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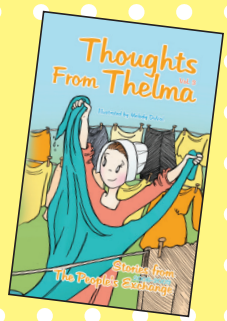

Art Show Also Scheduled

by Dan Byler

Marlene Lehman of rural Shipshewana is heading up a new venture for Shipshewana. There will be a Shipshewana Art Festival at the same time as the Wall Dogs are in town this summer. She has a group of local artists helping her, some from the Elkhart art league.

The event will be at the Farmstead Inn Conference Center from Thursday, June 19 through Saturday, June 21, 2014. There are some teachers already signed up to teach art classes in all media, but the festival committee is still looking to bring in more professional artists to teach. Marlene has a number of art supply manufacturers are donating supplies, but they need some business sponsors to help bring in more teachers.

A $500 sponsorship will get you a 16 x 20 painting from the artist of your choice plus recognition as a sponsor in all adversting for the event. A $1000 sponsorship will also get a painting from artist of your choice, plus adverstising and a medium banner on the trade floor.

Call Marlene at 260-768-7651, or check out the website: www.ShipshewanaArtFestival.com for more details.

The Walldogs Are Coming ...

by Dan Byler

There will be fifteen historic murals painted on the walls in Shipshewana this summer in a four day period. Over 200 sign painters from across the United States and the world are expected to show up for the Walldogs twenty-first annual event. The event is June 18-22, 2014. It is a bit ironic that this event will be turning 21 ... in a dry town!

Dave and Suze Butler of Syracuse, Indiana, have been involved in the Walldogs from the time the group started and this year are spearheading the organization of the event since it is happening practically in their own back yard. With fifteen murals in the works, the Butlers have assigned a two-person team to be project leaders for each mural. They have received 29 "Yes!" responses and are just awaiting one final "Yes" to complete the slate of 30.

The project leaders come from sixteen different states, Canada and Germany! Three of the project leaders are on the editorial staff of different trade magazines that cater to the sign making industry, *Sign Business, Signcraft*, and *Signs of the Times*. In addition Todd Swormstedt of the American Sign Museum in Ohio has agreed to serve as a project leader.

The final materials from the local Walldogs committee, working together with the Shipshewana Historical Society, will be going to the Butlers on Tuesday, January 28. The wall locations are very close to being solidified.

This will allow the Butlers to assign a specific wall and subject matter to each Project Leader team. The Project Leaders' responsibility will then be to design a mural to fit the space, using the subject matter provided. Those designs will go back through the Butlers for final approval.

Buildings that have given at least verbal approval to be used for a mural to date are the Landmark Woods building on State Road 5, the Wolfe Building in the town park, the Shipshewana Event Center, Trading Place's Pavilion, the Century Link building next to Farmers State Bank, Hostetler Store at the corner of Main and Morton, Forks County Line Store, Spector's, D'Vine Gallery on Depot Street, the Feed Mill on Main Street, Apple Creek Alley on Harrison Street, the Center for Traditional Arts (former Buggy Wheel), and Shipshe General Store on North Van Buren Street (State Road 5).

Monetary donations and/or pledges have been received from Shipshewana Trading Place, D'Vine Gallery, Chad Le Enterprises, Spectors, E&S Sales, Davis Mercantile, and the Shipshewana Town Manager. The Farmstead Inn and the Blue Gate Garden Inn have also offered rooms for some of the project leaders to use.