talk with people from the local area.

The collection of oral histories of former employees and families removed in 1940 to establish the proving ground is ongoing. Anyone interested in participating, either by conducting interviews or by granting an interview to share personal experience, is encouraged to contact Kay Sudhoff at the JPG Heritage Partnership office at (812) 273-5877. The office is in the Venture Out Business Center in Madison.

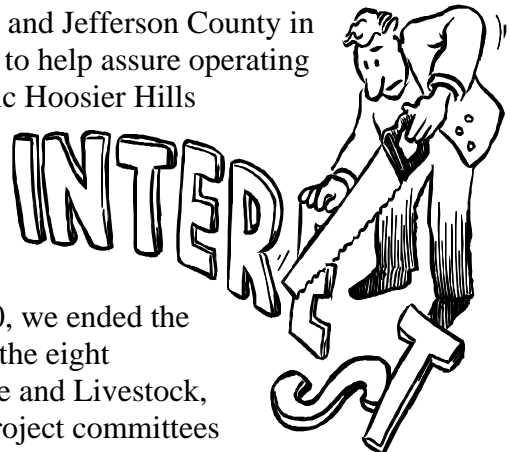
*Article by Ruth Turner, Partnership Committee member and Professor of Political Science, Hanover College.*

## ***Funds for the Future...***

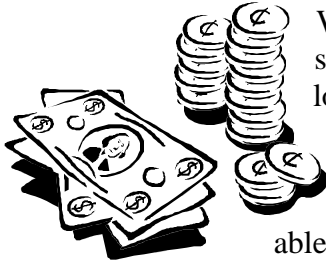
### ***The Historic Hoosier Hills Endowment Fund***

This is the first in a series of articles on the Endowment Fund for Historic Hoosier Hills that was established within the Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson County in 1995. Our Board of Directors established the Endowment to help assure operating funds for this organization into perpetuity, to allow Historic Hoosier Hills to continue providing services to southeastern Indiana and accommodate growth in our program.

We have seen phenomenal growth in requests for our services in the past five years. We had eight permanent committees in 1995 and three project committees. In 2000, we ended the year with forty-one (41) project committees in addition to the eight permanent, or resource, committees like Woodland, Forage and Livestock, Tourism Resource and Development, etc. We added 12 project committees



in 2000 alone. Our operating budget has increased from about \$4500 to almost \$14,000 in that five year span, yet we've increased dues to our sponsors modestly, from \$200 to \$250 per year. In 1995, dues accounted for almost our entire operating budget. In 2000, dues accounted for less than half. We depend on interest from grant funds we hold, small administrative fees we charge for some services, and income from the Endowment to make up the difference.



With over \$100,000 now in the Endowment Fund, our income from that source will be over \$4000 for 2000. But the Board of Directors has set a long term goal of acquiring \$1 million in the endowment – this will generate between \$40,000 and \$50,000 income each year. When we reach that level, the Board will be able to offer small seed grants and startup funds to new projects committees – something they are not able to do now. With an office support staff of two and a half people for the whole organization, we have to have up-to-date technology and office equipment to be as efficient as possible.

The goal of this column through 2001 will be to inform readers of the Endowment and of the many ways gifts can be made to support Historic Hoosier Hills in the long term. Our guest columnist for most of these articles will be Louise Markel, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson County. She will share a number of ways gifts and bequests can be made. The information in this column will apply to any endowment or non-profit organization you may wish to support – not just Historic Hoosier Hills. But we hope we can also receive your consideration.

### ***Modern Proverbs.....***

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.

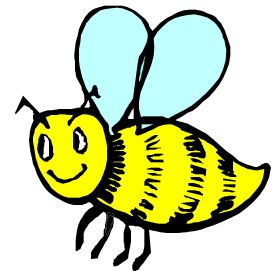
Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.

It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.

Always yield to temptation, because it may not pass your way again.

A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.

Before you criticize someone, walk a mile in his shoes. That way, if he gets angry, he'll be a mile away – and barefoot.



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Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Council meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every other month. The Executive Committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every other month that the Council does not meet. All meetings are open to the public. Anyone wishing to attend will certainly be welcome.

## Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D

### ***Mission Statement:***

“Serve as a catalyst to empower local people to solve the overall economic and natural resource problems of the area, and to properly develop, utilize, and conserve our natural and human resources.”

### ***Vision Statement:***

“Workable economic climate in harmony with natural resources developed to their full potential for a higher quality of life.”

### **Officers & Staff**

Council President – Lilian Carmer  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President – (vacant)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – William Corning  
Treasurer – Raymond West  
Secretary – Barbara Corning  
RC&D Coordinator – Gary Conant  
RC&D Assistant – Phyllis May  
Proposal Writer – Barbara Jachimiak