

The Happenings

May 1992

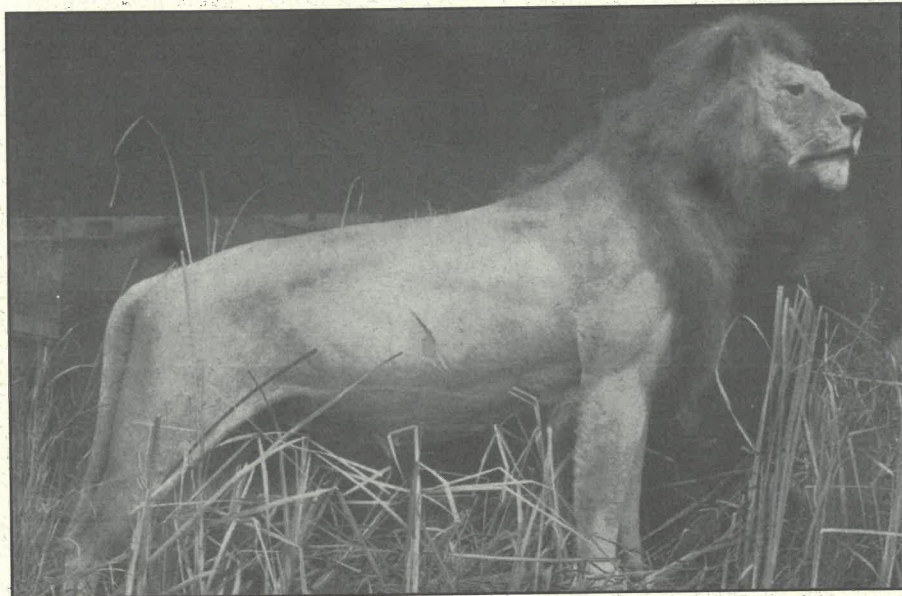
St. Joseph Museum

Pony Express Museum

THE WYETH LION INSPIRES EXHIBIT

An air of expectancy has filled the halls of the St. Joseph Museum the past couple of months. That grew to a feeling of barely suppressed excitement as work progressed on the staff's latest project, the Wyeth Legacy Exhibit.

Photo courtesy of Tom Dale



This handsome specimen was collected by the donors' grandfather, Huston Wyeth, during an African safari in 1923. It was the largest lion ever collected up to that time.

It all began with the generosity of Shirley Wyeth Bradley and her cousin, Stuart Wyeth Campbell. After the close of the family business, Wyeth Hardware and Manufacturing Co., Mrs. Bradley and Mr. Campbell decided to offer the St. Joseph Museum the magnificent mounted lion which looked out over the main entrance of the Wyeth office building.

The king of the jungle will reign supreme again thanks to the hard work done primarily by David Mead, curator of natural history, and Robbie Sipes, curator of exhibits. This time it will be over a two-room display on the second floor of the castle which Huston Wyeth's father, William Maxwell Wyeth, built at 11th and Charles Streets in 1879.

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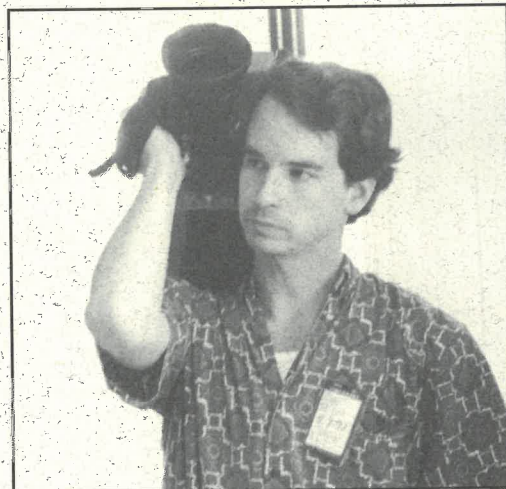
MAKING OF THE PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL MEMORIAL VIDEO

One project of the Development/Marketing Committee of The Pony Express National Memorial has been the production of a video. The goal was to create a national caliber video conveying the significance of the Pony Express and the benefits of a National Memorial to the city, state and country. The video will be used at presentations to area service clubs and foundations and as a news feature on national television networks.

Based upon a recommendation from Dr. Jim McCarthy, trustee, a meeting was set up with Video Post, a Kansas City based company, to discuss the needs of the board of trustees and the capabilities of Video Post. At the initial meeting, Bob Simpson and Mignon DeShon, trustees, and staff members Heidi Hornaday, Reva Rocha and Sandy Taylor met with Mike Wunsch, executive producer, and Tim Lamar, director/production coordinator of Video Post.

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Jackie Lewin



Tim Lamar, pictured, grew up in St. Joseph and was production manager at KQTV for 8 years. We were fortunate to have Tim, Mike and the Video Post staff for our video.

PONY EXPRESS LUNCHEONS SUCCESSFUL

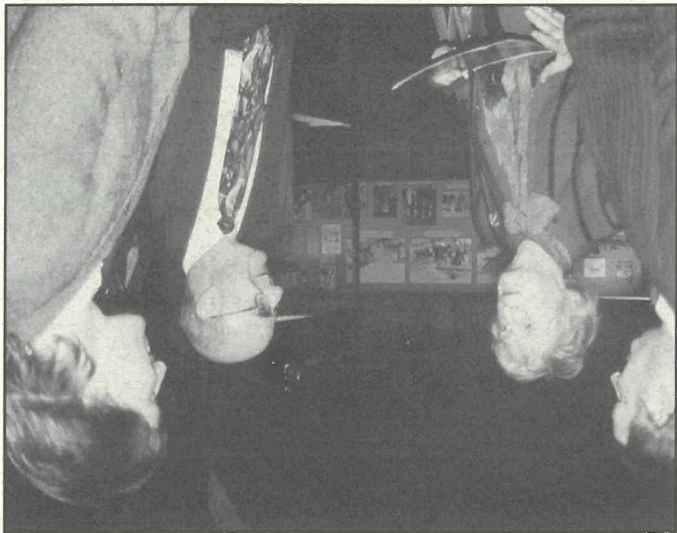
by Rich Nolf, Director

One of the major factors influencing the success of a capital campaign is to make people aware of the vision. Dick Deshon hit upon the idea of sharing Pony Express, Inc.'s vision of a national memorial with members of the community in a series of informal luncheons. The luncheons, which began January 6, have drawn to a close and I am enthused by the tremendous success they have proven to be. They have provided me with a wonderful opportunity to meet many very fine people.

Each time a luncheon concludes, I have a warm feeling about the whole project. Dick, Bob Simpson and all of the trustees provide outstanding leadership. Sandy Taylor and the rest of the staff do a masterful job with the luncheon arrangements. Assisting Sandy on a regular basis is Mike Goetz who has also co-hosted two luncheons. Karl Goetz, the man who was a predominant force in saving the Pony Express Stables, was the father of Mignon Deshon and Mike Goetz.

The trustees and staff wish to recognize and thank the following restaurants for their generous support and delicious fare: Barbosa's, Bistro Blues, The Boathouse, Boogie's, Bredeaux Piza, The Bucket Shop, The Deli, D&G, Fredrick Inn, Galvin's, Mike and Sami Goetz, Holiday Inn, Hoof 'n' Horn, Jerre Anne Cafeteria and Bakery, Johnny Fry's, Lou's Deli, Moila, Murphy's Deli, Pinzino's, Subway and Thomas Market.

Trustees who have hosted luncheons are: Dr. Philip Acuff, Bob Brown, Bill Brunner, Tim Burner, Bill Carpenter, Dick Deshon, Mignon Deshon, Clark Hampton, Ted Hatfield, Jim Lehr, Pat Marston, Dr. Jim McCarthy, Russ Mooney, Carol Moya, David Oliver, Don Ransom, Si Rositzky, Bob Siemens, Bob Simpson, Creath Thorne and Tom Watkins.



Rhonda Clem

Shirley Bradley, luncheon guest, visits with Bill Carpenter, trustee; Rich Nolf, director; and David Mead, curator of natural history.

PONY EXPRESS, INC., FUNDING UPDATE

Pony Express, Inc., gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and businesses for their generous contributions to the Pony Express Museum Restoration and Expansion Project:

Susan Blakely and Stephen Jaffe
Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Bryan
Mr. Robert Cotter
Cotter Travel Associates
Mr. and Mrs. Clark Hampton
Mr. and Mrs. Casey Meyers
Mrs. Roy Nelson
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Nolf
Mr. and Mrs. Don Paton/Holiday Inn
Mr. Mike Polsky
Polsky Lincoln-Mercury
Mr. and Mrs. Melville H. Schmidt
Mr. Gary Rosenthal/Stetson Hat Co.

TRIBUTE

Dr. and Mrs. R. Philip Acuff
in memory of Edith M. Heitz
Mr. and Mrs. David T. Hornaday
in memory of Jeremy Shane Ingle
Robert L. Simpson
in memory of Edith M. Heitz
Robert L. Simpson
in memory of Anna Lee Niedorp
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald E. Taylor
in memory of Edith M. Heitz

As of 4-22-92



From left - Stan Hall, Dick Deshon, and Geraldine Lawhon, luncheon co-host.

Rhonda Clem

The Wyeth Lion . . . , *continued from page 1*

The Wyeth family lived in this beautiful home until 1887 when it was sold to Mrs. Kate Tootle. Nearly 60 years later, through the beneficence of W. L. Goetz of the Goetz Brewing Co., the "castle" became the home of the St. Joseph Museum.

The history of the building, including a splendid model of the house, carriage house and grounds, is only one part of the museum's new exhibit. The development of the Wyeth Hardware and Manufacturing Co., the contributions of the Wyeth family to St. Joseph over several generations, and the fascinating story of Huston Wyeth's African safari in 1922 and 1923, each have a share of the new display.

Perhaps of greatest interest to the younger patrons of the St. Joseph Museum will be the story of Huston Wyeth's African safari and the magnificent beast he killed there.

It is Mr. Wyeth's own chronicle which tells that story so well. As a child, he had two ambitions, both inspired by conversations with his father. One was to be a railroad conductor and the other was to be a stagecoach driver.

"Childish dreams soon fade," wrote Mr. Wyeth, "and as I grew older and read of Baker, Stanley and other African explorers and hunters, new dreams came to take their place, and it became the ambition of my life to go to darkest Africa to hunt big game."

So it came about that in November of 1922, Huston Wyeth, his son-in-law, Kenyon V. Painter, and Mr. and Mrs. James L. Clark set out on the great hunt. Clark, of New York City, was head of the American Museum of Natural History. He was a pioneer and an expert in taxidermy as well as photography, including moving pictures.

Via London and France, through the Mediterranean Sea and the Suez Canal, the party traveled until their ship berthed at last at Mombasa on the coast of the Indian Ocean on Christmas Eve.

There followed days and weeks of arduous journey through British East Africa, some of it perilous, most of it uncomfortable, to say the least, and all of it faithfully recorded by Mr. Clark and his cameras.

A 35-millimeter movie was later converted into an exciting video.

Huston Wyeth returned home safely on May 17, 1923, after killing six lions and numerous other game. He was contemplating a similar adventure in the future, but he was nearly 60 when he completed the first safari and he died a scant two years later, in 1925.

To describe fully the arduous but thrilling trip and the story of the great lion kill might spoil the effect upon visitors to the Wyeth Legacy Exhibit. It is enough to say that thanks to Shirley Bradley and Stuart Campbell, and the hard work of the staff of the St. Joseph Museum, it is a display well worth seeing.

Other members of the Wyeth family who have contributed to the success of the exhibit are William Wyeth, III; Max Wyeth; Mr. and Mrs. Huston Wyeth; Tom Dale; and Mr. and Mrs. Hank Bradley.

Photo courtesy of Max Wyeth



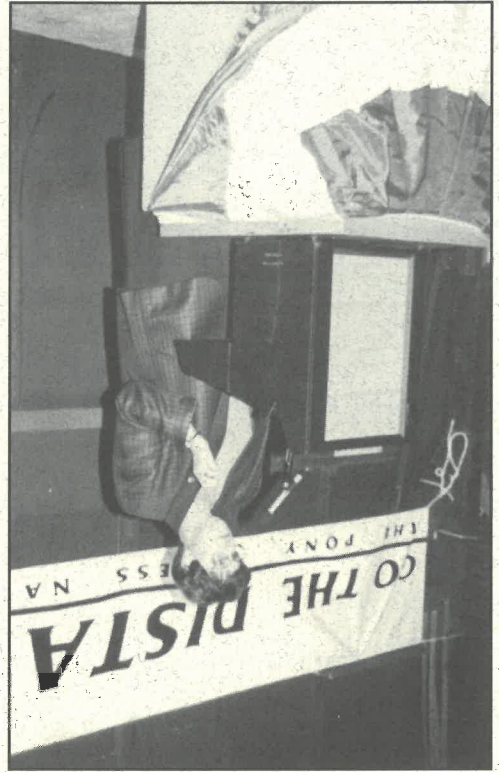
Pictured left to right, John Wyeth, Maud Wyeth Painter, Alyson Wyeth Campbell and William M. Wyeth, the four children of Huston Wyeth.

SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE PONY EXPRESS

PHOTOS BY RHONDA CLEM



Dr. David Oliver, trustee, gives Pony Express lapel pins to honored guests at the 132 Anniversary of the Pony Express celebration honoring law enforcement officers from the city, county and state and firefighters from the city. The guests include: Commissioner Leroy Maxwell, Fire Chief John McGarry, Sheriff Mickey Gill, Captain Don Schmitz (Highway Patrol), 2nd row Major Earl Stou (Sheriff's Dept.), State Rep. Charlie Shields and Lt. Jim Brooks (Highway Patrol).



Mayor Glenda Kelly expresses her appreciation to the honored guests at the 132 Anniversary of the Pony Express Celebration.



Gov. John Ashcroft visited the Pony Express National Memorial recently to promote the Missouri Games sponsored by the State Lottery.



Highway patrolmen, Captain Don Schmitz and Lt. Jim Brooks, listen to Bonnie Watkins, curator of collections, as she points out interesting "finds" in the archaeological excavation behind the Pony Express National Memorial.

Making of the Video, *continued from page 1*

This exploratory planning meeting gave both groups a solid basis from which to work. It was decided that Video Post would draft a script based upon their understanding of the purpose of the video, along with their knowledge of the Pony Express, and submit this to the video committee. Video Post would also submit a budget including the production of a 6 to 8 minute video, a video news release and two public service announcements. Trustees serving on the video committee included Mignon and Dick DeShon, Carol Moya and Bob Simpson.

The first draft of the script arrived shortly after the initial meeting. After reading the script, the committee and staff decided that it should include more historical background and information on the development of the Pony Express National Memorial. Heidi Hornaday, curator of development, and Jackie Lewin, curator of history, broadened the story line. The revised script was sent back to Video Post for final editing.

Since the existing artifacts of the Pony Express are mostly two dimensional, one question that had to be answered was "How can we make this video come alive?" This has been done primarily through the involvement of people.

The Committee decided that one way to bring credibility to and generate enthusiasm for the project was to involve nationally recognized individuals.

Walter Cronkite, broadcast journalist, and Susan Blakely, actress, were chosen because of their significant ties to St. Joseph. Dr. William F. Fisher, astronaut, was selected because he is the great-grandson of a Pony Express rider, Billy Fisher. Their involvement will have a great impact in helping us reach a broader audience. In addition, a number of children, teens and museum trustees participated in the video.

The video would not be complete without the resounding sounds of hoofbeats and the image of a lone Pony Express rider, so a horse and rider were secured.

The weekend of March 14-15 was set for the filming. The Stables became a flurry of activity as the shooting began on Saturday morning at 9 a.m. with Rich Nolf,

director, and Dick DeShon, Bill Carpenter, Mignon DeShon, David Oliver, Carol Moya, Bob Simpson and Tom Watkins trustees. The day's activities continued with a luncheon and press conference for Susan Blakely and her husband, Producer Steve Jaffe, at the Holiday Inn. The afternoon taping involved teenagers touring the museum and interacting with Rich. Filming concluded at the Stables around 4 p.m. and then moved to a location in the country. Richie Masoner, on horseback and dressed in 1860s period clothing, reenacted a Pony Express ride. A former staff member, Richie has ridden in numerous Pony Express reenactments.

The day concluded on an enthusiastic note with a cocktail party honoring Susan and Steve at the home of Dick and Mignon DeShon. Susan and Steve's warmth and the sincerity of their comments, as well as those of the guests, were a perfect ending to a great day. The enthusiasm for the project was felt by everyone.

Sunday's filming began about 10 a.m. with Richie and Casey at the Stables. (Russ Mooney's horse, Casey, was used throughout the production.) Following this, Video Post began filming Susan. The afternoon was spent taping Susan with young children acting as visitors to the museum. The weekend's activities ended at about 4:30 p.m.

Not all of the filming was completed during the weekend of March 14-15. One week later Video Post returned to the Stables to get footage of members of the St. Joseph Archaeological Society digging and of two-dimensional material. Mike Fisher, president of the archaeological society, was assisted in the dig by Bob Earhart, Calvin Lewman, Kenny Mears, Mary Packard and Bonnie Watkins.

Jackie Lewin



Rich Nolf, Astronaut Dr. Bill Fisher and Dick DeShon, take a moment to pause for a picture during the taping of the Pony Express video at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

NATIONALLY PROMINENT PERSONALITIES CONTRIBUTE TO VIDEO

Walter Cronkite, St. Joseph native and distinguished broadcast journalist, narrates the opening segment of the video. Mr. Cronkite was contacted, a script was sent to him and within a few weeks we received a tape of our opening paragraph. We feel very fortunate to have Mr. Cronkite involved in our video. He receives over 100 requests each week for help with projects.

Also giving her support is actress **Susan Blakely**, daughter of Mary Louise Karnes Blakely whose family roots are in the Agency, Missouri, area. Susan won the Golden Globe as best dramatic actress and was nominated for television's Emmy award for her performance in the famed mini-series, "Rich Man, Poor Man." Her most recent starring role was with Richard Crenna, Mare Winningham and Ben Vereen in "The Intruders," which will be aired on CBS in the fall of 1992.

Stephen Jaffe's technical advice was a benefit during Susan's filming. As a producer he has many credits to his name. Perhaps his best work to date was on the biography of Frances Farmer, "Will There Really Be a Morning?," starring his wife, Susan. He is currently producing, "Arcadia," a movie for television based on the book of the same name. He has recently acquired the rights to "Behind the Dolphin Smile" by Richard O'Barry, the former trainer of the "Flipper" dolphins.

Astronaut **Dr. William F. Fisher** is the great-grandson of William F. (Billy) Fisher, Nevada-Utah Pony Express rider. Currently, Doctor Fisher is an emergency room physician in Clear Lake, Texas. In 1980, he was chosen for the astronaut program and in 1985 flew aboard the space shuttle Discovery. During Mission 51, Doctor Fisher walked in space in order to make repairs to a satellite. Until 1991, when he left the astronaut program, he was NASA's public relations coordinator.

CHILDREN AND TEENS IN VIDEO

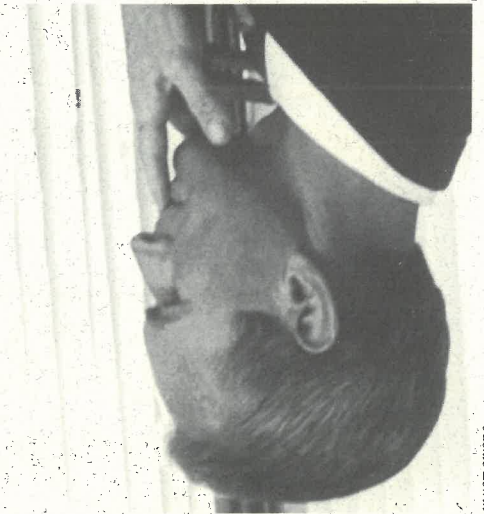
Andrew Blakely	Charles Blakely, Jr.	Joel Nelson
Aaryn Carpenter	Adam Carpenter	Holly Reno
Tammy Courter	Kailee Deshon	Jessica Taylor
John Hornaday	Becky Lewin	Carrie Watkins

A key player who was not yet on film was Dr. William F. Fisher, an astronaut. His great-grandfather was a Pony Express rider. The Video Post production crew, Dick Deshon, Rich Nolf, Jackie Lewin and Sandy Taylor traveled to the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, to film Doctor Fisher. The trip was made possible by the generosity of Clark and Nancy Hampton, trustees of Pony Express, Inc. and St. Joseph Museum, Inc. respectively.

Doctor Fisher will come to St. Joseph May 11 and 12. Trustee Carol Moya and her husband, Dr. Carlos Moya, will host a cocktail party in Doctor Fisher's honor. Other events planned include a press conference, a luncheon presentation and a visit with school children.

With all of the filming completed, Video Post immediately went to work editing the hours of tape. Their job — produce a 6 to 8-minute video to tell the story of the Pony Express and the vision of establishing The Pony Express National Memorial in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Success! The video is complete and will be released in mid-May.



Jackie Lewin

Doctor Fisher thinks about his next comment for the video.

SPECIAL TRIBUTES

It is difficult to adequately describe the dedication and commitment of Dick and Mignon DeShon to The Pony Express National Memorial. They have spent hours and hours working with many people on the video project. They are truly fantastic supporters and The Pony Express National Memorial simply would not be where it is today without them!

Bob Cotter of Cotter Travel Associates was a tremendous help in getting Susan Blakely and Steve Jaffe to St. Joseph. Rainy California weather kept delaying the completion of a movie Susan was filming so travel arrangements were difficult to make. Bob made many telephone calls and reservation changes to get Susan and Steve here on schedule.

Don and Yvette Paton, Holiday Inn, graciously provided a suite (complete with fruit and champagne) for Susan and Steve during their stay. Susan and Steve had many wonderful comments on how helpful and nice the Holiday Inn staff was.

Holiday Inn also provided a room for the members of the Video Post production crew and the use of the hotel theater for the press conference.

Mike Polsky of Polsky Lincoln-Mercury generously supplied Susan and Steve with a Lincoln Continental to drive during their stay.

Gary and Marian Rosenthal of Stetson Hats added a true St. Joseph touch. They presented Susan and Steve with not one but two Stetsons each. After receiving his hat, Steve never took it off!

Russ Mooney, owner of Bill's Saddlery, continues to be a tremendous asset to the Pony Express National Memorial project. He found a farm site to use for the taping of the reenactment scene, provided his horse, Casey, and recruited Richie Masoner as the rider. Richie was the "young, skinny, wiry fellow" who rode Casey through all the maneuvers that Video Post requested. Russ worked closely with Video Post in filming the segments involving the reenactment scenes. Also, his saddle shop served as a lunchroom on Sunday.

Cindy Weaver, a local resident and cousin of Susan Blakely, assisted Mignon in coordinating Susan and Steve's involvement with this project. A special thanks for her invaluable support.

FIELD TRIP UPDATES

The first field trip of the year was scheduled for the end of April. However, when we checked out the sites, it was found that school groups had taken all available times for the two principal locations we wanted to visit. For that reason, the trip has been rescheduled for September 11.

The trip will include a tour of the Kansas City Museum, lunch at Stroud's, a tour of the Arabia Steamboat Museum and a stop at Parkville. The "Arabia" sank just south of Parkville at the Quindaro Bend of the Missouri River in the summer of 1856. There will be some time allotted at Parkville for shopping on Main Street which is filled with antique shops. The cost will be \$32.00 for museum members and \$40.00 for nonmembers.

Field Trip to Historic Nebraska

On June 11-12 we will visit several points of interest in eastern and central Nebraska. Among the many sights visited will be Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer; Museum of Missouri River History, housed in the historic riverboat Meriwether Lewis, dry-docked at Brownville; the State Museum of Natural History, nicknamed "Elephant Hall" for its huge collection of extinct mammals which once roamed the Great Plains. We will spend the night at the Grand Island Holidome.

A separate mailer will be coming soon outlining all of the details of this exciting two-day trip.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 7 - The Wyeth Legacy Exhibit Opening, a reception for members and guests from 4-6 p.m. Second floor of the St. Joseph Museum, 11th and Charles Streets.

May 8 - The Wyeth Legacy Exhibit open to the public. Second floor of the St. Joseph Museum, 11th and Charles Streets.

May 9 - Midland Empire Audubon Society Birdathon.

May 11-12 - Dr. William F. Fisher in St. Joseph, Missouri.

May 23 - Midland Empire Audubon Society field trip to Indian Caves Park.

May 25 - St. Joseph Archaeological Society meeting, 7:30 p.m., Bank of St. Joseph (basement), Faraon Street and Woodbine Road. For more information call Mike Fisher, Society President, 232-5738.

For more Museum information call 232-8471

GIFT SHOP NOTE

Research shows that only 4% of the museum stores in the United States give a membership discount of as much as 20%. In order to update the policy of the museum stores at the St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express National Memorial, the membership discount has been set at 10% effective May 1, 1992. We hope that members will support this change knowing that the revenues from the museum stores assist the operating budgets of the museums.

MUSEUM HOURS

St. Joseph Museum

**Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.
Sunday and Memorial Day 1-5 p.m.**

Pony Express Museum

**Monday through Saturday 9-6 p.m.
Sundays 1-6 p.m.
Memorial Day 9-6 p.m.**

DID YOU KNOW?

A lion sleeps or rests about 20 hours a day and walks about five miles a day unless he needs to go farther in search of food. At least every three or four days he must eat. A male lion can eat 75 pounds of food in one meal.

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