

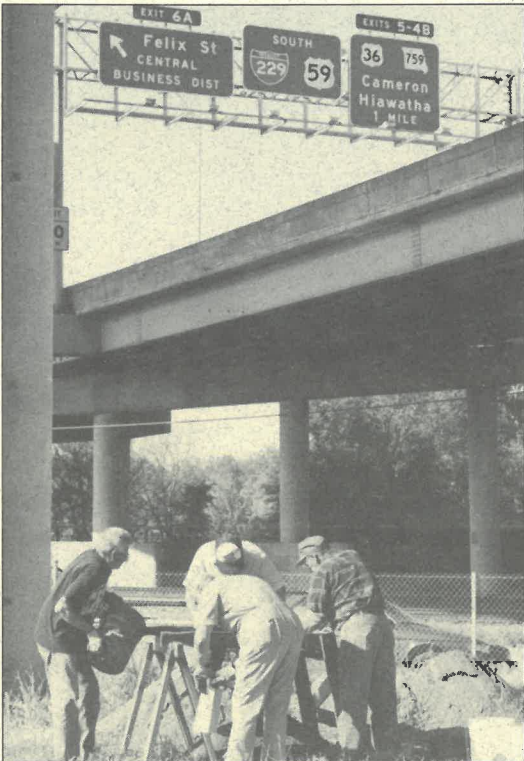
The Happenings

May 1993

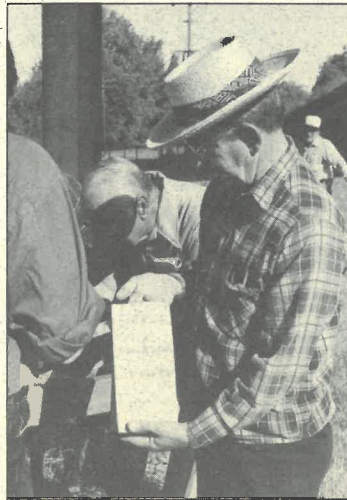
St. Joseph Museum

Pony Express Museum

THE NEW DIG AT THE SITE OF ROBIDOUX'S TRADING POST

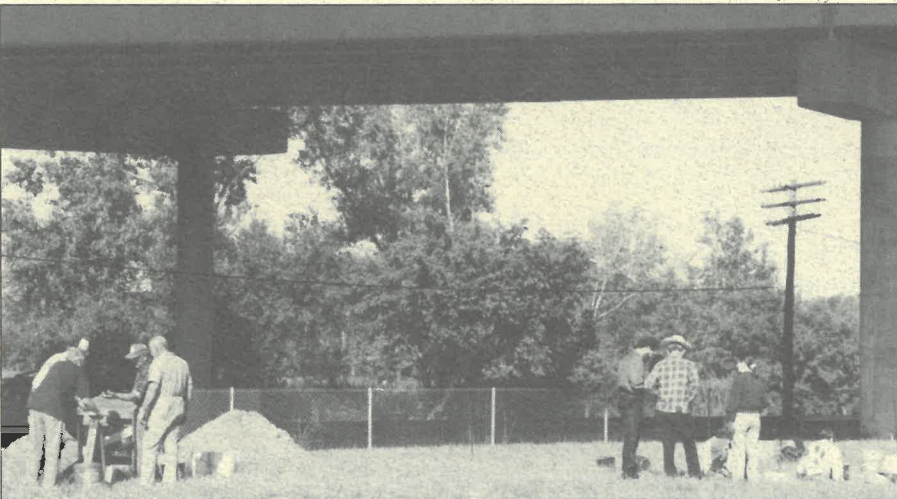


The screen is a very busy place, as can be noted here with Bob Earhart, Calvin Lewman, Kenny Lux, and Gene Norton all getting involved.



Dig supervisor, Mike Fisher, is shown here holding one of the bags of artifacts gleaned from the screening process. Each bag notes the site number 23BN62, the date and the level of the dig.

Photos by Clint Sims



This is an overall view of the Robidoux trading post dig which takes place under an Interstate Highway 229 overpass adjacent to the intersection of Jules St. and McArthur Dr.

When the site of Joseph Robidoux's trading post was discovered in 1989 by museum staff members Jackie Lewin and Marilyn Taylor, the decision was made to excavate the place at the earliest convenient time. (Refer to *Happenings* article Jan-Feb 1989.) Since by that point plans were in the making for expanding the Pony Express Museum, the board of trustees and director Richard Nolf agreed that the backyard of that museum should take priority for a dig because of its pressing time frame. The dig which we believed would last only one season, actually ended in 1992.

It was also decided that 1993 would be the most opportune period to excavate at the Robidoux trading post site because this was the year of St. Joseph's sesquicentennial. Our 150th anniversary! What a wonderful way to help celebrate this momentous occasion. This dig is officially sanctioned by the St. Joseph Museum.



Shown here, Dick Wolf and Robin Yarnell, diggers from the St. Joseph Archaeological Society.

Mike Fisher, president of the local St. Joseph Archaeological Society and former president of the Missouri Archaeological Society, has consented to become the dig supervisor here as he was at the Pony Express excavations. Digging occurs on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Anyone who is interested should contact the museum 232-8471. Experience in this area is not necessary.

ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM & PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL MEMORIAL STAFF

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Rich Noll Director
 Jackie Lewin Curator of History
 Marilyn Taylor Curator of Ethnology
 Robbie Sipes Curator of Exhibits
 Bonnie Watkins Curator of Collections
 David Mead Curator of Natural History
 Kathy Reno Gift Shop/Membership
 Heidi Hornaday Curator of Development
 Reva Fish-Rocha Customer Service Coordinator
 Sandy Taylor Curator of Special Projects/
 Campaign Coordinator

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 Scott Koch Exhibits Technician
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 Eric Robinson Staff Assistant
 Chris Fisher Maintenance Technician
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 Kem Mills Receptionist
 Camille Grable Receptionist
 David Rich Receptionist
 Helen Matthews Receptionist
 Barbi Edwards Receptionist
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ADJUNCT

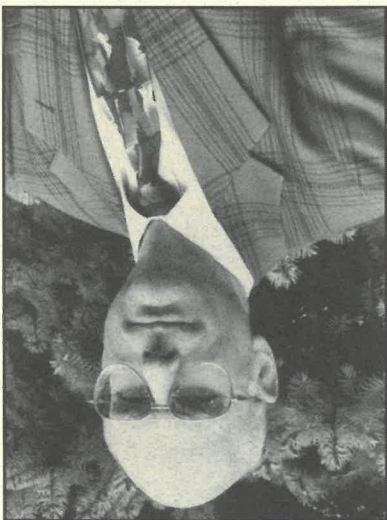
Mike Fisher Archaeological Research Associate
 Jim Feagins Archaeological Research Associate
 Esther Kreek Historical Music Coordinator
 Russ Mooney Saddle & Tack Consultant
 Mary Helen Burrowes Publications Consultant

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FROM THE DIRECTOR...

As I explained in this column last month, we had been dreaming for 33 years about expanding the Pony Express Museum. For the last three or four years, we have been very intensely engaged in the actual design, construction and development or fund raising. The result is the Pony Express National Memorial.



Now, we find ourselves in that position where after working toward a goal for an extended period of time and achieving it, we began wondering what do we do next? This is because the focus for such a long time was on achieving the desired goal. What has occurred is a change or "paradigm shift." Webster defines paradigm as "an outstandingly clear or typical example or pattern." (Paradigm shift is a term that is coming into vogue and was used by Stephen R. Covey in his best-seller *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*.) Our pattern for 33 years was a focus on the expansion of the Pony Express Stables. Now, we have to change or shift that pattern. We have to look at the way we do things from a different view point. So in essence, we are going through a paradigm shift.

Indications from both our own introspection and focus groups are that we need to concentrate on what I am going to call the 3 Ms: Management, Marketing and Membership. A wonderful facility has been created. It is much larger, and we have to learn to live with it and manage it in the professional manner we are accustomed to. We cannot depend on "If you build it they will come" as happened in the "Field of Dreams." We have to market what we have created. Our marketing has tended to be passive, and we need to be proactive because the National Memorial is going to have to be self-supporting. The National Memorial does not have the luxury of a subsidy from a government organization. The 3 Ms, management, marketing and membership, are all integrated and will be focused upon in months and years to come. Sustaining membership will be an important part of continuing support.

Initial steps in the management of the new facility involve Jackie and Kathy, moving their offices to the National Memorial where Jackie will be the site manager. Kathy will focus on the personnel who meet the public. Admissions and gift shop receipts are major sources of income. A team is being put together to coordinate the marketing and the membership of both the Pony Express National Memorial and St. Joseph Museum. We are going through changes. Although changes can be scary, they can also be very exciting, and I personally feel we have an incredible opportunity here.

Rich Noll

OUR LIVING TREASURES

Can you guess who they are? They are our faithful volunteers. The new Volunteer Interpreter Program has made it possible to have trained people available to not only welcome our visitors to the Pony Express National Memorial, but also to give them an opportunity to expand their knowledge of the Pony Express.

Our first training session was on March 24, 1993. We started out with 22 people, all of whom were very interested in the Pony Express. Many already knew something about the Pony Express, but some came into the program with the sole desire to learn and to help the museum. All the volunteers have a love of St. Joseph and want to contribute to their community.

We had two-three hour sessions in which we learned a lot. The course was conducted by our own St. Joseph Museum staff. When the Pony Express National Memorial opened on April 3, 1993, we were ready to go. I know we were all nervous that day and for days after that. However, what began to happen was like buds opening up into flowers. Although we went into our jobs feeling fairly well trained, the visitors for the most part did not ask us the right questions, that is, the ones we knew the answers to. However, we were very straight forward and if we didn't know the answer, we either found out for them while they were at the museum or we obtained their

1993 Bray Photography



Jean Sweet stands at the end of the 80 ft. diorama which depicts the Central Overland Route the Pony Express riders took from St. Joseph through the Sierras.

address and mailed the answer to them. Because of the visitors' interest, we started learning more and more. I can't say we are experts but we are getting closer all the time.

In May, we had a meeting of all volunteers to critique how we were doing. We listened to each other on how to improve the Interpreter Program. It was a wonderful

meeting from which some very good ideas were given. I have passed them on to the museum staff and many of those ideas will be implemented. We also shared a lot of the questions that the visitors asked and a list of them along with the answers were sent to each volunteer. As you can see, we continue to learn. Later I received a note from Marlys Hauglie saying she would make cinnamon rolls for our next meeting. Now that's a great idea!!

1993 Bray Photography



Pat Benedict smiles at a school group that she will help. They can sit on the saddles and move the mochila from saddle to saddle.

We have a fantastic group of volunteers and continue to add to them. We have 22 active people who come regularly to their volunteer jobs. However, we can always use many more. Some now work long hours and do so without complaining, but I would like to see their hours shortened. Although there are those who want to be there for that amount of time, we have a few days where the national memorial is not covered and I would love to see that change. We provide costumes for our volunteers and the visitors really like to see that. I think it makes it more comfortable for them to ask questions.

I am also a volunteer, therefore I am not at the museum all of the time. If you are interested in becoming one of us, call either the St. Joseph Museum, 232-8471 or the Pony Express National Memorial, 279-5059. Leave your name and number and I will get back to you. The Pony Express National Memorial is a good place to be and the people are fun to be with.

Continued on page 4

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ROLLS TO \$1.5 MILLION WITH UNION PACIFIC GRANT

Among the highlights of St. Joe Day (April 21) in Jefferson City was the presentation of a capital gift from the Union Pacific Foundation to the Pony Express National Memorial. Government and Public Relations Consultant, John E. Bardgett, Jr., delivered the first of two equal installments to Pony Express President Dick Deshon on behalf of his client, the Union Pacific Railroad Corporation. The \$10,000 foundation grant applies toward the museum restoration and expansion project.

Union Pacific's interest and involvement in the National Memorial resulted from the collaborative efforts of Senator Sidney Johnson, John Bardgett and Pony Express, Inc.'s development team, Heidi Hornaday and Sandy Taylor. Also instrumental in securing the grant were Lt. Governor Roger Wilson, Speaker of the House Bob Griffin and Representative Gary Witt who supported the proposal to the foundation in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

It's interesting to note that, in the 1860s, there was a contest between St. Joseph and Omaha for the northern branch of the Union Pacific. St. Joseph was generally regarded as the logical starting point for the transcontinental railroad until the Civil War. Local history has it that the citizens' southern sympathies eliminated it from the running. Although the city lost the bid for the Union Pacific headquarters, it is served by the railroad and the system follows sections of the Pony Express Trail across expanses of the western United States.

Attending the grant award ceremony were: l. to r., Representative Charlie Shields, Speaker Griffin, John Bardgett, Senator Johnson, Mignon Deshon, Dick Deshon, Representatives Witt and Humphreys and Lt. Governor Wilson.



Harold "Whitey" Owens, Senate Photographer

RECENT DONATIONS TO MUSEUM AND THE PONY EXPRESS THE COLLECTIONS OF THE ST. JOSEPH

Mrs. Frederick W. Keller—a book, *Along the Old Trail*, which contains "Pioneer Sketches of Arrow Rock and Vicinity" and which belonged to Lucy Woodson Gray of St. Joseph.

Warne and Mildred Sanders—an autobiography, *My Dear Children: The Life and Times of Blanche "Dolly" Alfrey Reeman*, written by Mrs. Reeman, a cousin of the donor, when she was over 90 years old.

St. Francis Xavier Parish—a book, *St. Francis Xavier Parish, St. Joseph, Missouri, 1890-1990*, written on the centennial of the parish.

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Randall—two telegraph keys, one of which was actually used by the telegraph. They were utilized in the exhibits at the Pony Express National Memorial.

Van Hanner—three letters and envelopes celebrating the "80th Anniversary of the Pony Express" and postmarked April 3 and 4, 1940.

Louis Parmelee—one of one hundred 1960 Pony Express commemorative envelopes found at the Ambassadors of Faith Church observing the centennial of the Pony Express.

U.S. Stamps & Postal History—two copies of their magazine, *U.S. Stamps & Postal History*, Fall 1992, with the main article, "Mail in the Wild West: The Pony Express."

Jim Walters Construction Company—two artifacts found during the excavation and construction of the expanded Pony Express National Memorial.

Continued from page 3

My heartfelt thanks along with the staff and board of directors go to Pat Benedict, Jean Sweet, Lois Heimsoth, Marjorie Findley, Dennis Riche, James Feurbacher, Tim Swafford, Marie Coulter, Barbara Jones, Kermit Smith, Joseph Houts, Jr., Marty's Hauglie, Calvin Carson, Col. Robert Teller, Bobbie Sipes, Jack Randall, Madge Randall, Dennis Batsell, Brenda Vey and Natalie Vey. You have made more of a difference than you will ever know. Due to your dedication, our Pony Express story now goes from here all over the world.

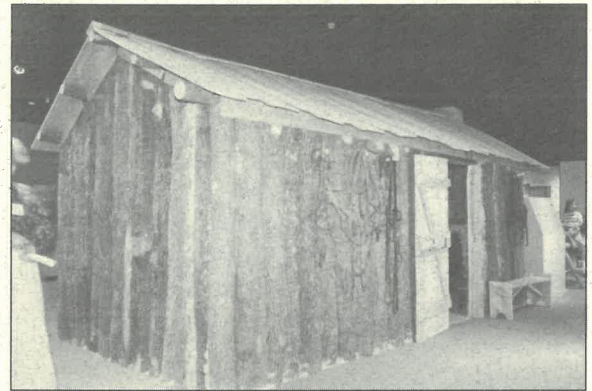
Mignon & Dick Deshon

PONY EXPRESS RELAY STATION

Visitors to the Pony Express National Memorial are surprised to find a realistic Pony Express relay station in the middle of the museum exhibit area. It was built by Bobby Sipes with the assistance of Fred Sipes and museum staff.

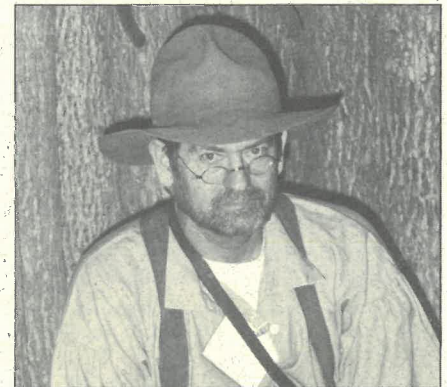
The relay station was constructed in the French style, of cottonwood saw-timber, green ash logs and native limestone. The cottonwood was cut by Smith's Saw-mill of Bigelow, Missouri, and the logs were cut and fitted by Bobby Sipes. The limestone used to construct the chimney and fireplace was donated by Kelton and Susan Noland of Oregon, Missouri.

The station is furnished with a rope boundable, an oak-topped table and chairs. It is dimly lit by period lanterns to illuminate its rustic interior. Many children say it is their favorite exhibit.



This life-size Pony Express relay station serves as the centerpiece for an exhibit area at the new Pony Express National Memorial.

David Mead



During the Pony Express National Memorial grand opening, Bobby Sipes served as an interpreter in the relay station

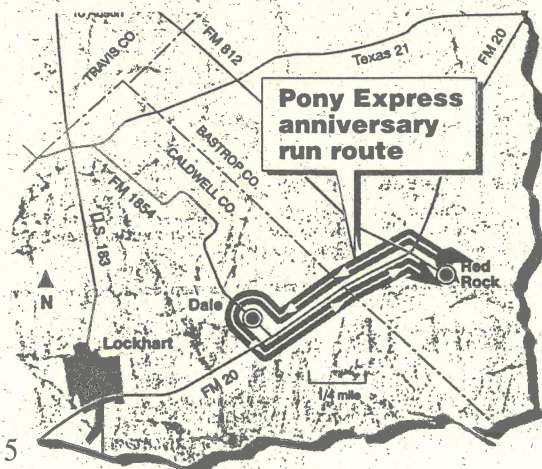
RED ROCK, TEXAS, CELEBRATES THE PONY EXPRESS

While the Pony Express National Memorial was celebrating in St. Joseph on April 3 with the grand opening festivities, Pony Express enthusiasts in Red Rock, Texas, were also commemorating the 133rd anniversary of the Pony Express. Rodger Smith of Red Rock contacted the museum several months earlier for information about the Pony Express and the museum. He wanted to sponsor a ride re-enactment from Red Rock to Dale in central Texas and to donate the profits from the event to the Pony Express National Memorial.

The ride began at 10:05 A.M. on April 3. Several hundred people crowded around the log cabin which had become the Red Rock Pony Express Station for the day. Many, many cars filled the tiny town where Smith said "seven cars were considered a traffic jam." Along the route of 16.4 miles, riders were stationed at intervals. One rider came all the way from New Hampshire. Another rider shouted "Make way for the pony express" over and over as she rode. Upon

reaching Dale, Texas, a short program was held and the audience heard a story about the Pony Express. Then the riders began the return relay to Red Rock.

Over \$250 was raised and donated to the Pony Express National Memorial. A special U.S. Post Office cancellation was issued and commemorative envelopes were printed to mark the occasion. Over 1000 pieces of mail from all over the world were handled during the ride. According to Smith it was "a celebration of the adventure that made America famous. Pure determination, hard work and a whole lot of organization went into both adventures.



American-Statesman Staff graphics

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY ENTRIES FEATURE THE PONY EXPRESS

The Pony Express will be the theme of several entries that have advanced to the national competition as we have learned from correspondence with the winners from Ohio, California and several other states.

Missouri first place winners in the project category were students Jonathan Celaya, Joel Braden, Nate Tymeson, Alex Holman and Christy Warner from Nevada High School. In preparing their project, they, along with teacher Tim Gore, made two trips to the Pony Express National Memorial and visited with Jackie Lewin, curator of history. Their project was entitled "Pony Express, Guaranteed Delivery in Ten Days." It consisted of display panels of photos, documents and an audio program activated by the viewer. We wish these students well and look forward to hearing how the Pony Express fares in the National competition.

A competition is sponsored annually by National History Day, a non-profit organization with the goal of renewing young peoples' awareness and interest in history. It encourages students to investigate since "the magic of history is in its discovery." This year's theme is the Role of Communication in History. The Pony Express fits in perfectly with this theme and has been chosen by hundreds of students.

Students begin the competition at local schools and then commence to the district competition sponsored by a college, university or museum. In Missouri, there are nine districts. From district, three entries from each of the categories — project, media, paper or performance are sent to the state competition. The State Historical Society of Missouri and the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection sponsor the Missouri competition. Two entries from each category are then sent to the national competition held each year in June at the University of Maryland.

PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL MEMORIAL Funding Update

Rotary Clubs of St. Joseph
Bertha Sabbert
St. Joseph Downtown Sertoma Club
Charles & Margaret Salanski
Mildred Sharp
Bobby & Linda Sipes
Carl A. Smith
Connie J. Smith
Rodger Smith
Southwestern Bell Telephone
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Sprong
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Taylor
Thad, Zach & Jessica Taylor
Dr. & Mrs. James Trout
Union Pacific Foundation
Webster PTA
Barbara Wharton
Larry & Kay Wichmann
Mark Wissehr

Heritage Bank
Mr. & Mrs. David T. Hornaday
Mary Jo Hornaday
Hosea Elementary
Hyde Forge Questers
Junior League of St. Joseph
Kansas City Life Insurance Company
David King Wendell Koerner
Wilbur P. McDonald
Michael & Rhonda Meierhoffer
Mabel Miller
Missouri Questers
Larry & Cheryl Morrow
Neely School PTA
Nestle USA
Mr. & Mrs. Kelton Noland
Dr. Arthur King Peters
Progressive Telecom
Edna Pumphrey

Ag Processing
Mr. & Mrs. Davis Beaver
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Helen Bram
Martha L. Brown
Brown Transfer & Storage Company
Mary Helen Burrowes
Judith Butler
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Wyeth Campbell
Carnegie Culture Club
Mr. & Mrs. Andy Deshon
c/o Kailee, Megan, Morgan, Kyle
Bill Emnigh
Express Pet Food
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Fishman
Mr. & Mrs. James Gray
The Flower Society
Doris & Stan Hall
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Hegarty

Memorials

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Carpenter in memory of Agnes Deshon
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Deshon in memory of Al Bartlett
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Deshon in memory of Art Frank
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Ford in memory of Agnes Deshon
Mr. & Mrs. Clark Hampton in memory of Agnes Deshon
Mr. & Mrs. David Hornaday in memory of Agnes Deshon
Mr. & Mrs. Casey Meyers in memory of Agnes Deshon
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Lehr in memory of Agnes Deshon
Carol Palmer Mulligan in memory of Agnes Deshon
Robert L. Simpson in memory of Agnes Deshon
Dr. & Mrs. Donald Stallard in memory of Agnes Deshon
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Taylor in memory of Agnes Deshon
Linda L. Weyer in memory of James M. Kearnes

Tributes

Frank Connett in honor of Dick Deshon
Stacey Krizek in honor of Merry V. Wright

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 museums and we are very grateful for their support.

St. Joseph Christian School, St. Joseph, Missouri

Larry A. Jones, D.D.S., St. Joseph, Missouri

Mr. and Mrs. Todd A. Jones, Helena, Montana

Todd Haenisch, Creative Travel Consultants, K.C., Missouri

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Hinton, Armit, Missouri

S. Wade Hampton, St. Joseph, Missouri

John S. Adams, St. Joseph, Missouri

Phyllis Preator, Cody, Wyoming

W A N T E D

Volunteers to fabricate artificial plants for natural history dioramas. Involves vacuum forming and air-brushing acetate leaves. Artistic ability helpful.

Call
David Mead or Robbie Sipes at
232-8471

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☐ New member ☐ Renewal ☐ Gift

Your Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____

Gift membership for: (please fill in your name above)

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____

Membership level:

___ \$1000.00	Patron	___ \$100.00	Donor
___ 500.00	Fellow	___ 50.00	Subscribing
___ 250.00	Sponsor	___ 25.00	Sustaining

Enclosed is a check for:
\$ _____

Please make your check payable to the St. Joseph Museum or Pony Express National Memorial and mail to:

ST. JOSEPH
MUSEUM
1100 Charles Street
St. Joseph, Missouri
64501-2874

All contributions are equally divided between the St. Joseph Museum and Pony Express National Memorial unless otherwise specified.

Re-Create History and Reduce Your Taxes by 50%

The Pony Express Museum Restoration and Expansion Project is an authorized Missouri Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) Project.

Any person, firm or corporation in-business in the State of Missouri is eligible to receive a NAP tax credit of up to 50% of the amount donated to the museum project.

Contributions of real estate, materials and equipment, stock, and personal time may qualify for tax credits, as well as cash donations.

Help Establish The National Memorial

Capital Campaign Levels of Giving
One time gift or three year pledge

\$50,000	Capital Founders
\$25,000	Benefactors
\$10,000	Principals
\$ 5,000	Partners
\$ 1,000	Patrons
\$ 100	Donors

For more information contact: Sandy Taylor 816/233-9370

The Pony Express National Memorial 1993 Pledge Card

Yes, I would like to help establish the National Memorial by making a tax-deductible capital contribution.

Name _____ Business _____

Address _____ Please send me information about the Missouri NAP tax credits.

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I would like to pledge \$ _____ I am enclosing today \$ _____ Balance to be paid _____ quarterly
_____ semi-annually _____ annually

Signature of Donor/Contact Person _____ (As it should appear on our contributor's list)

*Make checks payable to Pony Express, Inc. - A National Memorial., P.O. Box 244, St. Joseph, Missouri, 64502-0244
Your contribution is greatly appreciated.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 5 Midland Empire Audubon Society - Blue Bird Trails.
- June 14 "YOU ARE THE DIFFERENCE - A CUSTOMER SERVICE AND TOURISM WORK SHOP" will be held at the Pony Express National Memorial from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- June 18 "Omaha as you've never experienced it." The St. Joseph Museum field trip to Omaha, NE. Participants will visit the Lied Jungle Rain Forest, dine at The French Cafe and tour the Western Heritage Museum.
- June 19 Midland Empire Audubon Society - Prairie Field Trip.
- June 26 Midland Empire Audubon Society - Pershing State Park Wetlands.
- June 28 St. Joseph Archaeological Society gathering at Krug Park at 6:30 p.m. Everyone needs to bring a dish. There will be no meeting in July and August.
- July 17 The Oregon-California Trails Association will sponsor a field trip to trails leading into St. Joseph from the east. (No time has been set. Watch for next issue.)
- July 23 St. Joseph Museum sponsored field trip of Historical Buchanan County and St. Joseph.
- The St. Joseph Archaeological Society will be digging every Tuesday and Friday morning 8 a.m. to 12:00 noon. (The time is subject to change). The dig site will be the Joseph Robidoux Trading Post. The dig will last through the summer.

For more museum information call 232-8471

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St. Joseph, Missouri 64501-2874

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Sundays 1-5 p.m.

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