

HAPPENINGS

September/October 1996

St. Joseph Museum

Pony Express National Memorial

PONY EXPRESS PUMPKINFEST AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS!



Clint Sims



Amanda Jahn, Miss Missouri, leads the Saturday morning parade in an antique fire truck.

Clint Sims



Norma Gallagher, center, is interviewed during Pumpkinfest by KKJO personnel. Joe Houts and Norma served as co chairs of the event.

Jackie Lewin



Students from the Dance Arts Center entertain the Sunday afternoon crowd.

On October 12 and 13, 1996, the grounds of the Pony Express National Memorial

and Patee Park were ablaze with fall colors as Pumpkinfest was being celebrated. Taking advantage of warm fall days, over 12,000 people attended the event. The festival's focus was activities for children and families. Included were pony rides, carriage rides, miniature animals, a haunted gazebo, face painting, and a special tent full of children's activities and games. Artists and craftsmen also displayed and sold their wares, and

Story Continued on Page 2

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 Sims, 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
 Albert Bingham, Maintenance Technician
 Mary Knab, Research Assistant
 Allana Smith, Curatorial Assistant/Receptionist
 Georgia Brooks, Receptionist
 Lori Calloway, Receptionist
 Leonard Elliott, Receptionist
 Marcelene Green, Receptionist
 Marge Lawhon, Receptionist
 Helen Matthews, Receptionist
 Virginia Murray, Receptionist
 Allie Wheat, Receptionist

HAPPENINGS is published by the

St. Joseph Museum, Inc.,
 and Pony Express, Inc.,
 not-for-profit corporations,
 P.O. Box 128, 1100 Charles Street
 St. Joseph, Missouri, 64502-0128
 (816) 232-8471
 Fax: (816) 232-8482.
 ©1996 St. Joseph Museum, Inc.

PUMPKINFEST Continued



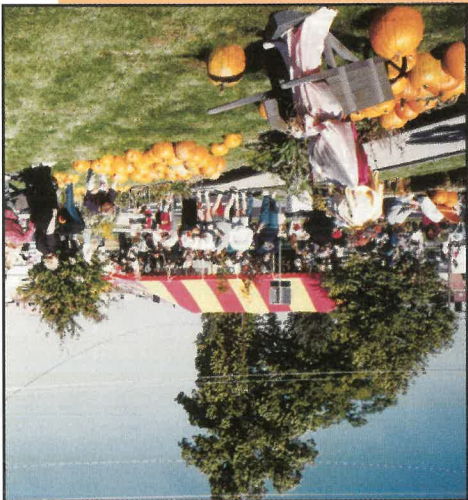
Clint Sims

Festival goers of all ages are attracted to the children's tent. The large tent in the Leash Spratt Park was usually crowded with people enjoying the many games and other activities.

pumpkins, scarecrows, and numerous fall items were available. Many people took advantage of the deli-

cious variety of food offered. Musicians and dancers entertained visitors continuously during the festival, and on Saturday night a live band performed for a street dance in front of the Pony Express National Memorial.

Pumpkinfest would not have been possible without the many hours of work donated by about 200 volunteers under the able leadership of board members Joe Houts and Norma Gallagher, co chairs of the festival. A special thank you goes to all of these outstanding volunteers.



Clint Sims

Dozens of scarecrows and hundreds of pumpkins decorate Pumpkinfest grounds. The scarecrows were one-of-a-kind creations made by volunteers. About 500 pumpkins were grown by Dick DeShon, trustee president, and another 500 by Susan Nolan, staff member. Thousands of volunteer hours contributed to the success of Pumpkinfest.

Plans are underway to improve and expand next year's Pumpkinfest which has been set for October 11 and 12, 1997.

MISS HYOGO RETURNS TO JAPAN

Clint Sims

In 1994, the St. Joseph Museum entered into discussions with Mrs. Michiko Takaoka, Director of the Japanese Cultural Center in Spokane, Washington, regarding the loan of Miss Hyogo, a Japanese doll that has been in the museum's collections since 1929. Miss Hyogo was one of 58 dolls sent to the United States on a friendship mission in 1927. After a tour of the country, the dolls were given permanent homes in museums throughout the United States. Mrs. Takaoka has been instrumental in arranging for many of the surviving friendship ambassadors to return to their homeland for a visit. Plans for Miss Hyogo's visit were interrupted by the Great Hanshin Earthquake of January 1995. The earthquake caused enormous damage in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, one of the sites of Miss Hyogo's exhibition.

Now that the area has recovered from the devastating earthquake, Miss Hyogo will be on exhibit in March and April 1997. Before going on exhibit in Kobe and Himeji, Miss Hyogo will need some repairs. This conservation work will be done at the Yoshitoku Company in Tokyo, the original maker of the friendship dolls. Miss Hyogo was shipped to Tokyo by Nippon Express during the first week of October. She remained in climate-controlled storage until October 21 when Marilyn Taylor, Curator of Ethnology at



Miss Hyogo is surrounded by her accoutrements which came to the St. Joseph Museum with her in 1929. Only a few accoutrements accompanied her for her return visit to Japan: her passport, steamship ticket, sandals, parasol, and picnic basket.

the St. Joseph Museum, arrived to confer with the people at Yoshitoku Company who will be doing the conservation work. Marilyn was accompanied from San Francisco by Mrs. Takaoka. Mrs. Takaoka and Marilyn then traveled to Kobe and Himeji to visit the proposed exhibition venues. While in Himeji, they went to Aboshi Elementary School for the presentation of Samantha, a doll sent to the Japanese school by the students of Coleman Elementary School in St. Joseph. Last year, the students of Stephanie Francis at Coleman were the recipients of two Japanese dolls from the Japanese Cultural Center.

When conservation work is completed at Yoshitoku, Miss Hyogo will be kept in climate-controlled storage until she goes on exhibit in Kobe. Both Marilyn and Rich Nolf, Director of the St. Joseph Museum, will be present in Kobe for the opening of the exhibition. ✕



Mrs. Takaoka watches as Miss Hyogo's shipping crate is opened for a custom's inspection. Miss Hyogo could not be released from Nippon's bonded warehouse for shipment to Yoshitoku until after the inspection.

SARA BALBIN TRIP

For several years, the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, the Pony Express National Memorial, and the St. Joseph Museum have been planning a special joint exhibit. The exhibit will feature the artwork of Sara Balbin. Sara lives in northern Wisconsin and has a very close relationship with the Lac Courte Oreilles (la coo de ray) band of Ojibwa. Her association with the Lac Courte Oreilles has had a great influence on her work.

The committee was introduced to Sara's artwork by Shirley Bradley, who has known Sara for a number of years. Two years ago, Sara came to St. Joseph and met with the committee planning this joint exhibit. The committee is composed of Rebecca Wissehr, Chair; Shirley Bradley; Jackie Lewin; and Marilyn Taylor. The committee has met on a regular basis to work out details of the exhibit, and Rebecca has served as the liaison between the three institutions and Sara Balbin.

It seemed appropriate for the committee to meet with elders of the Lac Courte Oreilles since the exhibit reflects so much of their culture and will involve several members of the tribe in workshops. The trip, August 21-25, was a wonderful experience. Shirley Bradley opened her home at Wismo, which is located on a small peninsula on Lac Courte Oreilles Lake. On Thursday and Friday, Sara introduced the committee members to the area. She took them to her studio, a wonderful facility tucked in the northern woods. They visited the reservation school and library and met with elders to discuss the project. Several of the elders took the committee to the tribe's pipestone quarry which is a sacred site. One of the highlights was listening to the storyteller who related many legends of the Ojibwa people. The storyteller will be one of the tribal members coming to St. Joseph. Several interviews were taped at the tribal radio station, a National Public Radio affiliate, about the project.



Rich Nolf

This painting of an eagle is one of Sara Balbin's current projects. It is setting on an easel in her studio in Wisconsin.

The weather was great, the food was super, and everyone enjoyed each others company. Traveling in the museum van were Mark and Rebecca Wissehr, Russell, and Carol Matt, Marilyn Taylor, and Rich Nolf. Russell Matt took a number of digital photographs and will incorporate them in a multimedia presentation for the St. Joseph School District. Dick DeShon and Mignon DeShon were vacationing in eastern Wisconsin, and they drove over for the meetings. Mark Spencer was in northern Wisconsin, and he drove down on Friday.



Dick DeShon

L. to R.: Russell Matt (back to camera), Sara Balbin, and Mignon DeShon listen as Jerry Smith relates a tribal legend.

The joint exhibit will open on Tuesday, April 1, 1997, with a progressive meal for all members. Educational programs for the schools will take place on Wednesday and Thursday. The exhibit will run through May 31.

EXHIBITS OPENING WELL ATTENDED

Clint Sims

Bobby Sipes may be the most popular person in Holt County, judging from the turnout at the opening reception for his bird carving exhibit at the St. Joseph Museum. Bobby, who works as a soil technician for the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service in Holt County, is a self-taught artist and master craftsman.

Approximately 300 people attended the September 29, 2-hour event which marked the opening of two exhibits: a temporary exhibit of bird carvings by Bobby Sipes and a series of permanent exhibits on Native Americans. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres including Native American foods were served, and entertain-



L. to R.: Linda and Bobby Sipes, David Mead, and Dave Wilson with son David enjoy the reception. One of the wonderful carvings, a bluejay robbing a nest, is visible between Bobby and David Mead.



Clint Sims

The crowd enjoys viewing the carvings and chatting with one another.

Clark and I want to express out thanks and appreciation to the staff for the outstanding job they did at the Bobby Sipes reception. The food they prepared and served was delicious, and the decorations they made were an attractive addition.

Their efforts showed what an outstanding and talented group of people they are. We are so fortunate to have them. Along with Linda and Bobby Sipes, they made us proud to have been a part of the reception.

Nancy Hampton

ment was provided by "The Four," a local jazz and blues group. The event was sponsored by Clark and Nancy Hampton.

Thirty-seven of Bobby's works from 13 different collections were on display at the opening and 35 remained on exhibit for the month of October. The new Native American exhibits display a number of artifacts that were not previously on exhibit. The centerpiece of the new series of exhibits was a Northwest Coast plank house facade. ✂

Bobby Sipes bird carvings were on loan from the following collectors:

Dr. and Mrs. Phillip Acuff
Mr. and Mrs. Richard DeShon
Mr. and Mrs. Clark Hampton
Dr. Harlan Higginbotham
Mr. and Mrs. James Lehr
Missouri Department of Conservation
Mr. and Mrs. Kelton Noland
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nolf
Mr. and Mrs. Simon Rositzky
Mr. and Mrs. Riley Schenks
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sipes
Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge
Mrs. June Swift
Mr. and Mrs. David Wilson

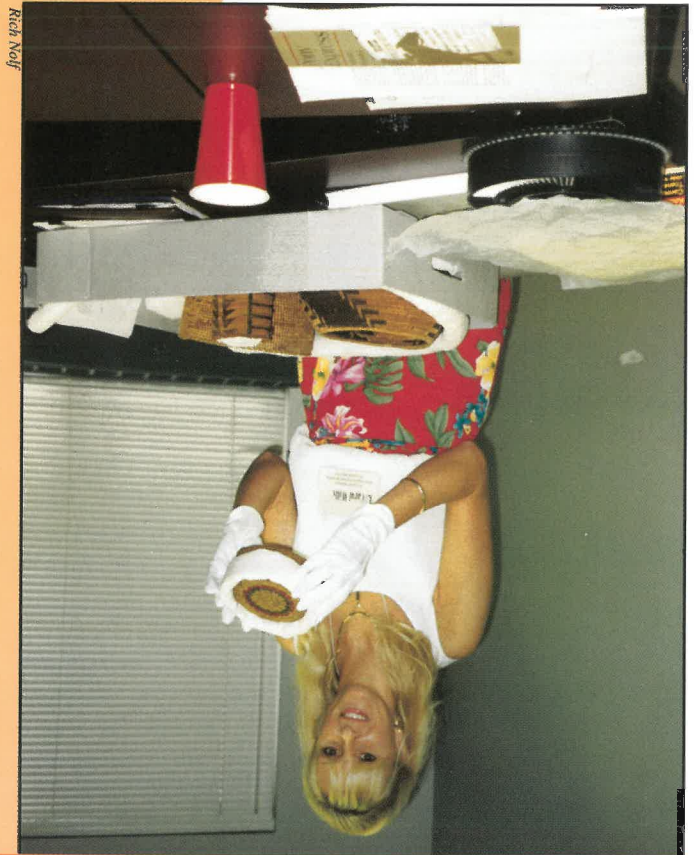
COLLECTIONS CARE PROGRAM

structures inside and out was provided. A major portion of time was spent on environmental monitoring which included climate control, lighting, construction materials, artifact materials, consumer products, and pest management. The latter included fumigation and preventative measures.

Another major block of time was spent on the do's and don'ts of object care and maintenance of archaeological, ethnographic, and wooden objects. The participants learned the limitations of a collections person and when to call a conservator. Photo documentation was also included. Another major segment was spent on caring for and displaying documents, books, photographs, textiles, plastics, synthetics, and natural history specimens. Material identification was an important factor in photographs, textiles, plastics, and synthetics. Storage materials and equipment were also covered. Also included were workshops on packing and shipping and one on exhibition materials and techniques.

Carol talked of nothing but the workshops for several days after each session. One of the things that came through was that we were in very good shape in a number of areas. In some areas there were chemical changes and techniques that were new to us. The whole program provided a wonderful cross section of experiences and techniques. It also provided an excellent network of persons to consult with in times of need. Another satellite benefit is the use of a lending library of reference material and technical equipment which can be checked out and used on our sites.

The program included a six-week segment between the two, three-week sessions, during which the students completed a practicum project. On the final day of the class each of the students gave a presentation on their practicum project. Rich Nolf and Marilyn Taylor went to Kansas City to listen to the project presentations. Carol's practicum project was the creation of support collars for baskets in the Native American collection. Her presentation, which was informative and interesting, was excellent.



Carol Wills demonstrates the basket support collars that she created for her practicum project.

Last fall Carol Wills, Curator of Collections, enrolled in a special Collections Care and Maintenance Training Program sponsored by the Kansas City Heritage League, with support from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department, and the National Archives-Central Plains Region. The program involved two, three-week sessions of hands on workshops that met all day Monday through Friday. The faculty was composed of practicing experts from all over the country. The program director and coordinator was Jean Svadlenak. Jean, a private consultant to museums, resides in the Kansas City area.

The subject matter was very comprehensive, covering a broad spectrum. There were introductory sessions involving collections care, registration, and documentation as well as information management. This latter involved computerization of the collections and loan and deaccessioning policies. A general session on the care and housekeeping of historic

SHOP TALK

This fall the St. Joseph Museum and Pony Express National Memorial stores have a new item to help you keep warm, the St. Joseph afghan. This jacquard woven throw is 46 inches by 65 inches and includes seven historic scenes of St. Joseph. The St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express National Memorial are featured along with Robidoux Row, the Missouri Valley Trust building, Krug Park Castle, and Twin Spires. The center image was created from a photograph of St. Joseph as it appeared in 1850. This decorative cotton throw is woven in hunter green and brick on a natural background. It can be used in all sorts of ways such as a picnic or stadium blanket, hung on the wall, or draped over a sofa. However you decide to use it, the St. Joseph afghan is lovely and practical with a touch of St. Joseph history.

Christmas Ideas

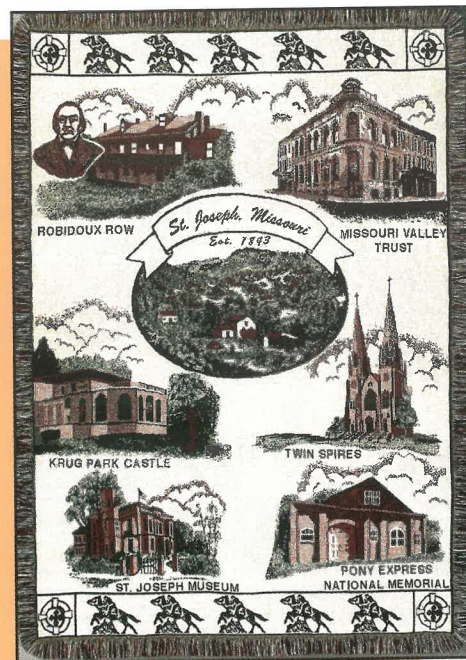


At the St. Joseph Museum you will find St. Joseph playing cards adapted from an antique deck in the museum collection. The cards were originally printed in 1907 by the Business Men's League. Each deck includes a reproduction of the original fact card on St. Joseph that was printed with the deck. Each of the 52 cards depicts a different St. Joseph scene.

In the Pony Express National Memorial store you will find the newest addition is a new book for children by author and artist Cheryl Harness. *They're Off! The Story of the Pony Express* is published by Simon and Schuster as part of their Books for Young Readers col-

lection. It is recommended for children from seven to ten years of age. An expert storyteller and history buff, Ms. Harness brings these legendary couriers and their extraordinary race across the country vividly to life.

Is there a quilter on your list this year? Check out the museum stores for 1800s quilt patterns. Do you know someone who likes to bake? Our mixes from the 1800s are just right for holiday baking. From unusual jewelry to Native American artwork and romantic Victorian clothing, the museum stores can be just the places to get creative with your gift giving.



ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM SECOND ANNUAL LIGHTING CEREMONY



On Thursday, December 5, 1996, the St. Joseph Museum will host its second annual lighting ceremony and open house. Both the interior and exterior of the building will be lit with hundreds of lights to kick-off the holiday season in St. Joseph.

The switch will be thrown to light the exterior of the building at approximately 6:00 p.m. and special activities will continue until 8:00 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be located at the "North Pole," gathering wishes from all the children. Another treat for young and old

alike will be horse-drawn carriage rides. Cheryl Harness, author and illustrator of *The Night Before Christmas* and *Papa's Christmas Gift*, will also be on hand to do a book signing.

The St. Joseph Museum would like to invite everyone to join in the holiday spirit and celebrate with us on December 5. There is no admission fee and complimentary refreshments will be served. For more information, please call the museum at 816-232-8471. ✕

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 5 - St. Joseph Museum Lighting Ceremony from 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. For more information call 232-8471.

December 23 - St. Joseph Archaeological Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Pony Express National Memorial, 914 Penn Street.

December 24 & 25 - Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Both museums closed.

December 31 & January 1 - New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Both museums closed.

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

914 Penn Street, P.O. Box 244

St. Joseph, Missouri 64502-0244

Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.

Sundays 1-5 p.m.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. JOSEPH, MO
PERMIT NO. 40