

HAPPENINGS

May/June 1995

St. Joseph Museum

Pony Express National Memorial

On The Road To Abilene

David Mead



David Mead

Everyone relaxes and enjoys the scenery after box lunches served aboard the train.



All aboard the Abilene Smoky Valley Railroad.

David Mead



After the tour at the Lebold/Vasholtz mansion, the owner and tour guide poses with the group. 1st row L. to R.: Dorothy Smith, Flora Fulton, Ken Smith, Merle Vasholtz, Marilyn Taylor, Floris Wheeler. 2nd row: Betty Smith, Michael Zombory, Caton Lake, Irene Lake, Mildred Zombory, Glen Smith, Dee Phillips, and Robby Sipes.

Robbie Sipes

The St. Joseph Museum sponsored an over-night field trip to the Abilene, Kansas, area June 14 and 15. Highlights of the trip included a tour of the U.S. Cavalry Museum at Fort Riley; lunch at the Windmill Inn in Chapman, Kansas; a tour of the Lebold/Vasholtz mansion; dinner at historic Kirby House; a visit to the Eisenhower Center; and a ride on the Abilene Smoky Valley Railroad.

After a lemonade and Mamie Eisenhower sugar cookie break at the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau, the tour pauses before heading for the next site.



ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM & PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL MEMORIAL STAFF

PROGRAM

Rich Nolf.....Director
 Jackie Lewin.....Curator, PENM
 Marilyn Taylor.....Curator of Ethnology
 Carol Wills.....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
 Sawnya Polaski.....Secretary
 June Swift.....Secretary
 Scott Koch.....Exhibits Technician
 Chad Lawhon.....Exhibits Technician
 Dale Brizendine.....Maintenance Technician
 Richard Hill.....Maintenance Technician
 George McClain.....Maintenance Technician
 Mary Knab.....Research Assistant
 Kem Mills.....Curatorial Assistant/Receptionist
 Georgia Brooks.....Receptionist
 Lori Calloway.....Receptionist
 Marcelene Green.....Receptionist
 Marlys Hauglie.....Receptionist
 Jenny Larkin.....Receptionist
 Helen Mathews.....Receptionist
 Allana Smith.....Curatorial Assistant/Receptionist
 Ede Fant.....Receptionist
 Amy Glogner.....Receptionist

ADJUNCT

Mike Fisher.....Archaeological Research Associate
 Jim Feagins.....Archaeological Research Associate
 Russ Mooney.....Saddle & Tack Consultant
 Esther Kreek.....Historical Music Coordinator

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Museums Association of St. Joseph/Heritage Weekend



Dee Phillips

Museums Association meets at the Military Heritage Museum. L. to R.: Jerry Robinson, Kneavon Archives Museum; Marcy George, Robidoux Row; Frank Flesher, the host; and Dee Babcock, Buchanan County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB); Stan Harris, Albrecht Kemper Museum of Art; Marcia Bennett, CVB; and Stan Hall, Missouri Valley Trust Building. Also at the meeting, Chris Bryant, Patee House Museum, and St. Joseph Museum and Pony Express National Memorial representatives Pat Marston, Sarah Elder, and Dee Phillips.

The Museums Association of St. Joseph was formed to provide a networking system between the museums. Bylaws state that each of the thirteen museums have a voting delegate. This association encourages museums to discuss events and to work together in promoting each other. Several positive results have come from this cooperation. A brochure featuring all the museums was developed with a brief description, hours of operation, and admission prices listed for each museum. Another development that has sprung from the Museums Association of St. Joseph is Heritage Weekend. Heritage Weekend was held this year from June 2-4. The event was to encourage visitors, both local and from surrounding areas, to come to St. Joseph to tour the local attractions. This year each museum had special activities at their location. Heritage Weekend was an awareness event to educate people about the 13 museums and the rich history of St. Joseph. The St. Joseph Museum featured a special exhibit of a portrait of Stephen H. Long, a display of the White Cloud dueling pistols, and the restoration in progress of the Victorian Room. The Pony Express National Memorial featured costumed guides along with the Gus Shafer bronze, "Changing Horses," and a bronze sculpture of a Pony Express Rider by George Flett, formerly an artist at the St. Joseph Museum.

Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

A luncheon was held on June 13, 1995, to honor the volunteers that have given time on a regular and consistent basis throughout the year. A special thank you is extended for their dedication.

Clint Sims



Since the volunteers work at different times, the luncheon provides an opportunity for them to get to know each other.



Ed Barlow
Helen Bonebrake
Margaret Corken
Margaret Elder
Ede' Fant
Mike Fisher
Nancy Hampton
Pat Marston
Jeanne Patterson
Bobbie Sipes
Mary Jo Sprague



Pony Express
National Memorial

Clint Sims



The volunteers enjoy a delicious luncheon. Afterwards each volunteer received a certificate of appreciation.

Calvin Carson
Shirley Couldry
Marjorie Finley
Dr. Ray Glick
Marlys Hauglie
Lois Heimsoth
Joseph K Houts Jr.
Delia M. Lamb
Dave Martin
Dennis Riche
Jean Kay Sweet
Melissa Taylor
Floris Wheeler
Herbert Woodbury

Bird Surveys

A less visible aspect of the St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express National Memorial is ongoing research conducted by the staff in various disciplines. Research capabilities are very important because the museums serve as

sources for information regarding ethnology, history, natural history, and the Pony Express. Inquiries are fielded daily by the staff on a variety of related topics. Furthermore, active research in specific arenas is conducted by several of the staff, such as the research on the Oregon-California Trail by Jackie Lewin and Marilyn Taylor.

For the past nine years, David Mead, Curator of Natural History, has participated in various ornithological research projects, including the Missouri Breeding Bird Atlas, Audubon Christmas Bird Count, and the North American Breeding Bird Survey. The latter is probably the most significant in focus and scope. The North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) utilizes the annual efforts of over

2000 skilled amateur and professional ornithologists to collect standardized data on bird populations. This program originated in 1966 and is jointly coordinated by the National Biological Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service. These data have been widely used to estimate population trends at various geographic scales, demonstrate temporal patterns in the trends, and exhibit geographic patterns in the distributions and relative abundances of North American birds.

The BBS consists of approximately 3700 randomly located survey routes throughout the continental United States and southern Canada. Routes are 24.5 miles in length and consist of 50 stops spaced .5 mile apart. All birds heard or seen in a three minute stop are recorded.

The stop data is summed by species and this information is used as an index of species density on the route. BBS routes are usually run by two people, an observer and a recorder, starting one half hour before sunrise. The observer must know the songs, calls, and visual identification of all



Mark Robbins, left, and David Mead are tired, but satisfied after completing another year's riparian bird census on the Nodaway river.

species likely to be encountered. Since identification by songs and calls is required, acute hearing is a necessity. Currently, David runs three BBS routes annually; two as an observer and one as a recorder.

For BBS data to be viable, surveys must be done consistently each year. Ideally, an observer runs the same route on approximately the same date, starting the same time, making stops in exactly the same places in the same order every year. To be comparable, routes must be run under satisfactory weather conditions: good visibility, little or no precipitation, no more than a light wind. Adverse weather conditions will cause a significant decrease in bird activity, skewing the results of the survey. Because of these stringent requirements, there is often only a small window of time in which to make a BBS run.

Starting in 1992, David began participating in a different type of bird census, designed specifically to gather informa-

The Cross and the Compass

The Cross and the Compass consisted of two programs presented by Dr. Robert Carriker, Professor of History at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. Carol Moya was the chairperson for the event which was a part of the sesquicentennial celebration of the Cathedral. The St. Joseph Museum assisted with the project which was made possible by a grant from the Missouri Arts Council.



Jackie Lewin



Dr. Carriker speaks on Lewis and Clark and Father DeSmet and compares their experiences on the Missouri River.



Jackie Lewin

Dr. Carriker chats with audience members after the Lewis and Clark presentation. One hundred four people attended the June 10 program at Twin Spires Religious History Museum.

Marilyn Taylor



Dr. Carriker relaxes after his Chataqua presentation of Father DeSmet at the Cathedral of St. Joseph on June 11. Also pictured L. to R.: Eleanor Carriker and Carol Moya. Two hundred twelve people attended the Chataqua presentation.

St. Joseph Museum Assists Boy Scout Camp



For several years, David Mead, Curator of Natural History at the St. Joseph Museum, has provided instruction and assistance to the summer Boy Scout camp program at Camp Geiger. His initial involvement was assisting camp staff and campers with the reptile and amphibian study badge. Live and mounted specimens from the museum collection were used to aid in identifying and studying herptiles. Specimens caught at the camp were kept at the museum during the off-season. Several mounted birds and mammals were donated to the camp for use in nature study.

In 1993, David resurrected the bird study badge which for many years was taught by Simon Rositzky, Vice-president of the St. Joseph Museum Board of Trustees. For the last two years, David went to camp several days a week during the summer camp session to teach bird identification and lead field study. Due to other demands on David's time this year, he was unable to devote as much time as in years past, but was able to provide training for the camp staff to teach bird study. Although all the requirements of the badge cannot be fulfilled during the one week the boys spend in camp, a basic foundation for bird study can be obtained.

Wild Flowers in the Pony Express Courtyard



David Mead

Fire Pink.



David Mead

L. to R.: Prairie phlox, White beard-tongue, Lanceleaf coreopsis.

The wild flowers in the Pony Express National Memorial courtyard are providing a beautiful display of color. The six beds contain over 25 species of flowers and grasses, all native to the natural prairies and woodlands of Missouri. The flowers, which were planted last fall, were provided by the St. Joseph Regional Association of Realtors and The Flower Society. Dr. John Rushin of Missouri Western State College and staff members David Mead and Kern Mills selected the plants and determined the planting arrangements.



David Mead



David Mead

Purple beard-tongue.

The beautiful wild flowers at the Pony Express National Memorial are noticed by many visitors. A pamphlet describing the flowers is being developed.

Robidoux Fur Post Dig

Clint Sims



Dig supervisor Mike Fisher shovels dirt to be screened into buckets. Those screening in the background are Ernie Justus, Mary Knab, Bob Earhart, and Ed Barlow.

Clint Sims



Bill Rose helps Mike Fisher excavate the site.

The Robidoux fur post dig began in the summer of 1993. During that summer and the following one, artifacts uncovered showed evidence of structures that occupied the site after the fur post. It was not until the end of the 1994 digging season that signs of a fur post came to light. At that time, a lead seal that may have been used during the fur trade years was discovered. Lead seals were used to make a

Clint Sims



Pottery, glass, buttons, and lead seals found at the dig site. The lead seals are in the center of the picture at the lower left of the buttons.

bundle of furs or material tamper-proof. If a seal was broken on a bundle of cloth coming from the east, the fur trader suspected that some cloth had been removed. On the other hand, furs bundled at a trading post were expected to reach the east with the seal unbroken. During June 1995 several additional fur seals were discovered at a level 67 inches below the surface.

Intern at the St. Joseph Museum

Museum, Pat has been entering collections data into the computer, working on the microfilm index, and helping at the Robidoux fur post site dig. At the Pony Express National Memorial, she is serving as an interpreter for tourists. She will complete her 120 hours by the end of July. Pat says that so far, she likes the microfilm indexing the best, although she is enjoying her time at both of the museums.



Pat Schurkamp, intern at the St. Joseph Museum and Pony Express National Memorial.

Pat Schurkamp of Maryville, Missouri, is the most recent intern at the St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express National Memorial. Pat has a Bachelor of Science in Journalism and History from Northwest Missouri State University (NWMSU) at Maryville. She is currently enrolled in the graduate program at NWMSU, working toward a Master's in History with the emphasis on Public History.

As one of the course requirements for her master's, Pat must complete 120 hours of work during the summer at a history-related organization. Pat's internship began in early June, and she is dividing her time between the St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express National Memorial. While at the St. Joseph

Joint Tickets Introduced at Both Museums

Joint tickets have been designed to promote crossover traffic between the St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express National Memorial. They were implemented June 1, 1995. The tickets, which are offered at a reduced rate, have a combined admission price of seniors: \$3.50, adults: \$4.00, and youth: \$1.50. This allows visitors to pay only once. They have the freedom to visit the opposite attraction at their scheduled convenience. The joint tickets have been a popular item, and during the first two weeks, over 300 tickets were sold between the two museums.



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Local Questers Host Out-of-town Members

Jackie Lewin

The five local Questers Chapters hosted a visit to the Pony Express National Memorial by fellow members who had been in St. Louis for the 1995 International Questers Convention. Convention planners offered bus trips to various sites of interest, and one bus tour came to the St. Joseph area on May 16. Local Questers were particularly pleased to show the international members the Pony Express Mural map which was restored through a matching grant from Questers International. The group was greeted in the community room by Director Rich Nolf before viewing the mural and touring the museum. Herb Woodbury and Delia Lamb, volunteers, and Jackie Lewin, curator, led the visitors on a tour of the exhibits.



Rich Nolf, director, welcomes the Questers upon their arrival at the Pony Express National Memorial.

Jackie Lewin



Herb Woodbury, volunteer guide, visits with and answers questions from the Questers.

Story continued from page 4

tion on the relative abundance of *riparian* species, those that breed along streams and rivers. Typical census techniques, like the BBS, are poor for detecting riparian species, because the routes rarely parallel or have stops at riparian habitat. Like the BBS routes, riparian bird censuses are conducted in a consistent manner. The routes, which are approximately 16.5 miles in length, are floated by canoe on or near the same date with the same starting time (6:00 a.m.), at about the same speed and under comparable weather conditions. In addition, the river level must be considered, since it has an impact on the timing of the census.

Mark Robbins, Collections Manager of Birds at the Kansas Museum of Natural History, initiated the concept of riparian bird censuses in Missouri. Assisted by Dr. David Easterla and David Mead, he has been compiling data on the Nodaway River in northwest Missouri for four years. The riparian censuses' results are radically different than BBS routes run in the same general vicinity. Last year, Mark and David Mead established a riparian bird census route on the James River in south Missouri for a comparable study. They found that there are great differences in species and numbers between the two rivers. Mark is publishing results of the riparian bird censuses in an effort to get other ornithologists to establish similar studies in Missouri and other states.

Shop Talk

We have added two newly published paperback books on the Pony Express to the St. Joseph and Pony Express museum shops. The first is a children's book published by Falcon Press as part of their *Highlights from American History* series. *Pony Bob's Daring Ride, A Pony Express Adventure* was written by Joe Bensen and illustrated by John Potter. This book tells the story of Pony Bob Haslam, the brave young man who made the longest and most daring ride in the history of the Pony Express. Riding during a Paiute Indian uprising, Pony Bob covered more than 300 hot and dusty miles across Nevada in just two days. Children of all ages are bound to enjoy the story of his treacherous and exciting adventure.

Also written by Joe Bensen, *The Traveler's Guide to the Pony Express Trail* is a new book that helps modern-day adventurers explore this romantic chapter in the history of the American West. A rough draft of the book was submitted to Jackie Lewin, Curator of the Pony Express National Memorial, for her suggestions. The final product is a guide that brings the trail's story to life and offers first hand advice on where to go, what to see, and what to do while vacationing along the famous route. The 200-page guide contains color photographs, and of course, the Pony Express National Memorial is included as a "must see" stop on the trail.

Also new in the shops this summer is a print (pictured below) of the photograph "Ride to Glory" by local photographer, Jim Fly. His photograph superimposes a waving American flag over the Pony



Jim Fly

Express Monument in St. Joseph's Civic Center Park. The effect is a bold, dramatic image. The print is also available framed and ready to add a touch of St. Joseph to a home or office.



Clint Sims

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.

Helen and Cullen Bonebrake
St. Joseph, Missouri

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Join the
PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL MEMORIAL
and the **ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM**

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Pony Express
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Pony Express National Memorial at 279-5059

Treasures Of The Czars

The field trip to the multi-million dollar aquarium at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha is being postponed until 1996 and replaced with a trip to Topeka to view the **TREASURES OF THE CZARS**. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many people to see these beautiful and exotic objects that have been hidden away from public view for decades. The **TREASURES OF THE CZARS** exhibit has just closed in St. Petersburg, Florida. It will be in Topeka from August 2 until the end of December. These are the only cities in the United States where the exhibit will be shown.

Plans are being finalized now for a motorcoach trip to Topeka to see the exhibit on Thursday, October 12, 1995. Lunch will be at the Haderway House in Lancaster, Kansas, a turn-of-the-century Victorian

home that has been restored to its former elegance. The afternoon will be topped off by a short visit to the antique stores on the mall in Atchison, Kansas.

Paid reservations to the **TREASURES OF THE CZARS** must be made one month in advance of the visit, so you will be getting a flyer in the mail with details about the trip toward the end of August. Mark your calendars now for Thursday, October 12. You won't want to miss the beautiful and exotic **TREASURES OF THE CZARS**.

Plans for the Jesse James field trip are being finalized. You will be receiving a flyer in the mail with details approximately three weeks before the event.

Calendar of Events

August 7 thru 13 - National Oregon-California Trail's Association (OCTA) Convention at Grand Island, Nebraska.

August 19 - 10:00 a.m. Second Running of the First Annual St. Joseph Trails West! Pony Express Commemorative Stick Horse Re-run Relay Race at the Pony Express National Memorial. Call Wally Bloss at the Allied Arts Council at 233-0231 to register a team.

September 12 - 7:00 p.m. Gateway Chapter, OCTA, meeting at the Pony Express National Memorial.

September 12 - Jesse James history field trip to the Kearney/ Liberty, Missouri, area.

September 25 - 7:30 p.m. St. Joseph Archaeological Society meeting in the Community Room at the Pony Express National Memorial.

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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