

The Happenings

St. Joseph Museum
Pony Express Museum

Volume 17

1990

Number 5

Jackie Lewin



Prairie View Festival '90 - October 19, 20 and 21
George McCorkle will provide mule wagon rides at the festival.

From the Director

As you read this issue of *The Happenings* is devoted to the Prairie View Festival (PVF). Prairie View Festival has had a really interesting history over the years. It started in 1979 with the help of Paul Stock, a skilled tinsmith.

The objectives were to develop an awareness of the St. Joseph Museum and an awareness of the 19th century skills still being practiced.



Prairie View Festival has been a unique festival. Artists are carefully selected through a juried process. Care is taken to not have any duplicate skills. Also, we specify that all of the artisans demonstrate their skill, thus providing a living history exhibit. We provided "perks" for each of the craftspeople so as to help obtain quality people. These perks include free lunches, relief personnel, break times and a percentage donation in lieu of the standard booth fee. In addition, the crafts people receive support when setting up and taking down. These courtesies are to help compensate for the financial loss they might incur through demonstrating instead of selling all the time.

Our first festival was held in mid-November with about a dozen crafts artisans from Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas. The weather that first weekend was beautiful and the response to the first PVF was absolutely terrific. We estimated that we had an attendance of 6,000 people over the three days. When we began Prairie View Festival, we had no idea how successful it would be. Furthermore, if it was successful, we had no preconceived idea how long it would run. However, following that marvelous November weekend in 1979, we knew that we had an annual event, at least for awhile.

We selected the same weekend in November the following year, our reasoning being that it was close enough to Thanksgiving and Christmas to increase sales.

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The weather that second year was "simply the pits." Friday started out with rain which continued through the weekend along with periods of sleet and snow. Crafts people were cold and miserable. Even worse, when returning to their homes after PVF they were skating on icy roads! In spite of the weather, we still had as many people as we had the year before. Therefore, we were determined to keep the festival, but we changed the date to the last weekend in October.

We used the last weekend in October (around Halloween) for a couple of years, but it always seemed to rain on that weekend. It was warmer though! The decision was then made to move the festival up a week to mid-October. In this way, those attending festivals would be able to attend Robidoux Festival the first weekend of the month, Arrowrock Festival the second and Prairie View Festival the third weekend.

During the years since 1979 the number of craftspeople have increased and the attendance has increased so we have been erecting a large 40 x 70 tent to handle the expanded crafts. Our early tent rentals involved erecting them ourselves. This was a labor intensive project and spawned some good camaraderie among the male staff and volunteers! After a couple of years, and several different suppliers, we realized that the quality of tents we were getting was not what they should be. In searching for alternatives, I learned of Armfield Tent Rental in Grandview, Missouri. Bonnie Armfield has provided us with excellent tents ever since she took over. In addition, her crew does all the work!

As I stated early on in this note, we had no real idea of how long we would continue Prairie View Festival. We have watched the public's interest in 19th century crafts increase and literally reach a peak several years ago. Annually, we assess Prairie View Festival in the same light as we would critique any interpretive program.

The bottom line is that we strongly feel that Prairie View Festival has run its course. It is still a success, but not quite as much as before. Talented craftspeople are more difficult to locate. The number of people entering into the practice of these skills has substantially reduced. In addition, many of the festivals are starting to go towards the format of the flea market rather than a crafts festival. Look in your department stores and catalogs. The number of "country" items are far fewer than they were a couple of years ago. The interest in the 19th century skills has peaked and is starting to fade. There will always be an interest on the part of the public, but not at the same level as several years ago.

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Following the critique of PVF '89, and after very careful consideration, we made the decision that PVF '90 would be the last Prairie View Festival. We feel that we want to get out now, while there is still public interest. It has been a good program. It has developed awareness of the St. Joseph Museum. It has also developed an awareness of a wide diversity of 19th century skills. But, programs need to evolve, and we feel that we are creative enough to develop a replacement program or programs for the public.

Our ultimate goal is to interpret our collections. How we perform this role is constantly changing as the needs of the community, the needs of the museum and the needs of the collections change. A lot of folks are sad to see Prairie View Festival end. We're sorry to disappoint them, but we are very pleased they liked Prairie View Festival. We want to be perceptive enough to know when to get out and courageous enough to make a decision such as this.

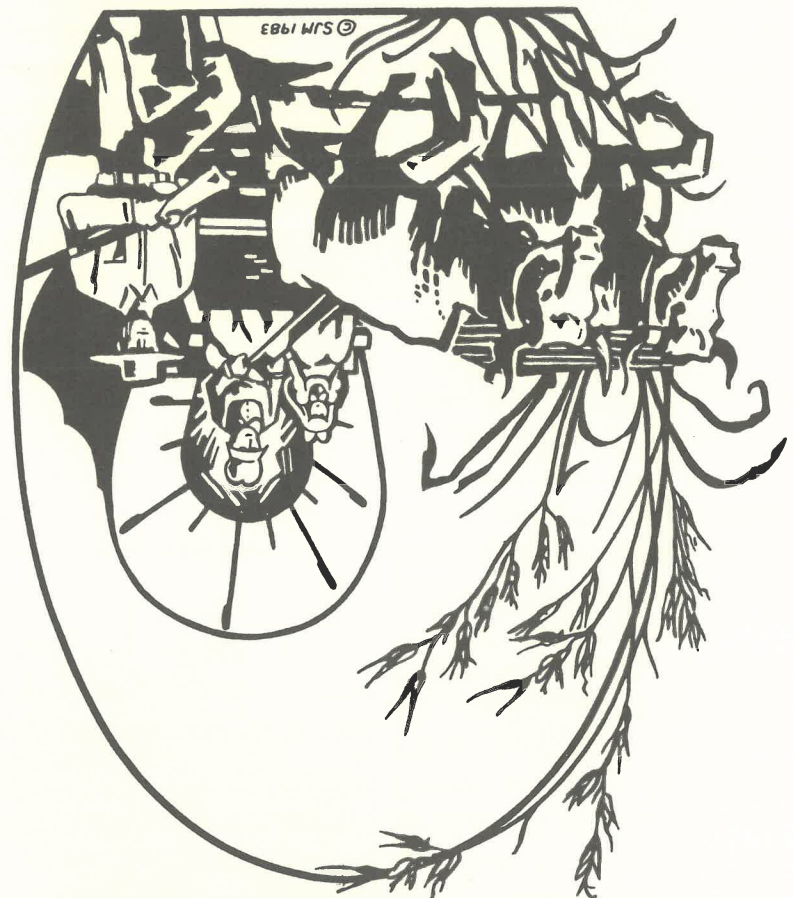
For each of the eleven years that Prairie View Festival has gone on we extend our sincere appreciation to the many artisans and visitors that have helped to make it a success. We are also asking for your help for PVF '90. Let's make this twelfth and last PVF a real success. Your attendance will insure that success. Thank you.



TOUCH THE PAST **AT THE** **ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM** **CRAFTS, MUSIC, FOOD & FUN** **OCTOBER 19, 20, 21**

FRIDAY 9 - 6
SATURDAY 10 - 6
SUNDAY 10 - 6

OVER 30 19th CENTURY SKILLS DEMONSTRATED WITH UNIQUE
 HAND CRAFTED QUALITY ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.
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TOUCH THE PAST

PRAIRIE VIEW FESTIVAL '90

A Grand Finale

Prairie View Festival is fast approaching. Don't miss the chance to "Touch the Past" by spending an enjoyable fall day on the grounds of the St. Joseph Museum. Over 30 different 19th century crafts will be demonstrated along with traditional music. It will be a living history exhibit for the visitor. Activities will take place in the St. Joseph Museum

building, the adjacent carriage house, a large tent and numerous small tents. Additional exhibits will be on the museum grounds.

A number of skilled people will be involved. To make your visit to Prairie View Festival '90 more enjoyable, we have written a short description of each participant.

A new craft to be added to the festival this year is soap making. Gayl Bousman of Osceola, Missouri, has been making soap since her childhood, when she helped her grandmother in Arkansas cook and pour handmade



David Mead

With the aid of Rosemary Gray's bubble makers, huge bubbles will float around the Prairie View Festival grounds. Ginger and Abby Winder assist in the photo.

soap. However, the soaps she makes today are rich and creamy and not the type of pioneer lye soap which was harsh to the skin. Rather than using lard, Gayl uses lighter oils and glycerin. She uses fresh milk from her Nubian goats. The lactic liquid of goats was first used in the Middle Ages for soap making. Gayl's farm-made soaps produce a dense, penetrating lather, even in hard water. She adds oatmeal powder to aid in cleansing. Although making soap for her family was Gayl's original goal, she is now sending her homemade soap products all over the United States. Among her offerings are an

olive oil soap, a natural beauty bar; citronella soap, an ancient formula which is good for cleaning oily skin; and a milk and honey bar made with whole Nubian goat milk and oatmeal powder and honey. The latter is especially effective for oily and acne prone skin.

Also new this year will be Billee Herring and Audrey Karguth of St. Joseph and

Bobbee Karguth of Savannah. While many of the handcraft skills practiced extensively by women of the 19th century are becoming lost, this family keeps alive the art of crocheting learned in childhood from their grandmothers. For our festival, they will specialize in offering crocheted baby quilts and snowflake Christmas ornaments.

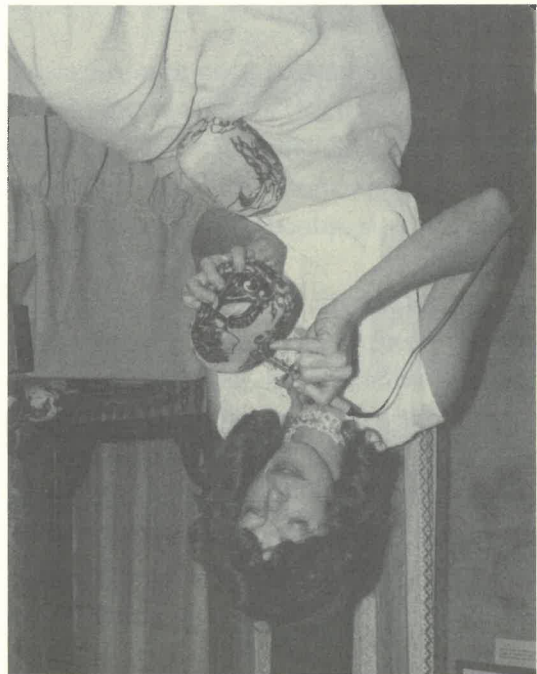
Huge bubbles will be floating around the museum grounds as Rosemary Gray of Troy, Kansas, demonstrates the use of her handcrafted wooden bubble blowers. Made of sticks with strings attached, they are dipped

Pencil drawing can range from doodling to the detailed work done by Carol Ellis. Carol, Amity, Missouri, carries a sketchbook wherever she goes, even while helping with the farm work. She produces pencil drawings on a variety of subjects and is skilled in the medium of watercolor. She likes to work with images of things native to her neighborhood - flowers, barns and fenceposts. She also uses old photos for ideas.

Perry, Missouri. She is a retired teacher and he is a retired principal both of whom are kept busy growing, preparing and selling their herbs. They are eager to share their knowledge about the use and history of their products. These products range from functional items such as skin creams, mosquito repellants and herbal teas to beautiful wreaths and floral arrangements. The Bumgarner's also bring home-canned jellies and jams.

Rag rug weaving will be shown by John and Selma Reese who travel here from Bowling Green, Missouri, to take part in the festival. They will bring an antique loom and will be weaving rugs made of pieces of old clothing. The Reeses

Cate Kenny creates her own designs for pyrography.



Jackie Lewin

asked her mother for her brother's old wood burning set. From her first small flowers, Cate has developed a highly polished technique that is uniquely her own. Many of her designs have a Victorian theme which is appropriate since pyrography was a popular pastime around the turn of the century. Early wood burning artists used a platinum pen point heated in the flame of an alcohol lamp. Benzene gas was pumped to the point by a rubber bulb to keep it hot. Cate creates many of her designs on wooden eggs but also decorates wooden boxes and other items.

are very knowledgeable and can explain the complete process from building a loom to producing the finished product.

Sharon Van Dusen of Hale, Missouri, uses a New Rogers saw dating from before 1880 to make children's toys. To operate the saw, Sharon must treadle it like a sewing machine. Especially popular with children are her wooden puzzles. She likes to make simple toys that are educational and teach coordination.

A variety of bubbles in various sizes appear. They can be large round bubbles or bubbles six to eight feet long. Children will be especially delighted by this demonstration.

The use of this antique saw will be demonstrated by Sharon Van Dusen.



Jackie Lewin

Bill Van Dusen, Sharon's husband, also has a skill to share. Not only is he an accomplished mountain dulcimer player, but he is also a mountain dulcimer maker. His beautiful dulcimers are homemade from solid hardwoods.



Bill Bumgarner will encourage the visitor to become acquainted with the aroma of a variety of herbs.

Joyce Russell of St. Joseph, Missouri, will be painting children's faces with colorful designs. It is anticipated that this will be a popular activity.

Barbara Jones, King City, Missouri, will bring a treadle sewing machine to demonstrate the making of 19th century clothes. This year, her costume will be of the 1840s. Children will delight in Barbara as she tells them about how people used to dress. In addition, she handmakes cloth dolls with embroidered faces, many of which are original designs.

Homemaker Connie Swift started cross-stitching nine years ago as a hobby. She began with small, simple designs but now does detailed work on samplers, sweatshirts, towels and other articles. Connie has a variety of needlework designs formed by many stitches crossed diagonally. A St. Joseph native, Connie now resides in Omaha, Nebraska.

Quilter Sharon Jestes comes from a large farm near Maysville, Missouri, where she and her husband are full-time farmers. In addition to driving the tractor and other chores, Sharon schedules time to develop her quilting skill. She says, "I have a habit of getting up early. Quilting is a quiet craft so it doesn't wake the family." Visitors to Prairie View Festival will enjoy watching Sharon work and visiting with her.

With scissors and a sharp knife, Barbara Rudolph of Savannah, Missouri, can turn an ordinary sheet of paper into an intricate picture that appears lace-like. Her craft is called *scherschnitte*, a German word for the art of cutting folded paper with scissors. Barbara draws her own patterns, some of which take many hours to cut and are as large as 12 to 14 inches. After being cut from white parchment paper, the design is glued to a colored mat board and then framed.

In 1982, one year after moving to St. Joseph from Canada, Janey Glick-Holloway began raising sheep. Her flock includes Suffolk, Romney, Corriedale, Salish, Lincoln and Krakul. She began spinning and within a few years had perfected the skill through practice and attending workshops. With the yarn she produces, she knits, does needlepoint, hooks rugs and does locker hooking and hoop weaving. Children will have the opportunity to try spinning the wool with a drop spindle.

Dennis Freeman of St. Joseph will provide winter bird feed by beginning with the dried corn on the cob. First, he will demonstrate the use of an antique corn sheller to remove the corn from the cob. Then, he will grind the kernels with a hand corn grinder. Dennis will also provide a way to attract birds in the summer by offering a variety of bird houses.

Jackie Lewin



Children will have an opportunity to try the use of a drop spindle. Janey Glick-Holloway is the teacher.

Harry Kloppenburg will turn a piece of wood amid steam and flying wood shavings as he works his steam driven lathe. A skilled artisan who has worked at Silver Dollar City, he can produce a variety of items while the visitor watches. These include noodle cutters, lamps and rolling pins. Harry has only missed one Prairie View Festival and is always a favorite. Mildred and Harry Kloppenburg travel here from Billings, Missouri.

John and Marsha Whitt of Bethany, Missouri, are both

artisans. John wanted some sturdy patio furniture for their home and decided to make it himself out of willow wood. His neighbors also wanted some and as news of his work spread by word of mouth, John found himself spending more and more time creating furniture. In addition to patio chairs, the family business also features frames, several styles of rockers, bar stools, chaise lounges, dining and end tables, twin and king-sized beds, canopies and headboards. To gather his willow supply along northwest Missouri waterways, John sometimes travels 500 to 700 miles a month. Marsha also makes use of natural material by producing handwoven ash sapling baskets in a variety of sizes and styles.

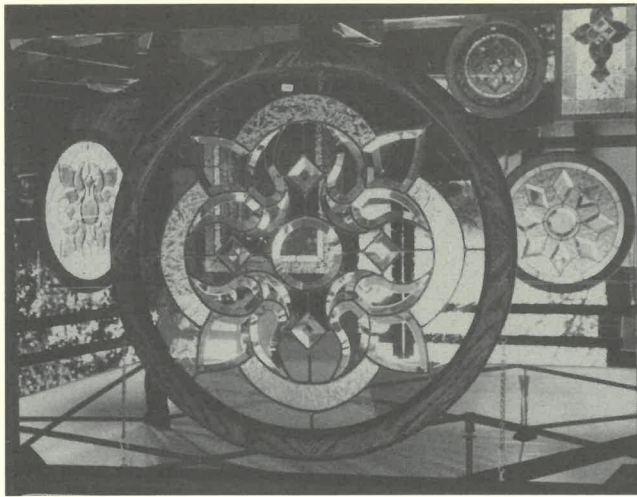
Pen and ink art and calligraphy are

combined with local history through the skills of Cindy Weaver. After teaching art in St. Joseph for seven years, Cindy decided to

work and view her glass. Del Weddle of Stewartsville, Missouri, is a knife maker who will demonstrate the forging of the

Joe is steeped in history," Cindy explains. "It was the jumping-off spot for wagon trains going west. Jesse James lived and died here, and there are a lot of antebellum mansions around. A friend of mine suggested that I do drawings of some of the historical buildings on note cards and post cards." At Prairie View Festival, Cindy will have these and many other items on display and sale.

Stained glass articles including ornaments, windows and boxes will be brought to the festival from Junction City, Kansas, by Karen Fader. A skilled crafts person, Karen has customers in St. Joseph who have always looked forward to her return. She enjoys chatting with visitors as they watch her



A stained glass creation by Karen Fader.

David Mead Favorite among young boys.

The Osage Honey Farm will have demonstrations which show the by-products of beekeeping. A comb of live bees in a case will be on display, and visitors will be asked to locate the queen. A bee makes 154 trips to produce a teaspoon of honey. Some of this delicious honey will be on sale as well as beeswax candles which will be made at the festival. Candles made of beeswax burn slowly and hold up in warm weather.

Fran Thompson is a well known local artist. At the festival she will demonstrate her skill in oil painting. Fran's favorite subjects are still life and landscape, often of



David Mead

Fran Thompson will be pleased to have visitors watch over her shoulder as she paints.



A native of the Ukraine, Olenka Prescher makes beautiful carved eggs - a traditional art of her country of birth.

sites around St. Joseph and other rural scenes.

Visitors will be able to learn about eastern Europe and the traditional art of decorating carved eggs practiced in the Ukraine by visiting with Olenka Prescher. She grew up in the Ukraine before immigrating to Agency, Missouri. The dye used for the eggs is imported from Germany. Olenka uses fluorescent water colors to make designs which are traditional Ukrainian symbols passed down through the generations of her family. The sun and stars symbolize life, growth and good fortune; wheat is for a bountiful harvest; flowers and plants symbolize love, charity and good will. The colors also have meanings: black is for remembrance; orange symbolizes strength; red is for happiness, hope or passion; green and blue are for money and luck.

Kenneth G. Myer of Lancaster, Kansas, and his son, Ronnie Myer, will demonstrate the skill of broom making. Specially grown broom

corn is used. Visitors can see it fashioned into the familiar household item.

Historic interest groups will also set up living history displays. One, the Grand River Muzzleloaders, will be returning to

Prairie View Festival. They are a group of black powder enthusiasts who will set up tents of the style used by trappers and traders of the 19th century. Not only do they welcome visitors to view their tents and camp area, but also they

Joining Prairie View Festival for the first time will be a group of Civil War reenactors. Craig Pierce, spokesman for the group, sent the following pledge:

"My brothers in arms and I agree to wear and use only authentic reproduction 1861 to 1865 period attire and equipment, consisting chiefly of tentage, weapons, cannonade and cavalry horse and rider. Union and Confederate infantry soldiers will be present along with our ladies, donning their impressive trappings. Our purpose will be to educate the public and to muster possible new recruits into our fold."

David Mead



Members of the Grand River Muzzleloaders prepare a meal over an open fire.

encourage visitors to taste some stew or join in some games. A display of trade good items will also be available.

Maude and Mabel are an ever popular attraction at Prairie View Festival. These small mules, owned by George and Ola Mae McCorkle of Lathrop, Missouri, pull a small wagon in which children are given rides around the museum grounds. Children can "touch the past" with the feel of a 19th century mode of transportation.

A variety of food will be available during the festival. The Southside Sertoma will be serving food from a large tent. Their menu includes hot dogs, barbecued beef sandwiches, polish sausage and soft drinks. In addition, several specialty items will be offered by individuals or groups.

Don Thompson will offer cider and coffee and TCBY will sell

the sales will go to the St. Joseph Museum.

Hayward Hale, of Trimble, Missouri, and Everett Turpin, Humansville, Missouri, will perform on guitar and mandolin. The Joe Grable Group will play old-time music on fiddle and guitar. Allan MacFarlane and Lawrence Chapman, of Lawrence, Kansas, will perform on mountain dulcimers. Linda Smiley, a student at Missouri Western State College and a student of all the above mountain dulcimer players, will be performing as part of her college work in American folkways.

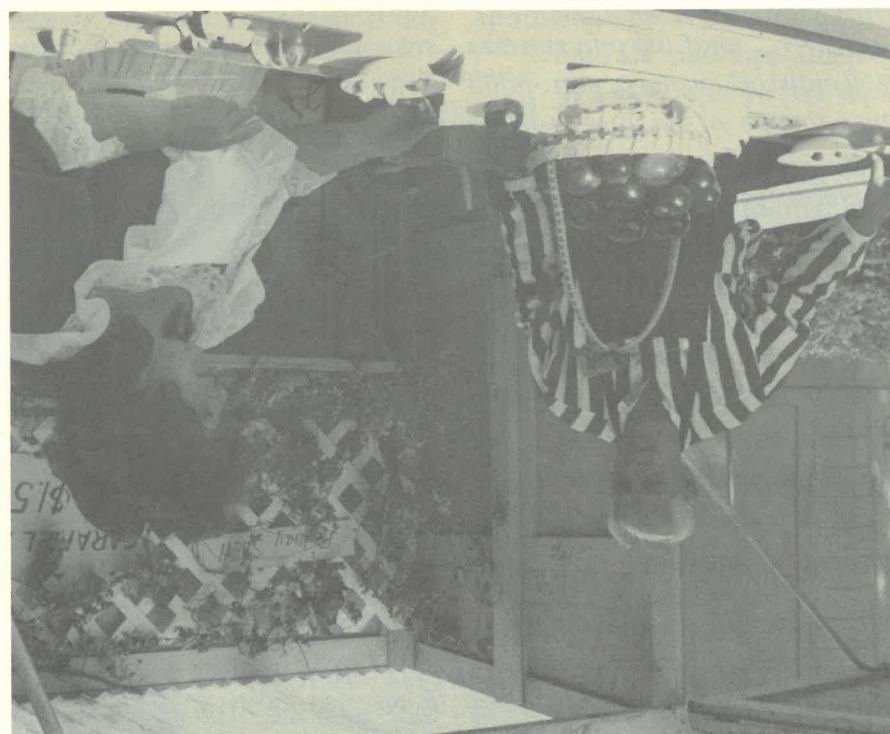
Missouri Town Dancers, Jackson County, Missouri, will perform traditional folk dancing on Saturday and Sunday. Accompanying the dancers will be various traditional musicians. □

- Jackie Lewin, Curator of History

David Mead



Ted Mann stirs a fresh batch of kettle corn.



Rodney and Linda Shell serve delicious caramel apples.

Bonnie Mann of Edina, Missouri, will bring their kettle to Prairie View Festival and fill it many times with delicious sugar corn.

Traditional music and dance, an important part of Prairie View Festival, will be performed throughout the three days of the festival. Esther Kreek, Kansas City, will play hammered and mountain dulcimers. Accompanying Esther and performing on their own will be Charlie Pinzino, classic guitarist and Jerry Faier, guitarist and banjo player. Charlie Pinzino composed a waltz especially for the festival entitled "Prairie View Last Waltz." Copies will be available for resale. Proceeds from Ted and

Linda and Rodney Shell will set up a delightfully colorful and tastefully tempting display in a prairie hut. They will provide the visitor with cut up apples covered with hot caramel. The ladies of the St. Joseph Ukrainian Catholic Church will again demonstrate their baking skills by offering a variety of baked goods. Members of this church are either immigrants from the Ukraine or descendants of immigrants. Some of the families came in the early 1900s while others came as recently as the post-World War II era settling predominantly in the city's south side.

Another 19th century food offering is kettle corn. Kettle corn is old-fashioned sugar corn. After lard rendered or barn raisings, people gathered to pop corn in a large black kettle. It would be stirred with a canoe paddle. Ted and

Plan to visit Prairie View Festival for a brief trip into the past on October 19, 20 & 21!

David Mead



Music programs for children and adults will be provided by Esther Kreek and Jerry Faier.

David Mead



The Missouri Town Dancers, in full costume of the the mid 1800s, will invite visitors to join them in traditional American dances.

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS . . .

OCTOBER 13 - Midland Empire Audubon Society (MEAS) field trip to Bluffwoods State Forest near Rushville. Meet at the parking lot of Long John Silver's Seafood Shoppe, 6104 Lake Avenue, at 8:00 AM to carpool to the area. If there is ample time and interest, participants will also visit the oxbow lakes south of Lake Contrary. David Mead, Curator of Natural History, will lead this trip to look for fall woodland wildlife.

OCTOBER 31 - Pony Express Neighborhood Network (PENN) Halloween party 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 12th & Penn.

NOVEMBER 3 - Dr. Leo Galloway will lead a MEAS field trip to Pony Express Wildlife Area and Lake. Meet at 8 AM at the parking lot west of Perkins Restaurant. The group will return around noon. Migrating waterfowl will be one of the highlights of this trip.

NOVEMBER 10 - MEAS fifth annual birdseed sale, 9 AM to 5 PM, in the parking lot of Butner's Old Mill Nursery, 806 South Belt Highway. See the enclosed pre-order form for more details or call David Mead at the St. Joseph Museum.

NOVEMBER 13 - Gateway Chapter of Oregon California Trails Association will meet at 7:00 PM at the Pony Express Museum.

NOVEMBER 17 - Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge will be the setting for a combination MEAS field trip and program. Meet at 8:15 AM at the parking lot west of Perkins Restaurant to carpool to Squaw Creek. Refuge manager Ron Bell will lead a tour of the refuge in the morning. A break for lunch will be followed by a 1:30 PM video program entitled "Ducks Under Siege." Mr. Bell expects this tour to be during peak migration on the refuge. Lunch is on your own - you may bring a sack lunch or eat at one of several restaurants in the area.

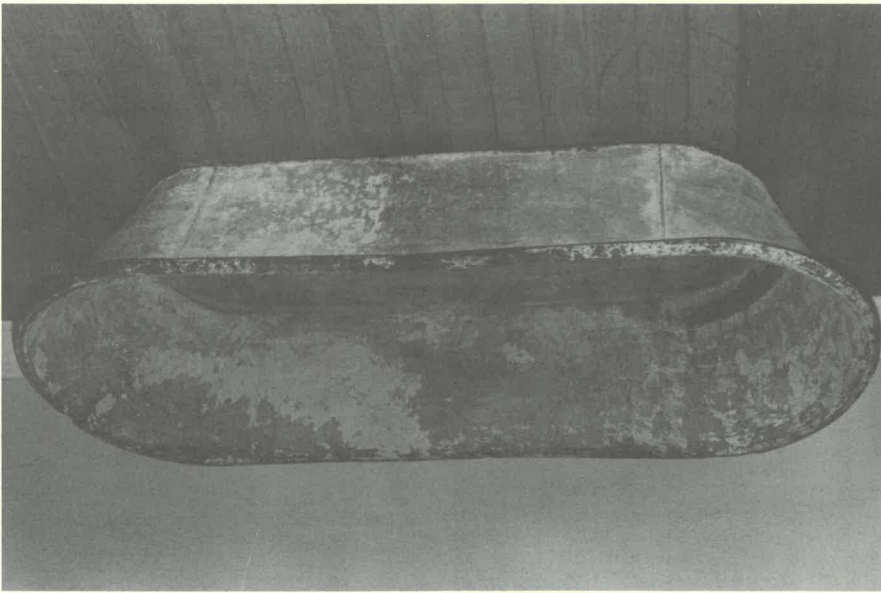
The featured artifact in this issue is about the only bath tub in the museum's collections. It is a metal tub with a wooden bottom (87.20.1). It measures 23 inches wide x 63 inches long x 14 1/2 inches high - which is part of the reason that there is only one. It is difficult to find a place in our limited storage for something this large.

The bath tub was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ben Kidney of North Carolina, but formerly of St. Joseph. The tub was originally found in the basement of a house in St. Joseph owned by Mrs. Kidney's parents. When the Kidneys moved to North Carolina they took it with them and when the museum accepted it for the collections, it was transported back to town.

One of the reasons this tub was accepted was the Wyeth Hardware Company logo on its side:

*"Mfgd. by Wyeth Hardware
Company
St. Joseph, Mo"
Trademark*

This gives the tub a significance that is special to our area because Wyeth's was one of the oldest businesses in St. Joseph. The significance extends even further for the St. Joseph Museum, however, since the Wyeth family built the home at 11th & Charles that currently houses the museum.



David Mead



David Mead

At the time of the donation it was thought that the logo would help to date the bath tub. Unfortunately, it has since been discovered that the Wyeth Company did not keep copies of its old catalogs. In fact, no copies of the catalogs have been turned up. So, a "guessimate" of the tub's age was made. Primarily because of its wooden bottom, the tub is thought to have been made in the 1890-1900 period. It is difficult for the younger generations to realize that modern bath tubs, with built-in faucets and surfaces of enameled porcelain, only began to be mass-produced about 1920. □

- Bonnie Watkins, Curator of Collections

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

JULY 13 - Kathy Reno and Pam Pritchett represented the St. Joseph Museum at the RV Trade Show held by the Pony Express Ranch and RV Park near Cameron, Missouri. The St. Joseph Museum worked in cooperation with the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce and the Robidoux Riverboat Company to feature the attractions of St. Joseph and our surrounding area.

JULY 24 - David Mead presented a snake program to 40 members of the Y.W.C.A.

AUGUST 11 - Bonnie Watkins gave a program to 20 members of the King Hill Christian Church. The Pony Express Museum

archaeological dig was the subject of the breakfast meeting program.

SEPTEMBER 4 - The Women's Fellowship of Faith United Church of Christ was the setting for a program by Jackie Lewin. It was attended by 40 church members. Jackie presented a slide program on the history of St. Joseph.

SEPTEMBER 8 & 9 - Jackie Lewin and Marilyn Taylor staffed a booth for the Gateway Chapter, Oregon - California Trails Association (OCTA), at the Iowa, Sac and Fox Presbyterian Mission near Highland, Kansas. The booth provided information about trails through Northeast Kansas and OCTA's role in preserving them.

This was in conjunction with the mission's History Days.

SEPTEMBER 9 - Cornelia Mutel, author of *"Fragile Giants: A Natural History of the Loess Hills,"* presented a slide program to 40 members of the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums. After the program Ms. Mutel was available to answer questions and to autograph copies of her book.

SEPTEMBER 15 - Marilyn Taylor gave a presentation about the St. Joe Road of the California Trail at Wyatt Park Christian Church. Approximately 60 members of the Men's Fellowship Breakfast group attended.

PENN continues park work

Members of the Pony Express Neighborhood Network (PENN) are continuing in their efforts to beautify and improve Patee Park and the whole neighborhood. Current PENN projects in Patee Park include a proposed shelter house, additional picnic tables and restoration of the old locomotive.

PENN is co-sponsoring a Halloween Party at the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 12th and Penn, on October 31 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Neighborhood children will be treated to food and games, including a cake walk. The Pony Express Museum will donate a cake for the walk.

The Pony Express Museum staff appreciates the dedication of the PENN group and enjoys their constant support of museum activities. PENN meetings are attended by Jackie Lewin, Curator of History, and David Mead, Curator of Natural History. □

Museum Hill neighbors meet

The September meeting of the Museum Hill Neighborhood Association was held at Barbosa's Castillo. The park committee reported on progress at Smith Park. The dedication is now planned for Saturday, October 20, 1990. The date for the annual Christmas party was chosen - Saturday, December 8. Peggy Warner was appointed as chairperson.

Gary Conard spoke to the group about rezoning the Hall Street area. It was decided to appoint a committee to look into rezoning with Margaret Palmer as chairperson. A very interesting program about downtown St. Joseph was given by Kathy Morgan of Main Street.

Museum Hill meetings are attended by Bonnie Watkins, Curator of Collections and Marilyn Taylor, Curator of Ethnology. □

GEORGE CATLIN'S NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN PORTFOLIO ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM - ALBRECHT ART MUSEUM September 30 - November 25

When the Czechoslovakian Pony Express riders arrived in St. Joseph in June, the St. Joseph Museum was very pleased to coordinate the activities surrounding that arrival with the events being held at

Patee House Museum's annual Jesse James - Pony Express Festival.

In September the St. Joseph Museum is again working with another museum to provide a special event for St. Joseph. As you read in the last issue of *The Happenings*, in the article written by Mariamne Berardi, director of the Albrecht Art Museum, the St. Joseph Museum is providing a number of artifacts to enhance the Albrecht's exhibit, "*Catlin's Indians: The Kemper Portfolio*."

Almost two dozen Native American items from the St. Joseph Museum will be on display at the Albrecht from September 30 to November 25. Artifacts to be exhibited include moccasins, a cradleboard, lacrosse

Recent Donations:

Nancy Sandehn - a book, "*Crossroads of Continents*," about the cultures of Siberia and Alaska.

Wire Rope Corporation of America - periodical, "*Rope Talk*," Winter 1989, with cover photograph and many inside pictures using the Pony Express Museum as backdrop.

Bill Nelson - a poster, "Democratic Candidates - National & State," 1924 elections. Mr. Nelson also framed this poster to make it easier to exhibit.

sticks, pipes and headdresses. These artifacts had no direct connection with George Catlin but were chosen because they are similar to items drawn by the artist. However, as Mariamne mentioned in her article, also

Don Reynolds



Dueling pistols presented to White Cloud, chief of the Iowa, by King Louis Philippe now in the collections of the St. Joseph Museum.

sub-agent. Richardson's great-great-granddaughters gave the pistols to the St. Joseph Museum.

We encourage you to visit the Albrecht Art Museum to view the exhibit, "*Catlin's Indians: The Kemper Portfolio*." □

- Marilyn Taylor, Curator of Ethnology

L. Gene Moran - a copy of his grandfather's (Simon Zimmerman) diary which includes accounts of his life and early days in St. Joseph and Amazonia.

Donna Ellis Cagg - a copy of a photograph of her grandparents' home located at 910-912 Penn Street. This building was located next to the Pony Express Museum. It has since been torn down.

Robert A. Brown, Jr. - photographic equipment which belonged to the donor's father, Robert A. Brown, Sr.

Marilyn Taylor - 1960 St. Joseph automobile license commemorating the "Centennial of the Pony Express."

MUSEUM FIELD TRIPS GET GOOD REVIEWS

Participants enjoy a trip by motorcoach to Lincoln, Nebraska, and a "Serendipitous Natural History River Field Trip" up the Missouri River aboard the "Spirit of St. Joseph."

David Mead



David Mead



Above: Pioneer Park, Lincoln, Nebraska, features an interpretive center and wildlife exhibits including live snakes, owls and bison.



David Mead

Above Left: Field trip participants enjoyed a nature hike in the wooded section of the park.

David Mead



Above: Mary Hillix, left, and Katherine Nelson, right, check their maps to determine their location on the river. Both present-day and historical maps of the area were provided for each field trip participant.

Above right: Rich Nolf and Marilyn Taylor provide commentary while the "Spirit of St. Joseph" travels upstream on the "Serendipitous Natural History River Field Trip." The St. Joseph Museum and the Robidoux Riverboat Company jointly sponsored the Sunday, September 23, trip up the Missouri River to Nodaway Island.

NEW BOOKS ON SANTA FE TRAIL AVAILABLE

There are five books on the various aspects of the Santa Fe Trail that are available in the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museum book shops this fall. The first two to be added were written by Gregory M. Franzwa. Mr. Franzwa is the owner of The Patrice Press which publishes non-fiction works on the American West. He is the author of ten books including the prize-winning *The Oregon Trail Revisited* and *Maps of the Oregon Trail*. He has now published *Impressions of the Santa Fe Trail* and

Images of the Santa Fe Trail.



Pawnee Rock in eastern Kansas was a favorite haunt for hostile Indians. Dozens of traders on the Santa Fe Trail met their demise here. - Gregory Franzwa

On May 8, 1987, President Ronald Reagan signed a law designating the Santa Fe Trail a National Historic Trail, under the terms of the National Trails System Act. The National Park Service began a study of the trail, including formulations of a comprehensive management and land use plan, an inventory of trail-related historic sites and a detailed volume of maps showing the route of the trail in relation to modern public roads. This required field work. Jere Krakow, of the Denver Federal Center of the National Park

Impressions of the Santa Fe Trail is Franzwa's daily diary of the trip, from March 15 through May 22, 1988. It explores, in human terms, the trail of today and the people who live and work in the communities, farms and ranches

of every fading trace.

Service, asked Leo and Bonita Oliva and Gregory Franzwa to assist in the mile-by-mile study of the route of the trail. The explorers flew, rode in vans, passenger cars, in the beds of pickup trucks and hiked for countless miles in search

along it. *Images of the Santa Fe Trail* adds to the story. Here, in 114 photographs, Franzwa captures the trail and its landmarks by depicting them in stark reality, exactly as today's traveler would see them. The majority of these photographs were made in the spring of 1988 and include the research team at work and some of the dozens of local land owners and guides who helped out along the way. This is a beautiful large-format collection of black and white images that brings the past and present together in a way that really sparks the imagination.

Murder on the Santa Fe Trail by professional historian Marc Simmons is also new to the museum book stores this fall. This is the first full-length account of a crime which created an international incident in 1843. Don Antonio Jose Chavez, a well-known and popular merchant in New Mexico, was robbed and killed on the trail in central Kansas. His assailants were fifteen outlaws from western Missouri who had obtained a commission from the Republic of Texas to attack Mexican freighters traveling between Santa Fe and Independence.

The Chavez murder threw the frontier into an uproar since it threatened to disrupt the profitable overland trade. Marc Simmons begins his study with the events

SHOP TALK

leading up to the crime, describes the pursuit of the offenders by U. S. officials and citizen posses, recounts details of the trail and execution of the two ringleaders, and shows how the murder was linked to other important historical events of this period. *Murder on the Santa Fe Trail* was the 1986 selection for the C. L. Sonnichsen Book Award. Texas Western Press presents this award annually for an outstanding nonfiction manuscript dealing with the history, literature or cultures of the Southwest.

The Santa Fe Trail is also the subject of two fascinating diaries by women who traveled the Santa Fe Trail. The *Land of Enchantment* is the title for the memoir of Marian Sloan Russell. This memoir was first printed in 1954 and was later praised as one of the two best detailed accounts of life on the Santa Fe Trail by Jack Rittenhouse in his authoritative guide on the subject. Mrs. Russell's recollections have now been reprinted with the original editorial material, plus a helpful new afterword by Marc Simmons. This memoir reveals a strong, energetic woman whose perceptions of old Santa Fe and pioneer life on the trail paint a vivid picture of the nineteenth-century West. The unusual and exact details which Mrs. Russell recalls make her story enthrallingly real.

The second diary is *Down the Santa Fe Trail and into Mexico: The Diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin*.

This diary was published in 1962 by Yale University Press. The diary is edited by Stella M. Drumm and the book includes a foreword by Howard R. Lamar.

In June 1846, Susan Shelby Magoffin, eighteen years old and a bride of less than eight months, set out with her husband, a veteran Santa Fe trader, on a trek from Independence, Missouri, through New Mexico and south to Chihuahua. Her travel journal was written at a crucial time - the beginning of the Mexican War.

The diary of Susan Magoffin is a valuable social and historical record that is equally important as a chronicle of growing up. Along the way she loses some of her illusions as she gains experience, strength and wisdom. Susan Shelby Magoffin was a pert, observant young lady of wealth and style.

Her journal describes the excitement, routine and dangers of a successful merchant's wife. On the trail for fifteen months, moving from house to house and town to town, she became adept in Spanish and the lingo of the traders. She wrote down in detail the customs and appearances of the places she visited. At times, her entries into her diary are very personal. She gave birth to her first child during the journey and admitted, "This thing of marrying is not what it is cracked up to be."

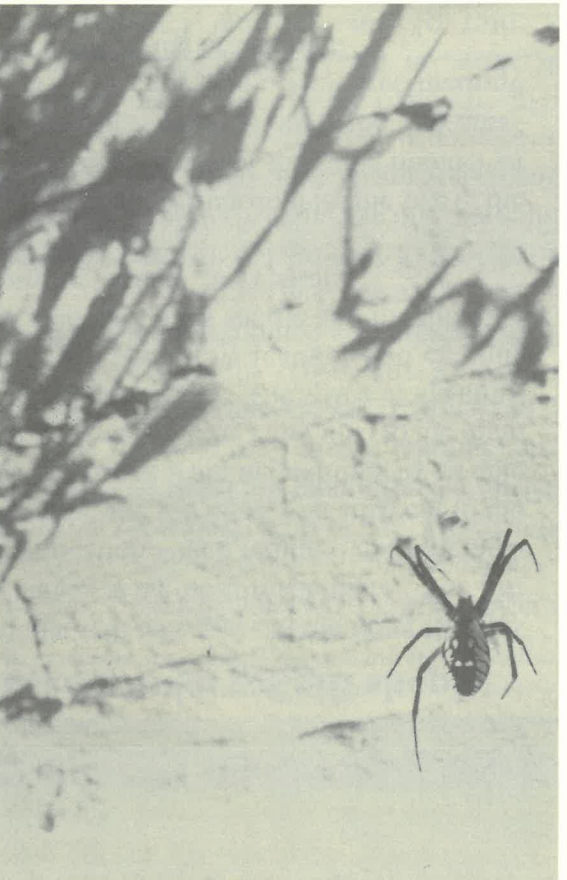
Any one of these five engrossing books would be sure to give you hours of enjoyment. Don't forget, as a museum member, you receive a 20% discount on your purchases at both the St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express Museum. □

- Kathy Reno, Gift Shop/Membership

Pony Express Museum enlarges gift shop

As part of the expansion that will take place at the Pony Express Museum, some recent changes have been made there. The gift shop was moved to a new location which required rearranging a number of exhibits. Formerly, the gift shop was adjacent to the entry of the museum and separated from the exhibits by double doors. The shop has been moved from the entry area to the main exhibit area, just inside the double doors. The space in the entry formerly occupied by the gift shop now features two exhibits along with a saddle and mochila. This saddle and mochila are displayed so that they may be "ridden" by visitors.

The new location of the gift shop more than doubles the size of the old gift shop while allowing the display of the same number of exhibits. The blacksmith and wheelwright shops in the "bay area" remain at the same location for the time being. However, there are more changes that will be made in the near future.



David Mead

Above left: A buckeye butterfly perches atop a black-eyed Susan. The most abundant flowers in the garden, black-eyed Susans supply the yellow which lights up the prairie. **Left:** A large black and yellow argiope spider waits for an unsuspecting insect to drop in for dinner. Several of these spiders have taken up residence in the prairie garden where they prey primarily upon moths and grasshoppers.

Above: The prairie garden is a popular spot for urban wildlife. A sunflower loaded with seeds becomes a snack for an acrobatic fox squirrel. The sunflowers were also visited by goldfinches and other birds.



Robbie Sipes



David Mead

A GLIMPSE OF PRAIRIE

Prairie garden at the St. Joseph Museum provides a spot of native color in the heart of the city.

NEW AND REINSTATED MEMBERS

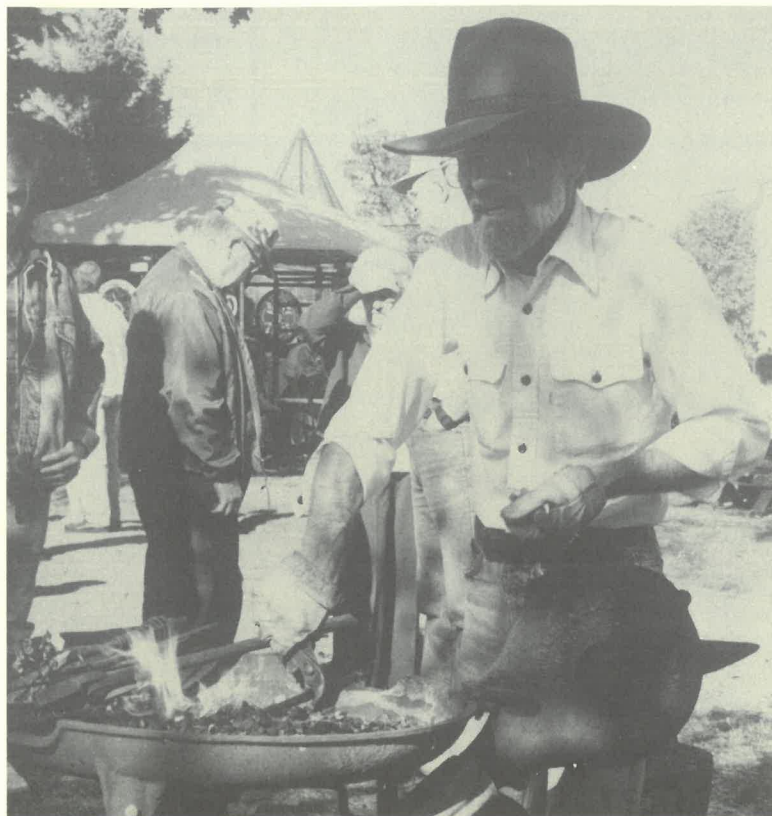
The St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums' staff and board of trustees would like to welcome the following new and reinstated members. We are all very pleased by their interest in the museums, and we thank them for their support.

Louise Miller
Jeanie B. Grah
Bernice Hammer
Lucinda Louise Weaver
Lee Allan Burress, III - River Bluffs Regional Library
Dr. Robert Corder

PRAIRIE VIEW FESTIVAL '90 is cooking up a batch of fun for you! *Don't miss it!*

David Mead

David Mead



Above: Del Weddle forges steel into a fine, handmade knife.



Right: A member of the Grand River Muzzleloaders slices a loaf of fresh sourdough bread at Prairie View Festival.

JOIN THE ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM!

The St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express Museum are cultural institutions established for the purpose of preserving our history. We strive to provide top quality interpretive exhibits, preserve our priceless collections and act as an educational resource for our community and beyond. Our goal is to keep abreast of current exhibit techniques, provide educational programs for youth and continue our work in the areas of collection and research. To succeed, we need you. You can contribute through a donation of your time (**as a volunteer**), materially (**adding to our collections**), or your membership donation (**monetary contribution**). Together, we make the St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express Museum institutions we can all be proud of. All monetary contributions are equally divided between the St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express Museum unless otherwise specified.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP:

Members of the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums have the benefits of receiving museum publications, free admission throughout the year, museum gift shop discounts and discounts on museum sponsored field trips. Members also have the opportunity to attend "Members Only" events such as exhibit openings, autograph sessions and tours of storage areas. Members may also receive *American West* magazine at a reduced rate or FREE with a donation of \$100.00 or more.



Saint Joseph Museum

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I wish to help by pledging to donate _____ hrs. per week.

I prefer _____ (time) on _____ (day of week).

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

ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM
11th and Charles Streets
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501

Please call me at _____ (phone #)
at _____ (time of day).

I wish to help materially. I have a (Historic)(Ethnological)(Scientific) material contribution which I would like you to consider.

NOTE: If you have questions, please call the St. Joseph Museum at 232-8471 and ask for the Coordinator of Volunteers to make an appointment.