

HAPPENINGS

March / April 1995

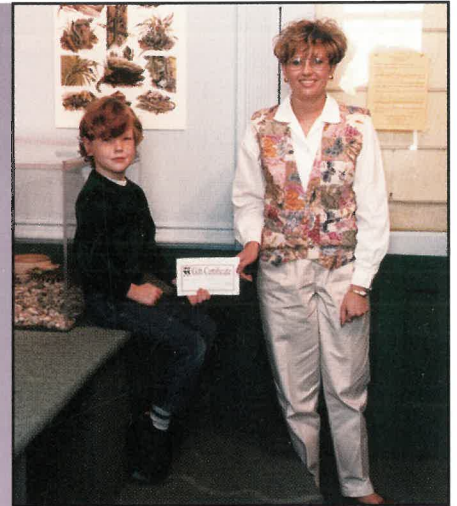
St. Joseph Museum

Pony Express National Memorial

Children's Week at St. Joseph Museum



Blackhills gold is discovered on third floor! L. to R.: Scott Koch and volunteer Charles Turpin show how to pan for the gold.



R. to L.: Dee Phillips presents a gift certificate to Andrew Paxton, the winner of the "Name the Snake" contest. Andrew's winning choice was "Stretch."



Some of the 1,108 visitors on the kick-off day of Children's Week. Every child received a helium-filled balloon with the St. Joseph Museum logo.

Photos by Clint Sims

Children's Week was held at the St. Joseph Museum, April 18-23. Over 2,100 children and parents came to tour the museum and take part in various activities. On April 18, opening day, 1,100 people joined in the fun. There were costumed characters, free balloons and prizes. Children took their turn at panning for gold and baiting their hook at the fishing booth. Also as part of the activities was the "Name the Snake" contest which generated over 450 entries. The name "Stretch" was chosen and a \$20 gift certificate, a year membership and a t-shirt was awarded to Andrew Paxton, our creative 7 year old. Other special highlights of the day included a live remote from KKJO and a live weather forecast by Mike Bracciano of KQTV.

Story continued on page 4

ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM & PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL MEMORIAL STAFF

PROGRAM

Rich Nolf.....Director
 Jackie Lewin.....Curator, PENM
 Marilyn Taylor.....Curator of Ethnology
 Carol Willis.....Curator of Collections
 David Mead.....Curator of Natural History
 Robbie Sipes.....Curator of Exhibits
 Sarah Elder.....Curator of History
 Kathy Reno.....Museum Shop Manager
 Clint Stims.....Graphic Artist
 Dee Phillips.....Director of Marketing & PR

SUPPORT

Susan Noland.....Bookkeeper
 June Swift.....Secretary
 Scott Koch.....Exhibits Technician
 Chad Lawhon.....Exhibits Technician
 Dale Brizendine.....Maintenance Technician
 Richard Hill.....Maintenance Technician/Receptionist
 George McClain.....Maintenance Technician
 Mary Knab.....Research Assistant
 Kem Mills.....Curatorial Assistant/Receptionist
 Georgia Brooks.....Receptionist
 Lori Calloway.....Receptionist
 Marcelene Green.....Receptionist
 Marys Haughe.....Receptionist
 Jenny Larkin.....Receptionist
 Helen Matthews.....Receptionist
 Allana Smith.....Curatorial Assistant/Receptionist
 Amy Glogner.....Receptionist

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From The Director

For me, April 1995, was as memorable as April 1993, but for different reasons. Both of those months were very time intensive and emotion filled. April 1993 was the grand opening of the Pony Express National Memorial. How could anything be as memorable as that?

St. Joseph Museum Archives



Rich Nolf

On April 2nd of this year, at the Pony Express National Memorial, we unveiled and re-dedicated the restored Pony Express Map Mural that had hung in the Pony Bar^N of the Hotel Robidoux for many years. This project, which was funded by the five St. Joseph Quarters Chapters and Quarters International, had been a very complex project. I was even told by some that it couldn't be done! To watch that project come together to completion was exciting. To take an item, such as the map mural, and restore it is like giving it a new life.

Very early in the morning on the 3rd, I flew to Baltimore where Rachel, our youngest daughter, was getting married. My wife had left earlier, but I had postponed my departure to be a part of the unveiling and rededication. The events leading up to the wedding on Saturday the 8th were wonderful and the wedding was beautiful. Of course, I'm not the least bit biased!!!!

I returned on Tuesday the 11th, and things were in full swing at the St. Joseph Museum with preparations for Children's Week. I remember well when David Mead, in a staff meeting, suggested eliminating the public lounge next to the snakes and making it into a Children's Room. His concept was quickly accepted since the lounge space no longer justified itself.

From that time on the room seemed to evolve spontaneously with creative ideas from the staff. The objective of the Children's Room was to provide a "hands on" environment illustrating the three major disciplines of the museum: his-

tory, ethnology, and natural history. The first sign of progress was the half-scale covered wagon made by the exhibits crew. The wagon, along with the facade of a log fort incorporated in the room, represented the historical side of the museum.

Later, I learned that the live snake exhibit, which had been a favorite with the public, was due to be eliminated. With that news, I kind of took a deep breath and swallowed. You see, I had designed that exhibit and created a live snake exhibit of multiple species when I first came to the museum in the spring of '65. The physical layout had been changed and updated several times. But, I had told David and Robbie that the whole space was "open game." David wanted to create a bird watching observatory with lots of feeders on the outside of the building and binoculars on the inside. This would represent the natural history side of the museum.

The evidence of the next project was a large half circle of brown craft paper laid out on the shop floor. I immediately recognized the shape as that of a tipi cover. The exhibits staff was making a mock-up of a tipi to determine size. Ultimately, they went with one-third scale since half scale would have been too big for the room. Poles were chosen and a design was drawn from one of the library references. Robbie brought in a sewing machine, and the fabric was assembled. Chad Lawhon used an air brush and applied the design. The tipi became the representation of the ethnographic discipline of the museum.

Prior to the introduction of any of these interactive displays, the room had been repainted with blue sky and fluffy clouds. New carpet was laid on the floor and side wall panels. The whole environment of the space was totally transformed, and today, walking by the room or working in the business office next to the room, I can hear the squeals of delight from the children having a wonderful time.

Last fall, when the room was a couple of months away from completion, Dee Phillips was hired as Director of Marketing and Public Relations. This is a new position for the museum and one we have needed for a long time. When Dee joined the staff she hit the floor with her feet running. She joined us just before Pony Ex-

press Christmas, and we have had one project after another since that time! Anyway, Dee became really excited about the Children's Room. She felt that prior to the tourist season we needed an event to show the recently completed Missouri Upland Forest exhibit on third floor, the renovation work to the Victorian Room on second floor, and the newly completed Children's Room on first floor. She came up with the idea of "Children's Week." Others chimed in with ideas and soon the whole staff was focused on Children's Week.

The bottom line is that we had over 1,100 children and parents in five hours on Tuesday, April 18th, between 3:00 and 8:00 p.m.! We had another 1,100 plus, the



Bug Lady, alias Pat Benedict, paints a bug on one of several hundred faces.

succeeding four days. That was over 2,200 children and parents in five days! It was an awesome turnout for a wonderful event. Some other statistics are: 15 costumed characters; 500 hot dogs and 55 gallons of drink and slush given away; 3,000 small prizes won;

and 500 painted faces. It was truly a special gift to the community and I am really glad that David started it off with the children's room.

As I reflect back on Children's Week, and so many other events that have gone so well over the years, the common denominator is the staff that surrounds me. They are truly a magnificent group of creative, dedicated people. Their spontaneity and humor, combined with serious work, make me very proud of them and are the reasons that I rejoice in our relationship.

Rich Noel

There were many volunteers and sponsors that made this event a hit. A special thank you is extended for their support. We were thrilled with the outcome and considered the event to be a tremendous success. We all had a great time and anticipate the fun again next year.

Photos by Clint Sims

Volunteers

Pat Benedict - face painting
Chris Fisher - pirate
Eric Fuson - Ride Bicycles, big wheel bicycle
Esther Kreek - played dulcimer
Lisa James - face painting
Jim Lehr - membership booth
Chuck Leonard - concession area
Lisa Martin - runner
Carol Moya - membership booth
Joel Nelson - floor puzzle
Craig Pierce - Soldier from the Civil War
Holly Reno - floor puzzle
Bobby Sipes - panning for gold booth
Jean Sweet - gift shop
Charles Turpin - panning for gold booth
Jo Wade - membership booth
Katie Wills - go fish booth
Kateese Wills - Cleopatra

Sponsors

Co-Sponsors:
KKJO - advertising
McDonalds - refreshments and prizes
Other Sponsors:
Artesian Ice - ice for beverages
Gary Kunkel - Hawaiian Julep Machine
Mid Continent Bottlers Inc - four cases of soda
Midstates Airgas - helium
Seitz - hotdogs



Children of all ages were thrilled with the opportunity to sit on Eric Fuson's old-fashioned bicycle.



KQTV's Mike Bracciano gives the weather forecast from the children's room with the main attraction of the "Name the Snake" contest. Others L. to R.: David Mead, Carol Wills, and Dee Phillips



Renaissance Man, Chad Lawhon, paints a balloon on the cheek of a young, Children's Week visitor.

Marge and Mike Fisher Honored

On April 1, 1995, Mike and Marge Fisher received the prestigious Carl H. Chapman Award presented by the Missouri Association of Professional Archaeologists (MAPA). The presentation took place during the awards dinner at the joint annual meeting of the MAPA and the Missouri Archaeological Society (MAS) at Jefferson City. Staff members Rich Nolf, Jackie Lewin, Marilyn Taylor, David Mead, Robbie Sipes, Sarah Elder, Carol Wills, Mary Knab, June Swift, and Richard Hill were present in honor of Marge and Mike. Mike is an adjunct member of the St. Joseph Museum Staff. The award is named for Carl Chapman, who was Professor of Anthropology and Research Professor in American Archaeology at the University of Missouri-Columbia.



Marge and Mike at the Old Monroe dig near St. Louis.

Mike served as president of MAS for ten years. He has been president of the St. Joseph Archaeological Society for over three decades. Jointly, Marge and Mike have served as program chairpersons for many years. Both Marge and Mike have been involved in the dig at the Pony Express stables and Robidoux's fur post. Congratulations to Marge and Mike.

Rich Nolf Celebrates 30 years at the St. Joseph Museum



Marilyn Taylor

L. to R.: Robbie Sipes, Scott Koch, Richard Hill, Donna and Rich Nolf, David Mead, and Jackie Lewin illustrate the theme of the party, "Hats Off to You, Rich."

On April 1, 1995, Rich Nolf began his 31st year at the St. Joseph Museum. He came to the St. Joseph Museum in 1965 as Curator of Natural History. On January 1, 1968, he became director of the St. Joseph Museum and Pony Express Museum. Rich and his wife, Donna, were guests of the staff of the two institutions at a luncheon on March 30, 1995.

Italian Film Crew Visits Pony Express

Reti Television Italiane, an independent

station of Milan, Italy, recently

sent a film crew to the United

States to film the Pony Express

Trail. The four-member crew,

led by narrator Angelo

Machiavello, was preparing a

program on the trail for a special

tourism program made in cooperation with the

United States Travel and Tourism Administration.

Just as the original Pony Express, the crew covered the

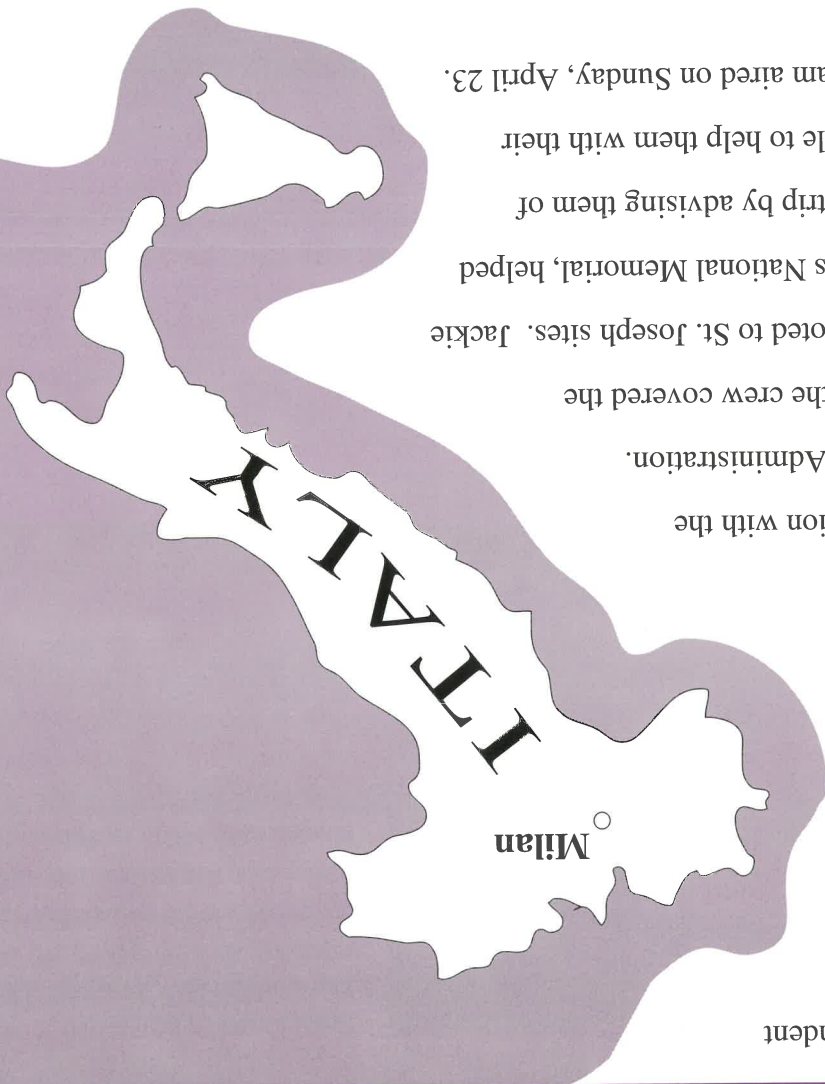
trail in ten days. One day was devoted to St. Joseph sites. Jackie

Levin, curator of the Pony Express National Memorial, helped

the group with preparation for the trip by advising them of

photo sites as well as contact people to help them with their

journey along the trail. The program aired on Sunday, April 23.



Newborns Recognized During Pony Express Anniversary

To commemorate the 135th anniversary of the Pony Express, the

Pony Express National Memorial staff honored babies born in

St. Joseph on the anniversary of the start of the Pony Express.

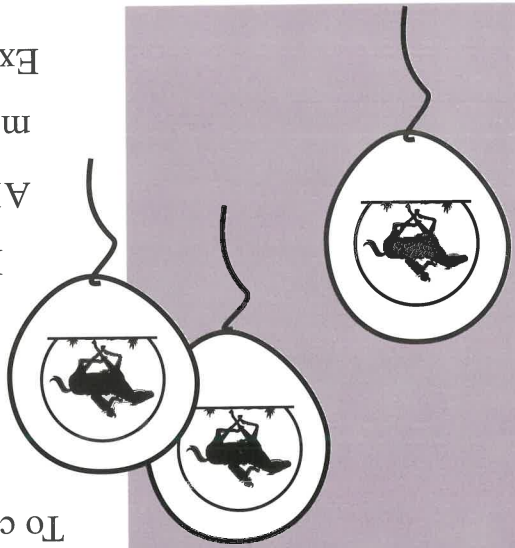
Babies born on April 3 were Austin Ortego, Bridgett Lynn

Hoppins, Olivia Grace Conant, Lane Dalton Chapman and

Alexis Faith Myers. Each newborn received a lifetime

membership for the Pony Express National Memorial, a Pony

Express mug, and balloons.



Continuing Education Class On Buchanan County History

The St. Joseph Museum and Pony Express National Memorial in cooperation with the local Missouri State Teachers' Association sponsored a course on Buchanan County history. Twenty-six teachers received graduate credit through Northwest Missouri State University for taking the course. Sue Wagner of the St. Joseph School District served as coordinator and Marilyn Taylor and Jackie Lewin led the sessions and field trips. Mike Fisher, president of the St. Joseph Archaeological Society, and David Mead, curator of natural history at the St. Joseph Museum, were guest speakers. In addition to class session, the course featured an all-day field trip of sites in Buchanan County including Robidoux's fur post, Rock House Prairie, the Indian Agency, Sunbridge Conservation Area and other sites of historical significance to the county. Teachers participating in the class were: Susan Przybylski; Carol Matt; Violet Whitson; Merrilee Whitson; Janet Fite; Deborah Grechus; Patty Roach; Verna Kirschner; Mary

Jackie Lewin



The Buchanan County History class pause for a group photo at the Lewis and Clark (July 5, 1804) campsite marker located on the Missouri River.

Maxwell; Nancy Clark; Lois Heimsoth; Linda DeVore; Phoebe Roberts; Ruth Anne Bush; Gerald Scott; Lorie Scott; Teresa Curtis; Linda Rapp; Mary Beth Thomas; Trudi Kepner; Terri Arnold; Kris Matthews; Judy Pray; Cerressa Kent; Pam Jones; Mary Muse; Sue Wagner; Mary Jane Fields.

Volkswalk Kickoff



The 1995 year-round volkswalk jointly sponsored by the Missouri Riverbluff Ramblers Volksclub, Family YMCA, and the St. Joseph Museum held its kick-off on March 4, 1995. On that day, and in spite of the cold weather, 22 people walked the route, which begins at the St. Joseph Museum. The year-round walk combines the historical expertise of the St. Joseph Museum staff with the physical fitness goals of the Family YMCA and the Missouri Riverbluff Ramblers. Anyone may walk the predetermined route between now and December 31 free of charge unless they want credit or a patch. Volkswalking credit is \$1.00. The patches, shown at left, feature a colorful rendition of the St. Joseph Museum and are \$5.00.

Restored Pony Express Map Mural Unveiled for 135th Anniversary of the Pony Express

The Pony Express National Memorial celebrated the 135th anniversary of the start of the Pony Express with the addition of a new exhibit, the Pony Express Map mural. The history of the mural was detailed in the January/February issue of *the Happenings*.

The unveiling of the mural, which was restored by Tom Duggins and Larry Norris, took place on Sunday, April 2. Three hundred people attended the ceremony, and over 700 people viewed the mural during the afternoon.

Trustee Bob Simpson served as master of ceremonies and introduced the Reverend John Watson who gave the invocation. Mayor Larry Stobbs welcomed the audience including Kansas Governor Bill Graves and U.S. Congresswoman Pat Danner. Pony Express, Inc., President Dick Deshon talked about the history of the National Memorial. Director Rich Nolf's explanation of the evolution of the project was followed by remarks from Brad Rigor representing the Mercantile Bank, the mural donor.

Jeanie Burnham and Peggy Iffert spoke on behalf of the five local chapters of the Questers, who had applied for and received a \$5,000 matching grant for the restoration of the mural. Jackie Lewin, Curator, talked about the history of the trail. Next came the introduction of George Gray, the mural artist, who told of some of his experiences while he was painting the mural in 1938. The ceremonies ended with an appearance by Pony Express rider Jack Keetley as portrayed by Steve Snider. Pony rider Keetley described the section he rode out of St. Joseph.



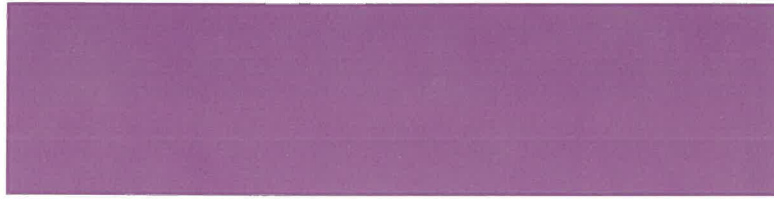
R. to L.: Bob Simpson, Master of Ceremonies, introduces George Gray, the mural artist, who came from New York for the unveiling.



Missouri welcomes Kansas Governor Bill Graves. Congresswoman Pat Danner is introduced by U.S. Congresswoman Pat Danner.



Jeanie Burnham (left) and Peggy Iffert with George Gray. Jeanie and Peggy served as cochairpersons of the Questers mural project.

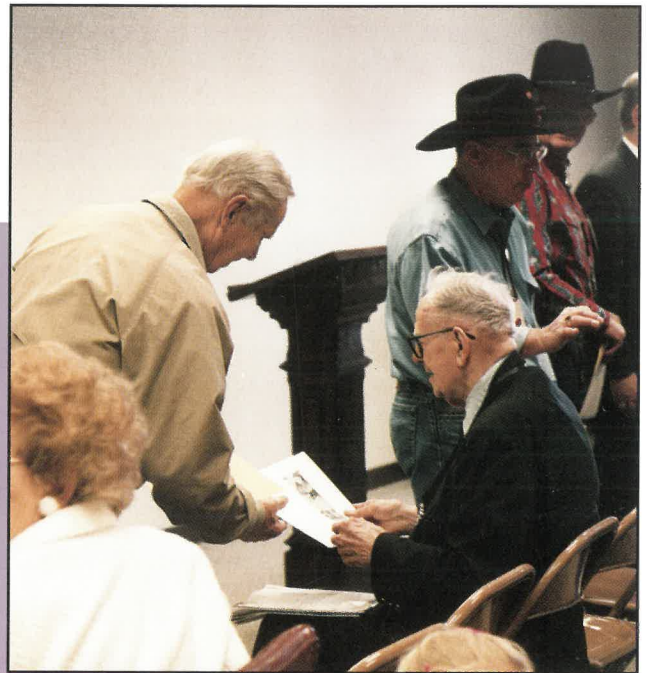


Photos by Clint Sims



A standing-room-only crowd viewed the ceremonies preceding the unveiling of the mural.

Also on exhibit were two other murals painted by George Gray. One which depicts the Platte Purchase is owned by the Mercantile Bank. The other portrays former St. Joseph Mayor Jeff Thompson as a Confederate Brigadier General. The latter mural is owned by the Holiday Inn.



Fred Slater renews his acquaintance with George Gray. Fred Slater was a reporter for the News Press in 1938 when George Gray painted the mural. Others L. to R.: Peggy Iffert, Rich Nolf, and Dick DeShon.



The restored Pony Express Map mural hangs in the Pony Express National Memorial to be enjoyed by the public.

Audubon State Meeting

with the most outstanding shorebird viewing seen in several years. Notable birds include: cinnamon teal; peregrine falcon, (endangered); 24 shorebird species, including black-bellied plover, lesser golden plover, piping plover, (endangered), willet, Hudsonian godwit, marbled godwit, sanderling, dunlin, stilt sandpiper, and common snipe; 4 gull species, including Bonaparte's;



Dave Witten

Rainy weather didn't prevent Audubon members from enjoying Squaw Creek birding.

and 13 sparrow species, including clay-colored. Twelve additional species which were reported will be added to the list after they are documented and approved by the Missouri Bird Records Committee.

Despite the fact that the vast majority of the participants chose birding field trips, the loess hills wildflower trips turned out to be very interesting experiences for some. The geology and natural history of this unique landform was explained and discussed on site. A diversity of plants were observed in bloom including plains violet, *Viola vivarium*; prairie violet, *V. pedatifida*; orange puccoon, *Lithospermum canescens*; yellow puccoon, *L. incusum*; blue-eyed grass, *Sisyrinchium campestre*; ground plum, *Astragalus caryocarpus*; bent milk vetch,

The Audubon Society of Missouri held it's annual 1995 spring meeting in northwest Missouri on April 28 - 30. Over 100 participants from all parts of Missouri descended on the Squaw Creek NWR area for a weekend of birding and wildflower field trips. Participants counted 173 bird species and many species of loess hill wildflower

ers, several of them rare and endangered. By all counts, the meeting was a success!

The meeting was sponsored by a number of organizations, including the St. Joseph Museum, Midland Empire Audubon Society, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Northwest Missouri State University, Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Western State College, and the Audubon Society of Missouri. David Mead, Curator of Natural History at the St. Joseph Museum, served as overall coordinator for

the meeting with the advice of Dr. David Easterla, Barbara Crouser, Larry Lade, and Dr. John Rushin assisted with registration. Ron Bell, Squaw Creek manager, and Adrian Farmer of the U.S. Biological Service provided interesting programs for Friday and Saturday evenings. The field trips were expertly led by Dr. David Easterla, Dr. John Rushin, Brad Jacobs, Ron Bell, Mike Callow, Dr. Paul McKenzie, Chris Hobbs, Chris Fisher, Kirby Goslee, and Jack Hilsabeck.

Of course, credit for the success of the meeting can only be given to the birds and wildflowers. If they had been absent, it would have been a flop! The meeting was perfectly timed to coincide

A. distortus; loco weed, *Oxytropis Lambertii* (watch list in Missouri); Indian painted cup, *Castilleja sessiflora* (watch list in Missouri); pale corydalis, *Corydalis flavula*. Other plants such as tuberous Indian pliantain, *Cacalia tuberosa*; large flowering penstemon, *Penstemon grandiflorus* (endangered in Missouri); soapweed yucca, *Yucca glauca* (watch list in Missouri); and prairie sage *Artemisia ludoviciana* were identified in their vegetative growth. Major loess hill grasses such as little bluestem, *Andropogon scoparius*; sideoats grama, *Bouteloua curtipendula*; hairy grama, *B. hirsuta*

(rare in Missouri); big bluestem *A. Gerardi*; and Indian grass, *Sorghastrum nutans* were identified using last year's stems.

The cool, drizzly weather did not seem to dampen the participants' ardor on field trips. Thanks to Squaw Creek Truck Plaza, we had a hospitable place to stopover between field trips for good food and warm companionship. The latter is the best reason to come to an Audubon Society meeting!

Shop Talk

The St. Joseph Museum opened the new children's room this spring, and the shop has a new line of items that relate to the activities available in the newly renovated space. If you were one of the many visitors we had during children's week, then you know that a birdwatching activity station is included in the new area. In keeping with this theme, we have added a line of booklets and tapes that are bound to be of interest to children and beginning birdwatchers as well as to the experienced birdwatcher. The new tapes include, *Backyard Bird Walk*, *Know Your Bird Sounds*, and *Wild Sounds of the Northwoods*. The *Backyard Bird Walk* audio and booklet is an introduction to the sights and sounds of 24 common backyard birds designed for the beginning birdwatcher. The *Know Your Bird Sounds* audio and booklet is a complete guide to the songs and calls of 35 common birds of residential settings, city parks, and urban areas. The *Wild Sounds of the Northwoods* set features not only 100 bird calls, but also the sounds of mammals, frogs, and insects that prefer lake country wilderness areas.

As any staff person can attest, children are fascinated by the natural history exhibits inside the children's room and throughout the museum. The moose, the Alaskan brown bear, and the bull snake are among their favorites. To meet the needs of these naturally curious visitors, the shop has many new books for children related to natural history. The new titles include: *Eagles for Kids*; *Moose for Kids*; *Bears for Kids*; *Bison for Kids*; *Children of the Earth*; and *Smart*



Survivors. The first four in this series provide children with information on the lifestyle, habitats, and behavior of each animal including their relationship to humans. *Children of the Earth* is a beautifully illustrated book that helps children understand the relationship between nature and man, and how they can help to protect the environment. *Smart Survivors* is a part of the *World of Discovery* series that deals with the unique survival abilities of 12 amazing plants and animals.

The shop has a wide variety of other items related to the children's room including: tee-shirts; "backyard buddies" (insect beanbags); snake and frog replicas; and a selection of books on pioneer life and westward expansion.

The Pony Express Saddle Controversy

saddles can be accounted for, three owned by the Pony Express Museum and one owned by Wells Fargo. These saddles have come to be accepted as the style of saddle that the Pony Express used and the most often



Russ Mooney

Replica of a Pony Express Saddle.

copied. I feel they are fairly accurate because these saddles and the saddle in the Buffalo Bill Museum are very similar in design.

The Pony Express National Memorial (PENM) periodically receives requests to verify the authenticity of saddles that people suspect were made by Wyeth Company from this period. The number of requests would suggest that saddles of this type were produced on a mass scale. Records show that this is not true. Many saddles thought to be made by Wyeth Company cannot be verified because the design does not match the saddles known to be made by Wyeth Company. A recent request from the Major's House Museum in Kansas City to verify a saddle as one made by Wyeth Company presented PENM with a unique problem. While the saddle in question had many features that matched the Wyeth design, there were a number of disturbing differences. Jackie Lewin, Curator of PENM, sought my assistance in verifying the saddle's authenticity. Jackie and I concluded that the saddles made by Wyeth Company in the early 1940s should be located and registered by identifying features. I told her that I was fairly certain that one of the saddles was in Harold Warp's Pioneer Village Museum located in Minden, Nebraska. A trip to Pioneer Village seemed a logical step towards registering a potential Wyeth saddle.

The Pony Express saddle has been the subject of much controversy over the years. The last known saddle used by the Pony Express was destroyed by a fire in Denver, Colorado, around the turn of the century. The reproduction closest to the originals were saddles made from descriptions of the Pony Express saddle by former pony riders. One saddle made this way is in the Buffalo Bill Museum in Cody, Wyoming; this saddle was made for Buffalo Bill from his description by a saddle maker known to me. The only other saddle known to me to be made by description from a pony rider was created by Wyeth Company of St. Joseph during the 1930s. This saddle was on loan for a celebration in Salt Lake City in the early 1940s and was severely damaged when a horse fell over backwards during a parade. The tree and mochila were returned to Wyeth Company, at which time six copies were made. William M. Wyeth, III, stated in a letter to the Smithsonian Institution, dated July 1985, that as a result of a move of the Wyeth Company offices, it was impossible to locate any correspondence about the saddles. But, it was his understanding that in 1985 the saddles were owned by or located in the following places: the Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco; a bank or museum in Salt Lake City; the



Russ Mooney

Replica saddle with Mochila in place.

U. S. Postal Service; the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago (on loan from the Pony Express Museum); and two saddles in the Pony Express Museum in St. Joseph. The saddle on loan has since been returned to St. Joseph. At the present time, only four of the

Before I left St. Joseph, I once again inspected the saddles owned by the PENM so the details would be fresh in my mind. Then I set off on a trip to Minden, Nebraska, and Pioneer Village. Upon arriving, I spoke with a museum staff person, explained my mission, and requested any information regarding the acquisition of the Pioneer Village saddle. While the museum staff searched for documents, I inspected and photographed the saddle which was on display in a reconstructed Pony Express station on the grounds of Pioneer Village.

A sign near the saddle noted that the saddle was indeed made by Wyeth Company in 1961. How amazing! Wyeth Company closed their saddle factory on January 1, 1959, when it reached its 100th year, so a saddle made in 1961 could not have been made by Wyeth. Or could it? Besides the confusing date of manufacturing, other differences in design were apparent. The major differences were: (1) the way the ground work was placed in the saddle; (2) the nickel-plated steel rivets instead of nickel-plated brass; (3) the use of staples to hold the rawhide in place during drying; (4) heavier latch plates on the mail pouches; (5) the front and the back housing riveted to the skirt; and (6) a slightly different decoration. Some other differences were observed that could only be seen by thorough inspection. Later, at the museum office, a correspondence between Wyeth Company and Pioneer Village was found. This important document provided the missing link to explain the manufacturing date. The saddle had been purchased through Wyeth Company for \$110.75. F.O.B. (free on board) from Buford, Georgia. The light came on. I knew that when Wyeth Company closed their saddle factory in St. Joseph, Mo., they commissioned Bona Allen Company of Buford, Georgia, to produce saddles for them. The Wyeth name tag was placed on them and then shipped to St. Joseph for Wyeth distribution. It became clear to me that Wyeth Company had sent their patterns to Bona Allen and had them reproduce the saddle for Pioneer Village.

The trip provided information that was previously unknown to the PENM. The museum now has documentation that Wyeth Company of St. Joseph, Mo., made or provided Pony Express saddles at different times in history. Since the correspondence between Wyeth Company and Pioneer Village was between the head of the saddle department, Mr. E. W. Lloyd, and Clara

Warp Jensen of Pioneer Village, it is quite logical that Mr. Wyeth was unaware of the transaction. The differences in the saddles made in the 1940s and the one made by Bona Allen can be readily identified which will help the PENM with identification and verification of saddles in the future. Bona Allen Saddle Company has since gone out of business. The company was moved from Buford before it stopped making saddles and purchased by another firm with the name changed to Bona Allen Leather Goods. Many of the employees of Bona Allen in Buford did not leave the area, but instead started their own firm, the Buford Saddle Company. With the move and the change of ownership, the records of how many Pony Express saddles were made by Bona Allen may never be found. All that can be done is to identify and number the saddles as they are located. We may never know how many Wyeth Pony Express saddles were produced since the first six reproductions were made in St. Joseph. A further mystery is the location of two of the Wyeth reproductions made in the 1940s. But, for now, a small layer of saddle history has been peeled back to reveal more of the true story of the Pony Express saddle.

St. Joseph Museum Archives



**Robert R. (Russ) Mooney Leather and Saddles
Adjunct Staff**

The author has been an active member and associate of the St. Joseph Museum and PENM for the last 25 years. For more than thirty years, he has been active in the family business of custom saddle making. Bill and Russ Mooney, the father-son partners of Bill's Saddlery, have made several copies of the Pony Express saddle. These saddles can be found in museums such as the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D. C., Kansas Historical Association, U.S. Information Service, and Wells Fargo as well as the PENM where the saddles are used for reenactments, a hands-on exhibit, and the "Moment in Time" exhibit.

Pony Express Riders Remembered

On April 2 and 3, the staff of the Pony Express National Memorial continued the annual tradition of decorating the graves of the four riders buried in St. Joseph. Plaques telling about the life of each rider were placed on the individual graves. Riders are: Charles Cliff at Mount Mora Cemetery; James Brink at Mount Auburn Cemetery; and Michael Whalen and Philip Koerner at Ashland Cemetery. Maps showing the way to the grave sites and informational leaflets were available at the Pony Express National Memorial during the week-end.

Recent Donations to the Collections

ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM

Ray Stock - an iron fireplace insert with a decorative front.

Rich Nolf - a print of the Three Island Crossing on the Snake River in Idaho by William Henry Jackson.

Margaret Elder - a book entitled *Lessons From The Pioneers: Reflections Along The Oregon Trail*, by Jay Mennenga. The book is autographed by the author.

Nancy Hampton - several books: *Meditations with the Navajo*, by Gerald Hausman; *Meditations with the Hopi* by Robert Boissiere; *Sitting Bull and other Legendary Native American Chiefs* by Bree Burns; *Mitakuye Oyasin* - "We Are All Related" by Dr. A. C. Ross; and *Ehanamani* - "Walks Among" by Dr. A. C. Ross.

William Anthor - a handcolored drawing of the St. Joseph Museum. The artist is Paul Norton.

Kenneth Keller - a book, *American Heritage*, Volume XIX; several issues of *Yank* - the Army weekly dating from October 1944 to December of 1945; several issues of the *Stars and Stripes* dating from November 1944 to November 1945; two issues of *Warweek* - the Sunday Supplemental to the *Stars and Stripes*; and one issue of the regimental newspaper, *The Raider*, dated November 25, 1945.

PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Jerry and Jacqueline Lewin - four videotapes recording various events, including the ground breaking and grand opening of the Pony Express National Memorial and a program given by Mike Fisher about the archaeological dig going on at the Robidoux Fur Trade Post site.

Marilyn Taylor - an automobile license issued by the city of St. Joseph in 1960. It depicts the Pony Express Stables with a horse and rider leaving the stables. It was issued in commemoration of the centennial of the start of the Pony Express.

Henry Heckman - a handmade, sculpted rug showing the Pony Express logo in burgundy with "Pony Express National Memorial" spelled out in dark green letters on a cream background. The rug is on display at the Pony Express National Memorial.

Marcelene Green - a metal lantern inscribed with "Shortglobe - Rich COH."



Jackie Lewin

Susan Noland, Scott Koch, Carol Willis, and Marys Hauglie place a plaque on the grave site of Michael Whalen in Ashland Cemetery.

New And Reinstated Members

The St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express National Memorial boards of trustees and staff are pleased to welcome the following new and reinstated members. We appreciate their interest in the museum.

Author King Peters
New York, New York

Kelly and Randy Williams
St. Joseph, Missouri

Virginia Schuler
St. Joseph, Missouri

Caton and Velma Lake
St. Joseph, Missouri

Deanna Swan
King City, Missouri



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Make check payable to either the St. Joseph Museum or Pony Express, Inc.

☐ **St. Joseph Museum**

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Your contribution provides a one-year membership for you and your immediate family. A majority of your membership contribution is tax deductible under 1994 IRS guidelines for charitable contributions. After receiving your membership, we will send you a receipt that includes further information on tax deductibility.

For processing, please send your contribution to:

St. Joseph Museum
Box 128
St. Joseph, MO 64502-0128

Coming June 10 and 11 - The Cross and the Compass.



The Cross and the Compass is a program which consists of two presentations by Dr. Robert Carriker. The Lewis and Clark program, "Different Times Comparable Experience: Lewis & Clark and Father DeSmet on the Missouri River," will be at 1:30 p.m. on

Saturday, June 10, 1995, at Twin Spires, Inc. The Chautauqua presentation of Father DeSmet will be at 1:30 p.m. on the following day, Sunday, June 11, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Museum members will be receiving a special announcement about The Cross and the Compass programs.

Calendar of Events

June 10 & 11 - Father DeSmet (See last *Happenings* and above).

June 14 & 15 - Field trip to Abilene, Kansas, to tour Dwight D. Eisenhower Center and the Fort Riley area.

June 19-23 - Museum Camp (See last *Happenings*).

June 26 - Annual Archaeological Society picnic at Krug Park Shelter.

St. Joseph Museum

1100 Charles Street, P.O. Box 128

St. Joseph, Missouri 64502-0128

Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.

Sunday & Holidays 1-5 p.m.

Pony Express National Memorial

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Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.

Sundays 1-5 p.m.

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