

'Ride with the Devil' to premiere in Kansas City



ERIC KEITH/St. Joseph News-Press

Civil War re-enactors flooded into Pattonsburg in the summer of 1998 for filming of the Civil War film 'Ride With the

Devil.' Scenes were also shot in Kansas City, where the movie will premiere next week.

Acting stint doesn't cure this ham

N-P 11-5-99

Premiere for 'Ride'

● **Premiere for cast** and crew is 2 p.m. Thursday at Cinemark Merriam Theater in Merriam, Kan. If a cast member and planning to attend, call (816) 691-2103.

● **Mike Souther**, right, would like to charter a bus and asks that anyone who is on his list, made during the shooting, call him at (816) 449-2603 and leave a message.



•BY JULIE BELSCHNER•
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ST. JOSEPH NEWS-PRESS

Mike Souther discovered to his surprise that he's a natural ham. The discovery came when a fluke threw him into a recreation of Quantrill's raid in the movie "Ride With the Devil." He is counting the days until the cast premiere of the film Thursday afternoon in Merriam, Kan.

A friend took him along when she tried out as an extra in the epic,

which was shot in Old Pattonsburg in the spring of 1998.

"I was not thinking I had a chance in the world of getting in," the Maysville resident said. "They herded us through there like cattle. Six of us lined up. Turn left, turn right, look straight ahead. They had case after case of Polaroids of all the hopefuls. I lied — one of the questions was, 'Can you milk a cow?' I said I could."

Please see **Acting/Page A5**

History Channel crew to film footage in town

1-28-06

By **KEN NEWTON**
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St. Joseph News-Press

All right, St. Joseph, Brad Pitt won't be visiting next week. But a man who wrote words the actor will say plans to be here.

A film crew working on a program for The History Channel expects to film in St. Joseph Monday and Tuesday.



JESSE JAMES,
outlaw

Their work will be aired about the time Hollywood releases a movie in which Mr. Pitt plays Jesse James.

Among those arriving at the

Patee House Museum will be Ron Hansen, who wrote the 1983 novel "The Assassination of Jesse James by the



Photo courtesy Warner Bros.

Missouri native Brad Pitt portrays St. Joseph's famous outlaw in the movie 'The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford,' which was filmed in Canada.

Coward Robert Ford," on which the Pitt film is based.

On a related front, the St. Joseph Convention & Visitors

Bureau has made inquiries about landing the summer Midwestern premiere of the

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History Channel to film locally

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feature film at the Missouri Theater.

Marci Bennett, the bureau's executive director, said the most difficult aspect is weaving through the web of higher-ups at the film studio, in this case Warner Bros.

"We've been doing everything we can to get hold of the right people," she said. "Brad's from Missouri, so he needs to come back here for a Midwest premiere."

Aside from the subject matter, a premiere might be the only contact with St. Joseph. The filmmakers shot the movie on Canadian locations, in Alberta and Winnipeg.

But Indigo Films, an independent production company from the San Francisco area, will have its crew in the city Sunday to begin looking over

the Patee House, with filming set for the next two days.

"They're going to bring in experts and interview them," said Gary Chilcote, director of the Patee House and adjoining Jesse James Home, where Robert Ford shot the outlaw. "I don't think they will film at all in Jesse's house because of the small rooms."

In addition to his story about Jesse James, Mr. Hansen has written a number of novels, including "Mariette in Ecstasy" and "Isn't It Romantic?"

Since the Brad Pitt movie is based on a fictional work, Indigo representatives told Mr. Chilcote they wanted to clarify "the actual history behind the James assassination."

Indigo Films was previously nominated for an Emmy Award for its History Channel documentary, "The Battle of Tripoli."

Jesse James movie debuts in St. Joe

By AHMAD SAFI | ahmadsafi@npgco.com | St. Joseph News-Press

N-P 10-20-07

St. Joseph historian Gary Chilcote says he hasn't been to a movie theater in 40 years. He has never rented a movie.

Even though he's a national spokesman about Jesse James' history, he still won't go see "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford" on the silver screen.

The latest Hollywood offering about Jesse James premiered in St. Joseph Friday evening.

"I suppose if they ever run it on TV at night I might watch it," said Mr. Chilcote.

The story about the Wild West legend who robbed banks and trains, killed and got shot is being told with a healthy new dose of artistic license, said Mark Mallon.

"I mean, look at the JFK movie," Mr. Mallon said at the Hollywood 10 Theater.

Linda James, a possible descendent of the notorious train robber through her husband's family, left the first local public showing on Friday thoroughly raving. The desperado flick was excellent — except for the out-of-place Canadian

scenery.

"But it's hard for us in Missouri to see the Rocky Mountains and pine trees," she said, adding she understood why the filmmakers chose Alberta and Winnipeg for its "untouched" realism to 1882 Missouri. "We have too many power lines here."

And while Mr. Chilcote pans the movie for overly crediting the assassin Robert Ford as a character "made into a hero," Ms. James

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Jesse James movie debuts in St. Joe

CONTINUED FROM Page A1

said actor Casey Affleck skillfully portrayed Robert Ford in the dramatic role that was every bit like the Ron Hansen cowboy novel it was adapted from.

The two and half hour mov-

ie, starring Missouri native Brad Pitt, had reasonable attendance at the local premiere over a month after the original release in selected cities.

Many moviegoers raved about the stunning visual and narrative style. However, others weren't convinced it would bring

a tourism boon to St. Joseph.

"I would encourage people to go see it if they really want to see it," Mr. Chilcote said, director of the Patee House and

Jesse James Home museums. "(But) instead of paying eight bucks, they can pay two bucks to see what really happened."

N-P 10-29-83

Rerun of 'Believe It or Not!' sketch on Jesse James set

The Jesse James segment of Ripley's "Believe It or Not!" will be rebroadcast next Wednesday night, Nov. 2, on St. Joseph television.

Officials at KQTV, Channel 2 at St. Joseph, said arrangements have been made to run the Jesse James part of the program on the 10 p.m. news that night.

The show was carried nationally by ABC Television last Sunday night. But about half of the local portion was cut when the network broke in with an announcement by Larry

Speakes, presidential press secretary, on the Lebanon situation.

When the program resumed, the St. Joseph portion was over. There were complaints both from local viewers and the network audience.

Television station KQTV is the ABC network affiliate at St. Joseph. The station has been authorized to carry the missing segment only once, and personnel decided the 10 p.m. news would allow the maximum number of people to see it.

'Believe It or Not!' rerun to be sought

Hayette

10-25-83

A case of bad timing was blamed for the ABC News interruption of the Jesse James segment of Ripley's "Believe It or Not!" Sunday night.

And while Presidential Spokesman Larry Speakes may have had an important message from Washington, D.C., St. Joseph residents didn't look kindly to the nationwide cutting of the program filmed in St. Joseph last July 22.

"It doesn't make sense to spend all that money producing the show last summer, and then let it get cut," said Steve Price of the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce.

"We realize the network could not control the news break, but we plan to ask that they rerun the St. Joseph story about Jesse James," Price said.

Television Station KQTV, St. Joseph's ABC affiliate, was faced with complaints when the James segment was cut off about mid-way through the seven-minute portion of the program.

The station is sending a request both to ABC Television and to the "Believe It or Not!" officials asking that the St. Joseph portion be rerun. An alternative would be for the local station to be supplied with a tape of the segment for airing at St. Joseph.

In Los Angeles Monday, Joel Fredrick was unhappy. The former St. Joseph foot doctor, now a member of the Ripley's staff, had arranged for the filming here.

"It was even worse in California," Fredrick said. "The football game was on, and they didn't carry 'Believe It or Not!' on the network at all. I tried to have a watch-party in my apartment, and all we could get was the football game."

He said the Jesse James program had been scheduled for the previous weekend, but was switched when the World Series ran an extra game.

"The Jesse James program was one of our best shows, and we wanted to get good maximum exposure," Fredrick said. "That is why it was run at the front of the program. In this case, we would have been better off if it had been later in the show."

Fredrick, who researched and helped write the script, said the star, Jack Palance, "did such an excellent job."

The show opened with a view of Eleanor Starnes' oil painting of Jesse James, and interior views of Jack Palance in the living room of the James Home here, telling of the framed bullet hole.

There were movie scenes of Jesse robbing trains and banks, and a view of the bank James robbed at Liberty, Mo. The show was interrupted by the newsbreak just as the exterior of the James Home in St. Joseph was on the screen.

"Not carried was the famous photograph of Bob Ford posing with the gun, and then the scene faded into Jack Palance in exactly the same pose," Fredrick said.

He said the production studios in Los Angeles had received telephone complaints all day about the program interruption, but said it was an ABC decision, not one by Ripley's.

Several telephone complaints were received at the James Home Monday, including one man who called from Alamosa, Colo.

Steve Price said the Chamber hoped enough people would complain to get the Jesse James portion carried again on the network.

According to Fredrick, the Patee House lottery sequence is now scheduled for Jan. 15, but he said with such interruptions in the schedule they have been advised not to give out any show times until the program stabilizes.

Documentary on Jesse James to be aired nationally tonight

N-P 10-10-81

Last May two television crews came to St. Joseph the same week to film separate documentaries about the shooting of Jesse James.

Tonight one of those programs will be carried nationally at 11 p.m. — but it apparently will not be aired in the St. Joseph area.

"In Search of Jesse James," was filmed here in May by Alan Landsberg Productions of Los Angeles. No stations available at St. Joseph will be carrying the show.

The nearest station is WTVJ at Joplin, Mo., more than 200 miles from here on channel 16.

Friday officials at Patee House Museum and the Jesse James Home, where the movie was made, arranged for the Joplin television station to videotape the show and send the tape to St. Joseph.

The 30-minute documentary will then be shown at the museum at the next meeting of the Pony Express Historical Association on Nov. 8.

About a dozen historical association members from St. Joseph have roles in the show. Chipp DeMann of Northfield, Minn., portrayed Jesse James. Bob and Charley Ford were played by Doug Chilcote and Richard Ream, and Mary Chilcote was Mrs. Jesse James. Some persons played more than one role.

Others taking part in the program in scenes in St. Joseph and Kearney, Mo., included Valetta Beach, Ray Waldo, Gary Chilcote, Mrs. Ethel Blomfield, Jeanne Patterson and Mrs. Merrill Chilcote.

The other television documentary on Jesse James was filmed by Country Day, a 17-station network originating out of Minneapolis.

That version included Sam Wright of Savannah as Jesse James. It also had been scheduled to be shown this fall, but has now been set over until next summer.

Don Buehler, the show's producer, explained his television crews were not available in late September to film the other portion, the reenactment of the Northfield, Minn., bank raid.

"We plan to film that bank robbery next summer, and then use the film including the St. Joseph portions next year," Buehler explained. "We were sorry for the delay, but our crews couldn't be in Northfield at the time of the annual Jesse James celebration."

He said the movie still will be appropriate since 1982 will be the centennial of Jesse's death. The famous outlaw died in the house in St. Joseph, formerly located at 1318 Lafayette St., on April 3, 1882.

BETWEEN THE LINES

Gary Chilcote

Staff Writer

GAT 2-20-82



TV Jesse James film mixed truth, fiction

"The Last Days of Frank and Jesse James" has premiered on NBC television with yet another part-truth, part-fiction story of the outlaw who met his death in St. Joseph on April 3, 1882.

For an obviously low budget, made-for-television movie, it wasn't all that bad if you didn't expect much to begin with.

Kris Kristofferson as Jesse and Johnny Cash as Frank James proved the men can act on occasion as well as sing, although Cash's on-camera hymn left much to be desired. His off-camera "Ballad of Jesse James" was fine.

On the other hand, country singer Willie Nelson, in a cameo appearance as Gen. Joe Shelby, demonstrated he can't act, either. For some reason, Nelson played the former Confederate general in a blue uniform.

SHELBY WAS DRUNK WHEN HE testified at Frank James' trial in Gallatin, a fact Nelson did not put across as he read his lines as if from a teleprompter.

Milton Perry, curator of the James birthplace at Kearney, was a far better and more humorous General Shelby in a play at Kansas City a couple of years ago.

At times, the producers worked hard to keep the story accurate, following through the Martha Bolton-Wood Hite-Dick Liddil relationship; the reenactment of the Winston, Mo., train robbery and murder of conductor William Westfall, and the subsequent trial at Gallatin.

At other times, it was pure fiction, like an occasional bedroom tryst to help keep the viewer's attention. Filmed around Nashville, the movie was more realistic than the Carradine brothers' version that was filmed a few years ago in Georgia.

To their credit, the producers this time tried for accuracy, and made many a telephone call to the Jesse James Home Museum in St. Joseph for background information and materials.

As the museum director, we forwarded them books and photographs to help with their research. The Jesse James "wanted" posters we sent figured prominently in the story.

We sent a picture of Jesse's original tombstone, an obelisk sandstone shaft that was literally carved away over the years by souvenir hunters. The producers duplicated the stone, but called several times to determine the original composition and color.

Their "St. Joseph home" was white with green shutters, but we apparently forgot to tell them it was on the very crest of a high hill without neighboring homes. Theirs was on a flat block.

And when Bob Ford shot Jesse, he didn't run into the street and shout, "I just killed Jesse James." He ran to send a telegram to Gov. Tom Crittenden to collect the reward.

A few months after the killing, Frank did indeed surrender personally to Governor Crittenden; and on May 6, 1884, Charles Ford committed suicide, while Bob Ford traveled a couple of years in the theater.

BOB FORD MET HIS END 11 years after Jesse's death. It was in Creede, Colo., but not exactly like the movie showed. His saloon didn't look like Gilley's. It was a tent in a mining town.

And Ed O'Kelley was red-headed (not white) and he didn't hail from 'St. Joe, Mo.," but Harrisonville, Mo. He was drunk, though and after arguments with Bob Ford, shot him dead.

There is no record that Frank James was at Creede at the time, or ever tried to avenge Jesse's death as Johnny Cash did. But that's showbiz.

Regardless of any inaccuracies, the movie will assure to a new generation of Americans, and eventually the world, that the mystique of the James gang lives on 104 years after Jesse's death.

And for St. Joseph it will mean another surge of tourists wanting to visit the James Home to (see the birthplace).

Filming of new made-for-TV movie on James brothers starts next week

GAZ 11-20-85

Filming for the movie, "The Last Days of Frank and Jesse James," is scheduled to begin next Monday in Tennessee, according to Joyce Greenberg of Joe Cates Productions.

Miss Greenberg called the Jesse James Home in St. Joseph Monday to check details of Jesse's death in St. Joseph, and his burial in Kearney, Mo.

"We are still in pre-production, taking care of last-minute details," Miss Greenberg explained from Nashville. "Filming will begin next Monday."

Appearing as the James Brothers will be country singers Johnny Cash and Kris Kristofferson. The film will be a two-hour movie made for NBC television and will be carried by the network next spring.

The movie will cover the last three years of the famed 'outlaws' career before Jesse was killed in St. Joseph

April 3, 1882. It is being filmed in Tennessee because the land and architecture is appropriate for the period.

The production crew ordered a variety of pictures, posters and books from the James Home at St. Joseph for background materials, and has made almost daily telephone calls to the museum to resolve historical questions.

Bonnie and Clyde meet ... Dracula?



ERIC KEITH/St. Joseph News-Press

Olin Cox gave his bed-and-breakfast inn over to a film crew last year when a spoof about Bonnie and Clyde was filmed there. The Whiskey Mansion was chosen because it looked like Dracula could live there, the filmmakers said.

Movie filmed in St. Joe blends gangster, horror elements

By JENNIFER HALL
St. Joseph News-Press

7-30-08

When Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow went on the run from law enforcement in the early 1930s, the last thing they thought they'd run into was Dracula. That's the plot behind a feature-length horror flick filmed at St. Joseph's Whiskey Mansion.

According to the movie's official Web site, "Bonnie & Clyde Versus Dracula" combines the rough-and-tumble world of gangster outlaws with the violent Gothic atmosphere of a classic horror film.

"It will be fun for people to see," said Olin Cox, owner of Whiskey Mansion.

He served as host to Big Atom Productions out

Please see **BONNIE**/Page A7

TODAY



OUTSIDE

Classified C1 Obituaries B3
Records A6 Opinion A4
Movies B7 Horoscopes .. B7

HIGH: 82° LOW: 68°

Rain may linger into the afternoon.

DETAILS A2

Bonnie and Clyde meet ... Dracula?

CONTINUED FROM Page A1

of Kansas City, as well as the cast and crew for the several weeks of filming last summer.

A meet-and-greet with the cast and crew will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the mansion, located at 1723 Francis St. Mr. Cox will serve light desserts and coffee for members of the public at the "Meet the Stars" event.

The Horseshoe Lake Drive-In will show a screening of the movie at 9 p.m. Thursday. Cost is \$5.

"It's good for people in St. Joe to get out and experience the possibilities," Mr. Cox said. "It's exciting that people do want to come here."

He said the movie was the second his mansion has attracted in the past year. Up to 70 people were in St. Joseph filming the Dracula movie last

July. Well-known scream queen Tiffany Shepis plays a leading role in the film and stayed at the mansion with other out-of-town guests.

Most of the scenes in the movie take place at the historical St. Joseph home, except for outside scenes, which were filmed elsewhere in St. Joseph or in Weston, Mo.

Mr. Cox purchased the home in 1995. It was built in 1885 by the Westheimer family, who were whiskey brewers. While the Victorian decor suited film makers and producers, Mr. Cox said most of the windows had to be blacked out for a more Gothic and scary feel.

For more information, contact Mr. Cox at 676-1529 or www.whiskeymansion1885.com. See a clip from the movie at www.bcvdmovie.com/trailer.html.

Business reporter Jennifer Hall can be reached at jennhall@npgco.com.

They done it



Miramax Films

Brad Pitt and Casey Affleck star in 'The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford.'

Pitt and Affleck make 'Jesse James' one to watch

After St. Joseph was shunned for both filming and world premiere locations, "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford," in which mega-star Brad Pitt plays the legendary local outlaw, is finally coming to Joetown. So, what will St. Joe audiences get with this film? The answer is a deliberately paced, dialogue driven near-masterpiece led by award-worthy performances in a style that practically redefines the boundaries of the typical western.

The story, based on the novel of the same title, takes place back in 1881, when Jesse James was 34 years old running the James Gang. With his popularity and legend at its peak, chief among his admirers was Robert Ford (Casey Affleck), a timid and ambitious 19-year-old member of the James gang, who practically worshipped James since he was a child. James is starting to plan the next big robbery while making sure he doesn't get double-crossed by members of his own gang, since there is a bounty on his head. As the title would suggest, it would inevitably be Ford, one of his closest companions, who would live in infamy as the coward who put the bullet in James' back.

Ford's brand of celebrity will take on an entirely different form.

As Jesse James, Pitt has never been more confident, charismatic or commanding on screen. Behind a blue-eyed piercing gaze and calm forcefulness, he adds human dimension to a wild West deity. He reveals an insomniac who was psychotically unpredictable while trying to heal a soul that was decomposing like the bodies he has personally laid to rest.

Affleck deserves an Oscar nomination as Robert Ford. He portrays Ford as an obsessive follower and believer in the Jesse James legend who eventually becomes parasitic at his side. His desire for celebrity of his own trumps his loyalty to his longtime partner in crime, and through his mischievous grin and pip-squeak voice, he masks a quiet storm brewing when he uses his assassination of James to boost his own notoriety. Long after this film is over, Affleck's performance will still be

MOVIE Review



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If you are expecting a film in the style of a shoot 'em up, via "Tombstone," fat chance of that. Director Andrew Dominick has other plans. Dominick brings an artist's touch to the genre, turning the film into a character study separating the myth from the man and revealing some inner truth to the film's title characters. He creates interesting wonder and tension in particular scenes, and his shots of a James train robbery, along with his dramatic

assassination, are priceless. It also helps that cinematographer Roger Deakins uses the camera to capture Life magazine-esque landscape shots and Warren Ellis' haunting score comes in at all the right places.

At over two hours and forty minutes long, it is somewhat laborious to sit through. Plus, the film's deliberate pace may not initially capture viewers right out of the gate. But if you stick with it, "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford," will earn your trust and win you

Ken Rex McElroy continues to haunt the present

AP 2-1-79

TV movie, talk show help keep the story alive

The 10th anniversary of the death of Ken Rex McElroy is being marked with two of the late 20th century's ultimate salutes: a television movie and a talk show.

On Sunday at 8 p.m., NBC (Channel 4) will broadcast "In Broad Daylight," based on the book about the killing of the Skidmore, Mo., "town bully." And on the following day, the Oprah Winfrey Show will discuss the incident with McElroy's survivors and — maybe — a few Skidmore residents. Oprah is broadcast on Channel 2 (10 on Cablevision) at 3 p.m.

The McElroy killing caught the country's fancy in 1981, when a group of vigilantes allegedly shot McElroy down in his truck. McElroy had been accused of

terrorizing the town, which was fed up with the law's inability to stop the man. Stories had it that many folks witnessed the shooting, but claimed to have seen nothing.

Skidmore's been silent ever since, despite offers to crack on CBS's "Sixty Minutes" and in at least two books: "Judgment Day" and "In Broad Daylight." The latter book, written by lawyer Harry N. MacLean in the late 1980s, is considered the better of the two, though it also failed to identify who fired the shots.

MacLean had no qualms about identifying the other characters in the book, but NBC has decided to change the names in the movie. McElroy is called "Len Rowan" and his most famous

victims — the Bowenkamp family — are identified as the "Westermans."

Two weeks ago, representatives of the Oprah show called this newspaper trying to locate folks connected with the McElroy shooting. Who they ended up with, apparently, were his first wife and several of his children (see the accompanying story); his attorney, Richard McFadin; the daughter of one of his alleged victims, Cheryl Helfin; and the author of the book, MacLean.

Said publicist Colleen Raleigh of Oprah's interest in the event: "It's a fascinating story that raised both social and moral questions that would appeal to our audiences. And there's obviously been enough interest in it to warrant an NBC movie."

McElroy's wife disappointed in show

By DARREL HUBER
News-Press/Gazette Staff Writer

"There's no doubt that Ken Rex McElroy did do a lot of bad things, but he wasn't the only bad guy. They did a lot of bad things to him — a lot of underhanded things."

Those are the thoughts that Alice Pickerel, who divorced McElroy a few years before he was shot to death in Skidmore,

Mo., tried to express in a television taping last week in Chicago.

She, along with her children, Juarez, 22, Tonia, 17, and Ken Jr., 16, were flown to Chicago Wednesday for a Thursday showing of "In Broad Daylight" and taping of the Oprah Winfrey Show.

The air date for that show, which also features her attorney and Harry N. MacLean, author of the book on which the movie is

based, is Monday afternoon on Channel 2 (10 on Cablevision).

In an interview from her home in St. Joseph, Pickerel said the movie is totally one-sided, that it pictures McElroy as all bad and the Skidmore people as all good.

"The movie is based on about the last six months of Ken's life, although it doesn't use real names or dates. We knew what the end was going to be and it was hard for us."

Please see McElroy/Page 3D



Brian Dennehy portrays "Len Rowan," a.k.a. Ken McElroy.



The HGTV television show 'If Walls Could Talk' visited the Nunning House Thursday afternoon to talk about its hidden treasures.

ERIC KEITH/St. Joseph News-Press

Film crew finds splendor in St. Joseph

1-11-08

By MARSHALL WHITE
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St. Joseph News-Press

The walls in three St. Joseph homes talked during the last three days.

Home and Garden Television's popular program "If Walls Could Talk," including host Mike Siegel, was in town with contractors filming Thursday at the historic August Nunning home, Tuesday and Wednesday the film crews

were at the Museum Hill Bed and Breakfast, 1102 Felix St., and Dan Moser's home at 624 N. Seventh St.

"I hope this will bring some more attention on the Nunning House and national exposure for St. Joseph," said Jason Beeman, owner of the Nunning House at 1401 Jules St.

The television program contacted the manager at the Nunning House about three months ago to set up a film schedule.

"People don't realize how much work goes into getting ready before the film crew gets here," said Marcena Carter, the manager.

It's been a matter of cleaning and washing everything, including the woodwork and windows, Ms. Carter said.

Lori Allread of High Noon Entertainment in Denver has been coordinating the St. Joseph shoot.

"I think people don't know

about St. Joseph," Ms. Allread said. "I had no idea this kind of architecture existed in St. Joseph, which is one of those American secrets."

The Nunning House, a Queen Anne-style Victorian home built in 1887 for St. Joseph brewer August Nunning, pretty much speaks for itself. The film crew was fascinated with the 100-foot-long tunnel that used to connect

Please see FILM/Page B2

OVER



submitted photo

Kyle Carroll was one of about 800 extras in this scene during the filming of the *Battle of Cowpens*.



submitted photo

Kyle Carroll had to wear a 'Dutch boy' wig in his part as an extra for the new Mel Gibson film *'The Patriot.'*

Maysville man is star for spit second

By JONATHAN HOUGHTON

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St. Joseph News-Press

Although Kyle Carroll's hobby is re-enacting history, he never thought he'd help create it.

Movie history, that is — in the most literal sense. The Maysville, Mo., resident was one of hundreds



of extras during the filming of the *Battle of Cowpens*. He wore mostly his own period clothes, although the wardrobe people made a few modifications. Among them: a "dutch boy" wig, which he says wasn't exactly his first choice for a hairstyle.

"I was disappointed I wasn't going to look like Daniel Boone," he laughs.

Carroll was in the creative process. "He didn't throw his weight around," he says.

Gibson, known as something of a joker on movie sets, was in fine form during filming, Carroll says. On director Roland Emmerich's birthday, Gibson arranged for Emmerich to be serenaded by a group of Carolina Panthers cheerleaders.

of historical re-enactors across the nation who traveled to Rock Hill, S.C., last November to participate in the filming of the new Mel Gibson film "The Patriot."

The Revolutionary War epic, which opened in theatres Wednesday, has been praised by some critics for its faithful rendering of the time period. Carroll agrees.

"The Revolutionary War is such a crown jewel of our history, and there'd never been a good movie made about it," he says.

Carroll's own interest in American history led him to take a couple



TODD WEDDLE/St. Joseph News Press

Kyle Carroll works for the Missouri Department of Conservation.

of weeks off from his job at the Missouri Department of Conservation to be in the movie. While he was paid \$150 a day for his services, Carroll says he did it more for the experience.

Days on the set for Carroll began around 4 a.m., when makeup and

While the filmmakers were precise in their recreations of battles, Carroll says they also had a little help from 21st century technology. In one scene, an army of about 400 British troops got some digitally created reinforcements.

"When you see it on the screen, there's thousands coming at you," he says.

But Carroll has nothing but good things to say about the filmmakers and actors, including Gibson. Although he didn't talk to Gibson personally, Carroll says the movie star seemed down-to-earth and inter-

After returning home from South

Carolina, Carroll had to wait until an advance screening this past week to see if his scenes made it into the film. The verdict: he's in the movie, but if you want to see him, don't blink.

"I tell everybody, 'due to unfortunate editing,'" he laughs.

While Carroll says he caught glimpses of himself in the film, it wasn't his own contributions that impressed him most.

"It looks so real onscreen," he says. "They really made an effort to find these lush, spectacular sets."

Gibson brings intensity to 'Patriot'

By **BOB THOMAS**
Associated Press

Of all the major U.S. wars, the Revolutionary War has been the most overlooked by the movie industry.

Over the years, Hollywood studios have concluded that audiences cannot connect

with characters in powdered wigs and three-cornered hats who shoot front-loading muskets. Now Columbia Pictures is striving to combat that notion with "The Patriot," a big-

scale epic with Mel Gibson for box-office star power, playing a respected South Carolina landowner and widower with seven children.

Gibson's Benjamin Martin is unswayed by the call to

Review

arms sparked by the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia. The hidden reason: a hero in the French and Indian War, he is haunted by the atrocities of which he was a party.

His teen-age son, played by Heath Ledger, is eager to join the Continental Army, but his father forbids him.

The situation changes when British troops, led by a sadistic colonel played by Jason Isaacs, invade Gibson's plantation. After helplessly watching his family brutalized and his son carried off to be hanged, Gibson regains

his war fervor. He organizes a ragtag militia and starts a guerrilla campaign.

While both sides were lining up their troops and firing point-blank at each other, Gibson employs stealth strategy — he and his followers hurtling out of swamps and forests for sudden attacks on small enemy units. They concentrate their fire on officers, a tactic the British consider not quite cricket.

The fighting sequences are offset by Gibson's returns to his family, whose lives are threatened by the vindictive colonel. There is a hint of romance with his dead wife's sister (Charlotte Selton), but most of the time she is lim-

ited to casting fond looks.

Having fought the British centuries before in "Braveheart," Gibson brings the same intensity to "The Patriot." He aptly portrays the complex nature of a warrior turned pacifist who must take up arms again.

Ledger is effective as the militiaman's son, though his character is sketchy.

Roland Emmerich ("Independence Day") directed "The Patriot" with his usual flourish, assisted by digital magic that can make the line of troops seem a mile wide.

John Williams' thundering score contributes to the drama. Robert Rodat's screenplay keeps a good balance between military and family.



Mel Gibson plays Benjamin Martin who organizes a ragtag militia and starts a guerrilla campaign in 'The Patriot.'

On the rails again

Ed Gentry's film project rolls into First Ward House for ninth time

By CRYSTAL K. WIEBE
crystalwiebe@njpcoco.com
St. Joseph News-Press

First Ward House regulars know it's that time of year again.

It's time for local filmmaker Ed Gentry to show the next installment of his video series about the interurban railroad.

"Fallen Flags: Interrurban the Epic Video Part IX" makes, well, number nine.

"It's evolved into becoming the Saturday before the Super Bowl," Ed says.

Hence, the Roman numerals after each segment's title.

"The bar just kind of stops for Ed's video," wife Deb Gentry says.

But they won't stop forever. Ed says he edited "Fallen Flags" to 42 minutes, a length he's had success with over the years.

"Basically 42 minutes is the maximum length of time people can watch a movie in a bar," he says.

Ed's are the only movies owner Bill Beasley shows at First Ward.

"Ed's a great guy and he's very thorough in his investigation of the interurban railroad," Beasley says.

This year, Ed also will show



Ed Gentry and his granddaughter, Chelsea Easton, pose by a steam engine at the Patee House Museum that is featured in his new film.

an "encore presentation" of his project five days later at Washington Park Library.

"First Ward House has limited seating and it's not good acoustics to watch a history documentary on the big screen," he says.

Ed also hopes viewers will appreciate the library's smoke-free atmosphere.

Those who've followed Ed's project from the start have witnessed lessons in local railroad history along with the development of his step-grandchildren.

Chelsea Easton, 12, has appeared in the videos since she was 3.

"I like being on camera,"

she says.

In "Part VIII," Ed captured Chelsea and her younger sister Antigone fighting over who would read a passage on camera.

This year, a more mature Chelsea says she netted significantly more screen time than 8-year-old "Tiggy."

"Ever since I was older, I've been getting more parts," Chelsea says.

The theme of "Fallen Flags" connects current events to St. Joseph's railroad history.

"What I tried to do this past year was film the beautiful buildings before they're destroyed," Ed says.

The climax of "Fallen Flags" includes footage of destruction that began on Heartland Regional Medical Center's downtown campus last year. Ed means for the contemporary images to remind viewers how easily institutions can be erased.

"The fact is that when the hospital is destroyed, it will be gone from people's memory within a couple of decades," he says.

Just like another building that doesn't exist anymore.

"Once upon a time, this beautiful Union Station was in downtown St. Joseph," Ed says. "I'm still looking for pictures of that."

ON THE TRACKS

■ Ed Gentry premieres his movie, "Fallen Flags: Interrurban the Epic Video, Part IX," at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, at First Ward House, 2101 St. Joseph Ave. The film rolls again at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, at Washington Park Library, 1821 N. Third St.

photo idea? Call City Editor **Steve Booher** at 271-8583. Or e-mail news@npgco.com

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YES OR NEIGH? | Actors respond to casting call



Auditions held for movie

1-20-08

By **KATHY CRAWFORD**
St. Joseph News-Press

Actors and horse riders answered a casting call at the Pony Express Museum Saturday, hoping to land a part in an updated video for museum visitors and an extended DVD.

Jim Conlon, who produced "St. Joseph, Days of Civil War," will write, direct and produce the video and DVD. He said the DVD will be available for sale at the museum and other locations throughout St. Joseph.

"The extended version will

Please see **ACTORS/Page B5**

Justin Rother looked the part of a rider when he auditioned as Johnny Fry for the Pony Express Museum's in-house video Saturday afternoon.

ERIC KEITH/St. Joseph News-Press

Actors audition for Pony Express movie

CONTINUED FROM Page B1

have special points of interest in St. Joseph that the video will not," Mr. Conlon said. Justin Rother, 19, of Mound City, Mo., interviewed for the part of the Pony Express rider. He said Mr. Conlon was looking for a hard, fast rider that can mount and dismount

quickly, which is something he knows he can do. "I've been riding since I was 4 years old," Mr. Rother said. "I've been doing rodeos and chuck-wagon racing."

He said that as an outrider in chuck-wagon racing, he really learned to mount a horse quickly. Mr. Rother prefers to climb in the saddle while the

horse is on the move. "I do it the hard way, but that's how I get out ahead," he said.

Other actors will portray Union and Southern soldiers, Native Americans, station keepers and organizers of the original Pony Express. Filming will take place in Eastern Kansas and Northwest Missouri during March and April.

born. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in agricultural journalism from Kansas State University in 1952 and married his classmate and the school newspaper's editor, Betty Louise Omer Creek, in 1953. They both worked on the *St. Joseph Gazette* for a short time before moving to Milwaukee, Wis. where Stan started a career in advertising. Accounts with Swift Feed, Surge Milk-ers, American Breeder Service and Allis Chalmers led to more opportunities and a move to Chicago in 1964, with children, David Jefferson, Robert James and Sharyn Lynn. In Chicago, Stan was an account executive managing several accounts, including Mobil agricultural products. He was involved in the community as president of the Chicago Farmers Club, a trustee at his church, and a leader in the local Boy Scout troop. He enjoyed photography, camping, fishing, canoeing and being outdoors, especially in the country of his childhood, Slash Valley Farm. Stan retired after a severe stroke in 1973, and relocated to his beloved farm in Dearborn in 1978, moving into the century-old homestead of his great grandparents. In retirement, Stan enjoyed his kids

Jim was a courier for the St. Joseph MedClinic for 10 years.

He was a proud WWII Navy veteran, who saw action as a chief torpedoman in the Pacific Theater. He served on the USS Duncan and Bennett, both taking catastrophic losses from enemy fire.

Jim was a lifelong member of V.F.W. Post No. 5531 and American Legion of Wathena, Kan.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Ruby Cook; sister, Betty Sanders; his first wife, Billie Jean Cook; and daughter, Connie Jo.

He is survived by sister, Francis Bryson, King City, Mo.; his wife, Betty, of the home; children: Larry (Connie), La Junta, Colo.; James, St. Joseph; Lisa (Doug) Davis, Elwood; Tommy, St. Joseph; Tammy Rucker, St. Joseph; Megan (Travis) Roberts, St. Joseph and Tyler, Elwood. He also had nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, who were his pride and joy.

The service will be held on Tuesday, Jan 22, at 2 p.m. at Harman-Rohde Funeral Home in Wathena. Visitation will be

Wiseman.

Service: Wednesday, 9 a.m. North Missouri Baptist Home, Chillicothe. There is no scheduled family visitation. Burial will be at the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Clarksburg, Mo. on Wednesday at 1 p.m.

Arrangements: Lindley Funeral Home, Chillicothe.

Shirley M. Hulett

1924-2008

BETHANY, Mo. — Shirley Margaret Foreman Hulett, formerly of Pattonsburg, Mo., was born Nov. 23, 1924, to Andrew and Jessie (Burris) Foreman at their home in McFall, Mo. For that time, she was probably a miracle baby weighing only something over 2 lbs. with her parents being in their mid-40s. She spent her early years in McFall, Mo., but moved with her parents to a farm west of Pattonsburg in the early 1930s.

After graduating from Pattonsburg High School in 1941, she attended Chillicothe Business School, Chillicothe, Mo. She then went to work for Swift and Company in Chicago, Ill., living at a boarding home for girls and

tist Church, Pattonsburg in care of the Roberson Funeral Home, P.O. Box 152, Pattonsburg, MO 64670. Online condolences may be left at: www.robersonfuneralhome.com.

Rosary: Olinger And tlerock, Colo Local Arr Klein Funer Mo.

Dekoda L. Neill

1993-2008



Dekoda Louis Neill, 14, St. Joseph, died Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008 at St. Louis Children's Hospital, St. Louis, Mo.

Dekoda was born Nov. 12, 1993, in St. Joseph, to Roger Dale and Debra Mae (Hatheway) Neill, and brother, Matthew Neill, who survive of the home.

He was a student at Spring Garden Middle School.

Dekoda was preceded in death by his grandfather, Clifton Neill; and two uncles, Steve and David Neill.

He was a member of the Spring Garden Middle School basketball team and the Parkway Panthers. Dekoda loved basketball. He was always happy and had a smile, never let his pain show. He was always concerned about others. Dekoda was an inspiration to everyone around him.

The family wishes to give special thanks to Lena and Gary Feters and Tiffany Fredrickson family, who have been a great help in a difficult time. Also, all the friends who have been there for them.

Additional Survivors: grandparents, Elmer and Doris Hatheway, Leta Neill and great grandmother, Alice Peek, all of St. Joseph; several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Leon

BREMERT Ashley Whitton, formerly away Jan. 4, Born Jan 14, 1916, i B u c h a n a County, Mo he was gradu ated from DeKalb, Mo high school i 1933.

Leon move to Bremert 1942 and wor Naval Shipyard where he ret

He was by first wife Wheeler; par (Jenkins) W Mae Wheeler and stepbrother and daughter. Leon is su ta; children, Robert, Ch Wheeler of numerous g grandchildren grandchildr ters; brothe Olathe, Kan Tuskahoma Lorene Ho Lila McCan.

A memor Saturday, Ja ton Church

Plea

Tracking stars *N-P 6-18-04*

Two Hollywood actresses have a tie to the late President Ronald Reagan and St. Joseph. Jane Wyman, a St. Joseph native, became the first Mrs. Reagan on Jan. 26, 1940, and Rhonda Fleming was the star of "Pony Express," which had its premier in St. Joseph at the Missouri Theater in 1953, following a downtown parade in which the beautiful, red-haired Miss Fleming rode in an open convertible cheered by all.

This week a loving tribute by Miss Fleming, who co-starred in four films with Mr. Reagan, appears in *Newsweek* (June 21, 2004), and I felt your readers might be interested.

Lee Phillips
Norcross, Ga.

Just a reminder

Call in your Bouquet nominations to **271-8579** today.

Chiefs tackle St. Joseph commercial

7-20-95

BY RAFFENSPERGER

Editor

Two weeks from now, Kansas City Chiefs football players Brian Washington and Pellom McDaniels will be focused on tackling the city's ball carriers.

Wednesday, the two professionals were in St. Joseph for the big challenge was to get a golden palomino named Yellar.

The action took place at the Patee House National Memorial, one of the few locations where the players helped make a commercial for the St. Joseph Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"Like you are straining," Washington said as Washington helped Pellom McDaniels into the saddle. "We will be, don't worry," Washington, who recently opened the Valentino's restaurant in St. Joseph.

"I've ridden a horse before," McDaniels said later. "But it's a little bit of a mile."

The scenes were shot at Patee House Museum, where the players were waving on a trolley in front of the Pony Express statue; wearing cowboy hats at the museum; and finally eating

The concept is to show the players having fun at tourist sites in St. Joseph. "St. Joseph's a great place to spend the weekend before the game."

While eating pizza, the Chiefs players said they've almost forgotten about the football game. They are now piling into a car and heading down Interstate 29 to Arrowhead Stadium. As the players past, one of the players heard saying: "It's easy to get in time in St. Joseph."

Jones, who coordinated the project, said the commercial aired on stations in Omaha, Lincoln, Neb., in August.

While showing the players at tourist spots in town and saying if the players can have fun here, you can have fun, too," Jones said. "I'd like for people in Nebraska and Iowa who are coming to the Chiefs game to stop in St. Joseph."

Jones said the commercial, broadcast by KQTV, will cost

Please see **Chiefs/Page 3A**



Staff photo by IVAL LAWHON JR.

Kansas City Chief Pellom McDaniels gets a boost up onto a horse from his brother Rico McDaniels, in back, and teammate Brian Wash-

ington. The players were in town to appear in a commercial for the St. Joseph Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Chiefs

Continued from Page 1A

about \$900 to make. She said the cost is being split by the visitors bureau, Stetson and Valentino's.

Washington, a defensive back, and McDaniels, a defensive lineman, shook hands and signed autographs for adults and children who gathered to watch.

"We want people to support us, so then we should support and appreciate them," McDaniels said. "Basically, one hand washes the other."

Ron Dickerson, a kick returner for the Chiefs, was supposed to be here, but the team announced Wednesday that he had been released, and he canceled the appearance. Replacing Dickerson was McDaniel's younger brother, Rico, who is not a Chief, but was invited anyway.

McDaniels said the idea for the commercial developed from a conversation with Mayor Larry Stobbs when the two met at a party. McDaniels saw a poster of the Dallas Cowboys wearing Stetson hats and asked Stobbs why the Chiefs were not chosen. Stobbs then contacted the visitors bureau and the concept began. On Tuesday, photographs were taken of about nine Chiefs players wearing Stetsons at their practice facility in Kansas City.



Kyle Rehm, 12, St. Joseph, has his Chiefs ball cap autographed by Pellom McDaniels on Wednesday morning. McDaniels and a teammate were in town to film a commercial.

Staff photo by
RIVAL LAWSON JR.

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Daily living



Leucht recalls involvement in making two silent movies.

Reel Reflections

William Leucht's movie house career
spanned from silent flicks to the '50s

By **ALICE McVICKER**
Staff Writer

nois Avenue and managed it for Ben Putter," he recalled. "When I started they charged five cents admission, but they weren't doing

In 1918, Uncle Sam called and Leucht joined the Navy. But the one year of service to his country didn't interrupt keeping his hands in the movie business for he ran

Section D, Sunday, February 3, 1985



locally made silent film.

A black and white photograph of a group of people, likely a family, standing outdoors in a wooded area. They are dressed in early 20th-century clothing, including long coats, hats, and boots. The group consists of several adults and children, posing for a formal portrait.

And it was while at the Savoy, that Leucht met his late wife, a parakeet. He recalled, "I was putting up advertising out in front of the theater when she and her partner came in. I was playing music, and they were doing the projection work as many the silent films and her father was doing the projection work as well as playing music."

on picture machine and
ion pictures for the Navy.
he service, he returned to
oy, which he eventually
owning. In 1929, he pur-
the Olive Theater, which he
r six years.

s showing movies in al-
ery theater in St. Joseph
hat era, Leucht tried his
making three silent mov-
St. Joseph area movie
sing local talent. In 1923,
his film debut with "The
Boy."

t said the film was a
se comedy" dealing with
llows in a small country
ng for the affections of a
ng young girl. "I played
e gangsters who steal the
the blacksmith ends up
girl.

a copy of that film, but it
sappeared. My father
the camera for it and I
and wrote it."

m Leucht would have ac-
ade his debut in was "The
which he started in 1916,
s never completed.

seph Adopts A Baby" was
r film Leucht assisted in
His daughter explained
an came to St. Joseph with
and wanted local people to
s in it.

ot, she said, centered on a
ellow who had applied to
baby. When he received
pick the baby up at the
tion, he was surprised to
that the baby was an
ld girl, whom he later fell
with.

1940-44, Leucht expanded
e showing business to the
ns and put on what were
merchant sponsored
his was also while work-
yard and claim clerk for
t Western Railroad from
66. (On Nov. 1, he retired
years of custodial service
nd Baptist Church, where
active member).

iss Leucht said their fon-
nories in the theater busi-
e at the Savoy because "it
family affair," with her
ther selling the tickets,
dfather taking the tickets
ing the music to accom-
e silent films and her fa-
ing the projection work as
playing music.

was while at the Savoy,
acht met his late wife,
He recalled, "I was put-
advertising out in front of
er when she and her girl-



Staff photos by ROBERT ROGERS

William Leucht examines a reel from his collection of old films.

friend walked up. The show had already started, so I let them in anyway and never made them pay."

The biggest change in motion picture history also occurred while Leucht owned the Savoy and that was when talkies came into being in 1929. He said the first talkie he remembers showing was "The Singing Fool" starring Al Jolson.

"Things (in the movie business) moved so fast after that and conditions seemed so unnatural," Leucht said, "that it seems almost like a dream — like they just couldn't have happened."

Although Leucht retired from the motion picture business in 1955 after spending 47 years in it, he can still relive it through his collection of films. He has copies of films by such stars as Shirley Temple, Charles Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy, Harold Lloyd and Bus-

ter Keaton, as well as, a dozen or more of Walt Disney cartoons. He also has a copy of "The Great Train Robbery," which was one of the first films to tell a story and to employ the technique of editing.

When asked what his favorite film is, the great-grandfather replied he didn't have one. "If you bring out a good comedy, they're all alike to me. Sometimes I turn on the TV without the sound and I can tell more about it (the show) without the sound."

Leucht said he doesn't really have a favorite star either. "But for comedies I like Buster Keaton better than any of them."

Over the years, the number of local theaters has dwindled, which Leucht blames mainly on the invention of television and not the automobile.

"TV has been the ruination of

everything. When TV came in, they started taking movies off the screen and putting them on TV and people started staying at home.

"I remember when radio first came on while I was at the Savoy, they started having prizefights and you couldn't get anyone in the show. So we put a radio in the show and people came in and for 10 cents they could hear the fights and see the movies too. That's a way we beat radio, but we couldn't hardly put in a TV to beat it. the theater business when TV came along."

And Leucht concluded with even stronger opinions of the movies Hollywood is making these days. "They're lousy. There's too much sex. They need to go back to the old stories. I don't think they know a good story anymore."