

HAPPENINGS

March/April 1996

St. Joseph Museum

Pony Express National Memorial

CHILDREN'S WEEK AT THE ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM

Photos by Clint Sims



Sally Skunk gives a prize to children who have answered all the questions in the activity booklet.



If you look closely, you will find volunteers Carol Moya and Jim Lehr and staff member Jackie Lewin among the balloons and crowd attending the opening day of Children's Week.

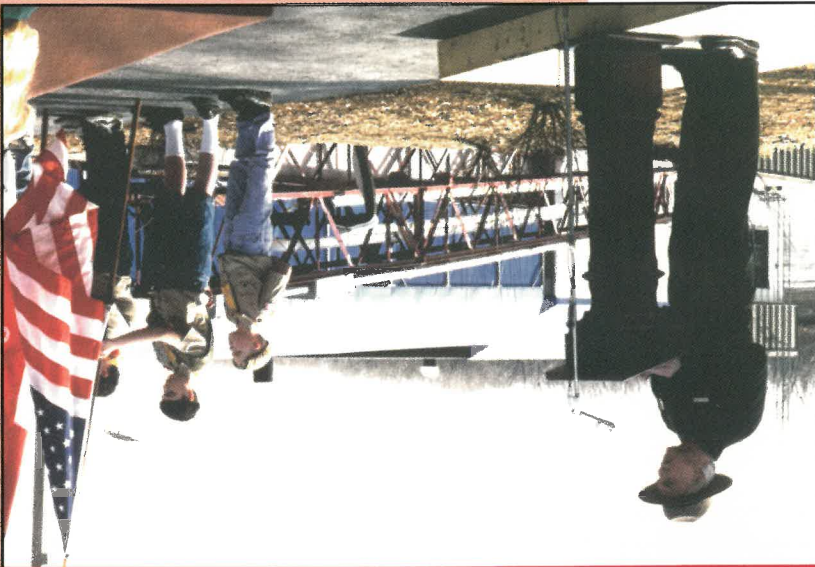
Children's Week was kicked off on Tuesday, April 9, from 3:00 to 8:00. Children's Week would not have been possible without the support of major sponsors, McDonalds and KKJO. Over 1,278 people came during those five hours. There were numerous fun things for children to do, including an activity booklet with questions that could be answered by searching through the exhibits, face painting, a "How Many Beans" Contest, a "duck hunt," and panning for gold. Costumed characters, balloons, prizes, and refreshments were all a part of the festivities. During the rest of the week, Wednesday through Sunday, an additional 1,600 people came to explore the



L. to R. wearing hats, Scott Koch and Larry Lawhon demonstrate panning for gold. Children and adults both enjoyed taking a hand at swirling the pan. The gold that they found was foil wrapped around a chocolate coin.

Story continued on page 6

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING



Dr. Jere Krakow of Salt Lake City, National Park Service Long Distance Trail Superintendent, speaks about of the NPS plans for management and interpretation of the Oregon and California Trails. Members of Boy Scout Troop #6 serve as honor guards for the ceremony.

St. Joseph's Pony Express National Memorial was the site of the Saturday, March 23, mid-year board meeting of the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA). Over 40 people from several states attended the day-long business meeting to discuss matters related to trail preservation and decide policy for the organization. St. Joseph played a role as a major jumping-off point for the Oregon-California Trails in the 1840s, 50s and 60s.

On Friday, the group gathered to place an OCTA/National Park Service (NPS) trail marker at River Front Park. Participants in the ceremony were Mayor Larry Stobbs; Jackie Lewin, national president of OCTA; Dave Martin, trail marking chairman for Gateway Chapter, OCTA; Mary Knab, president of Gateway Chapter, OCTA; Dr. Jere Krakow, NPS

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
Sawnya Kernes, Secretary
June Swift, Secretary
Scott Koch, Exhibits Technician
Chad Lawhon, Exhibits Technician
Dale Brizendine, Maintenance Technician
Albert Bingham, Maintenance Technician
Mary Knab, Research Assistant
Kem Mills, Curatorial Assistant/Receptionist
Georgia Brooks, Receptionist
Lori Calloway, Receptionist
Jerome Goolsby, Receptionist
Marcelene Green, Receptionist
Marlys Hauglie, Receptionist
Helen Matthews, Receptionist
Allana Smith, Curatorial Assistant/Receptionist
Amy Glogner, Receptionist
Leonard Elliott, 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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Long Distance Trail Superintendent; Darrell Meeker, Scout leader of Troop #6; Scout members of Troop #6.

The group next boarded a bus for a historic tour of the city led by Marilyn Taylor and Sarah Elder.

At the Krug-Nill Mansion the Gateway Chapter of OCTA hosted a reception. Then the OCTA members moved to the St. Joseph Museum for a buffet dinner and tour.

The visitors were thoroughly impressed with St. Joseph and the hospitality they received. Special thanks were extended by OCTA to the St. Joseph Museum, Pony Express National Memorial, St. Joseph Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Gateway Chapter of OCTA, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nill for their parts in hosting the meeting. 🐾



Troop #6 scout leader Darrell Meeker supervises the scouts as they drive the OCTA/NPS post into the ground.



Photos by Clint Sims

Gateway members Dave Martin and Mary Knab share quotes from mid-nineteenth century emigrant diaries at the ceremony to place the OCTA/NPS trail marker at St. Joseph's River Front Park.

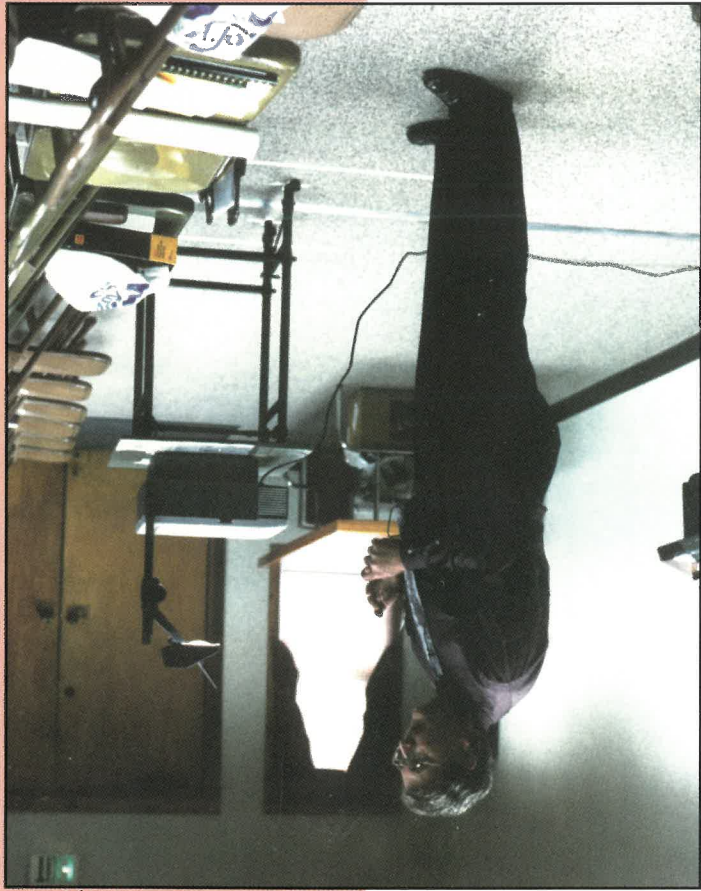


OCTA board members enjoy dinner in the new Native American exhibit area at the St. Joseph Museum. Left to right: Norman Wilson, California; Rose Ann Tompkins, Arizona; Marie and Richard Greene, New Mexico; Dr. Mike and Renee Bateman, Idaho; Dr. Roger Blair, Wyoming; Dr. Susan Badger-Doyle, Wyoming.

THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL FLINT HILLS ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

The eighteenth annual Flint Hills Archaeological Conference was hosted by the St. Joseph Museum and Pony Express National Memorial in cooperation with the St. Joseph Archaeological Society on March 29 and 30, 1996. The meetings were held at the Pony Express National Memorial. Jim Feagins, St. Joseph Museum adjunct staff member, served as conference chair. Mary Knab was his assistant.

The conference focused on the archaeology of the eastern Central Plains and adjacent areas. A symposium—*Great Bend Aspect Archaeology/Wichita Ethnohistory*—was included in the conference. Eighty-two people attended the two-day event where 27 papers were presented. The conference participants enjoyed a reception at the St. Joseph Museum on Friday evening. During the reception, museum staff were present to provide information about the museum's collections and exhibits. 🐾

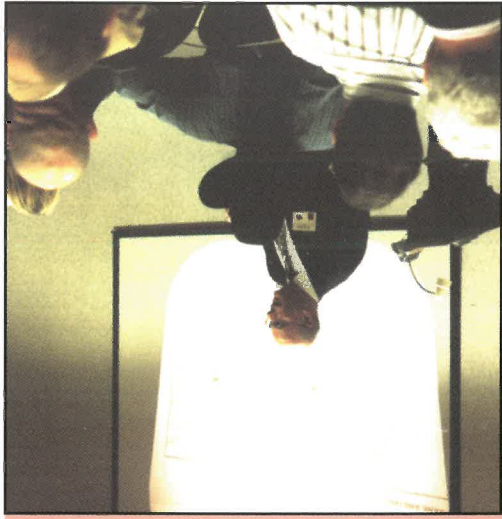


Photos by Clint Sims

Jim Feagins, conference chair, presents a paper, "The Bourbon Complex: A Late Prehistoric Plains Caddoan Occupation Near the Kansas-Missouri Border."



Retired Kansas State Archaeologist Tom Petty addresses the conference.



Rich Nolf welcomes participants to St. Joseph and the Pony Express National Memorial, the site of the conference.

136TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PONY EXPRESS



The staff gathers at Ashland Cemetery to mark the grave of Pony Express rider Michael Whalen. KQTV was present to report on the event.

The Pony Express National Memorial celebrated the 136th anniversary of the start of the Pony Express from April 3 (the day in 1860 when the mail left St. Joseph) through April 13 (the day when the first mail from California reached St. Joseph).

A temporary exhibit at the memorial showed the various ways the Pony Express has been celebrated around the world. Items in the case included a crystal vase donated by Czechoslovakian riders; a replica mochila carried on the 1960 centennial ride; a Pony Express flag used in celebrations in the 1930s; and an autographed "Young Riders" poster.

The tradition continued of placing markers on the graves of the four Pony Express riders buried in St. Joseph. They are Charlie Cliff at Mount Mora, William "Dock" Brink at Mount Auburn, and Michael Whalen and Phillip Koerner at Ashland.

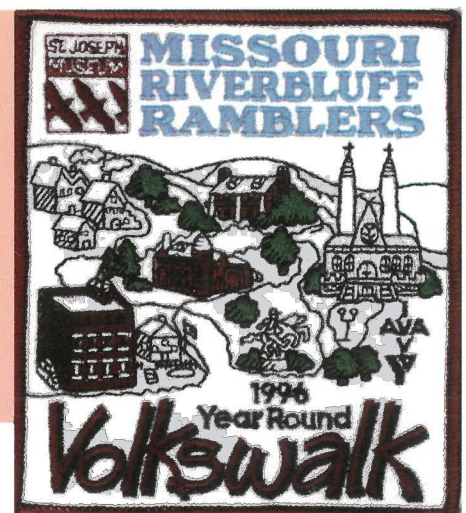
James W. "Dock" Brink was the featured rider for April, 1996. Through recent correspondence with Brink's great-granddaughter, we have added to what we know about him. Brink was born in 1835 in Williamsport, Indiana, and lived the last 29 years of his life in St. Joseph, working as a butcher and restaurateur. He died in 1912.

In 1860, Brink was hired by the Pony Express and assigned to the route between Rock Creek Station and 32 Mile Creek in present-day Nebraska. He carried mail on the initial run of the Pony Express, receiving the west-bound mochila on April 4, 1860. In August, 1860, Brink, James B. Hickok, and a station keeper were involved in a shootout at Rock Creek station in which several men were killed. This began Wild Bill Hickok's career as a gun-fighter. Brink never publicized his part in the shooting even though he, Hickok, and the station keeper were found not guilty. 

YEAR ROUND VOLKSWALK

The 1996 Year Round Volkswalk was "kicked off" on March 2 at the St. Joseph Museum. Sponsors, in addition to the museum, are the Family YMCA and the Missouri Riverbluff Ramblers. Anyone may participate in the year round event which covers a 10k/6.2 mile course through historic St. Joseph. There is no charge unless the walker is a member of the American Volkssport Association and wants credit for the walk. There is also a \$5.00 charge for the optional, 100% embroidered patch pictured to the right.

To participate in the 1996 Year Round Volkswalk, come to the St. Joseph Museum during regular hours which are listed on the back of this issue of the *Happenings*. 



Story continued from cover

museum using the activity booklet, guess the number of beans, get a balloon, and enjoy refreshments.

Special thanks to the following who helped make Children's Week a success:

Major Sponsors:

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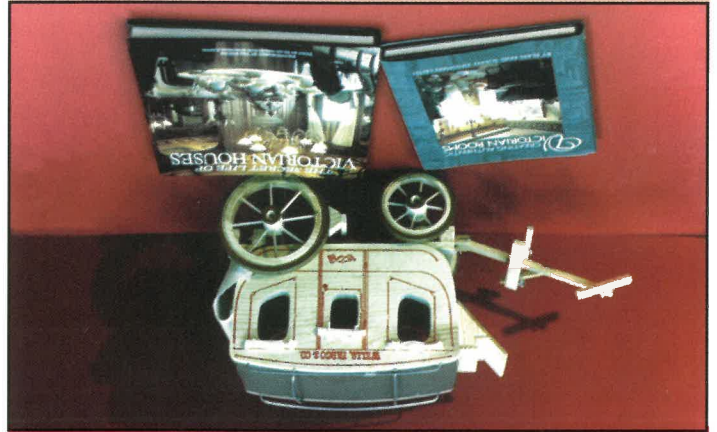
Carol Moya

Linda Swope, McDonalds

Georgia Vannaman, McDonalds

Katie Willis

SHOP TALK



Two new books on Victorian era design have been added to the St. Joseph Museum store this spring. Richly illustrated with photographs, *The Secret Life of Victorian Houses* explores the ideas that governed the era's outpouring of contrasting styles and patterns. The book focuses on everyday life during the Victorian era and the social changes that influenced the interior and exterior designs of the period. In addition to being a fascinating look at the culture and morals that influenced Victorian design, this book is also a good "armchair" tour through some of the most beautiful house museums and historic bed and breakfast establishments in America.

When the St. Joseph Museum staff began their task of redecorating the Victorian bedroom on the second floor, *Creating Authentic Victorian Rooms* was one of the books they turned to for advice. Decorating styles from the Greek, Gothic, Rococo, Renaissance, Colonial Revival, High Victorian Gothic, Aesthetic Movement, William Morris tradition, and the Arts and Crafts Movement are all examined in detail. *Creating Authentic Victorian Rooms* is a great guide for the antique collector as well as anyone who is involved in the restoration or redecorating of a Victorian era home.

In the Pony Express National Memorial store, we have added covered wagon and Wells Fargo stagecoach model kits. The Wells Fargo scale model is 19 inches long, 8 inches wide and 10 1/2 inches in height when completed. The covered wagon model kits are available in two sizes. The recommended age for constructing the models is twelve years or over.

RECENT DONATIONS TO THE COLLECTIONS

ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM

Mrs. Mary Kniola - Several pieces of cut glass and china donated in memory of Bertha Geiwitz. Also donated by Mrs. Kniola, a cut glass mayonnaise set donated in memory of Mrs. Goff and a World's Fair watch case donated in memory of Edith Shamrad.

Gordon Robaska - Two electric, brass coach lights.

PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Jerry Hoover - A cloth shoulder patch showing horse and rider with mochila. This shoulder patch is the one the St. Joseph Police Department will be wearing on their uniforms.

Morris Werner - Two booklets, *1887 Nemaha County, Kansas Atlas* and *Township Maps of Brown County Kansas 1887*.

Bunk House Outlaws - A leather bookmark carried by the "Bunk House Outlaws Group" via horseback through the Beartooth Mountains on a relay. The bookmark has "XP" tooled on it and has been signed by each rider.

NEW VOLUNTEERS AT THE PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Ten new volunteers have recently received training to aid during the school and tour group season. The staff is truly grateful to the following for the generous donation of their time:

Bob Bangerter
Betsy Bartlett
Scott Clark
Bernice Curry
Norma Gallagher

Barbara Maxwell
Marilyn Maxwell
Jackie McNeiley
Roy Teter
Freda Rock

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Robert and Evelyn Bangerter	John Mothershead
Ron & Barbara Bielby	Tom & Dixie Olmstead
Betty & Ed Blakeley	Mrs. Eulalie Peterson
Barbara Braxdale	Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Prophter
Butchart Flowers	Mr. & Mrs. David Rich
Dr. & Mrs. E.F. Butler	Margaret Richter
Jean K. Conner	Barry & Gail Rose
Dwight Dannen	Dorothy Smith
Karen Foley	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Spence
Mary Hillix	Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Sprong
Mr. & Mrs. Fred C. Hunt	Dr. & Mrs. Ron Wade
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Hinton	Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Welch
Dr. Wallace McDonald	Louis Westheimer
Carol Matt	

Memorials

Pony Express National Memorial

From Joe Friedman
In memory of Peggy I. McMurray

From Dr. & Mrs. Ray Glick
In memory of Frank Erickson

From Mr. & Mrs. Dick DeShon
In memory of Elisabeth Bestgen

From Mr. & Mrs. Dick DeShon
In memory of Katherine Johnson

From Mr. & Mrs. Dick DeShon
In memory of Joseph F. Collins

From Mr. & Mrs. Dick DeShon
In memory of Mimi Lammers

St. Joseph Museum

From Mr. & Mrs. Jim Lehr
In memory of Mimi Lammers

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 27 - Memorial Day. St. Joseph Museum open 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Pony Express National Memorial open regular hours.

May 27 - The St. Joseph Archaeological Society meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Pony Express National Memorial.

June 1-Sept 30 - Pony Express National Memorial open 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Monday-Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sundays.

June 24 - Annual St. Joseph Archaeological Society Picnic. 6:00 p.m. at Krug Park.

July 4 - Independence Day. St. Joseph Museum open 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Pony Express National Memorial open regular hours.

July 9-10 - Des Moines/Bridges of Madison County Field Trip. For more information call 232-8471.

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.

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