



Box and cracker from Sommer-Richardson & Company. The cracker was donated by Marie Sommer. The cracker and box are on display at the St. Joseph Museum.

Sommer-Richardson & Company was the city's oldest manufacturer of crackers, cakes, candies, and other confectionery. It was incorporated in 1888, and the board of directors included John Townsend, John D. Richardson, and Frank Sommer. The company was located on Main Street between Francis and Jules Streets. Around 1900, the company merged with the National Biscuit Company (Nabisco). At that time, the National Biscuit Company was the maker of the famous Uneeda Biscuits which were introduced in 1898. Other popular items included the Uneeda

Wafer, Uneeda Milk Biscuit, Uneeda Graham Wafer, and Red Cross Brand Crackers. The plant, which at one time employed over 600 people, had its own electric light plant, telephone system, and refrigeration plant. (Note that the National Biscuit Company is in the photo on page 5, and the slogan "Do You Know Uneeda Biscuit?" is visible on the side of the building.) The National Biscuit Company later moved to 1925 Frederick Avenue. The St. Joseph plant was closed in the mid-1950s.

HAPPENINGS

St. Joseph Museum

September/October/November 1999

The St. Joseph Museum has been working towards air conditioning the entire building for some time. A climate control system was installed in storage areas over 15 years ago, but the challenge of air conditioning the entire building remained just that, a challenge. The difficulty had been in trying to preserve and protect the 120-year old building housing the museum. We wanted to avoid visible ducting in order to maintain the architectural integrity of this historic building. Another requirement was that the system be compatible with the building when it becomes an historic house museum in the future.

I spent considerable time researching different systems and seeking proposals from providers. A system was selected, but the proposals varied greatly. To solve this dilemma, an architect was hired to verify and modify my research and prepare bid documents. A request for proposals, or RFP, went out to all local architects and engineers.

From those who responded, the firm of Lawrence Goldberg Architects (LGA) was chosen. LGA secured the services of Flynt & Kallenberger of Tulsa as engineers. Flynt & Kallenberger have considerable experience with climate control systems in museums. We are very pleased with the recent progress. As of

CELEBRATE the CENTURY

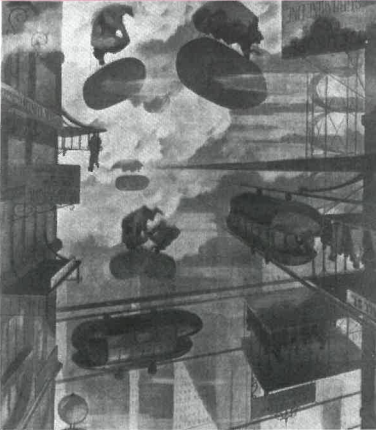
Beginning in December and through January and February, the St. Joseph Museum will present a newly-created educational program for fourth graders called *Celebrate the Century*. Students will use their imaginations to go back in time to New Year's Eve 1899. The dynamic, 90-minute program actively involves students in the past through the use of songs,

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www.stjosephmuseum.org
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Celebrate the Century is available to public and private schools. The program can be scheduled by calling the St. Joseph Museum.

dances, games, and visual aids. Students will have fun learning about what life was like 100 years ago, what clothes were in style, what music was popular, and what life might be like 100 years from now.



One of the visual aids used in *Celebrate the Century* is "Looking Forward" from Collier's Weekly, January 1901.

Programs

this writing, the bid documents have been released and bids have been received. We expect the work to commence soon after the contractor is chosen and take about 90 days to complete.

The system will consist of six units, each covering a specific portion of the building. Air to air heat pumps will be used. In our climate, they can be used 80% - 85% of the year and are far more efficient than the steam boiler currently in use. The steam boiler system will remain, but will be used only in the dead of winter as auxiliary heat. The sensing units will be located strategically within each of the six areas with the controls located just off the business office where they can be easily monitored. Multiple 2" outlets will feed from third floor into the ceiling of second and from the basement into the floor of first.

The estimated cost of installing air conditioning is \$200,000. This estimate includes anticipated interest on money borrowed against multi-year pledges. We are still working to raise funds and would be appreciative of any pledges or special contributions made toward our air conditioning project.



Last spring the St. Joseph Museum requested information from families in our area who had ancestors who either were living in Buchanan County in 1849 or went on the gold rush to California. This search was part of the St. Joseph Museum's celebration of the 150th anniversary of the start of the gold rush. St. Joseph played an extremely significant role in the gold rush. More emigrants for California left from St. Joseph than any other Missouri River jumping-off and out-fitting point.



Charlene Jones Russell and John Russell. Mrs. Russell is a descendant of Captain Peter Alan and Sarah Garton Jones.

Forty-three families responded to our request, and the information they provided is now available for re-

searchers in the St. Joseph Museum library. Over 200 descendants of these 49ers still live in St. Joseph today. The families were recognized at the Trails West! Festival with special seating during one of the musical performances.



L. to R.: Sheridan Logan and John Roundy, descendants of Solomon Neill Sheridan and John Byrne, at the Trails West! Festival.

PAWNEE CELEBRATION

In October 1999, Missouri Western State College sponsored the "First Annual Pawnee Celebration" at the college. Three Pawnee artists were featured in numerous programs on the weekend of October 8th.

The Pawnee artists were Glen McGuire, poet; Charles Chapman, oil painter; and Brummett Echohawk, oil painter.

As a part of the celebration, the St. Joseph Museum exhibited the muslin pictograph of the Battle of the Little Bighorn by

Standing Bear, a participant in the battle. The pictograph was on exhibit throughout the day in the various classrooms where the Pawnee artists were guest speakers.



Students in the Native American Literature class of Dr. Elizabeth Sawin view the Standing Bear pictograph.

Main and Robidoux Streets

Louis Fischer Bakery
and Confectionery

Buchanan County
Courthouse

W.J. Lemp Brewing Company

Chicago Great Western
Freight Depot

Richardson Dry Goods Co.

City

Auditorium

This panoramic view of St. Joseph was taken from Prospect Hill, in the summer of 1908 when the new City Auditorium was almost completed and ready for its October 26, 1908, dedication.

By 1908, St. Joseph businesses were no longer depending on the Missouri River as a method of moving manufac-

BASKET OPENING

A reception celebrating the opening of the exhibit "Baskets from the Collection of Margot Reck" was held Thursday, September 23. Guests enjoyed wine, fruit, cheese, and quiche while viewing the new basket exhibit. Marilyn Taylor, curator of ethnology, was on hand for a showing of items selected from the Harry L. George collection to complement the exhibit. Harry L. George, Mrs. Reck's grandfather, collected more than 3,000 Native American artifacts in his lifetime. His collection came to the museum in 1947.

Many of Mrs. Reck's friends and family attended the reception to help the Board of Trustees and staff honor her for her generous gift to the St. Joseph Museum. The baskets can be seen in the second floor mini gallery through November.

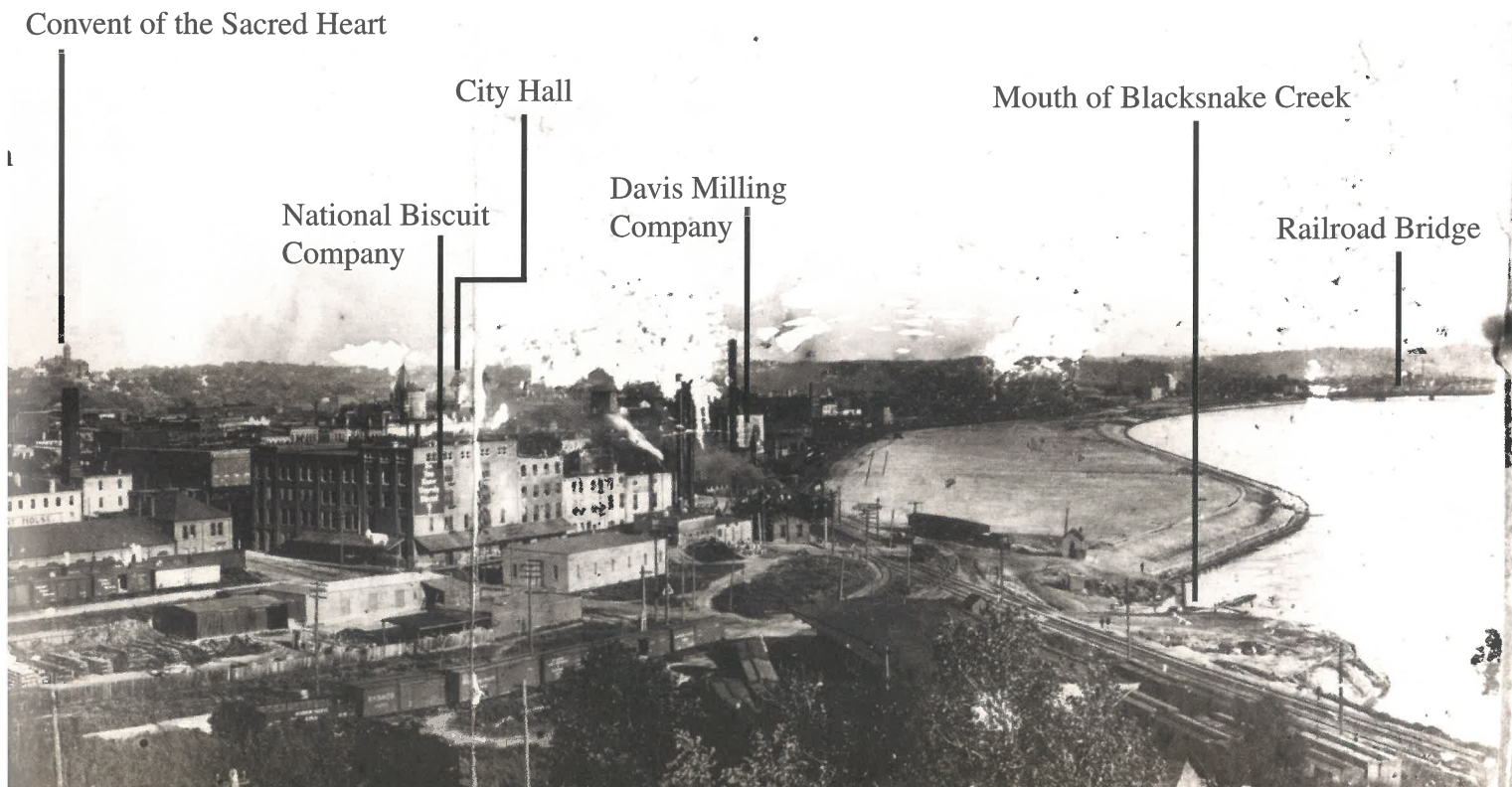
Mrs. Reck's family enjoys the September 23 reception. L. to R.: Bob Ford, Hannah Ford, Margot and Tom Reck, Julie and Frazier Ford.



Jackie Lewin

Events

tured goods. After the Civil War, railroad tracks quickly covered the nation, and by the turn of the 19th century, steamboats were a rare sight at the St. Joseph wharf. Since the wharf was no longer of primary importance to the city, it was neglected. The area south of the mouth of Blacksnake Creek eroded until, a few years after this picture was



taken, the bank of the river was much nearer the Davis Milling Company.

The City Hall stood at Second and Felix Streets in Market Square. (St. Joseph's current City Hall was not built until 1927.) Conspicuous by its absence on the skyline is the Corby Building. St. Joseph's tallest

building was not erected until 1910. The Lemp Brewing Company and Fischer Bakery on Main Street were part of a thriving business district in the mid 1800s. By 1908, the center of the business district had moved east. The buildings that housed the brewery and bakery are still standing. The courthouse and railroad bridge are also still in use.

RECENT DONATIONS to the COLLECTIONS



Jean K. Conner - A music box purchased by the donor's grandfather in 1904 at the Worlds Fair in St. Louis.

Nancy and Clark Hampton - A letter typed December 11, 1896, by a man telling about his life in Memphis, Tennessee; an American National Bank checking account book from around 1980; and an Abstract of Title from 1848-1949 for a lot in Brookdale addition in St. Joseph.

Gertrude Norris - A photograph of Mr. F. J. Wenz sitting on the big-wheeled bike he used to ride in Fourth of July parades; two newspaper clippings and a document telling about Mr. Wenz and his big-

wheeled bike. The bike was given to Mr. Wenz by his father in 1889.

Kathy Reno - A cotton wedding dress with tatting from around 1905.

Nancy Sandehn - Business journals from 1888-1895, possibly from Wyeth Hardware Company, which list customer accounts and transactions made. Also donated were July 19, 1940, and July 22, 1951, *St. Joseph News-Press* newspapers.

Wilma Jean Sollars - A ball point pen collection donated in memory of Dolora (Sis) Cunningham. These pens advertise several businesses in St. Joseph.



August

11	Bears & Turtles
18	Meet the 49ers
24	Trunk
	Wesley Child Care
	Pershing
	After 5 Club

September

7	Gold Rush
7	Gold Rush
15	Trunk
17	Trunk
20	Native Americans
20	St. Joseph History
21	Gold Rush
23	Trunk
28	Trunk
29	Native Americans
30	Gold Rush
	AAUW
	Saxton's Tiffany Woods
	Beta Sigma Phi
	Green Acres
	Saxton Care Center
	Cub Scouts
	Saxton's Tiffany Woods
	Keen Agers
	Carriage Square
	Bessie Ellison
	OCTA Gateway Chapter

October

5	Trunk
6	Trunk
7	Trunk
8	Pawnee Celebration
15	Meet the 49ers
15	Migrate/Hibernata/
18	Trunk
19	Gold Rush
19	Migrate/Hibernata/
20	Resident
20	Gold Rush
20	Trunk
21	Gold Rush
28	Gold Rush
	Rainbows
	Rainbows
	Rainbows
	Rainbows
	Country Squire
	Hosea
	Resident
	Migrate/Hibernata/
	Rock Creek
	MWSC
	Rainbows
	Rainbows
	Rainbows
	Children First
	Rainbows
	Parkway
	St. Paul Lutheran School
	Rainbows

Don't forget Christmas 1899
St. Joseph Museum
Thursday, December 2
6 - 8 p.m.

August, September, and October at the
St. Joseph Museum

3,730	Visitors through the front door
273	Adults reached through programs
594	Children reached through programs
18,343	Hits on the Website



Kindergartners at Hosea Elementary School enjoy learning about the winter habits of various animals during a presentation of Migrate - Hibernata - Resident: Animals in Winter, a new program from the museum staff. This program is available October through December for students in kindergarten through 2nd grade in St. Joseph schools.

Jackie Lewin



Adjunct staff members Mike Fisher and Ed Barlow along with staff assistant Mary Knab are diligently working to catalog the approximately 20,000 objects in the Mett Shippee archaeological collection donated to the museum in June 1999.

MEMBERS NEW and RENEWED



Mary F. Adams
Edward H. Andres, M.D.
Noble Ayers, Jr.
Allison Bailey
David and Nancy Bridenstine
Mike and Lori Chester - Museum Hill Membership
Nancy M. Clisbee
Bob and Mary Cotter
Creverling's - Dorothy and Louis Sallee
Mr. and Mrs. Richard N. DeShon
Lee and Margaret Elder
Melinda Gosney
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gray
Edward M. Hirsch
Dr. and Mrs. George T. Hopkins, Jr
Brian and Delore Jamison
Jerre Anne Cafeteria & Bakery
James (Fred) Lawson
Lehr Consulting Company, Inc. - James A. Lehr
Regina Lorenz

Dr. Eugene I. Majerowicz
Mercantile Bank
Berniece Miller
Dora Miller
Diane Moran
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Optican
The Patrice Press - Gregory Franzwa
John and Barbara Rushin
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Schiesl
Dorothy J. Smith
Waltraud Smith
Mildred I. Stewart
Tilton, Thomas & Morgan Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. Ron G. Wade
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Walton
John and Diane Watson
Mr. and Mrs. William Wenz
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Wheeler
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Zombory

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS



The Saint Joseph Telegraph

MEMORIALS

DONATIONS

In memory of Ozbert W. Watkins

Michiko Takaoka

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Hampton

Memberships and donations received after October 31 will be recognized in the next issue.

MEMORIAL/DONATION FORM



My gift is in memory of _____

My gift is in honor of _____ on the occasion of _____

Gift amount \$ _____

____ My check made payable to the St. Joseph Museum is enclosed.

____ Please charge my ____ Visa ____ MasterCard ____ Discover ____ American Express

Card Number: _____

Signature: _____

Please clip out and return to: St. Joseph Museum

PO Box 128

St. Joseph, MO 64502-0128

CALENDAR of EVENTS

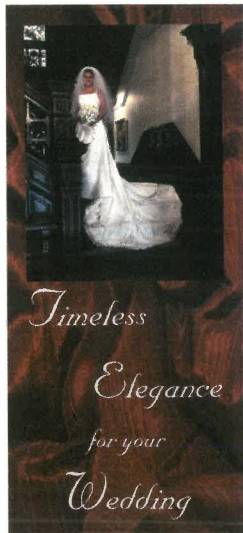


November 25
December 2
December 24
December 25
December 31
January 1

Thanksgiving
 Christmas 1899
 Christmas Eve
 Christmas Day
 New Year's Eve
 New Year's Day

Museum closed
 6 to 8 p.m.
 Museum closed
 Museum closed
 Museum closed
 Museum closed

For more information call the St. Joseph Museum at 232-8471.



Timeless Elegance for your Wedding

Looking for a memorable location for your wedding? The St. Joseph Museum building is now available. The front hallway with its beautiful walnut staircase provides a wonderful setting for small, intimate weddings and receptions.

A brochure advertising the museum as a place for weddings has been developed and will be placed in various locations. Our sincere appreciation to the Bridal Boutique and G.T. Woods Photography Studio for their help in putting the brochure together.

Call Laura Bodicky at 232-8471 to make arrangements for your special day.

Looking for a memorable location for your wedding? The St. Joseph Museum offers elegance at a reasonable cost.

Wedding only (1 1/2 hours maximum)	\$150
Wedding and reception (3 hours maximum)	\$300

Contact Laura Bodicky for information and special requests for your wedding and reception at 232-8471.

Photo courtesy of G.T. Wood Photography
 Great location for Bridal Boutiques

St. Joseph Museum



St. Joseph Museum
 1100 Charles Street, PO Box 128
 St. Joseph, Missouri 64502-0128
Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.
Sundays & Holidays 1-5 p.m.

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