

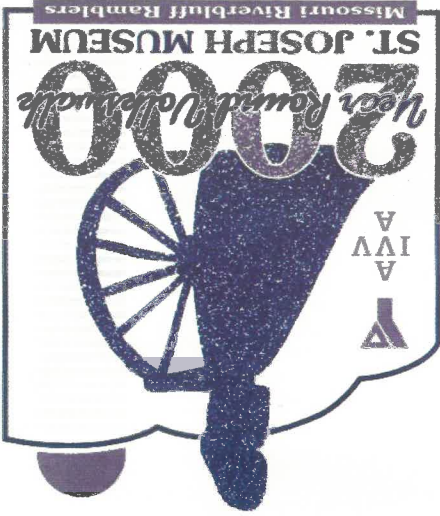


Happenings

March/April/May 2000



The year-round folkswalk is free unless the award or folkswalk credit is desired. The 2000 award is an embroidered patch featuring the pioneer woman statue that is adjacent to City Hall.



VOLKSWALK 2000

The air conditioning project is moving along on schedule. We are three months into the five-month project. The complexity of routing the duct work around steam pipes, sprinkler pipes, and exhibits, as well as eliminating any visible ducting on first and second floors, has made the process very labor intensive. We will be very pleased when it is completed.

I am also very pleased with the response to this year's program for school groups coming to the museum. Entitled "The Times They Are a Changin'," the program encompasses several options for teachers. In "Sights and Sounds of the Century," school

children learn about what this area was like in 1800 and 1900 and how those years compare to today. The children are especially enthusiastic about tactile experiences like touching porcupine quills, brain tanned buckskin, rawhide, and animal furs and learning about music by listening to an 1800s music box and a 1900s gramophone. They usually decide they prefer today's music after listening to a currently popular song on a compact disc. Students are also offered the option of "Recording History." Here, they are given 24 questions when they enter the museum and then use the exhibits to find the answers.

FROM the DIRECTOR

The St. Joseph Family YMCA, the Missouri Riverbluff Ramblers, and the St. Joseph Museum are again sponsoring a year-round, 10K folkswalk. The route for 2000 winds past most of St. Joseph's museums with the final section going through the historic Harris Addition. When people sign up for the folkswalk at the St. Joseph Museum, they receive a booklet containing a route map, course directions, and historic information about the sites along the way.

Folksport events are open to everyone, but children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. The 1999 year-round folkswalk attracted 90 participants from across the United States.

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PO Box 128, 1100 Charles Street
St. Joseph, Missouri, 64502-0128
(816) 232-8471/1-800-530-8866
Fax: (816) 232-8482
e-mail sjm@stjosephmuseum.org
www.stjosephmuseum.org
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May 29, Monday
Memorial Day
Museum open
1 to 5 p.m.

Upholding the trust-
safeguarding
St. Joseph's past for
future generations



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Rich Nolt

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PHOTO COLLECTIONS

“A Night Long-to-be-Remembered by the Residents of St. Joseph”

The above headline appeared in the *Morning Herald* on Tuesday morning, December 10, 1872. It referred to the previous evening when the Tootle Opera House opened. Milton Tootle, Sr., had built the opera house at a cost of almost \$150,000. The article praised Mr. Tootle for “a noble example to be followed by a number of wealthy citizens,” and then continued for several columns, describing the theater and the opening night.

The theater, shown on the cover, was located at Fifth and Francis with entrances on both streets. The main entrance opened to a wide and finely frescoed hall leading to three small flights of “easy ascent.” These stairs led to a foyer under a dome lighted by a ribbed glass

skylight. A person entered the Opera House proper to have his “eyes dazzled by the magnificence of the scene.” As one entered on the west side of the room, the stage was to his right—the south end of the building.

“The grand chandelier attracts the attention of all, suspended as it is from the center of the dome. It has 132 jets, and this light is increased hundred fold by the glass work of which it is mainly composed. The grand chandelier cost \$2000 and is pronounced the best in the United States save the one at Booth’s New York theatre - and that has no more burners.”

Seating capacity in the Tootle Opera House was 1,400, and that allowed “each one comfortable

room. The seats are all plainly numbered, and the various aisles marked with the letters of the alphabet - so that confusion in this respect is impossible.”

The opera house was equipped with a collapsible dance floor which could be placed over the orchestra-floor seats, level with the stage. Upstairs, a banquet hall and kitchen were part of the facilities. New Year’s balls, held at the opera house, were a highlight of St. Joseph’s social calendar.

The article went into great detail about the measurements of the stage, adding that the safety of both the public and performers was not forgotten: “Behind the stage is a large reservoir filled with water, with pipe and hose connected, prepared to extinguish fire, in case of emergency, on the stage or in any part of the auditorium.”

Milton Tootle, Sr., was 49 when the Tootle Opera House opened. He died in 1887, at the age of 63, fourteen years after the opening. The front right-hand box was always reserved for the Tootle family. In 1893, when Milton Tootle, Jr., reached his twenty-first birthday, he undertook a complete refurbishing of the building, which was then called the Tootle Theatre.

Closed in 1929, the Tootle Theatre was briefly reopened in 1932. In a 1940 *St. Joseph News Press* interview, Little Theater director Mary Stauber (later Mrs. Bartlett Boder)



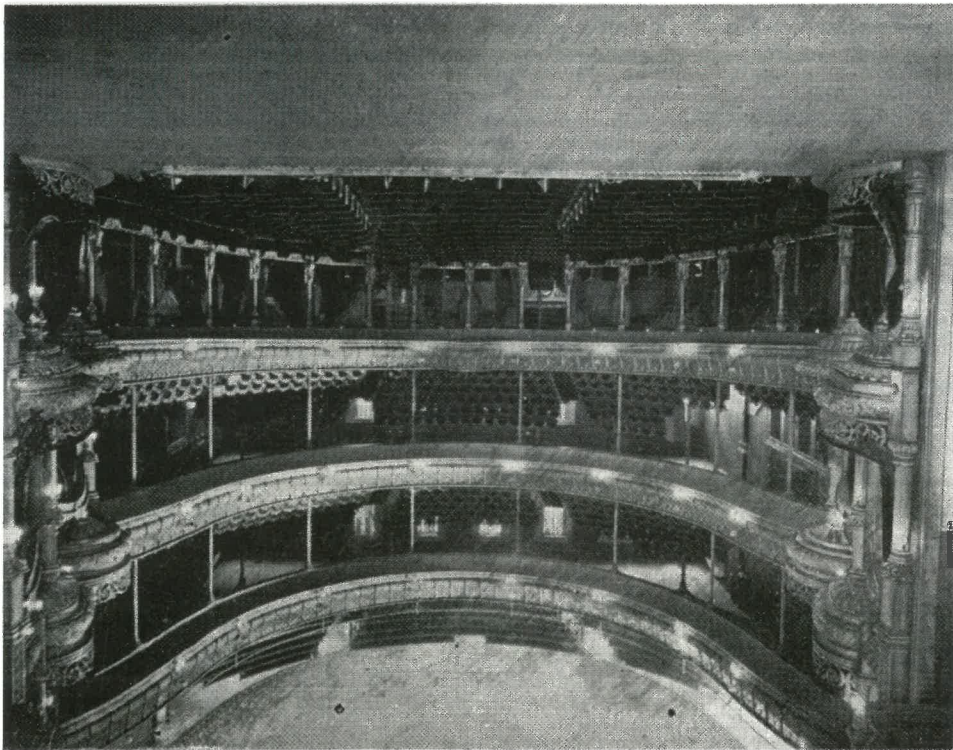
Entrance to the Tootle Opera House.

said the Tootle Theatre had been reopened for several of the group's productions in 1932. The play, "Green Grow the Lilacs" flopped, and "that closed the Tootle Theatre phase of our history as the building was about to be remodeled."

In that 1932 remodeling, the building was converted into the Pioneer Building. The mansard roof of the old Tootle Opera House is still visible on the Pioneer Building at the southeast corner of Fifth and Francis Streets.

Admission to the Tootle Opera House in 1872:

Family Circle	\$	.50
Dress circle & balcony		.75
Parquette		1.00
Balcony boxes		8.00
Dress Circle boxes		10.00



View of the seating from the stage of the Opera House.

RECENT DONATIONS to the COLLECTIONS

Mary Elizabeth Banks - Tall case Scandinavian clock made in the 1770s.

Dr. Joe & Gladys Friedman - Eskimo basket and lid circa 1900.

Lyell Henry - *Annals of Iowa* - a Historical Quarterly published by the Historical Memorial and Art Department of Iowa, Des Moines, Iowa.

Theodore M. Kranitz - *Horizon* magazines with indexes and several Indian Tribal Series books.

Stanley "Bud" Kroencke - Screen made and used by archaeologist Mett Shippee.

Harry F. Miller, Jr. - \$10 bill printed by "The First National Bank of St. Joseph" in 1914.

Bess Porter Naujoks - 1926 Griffon yearbook.

Margot Reck - Several knives and a sheath from the Philippines circa 1900.

Nancy Sandehn - Two scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings, invitations, programs, playbills, photos, etc., from 1920 to 1950 and a book written by Mathew Brady and Alexander Gardner containing Civil War photographs.

Mr. & Mrs. Helmut Schmidt - Front of an envelope from the Tootle-Kessler Millinery Co.

Lauril Sherman - An 1852 Bible.

Robbie Sipes - Abstract of Title for property in DeKalb Co.

Morris Werner - Several books on subjects including the Civil War, California gold rush, Oregon Trail, and other historical events.

EVENTS

80 Years of Archaeology-Mett Shippee Remembered

The St. Joseph Museum honored the memory of the well-known Kansas City archaeologist, J. Mett Shippee, on Sunday, March 19. Over 200 people turned out to view many of the artifacts from the Shippee collection. In June 1999, the daughters of the late Mr. Shippee, Jane Rhule, Barbara Shippee-Larson, Joan Wagner, and Helen Raven, donated the large archaeological collection to the St. Joseph Museum. Archaeologists Mike Fisher and Ed Barlow have been working since that time to catalog the collection. All four of Mett Shippee's daughters and many members of their families came to enjoy the reception and reminisce with Mr. Shippee's friends and admirers.



L. to R.: Jane Rhule, Helen Raven, Rich Nolf, Barbara Shippee-Larson, and Joan Wagner.

Children's Day "Time Capsule 2000"

On April 29, the St. Joseph Museum held its 6th annual Children's Day. Nearly 1200 people visited the exhibits, made time capsules, and jumped in the moon walk. Seitz hot dogs, Coke, popcorn, and snow cones were enjoyed by all who attended. As hundreds watched, a time capsule was buried on the north side of the museum by the St. Joseph Youth Alliance.



Rich Nolf, director, gets help burying the time capsule.

The time capsule is to be dug up in the year 2025. Children visited the Community Fair on the lawn which was provided by Parents As Teachers, Educare, St. Joseph Police Department Child I.D., Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts. Many volunteers from the Central class of 2002 and the Museum Hill Neighborhood

Association gave their time to help with this event. Without our volunteers, Children's Day could not be a reality.

The St. Joseph Museum would like to thank Seitz, Coca-Cola, Artesian Ice & Cold Storage, United Way, Walgreens, St. Joseph Parks and Recreation, Community Health Plan, McDonald's, and Wendy's for generously supporting Children's Day 2000. Because of businesses such as these, the St. Joseph Museum can continue to keep Children's Day a free event.

In the last issue of the *Happenings*, the Focus on Collections article was about a gramophone that was donated by Dr. and Mrs. O.B. Campbell. Their address was incorrect in the article. The Campbell's home was at 2001 Faraon.



Although the house (pictured to the left) is no longer there, some may remember the Campbell home that set at 2001 Faraon. Shown above is Dr. Campbell who was a well-known abdominal surgeon.

Celebrate the Century

Rashid McGaughy, fourth grader at Edison School, won the compact disc player in the drawing held for all "Celebrate the Century" Storyliving participants. Teacher Carol Myers is on the left and St. Joseph Museum staff member Laura Bodicky is on the right.

Over 700 students took part in the "Celebrate the Century" program offered to St. Joseph fourth graders in December, January, and February. The staff received many positive comments for this special program which used student participation, action, and music to teach about the history of our community at the turn of the century.



The Spirit of Pioneer Women

Over 30 people attended a special program at the St. Joseph Museum presented by Francie Wolff, a singer, writer, and film maker, from Springfield, Missouri. Ms. Wolff (pictured below) showed her video, "The Spirit of Pioneer Women," which included period photos and diary quotes to describe the female pioneer experience.

After the video, Ms. Wolff answered questions about her research and film making. The program was a joint presentation of the St. Joseph Museum and the Gateway Chapter, Oregon-California Trails Association and was provided through the American Mirrors Program of the Missouri Humanities Council.



April Lewis and Clark Tours

The St. Joseph Museum staff researched and help coordinate two recent Lewis and Clark field trips. The first tour, on April 13, was for the St. Michael's Meadow Lewis and Clark group. They visited Kansas and Missouri between St. Joseph and Atchison, Kansas.



The second tour was for people attending the National Planning Meeting of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission. This group visited near Fort Leavenworth, Weston, Lewis and Clark State Park, St. Joseph, and Atchison. Staff members Marilyn Taylor and Jackie Lewin developed the narration and served as tour guides on both tours.

The Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission is a national organization. The commission is planning and coordinating events that will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the famed expedition to the Pacific that took place from 1804 to 1806.

MEMBERSHIP

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Rex & Hartha Brown
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Gertrude A. Wylie
William & Florence Wylie

MEMORIALS

In memory of
**Harry A. Nelson and
Collin Guilmette**
Mrs. Collin Guilmette

Memberships and donations received after April 30 will be recognized in the next issue.

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

Friskies Product Technology -
Bob Foley

Herzog Contracting Corporation-
Randy Herzog

Kranitz & Kranitz, PC -
Theodore M. Kranitz

Missouri American Water
Company - Robert Amman, Jr.

Seaman Schuske Metal Works -
Rick Gilmore

The financial support that came in after our appeal to the membership for help with the air conditioning project has been very heart warming. In just a couple of weeks, members have contributed \$6,282. At completion of the project, we will list everyone who has contributed unless they requested anonymity.



PROGRAMS

SPEAKERS BUREAU/PROGRAMS:

March

1 Eugene Field	Habitats	21 Saxton Riverside Care Center	Easter
10 LaVerna Heights	Century of Memories	27 Lewis & Clark Bicentennial	
20 Natural Resources Conservation Services	Archaeology	Planning Commission	Lewis & Clark field trip
21 Natural Resources Conservation Services	Archaeology	May	
23 Agency Museum	Museum Techniques	4 American Family	Asian-Pacific Month
April		15 Saxton Riverside Care Center	Behind the Scenes
4 St. Francis School	Native Americans	16 Saxton Tiffany Woods	Victorian Fashions
13 St. Michael's Meadow Lewis & Clark interest group	Lewis & Clark field trip		

SCHOOL PROGRAMS - THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN':

March

7 Skaith	18 Parkway
8 St. Joseph Christian	19 Cathedral
14 Pleasant View	20 Jefferson County
27 Avenue City	24 Blue Ridge Christian

April

4 Cameron	26 Coleman
Lake Contrary	27 Headstart
St. Francis	May
Cathedral	2 Hyde
6 Excelsior Springs	5 Hiawatha
Green Valley Baptist	9 Eugene Field
13 Brookdale	10 Laredo R VII
Pershing	15 Craig
14 Xavier	22 Minnie Cline
Gallatin	

**February-March-April at
the St. Joseph Museum**

**4818 Visitors through the
front door**

**1218 Adults reached
through programs**

**811 Children reached
through programs**

36,355 Hits on the Web site



St. Joseph Museum

1100 Charles Street, PO Box 128
St. Joseph, Missouri 64502-0128
Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.
Sundays & Holidays 1-5 p.m.

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