

The Happenings

St. Joseph Museums, Inc. July/August/September 2007

On June 21, 22 and 23, the St. Joseph Museums celebrated its 80th Anniversary. Three fun-filled days gave museum members, community members, and children an opportunity to take part in the celebration.



Rhonda Meierhoffer, Clark Hampton, & Museum Board President Suzanne Bradley arrive on Members' Night.

On Thursday evening, members gathered in a large tent at the Frederick Avenue museums to enjoy the music of the Ray Alburn band, hors d'oeuvres, and croquet on the lawn. Reenactors portrayed founding members of the museum, a review of 1920s St. Joseph, and 1927 autos added to the ambiance of the evening. Descendants of founding members were recognized.



Above: Barbara and Marilyn Maxwell portrayed two of the charter members of the St. Joseph Museum.

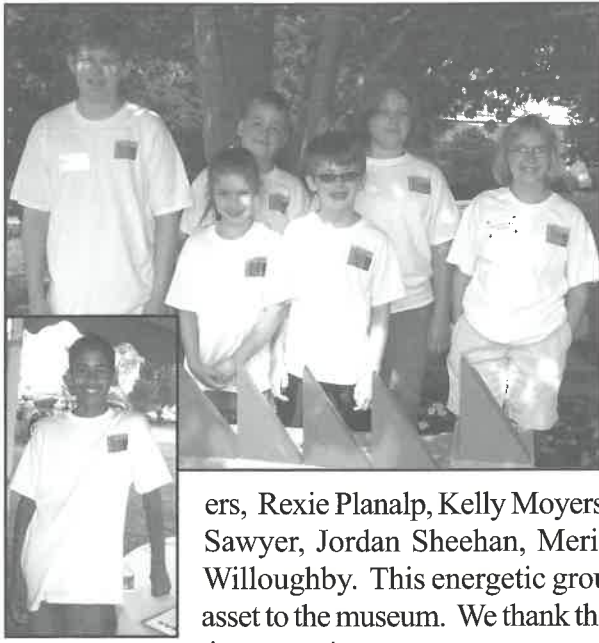
Right: Charlie Nill takes Eric Sawyer and Mikah Sargent for a ride in the rumble seat of his Model A.



Museum volunteers Cathey & Ed Bossert prepare to add final touches to the dessert table.



Junior Advisory Board



The newly formed Junior Advisory Board, led by Director of Education Amy Grier, offers great ideas for museum programs and events, and assists in making them happen. Members include: John George, Elsa Kunz, John Sanders,

Rexie Planalp, Kelly Moyers, Mikah Sargent, Eric Sawyer, Jordan Sheehan, Meric Sheehan, and Max Willoughby. This energetic group has become a huge asset to the museum. We thank them for their enthusiastic support!

Fall Sneak Preview

October 5 - "Halloween Art Spooktacular" Preview Party - Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, 11th & Charles, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Admission is \$25 per person.

October 6 - "Halloween Art Spooktacular," Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, 11th & Charles, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Features jewelry, textiles, wood, leather, metal, glass, photography, fine arts, and graphics with a Halloween theme. Admission is \$5.

October 6 - "Beastly Luncheon & Witches Tea" (in conjunction with the "Halloween Art Spooktacular") Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, 11th & Charles - The luncheon will be held at noon. Admission is \$25. The "Witches Tea" will be served at 3 p.m. Admission is \$15.

October 23 - "There's More to Missouri Cemeteries than Burials," Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, 11th & Charles, 7:00 p.m. The featured speaker will be Dr. Maryellen McVicker of the State Historical Society of Missouri. She will share how tombstones and cemeteries tell more than just factual data as we explore Missouri's burial grounds. Admission is free.

October 25, 26 & 27 - "Voices From the Past" Interpretive Tours of Mount Mora Cemetery. Experience the unique architecture and hear intriguing stories of St. Joseph's early former residents. Tour begins at the 1879 Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, 11th and Charles, at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$12 for museum members and \$15 for non-members. Pre-paid reservations required. Please call 816-232-8471 to make a reservation.

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Susan Noland.....Administrative Assistant Director
Sarah Elder.....Curator of Collections
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Andy Meyer.....Security/Maintenance
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THE HAPPENINGS is published by
St. Joseph Museums, Inc.,
a not-for-profit corporation,
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1927

Museum Celebrates 80 Years

2007

by Jackie Lewin

By 1947, the St. Joseph Museum was rapidly expanding its exhibits, collections, and educational programs under Directorship of Roy Coy. The McAlister-August Home at 19th & Felix which had been the location of the museum since 1941 became too small. William Goetz, who had been board president and benefactor since the museum's beginning, provided for the museum once more. "One of the most magnanimous gestures in the history of

St. Joseph was revealed yesterday by the announcement that William L. Goetz and the M. K. Goetz Brewing Company have given \$35,000 to acquire the Tootle mansion at Eleventh and Charles streets..."¹

Just prior to this, Mr. Goetz had purchased the Harry George Native American collection of 3,000 artifacts for the museum.² When the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion became available, it offered an enlarged home for the museum and its new collection of valuable artifacts.

The mansion was converted into a museum with exhibits dedicated to Native Americans, local history, and natural history. The adjacent carriage house was used for educational programs and craft classes. In 1968, Rich Nolf became the director and the museum tradition continued as he added new exhibits, more professional staff, and off-site educational programs as well as developing a professional collections care/management program. The St. Joseph Museum in the mansion on Charles Street left an indelible mark on the childhood memories of many St. Joseph citizens. The mansion would be the primary location for 57 years.

In 1960, the country celebrated the centennial of the Pony Express. The M.K. Goetz Brewing Company res-

cued the old Pony Express Stables in St. Joseph and in 1960, opened it as a museum. The site was added to the St. Joseph Museum to operate as a sat-

ellite. It would

remain a part of the St. Joseph Museum until 1997 when it was decided the Pony Express Museum was strong enough to operate on its own.

In the mid-1990s, a shift in the use of the mansion began to develop. A second-floor room was restored to its 1900s appearance as a bedroom. Then, a reception room on the first floor was restored. It housed the museum's gift shop. The linoleum was removed from the floors to show the beautiful hardwood floors and paint was removed from the ceilings to reveal the ornate canvas paintings. Public reaction to these changes was extremely positive. However, this meant a decrease in artifact exhibit space.

By 2004, the St. Joseph Museum was ready for another major change. The State of Missouri needed to withdraw its funding from the Glore Psychiatric Museum on the former State Hospital grounds on Frederick Avenue. In addition, the Black Archives Museum was in need of help, due to the death of its founder Jewel Robinson. The Board of Directors decided to absorb both

of the museums under the umbrella of St. Joseph Museums, Inc. With the addition of space on Frederick

Avenue, it was decided to move the Native American exhibits and the Black Archives Museum to that location. The St. Joseph Museums is in a period of transition. The next issue will look to the future of the Museums.



Rich Nolf shows live snakes to students.



Notes

¹"The Goetz Museum Gift." *St. Joseph News-Press*. Aug. 20, 1947.

² Minutes of the St. Joseph Museums Board of Directors. November 26, 1946.

New and Renewed Members

March 13, 2007 through June 28, 2007

Renewals

Dr. and Mrs. Jimmy Albright
Dr. and Mrs. Tom Alderson
Robert A. Brown, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. William Brown
Mr. and Mrs. William Brunner
Marilyn Bryan
Gary Butchart/Butchart Flowers
Mary Conrad
Sarah Elder
Mr. and Mrs. Jim D. Feagins
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Fisher
Mr. and Mrs. Rod Fletcher
Mrs. Lyman Fulkerson
Virginia Galbraith
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Joseph and Stacchya Gray
Stacy and Amy Grier
Herb Gross
Mr. and Mrs. Warren Hinton
Millie Humphreys
Hy-Vee
Dr. and Mrs. Anthony Ingino
Charles and Charlene Jorgensen, Jr.
Barbara Liechti
Mariella Manville
Meierhoffer Family Funeral Care

Susan Noland

News-Press & Gazette Company
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Louanne Robreau
Joyce Rochambeau
Elizabeth Sawin
Ken and Sarah Siemens
Bernadine Stevenson
David Stevenson
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Summers, Jr.
Craig Sumner/ Sumner, Carter,
Hardy, Rich and Depriest, LLP
Del and Joyce Sutherland
Col. and Mrs. Austin Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Tootle
John and Diane Watson
John and Ali Wray
Mrs. Lewis Wheeler

New Members

Doris Bower
Jason Calloway Family
Scott Grier Family
Cosette Hardwick
Phyllis Jennings
Evelyn McClure
Jennifer Zeller

Donations

Dr. and Mrs. Jimmy Albright
Anonymous Donor
Cosette Hardwick
Harold Dugdale Charitable
Trust
Stacy and Amy Grier

Honorarium

Dr. and Mrs. Gary Dyer in honor of
William and Loes Hedge

80th Anniversary Donations

Mr. and Mrs. William Brunner
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Lt. Col. and Mrs. Carroll Hicks
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Hillyard
Hillyard Inc. / Hillyard Family
Henry Lammers
Mrs. Joyce Rochambeau
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Scarborough

A Special Thank You to the Sponsors of our 80th Anniversary Celebrations

Thank you to the following sponsors. Their monetary or in-kind donations helped to make our 80th Anniversary Celebration a success!

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Randy Schultz, Stracener-Schultz Electric
Village Flowers by Rob
Terrible's St. Joe Frontier Casino
Artesian Ice & Cold Storage
St. Joseph Country Club
Hazel's Cakes
Annie's Accents
Jerre Anne's Cafeteria

Calendar of Events

July 7, 21, & August 11 (Saturdays) Safari Parties, Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, 11th & Charles - Children of adults visiting the Mansion are invited for a guided tour of the 2nd and 3rd floors of the building and grounds at 10:30 a.m. to noon or 2:30 to 4 p.m. Games, a craft, a snack, and a Safari hat are included. **Groups of 3 more: \$6 for children 5 to 10 years of age. Pre-register at least 24 hours in advance and save \$1.**

July 8, 22, & August 12 (Sundays) Safari Parties, Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, 11th & Charles - Children of adults visiting the Mansion are invited for a guided tour of the 2nd and 3rd floors of the building and grounds from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Games, a craft, a snack, and a Safari hat are included. **Group of 3 required. \$6 for children 5 to 10 years of age. Pre-register at least 24 hours in advance and save \$1.**

July 9, 16, 23, & 30 - "Mondays at the Mansion," Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, 11th & Charles - In four sessions, students will explore the habitats and niches of native Missouri birds and mammals. Pre-school through 1st grade students will attend from 9:30 to 11 a.m. & 2nd, 3rd, & 4th grade students will attend from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

July 31 through August 1 - "Symbols of Power: Napoleon and the Art of the Empire Style, 1800 – 1815 Exhibition" – Two day trip to St. Louis, Missouri, and Collinsville, Illinois, is **SOLD OUT**.

August 13 to 16 - Archaeology Camp for Youth, St. Joseph Museum, 3406 Frederick Avenue - Youth 11 to 15 years. Mon.-Thurs., 1 to 4 p.m. Admission: \$35 for museum members, \$40 for non-members. Lab and field explorations. Snack, hat, & supplies are included. Camp will end with optional field trip on Friday.

September 18 - Monarch Migration across the Prairie Day Trip – Sponsored by the St. Joseph Museum in conjunction with the Missouri Department of Conservation – The day will begin with a presentation by a representative from the Missouri Department of Conservation on the migration of the Monarch butterfly. Participants will then travel by motorcoach to Missouri Conservation areas to view the Monarch butterflies during their migration. The event will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the St. Joseph Museum, 3406 Frederick Avenue, and the motorcoach will return to the museum by 4:00 p.m. The cost of the trip will be \$40 for museum members and \$44 for non-members. The fee includes the program, motorcoach transportation, lunch, gratuity, and admission fees. Prepaid reservations are required by Friday, August 24.

Please call 816-232-8471 for more information or to make a reservation for a program or day trip.

St. Joseph Museum
Glore Psychiatric Museum
Black Archives Museum
3406 Frederick, P.O. Box 8096
St. Joseph, Missouri 64508
Monday through Saturday 10-5 p.m.
Sunday 1-5 p.m.

**NONPROFIT ORG.
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Wyeth-Tootle Mansion
1100 Charles St.
P.O. Box 8096
St. Joseph, Missouri 64508
Mon., Thurs., Fri., & Sat., 10 - 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED