

TRAVEL

Jail will detain you in Crawfordsville

BY MARY QUINLEY
SPECIAL WRITER

The centuries-old red brick structure trimmed in limestone appears serene and stately. But its walls are sometimes deceiving. Once inside the Crawfordsville, Indiana Old Jail Museum, visitors get a sense of the horrors of incarceration. Tales are told of limbs severed, caught in bars, food and water shortages and lack of proper sanitation.

The jail on Washington Street closed in 1973. Two years later it opened as a museum, boasting the only operational rotary jail house in the world.

Guided tours present a fascinating history of the hardships inmates endured in circular confinement. Wall hooks turned on a system of shafts and gears thus limiting prisoners to a single exit.

The Old Jail, just one of several area museums, draws curious souls to Crawfordsville. Located 40 miles west of Indianapolis, this laid-back Indiana town (population 13,500) sports a mix of city-life activities, outdoor recreation and strong country influences.

■ Author, inventor and statesman General Lew Wallace, designed what is now called the Ben Hur Museum. History buffs and "Ben Hur" movie fanatics will find a tour of this former residence of Wallace intriguing.

General Wallace, the author of "Ben Hur" and numerous other writings, lived in Crawfordsville. An extensive collection of memorabilia from the movie and its star (Charlton Heston), Mexican and Civil War artifacts and 3-D postcards line the walls and shelves.

■ The Lane Place built by Indiana's first Republican Governor

and Senator, Henry Lane, served as the village green for the young 1840s Crawfordsville community. This completely restored 1840s Greek Revival style mansion served as a popular meeting place for politicians. Tours are available.

■ Looking for mini-shopping adventures? Then browse the Main Street stores for a diverse selection of gifts, crafts and antiques. For the serious antique collector try Cabbages and Kings Antique Mall on Washington Street.

The historic commercial downtown district presents non-mall variety shopping ranging from affordable vintage clothing at The Merc Antiques to custom-made glassware at Marilyn's Stained Glass.

■ For the outdoor lover three of the four seasons provide canoeing challenges. Paddle your canoe un-

der a 19th century covered bridge or hire a guide for a rafting trip during high waters. Area parks provide camping facilities where boating, swimming and fishing possibilities abound.

Or grab your golf clubs. Three golf courses within a 10 minute radius of downtown are open to the public.

Turkey Run State Park, 23 miles south of the city, offers relaxed lodging with an indoor swimming pool, miles of easy-to-very-rugged trails in scenic landscapes, special programs for kids and a nature center. Rooms fill up sometimes two years in advance, particularly during the Covered Bridge Festival in October and the summer months.

Mary Quinley of Livonia is a free-lance writer who specializes in travel.



Jail bird: Jonathan Quinley, 14, peeks out from behind the bars of the Old Jail Museum in Crawfordsville, Ind.

Visitor information, events

For more information on the Crawfordsville area contact the Montgomery County Visitors Bureau, 412 E. Main St., Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933, (800) 866-3973 or (317) 362-5200. Here's a sampling of upcoming events in and around Crawfordsville:

■ September 4: Labor Day Breakout — Every half hour a demonstration of the turning of the cells at the Old Jail Museum is featured. Food booths and music. Call (317) 362-5222.

■ October 13-22: Crawfordsville boasts two covered bridge

festivals. Yet her neighbors 20 miles south in Rockville host the annual Perke County Covered Bridge Festival.

Homemade food ranging from navy bean soup to persimmon ice cream and elephant ears; hundreds of arts and crafts booths; and 32 covered bridges. Lodging reservations should be made well in advance.

■ November 11-12: Extension Homemakers Arts & Crafts Bazaar on the Montgomery County 4-H Fairgrounds, the bazaar (317) 364-6362 features more than 50 booths of handcrafted items. Food available.

SUMMER NIGHTS

JUNE

1-2 Rick & Roll Party
3-4 Sarah McLachlan
5-6 Juggo Sam
7-8 The Dave Sabor Group
9-10 The Dave Sabor Group
11-12 The Dave Sabor Group
13-14 The Dave Sabor Group
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Chris Harndler
General Manager

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Saturday, July 1; Sunday, July 2; and Monday, July 3 at 8:30 p.m.
Greenfield Village grounds open at 7 p.m.
Prelude Concert by the U.S. Army Field Band and Soldiers Chorus each evening from 7:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Lealie B. Dunner, conductor
U.S. Army Field Band and Soldiers Chorus
Commander Jack H. Grogan, director
KEY Star Spangled Banner
ARR. HAYMAN Pops Hoedown
RODGERS Carousel Selections
HAMILSCH A Chorus Line, selections
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From Hollywood to Broadway, medley
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TCHAIKOVSKY 1812 Overture
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Tickets \$10 Adults, \$7 Children 5-12.
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