

The Happenings

OCTOBER 1992

St. Joseph Museum

Pony Express Museum

KIDS TO LEARN VALUE OF COMMUNICATION

The Pony Express will receive national attention this fall through a children's educational program called *What's Up Network*. "This is a 30-minute program shown weekly on KSHB-Fox 41," said Jackie Wilson, co-creator and executive producer, FOR KIDS BY KIDS, INC., which produces the show. "The Pony Express story will be a part of our show dealing with communication. It is important to understand historically how important communication has been, to see how many advantages we have today and how to best use these. Basically communication has not changed - it is still one-on-one."

According to Wilson, *What's Up Network* is the first nationally syndicated program produced in Kansas City, Missouri. "The program, which is produced for kids, deals with topics that are important to them" said Wilson. "The idea came about because I thought there needed to be programming that would focus on positive ways for kids to deal the challenges they face. It also needed input from kids and needed by to be done by kids - adults lecturing to kids is not effective. A children's advisory board, as well as an adult advisory board, has been set up to guide us."

"Many, many people told me this format would not work. Three years and 115 television stations later I say 'it does work'."



Jackie Wilson, What's Up Network, and David, Rose and Sarah Barnes take a moment from interviewing to smile for the camera.

Reva Rocha

STAFF ATTENDS ANNUAL OCTA MEETING

The 10th annual meeting of the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) was held in Rock Springs, Wyoming, August 11 through 16. The meetings were attended by several staff people who are members of OCTA. Those making the trip were Rich Nolf, Jackie Lewin, Sarah Elder and Marilyn Taylor. Jackie's husband, Jerry, also made the trip since he, too, is a member of OCTA. Jackie has been an OCTA board member for several years.

Jackie Lewin



Sarah Elder and Jerry Lewin investigate a damaged stone post that marks part of the trail in Wyoming near the Little Sandy crossing. The Bureau of Land Management has recently begun a project to repair or replace the damaged markers. Hundreds of these markers guide today's visitor along the trail in Wyoming.

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PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL MEMORIAL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN RIDES PAST THE 1 MILLION DOLLAR MARKER!



\$ 0

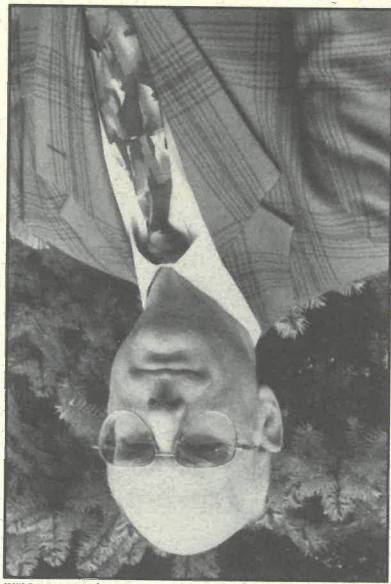
\$500,000

\$1 million

\$1.5 million

\$1.7 million

FROM THE DIRECTOR...



David Mead

One of the employee benefits that I have worked to establish, promote and maintain is that of a sharing and caring environment among the employees. Individual employees do not have hard, fast, rigid job descriptions, but instead general areas of responsibility. That philosophy evolved from the fact that we have never had sufficient staff to cover all of the needs of the collections and the museums, and it was necessary to double up on the responsibilities.

As the museum has grown through the years in its programs, the staff has grown, but so have the number

of responsibilities and their complex relationships. An American Association of Museums on-site investigator for reaccreditation defined in his report the working relationship between staff as being very fluid and very effective in meeting the maximum number of needs with a limited number of personnel.

During the normal course of work, each staff member has their parameter of responsibilities, but in the last two years, and particularly the last year, the competition for time to complete projects has been very intense. Within the last six months, I can identify several instances where particular curators were simply overwhelmed with the amount of work falling in their arena. Through close communication, we have been able to identify those stressful times, and other curators have assisted in getting the person over the hump. This is an exchange that I find most impressive to observe and be a part of. Last week I found myself with a number of pressures and deadlines coming together at the same time, and I ended up being the recipient of assistance from other curators.

It's a wonderful feeling to be able to give and to receive, and I hope that as the staff continues to grow, we are able to maintain that sense of community - that sense of oneness.

David Mead

ST. JOSEPH & PONY EXPRESS MUSEUM

STAFF

PROGRAM

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

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Susan Noland Bookkeeper
Scott Koch Exhibits Technician
Sarah Elder Research Assistant
Rhonda Clem Graphic Artist
June Swift Secretary
Margaret Hatt Librarian
Mary Knab Staff Assistant
Eric Robison Staff Assistant
Mike Dyer Staff Assistant
Chris Fisher Staff Assistant
Avis Batsell Receptionist
Lanell Mead Receptionist
Kem Paulman Receptionist
Carole Combs Receptionist
Camille Grable Receptionist
Barbi Edwards Receptionist

ADJUNCT

Mike Fisher Archaeological Research Associate
Jim Feagins Archaeological Research Associate
Russ Mooney Saddle & Tack Consultant
Mary Helen Burrowes Publications Consultant

STAFF ATTENDS OCTA MEETING

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Wednesday and Thursday were field trip days, and the St. Joseph Museum group took the opportunity to visit Pony Express station sites as well as places associated with the Oregon-California trails. In many areas in Wyoming, the trail follows unimproved roads through isolated stretches of countryside. With its high center, the museum van proved to be an excellent vehicle for negotiating the rough terrain. Visiting South Pass was one highlight of the trip. The Pony Express, Oregon, California and Mormon trails all utilized this low pass with its moderate incline to cross the continental divide. Other Pony Express station sites seen included Pacific Springs, Dry Sandy, Big Sandy, Little Sandy, Big Timber, Church Butte and Michael Martin's.

Friday morning and afternoon were spent listening to presentations given by various specialists on the trails and related events. The day concluded with a barbecue at the Green River which was enhanced by a beautiful Wyoming sunset.

Rich, Jackie and Marilyn were among the group of OCTA members who floated the Green River on Sunday. This trip was arranged because it was the best way to visit ferry crossing sites along the river, including the one used by the Pony Express.

On the way home, the group stopped at Laramie to do research in the University of Wyoming archives and at Cheyenne to visit the state museum's history department. Although a day was spent at each location, another trip will have to be scheduled to Wyoming in order to finish the research there.

OCTA goals are to initiate and coordinate activities relating to the identification, preservation, interpretation and accessibility to the trails. This complements some of the goals of the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums since the trails played such an important role in St. Joseph's history. Membership in OCTA has been beneficial to the museums in many ways. It has facilitated communication with people who have specialized knowledge about sites along the trails; it has brought the museums, and St. Joseph, nationwide recognition, especially after the St. Joseph Museum acted as host to the 1988 OCTA convention; and, it has provided staff members with the opportunity to take detailed tours of trail-related sites.

Marilyn Taylor

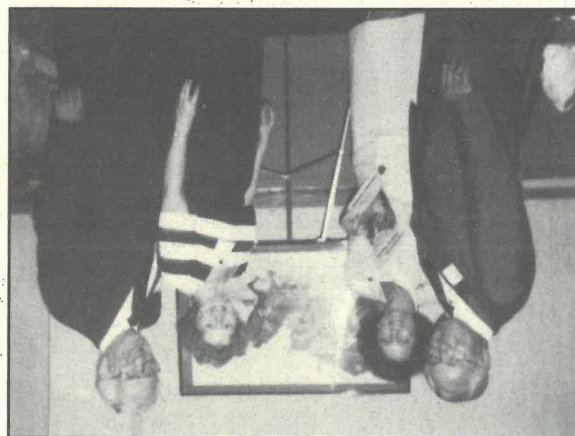
PONY EXPRESS, INC. FUNDING UPDATE

Pony Express, Inc., gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, businesses and organizations for their generous contributions to the Pony Express Museum Restoration and Expansion Project.

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DELEGATION TRAVELS TO JEFFERSON CITY

On September 3, a Pony Express delegation consisting of Trustees Dick DeShon, Mignon DeShon, Bob Simpson and Clark Hampton, along with staff members Rich Nolf, Sandy Taylor and Heidi Hornaday, traveled to Jefferson City for a meeting with state officials. The delegation met with officials from the Departments of Natural Resources, Economic Development and Highways and Transportation. The meeting was also attended by several state senators and representatives as well as aides from Senators Christopher Bond and John Danforth's offices. The purpose of the meeting was to acquaint the officials with plans for the Pony Express National Memorial and to learn how existing state and national programs can further our efforts in St. Joseph.

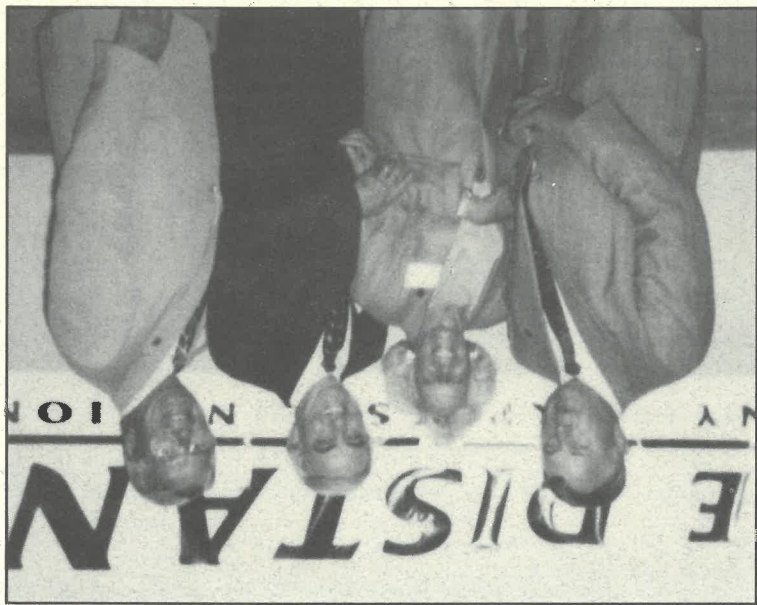


Trustees Clark Hampton and Mignon DeShon with Mary Beth Dadds and Walt Vandelicht, former St. Joseph resident.

The outcome of the meeting was very positive. Marjorie Beenders invited members of Pony Express, Inc., to make a presentation at the Governor's Conference in November. Jerry Stepenoff and Mark Miles shared information about several Department of Natural Resources programs in place to support historic preservation efforts. Walt Vandelicht offered suggestions on ways to work with the Department of Highways and Transportation; and Senator Mathewson was highly supportive, as were all in attendance.

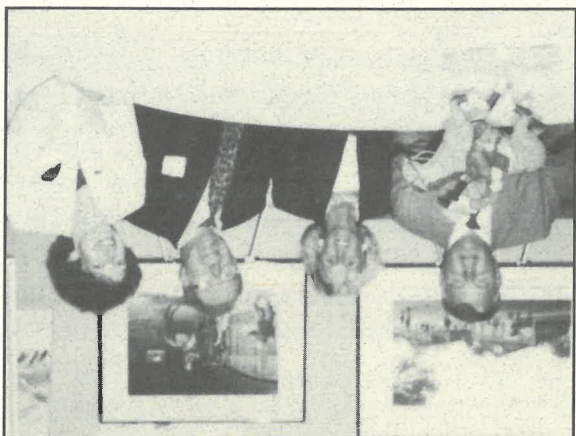
Special thanks go to Senator Johnson and his staff for arranging the meeting and reception and to Clark Hampton for providing the transportation!

Sandy Taylor



Pony Express, Inc., President Dick DeShon (right) with elected officials (from left) Senator Johnson, Representative Humphreys and Senator Mathewson.

Special guests from Jefferson City who attended the presentation and reception were: Mary Beth Dadds, aide to Senator Christopher Bond; Clare Elsberry, aide to Senator John Danforth; Senator James Mathewson, president pro tem; Senator Sidney Johnson; Representative Millie Humphreys; Tom Sullivan, deputy director, Department of Economic Development; Walt Vandelicht, assistant chief engineer, Department of Highways and Transportation; Marjorie Beenders, director, Division of Tourism; and Jerry Stepenoff, grants manager, and Mark Miles, assistant program director, Division of Historic Preservation.



Senator Johnson (left) with Sandy Taylor, Bob Simpson and Heidi Hornaday.

Did You Know...

The live prairie exhibit on the grounds of the St. Joseph Museum contains 31 different species of native plants? Now is a good time to drive by the exhibit and see the fall-blooming varieties.

Jackie Lewin

Rhonda Clem



FIELD TRIP TO KANSAS CITY A GREAT SUCCESS

Marilyn Taylor



Jeanne Patterson (right) reacts to having a picture taken, while Alice Masterson (left) watches her steps. They, along with other field trip participants, had just enjoyed a wonderful lunch at Strouds. Others on the field trip were: Francis Cramer, Georgia Hathorne, William and Florence Wylie, Michael and Mildred Zombory, Don and Beverly Thornton, Mary Ann Bailey, Jean Poe, James Lawson, Mildred Clardy, Dorothy and Glen Smith, Doris Worl, Jane Cline, Dr. Melvin Masterson, Dagmar Boswell, Eva Brown, Carrie Lacy, Rosemary Ingle, Oliver and Veda Prophet; John and Doris Hunziger, Leola Nicholas, Lester Watkins, Martha Maynard, Carrie Watkins, Francis Dyer, Anne Johnson, Eleanor Jackson, Janice Tinker, Winifred Hammond, Wilma Hurst, Mary Helen Stuber, Helen Goff and Millie Humphreys, and staff members: Gail Rose, Kathy Reno, Marilyn Taylor and Susan Noland.

CUBS DIG THE PONY EXPRESS SITE!

Members and friends of Cub Scout Pack 216, Clair United Methodist Church, became archaeologists for a day as they tried their hand at digging at the Pony Express Museum excavation site. A fun day was had by all! Bonnie Watkins curator of collections, stands by to offer a hand.

Reva Rocha

Reva Rocha

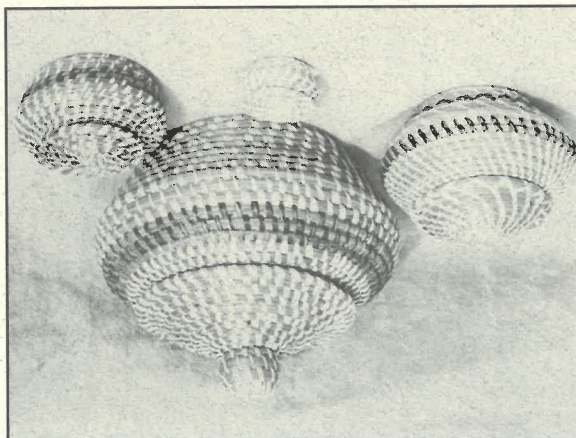


RECENT DONATIONS

Jim D. Feagins - Cultural Resource Report #10 - an archaeological survey of the former Trimble farm in Kearney, Missouri. The survey was done by Jim D. Feagins in May 1992.

Dwight S. Ritter - Four photographs of George H. Scovell, the donor's great-grandfather who was a former Pony Express rider.

Bonnie Watkins



Rhonda Clem

Kathy Reno

When you stop in to visit the St. Joseph Museum this fall, be sure to include the museum store in your visit. We have added a beautiful selection of Coushatta Indian baskets to our display of Native American artwork. These baskets are handmade entirely of long leaf pine needles and rafia (fiber from the raffia palm) by the Coushatta Indians of Texas and western Louisiana. They are made in traditional shapes of various sizes. The delicately woven lids for the round baskets are particularly interesting. Each piece comes with a descriptive card to compliment a truly cultural acquisition or an unusual gift.

THE KANSAS CITY ARCHAEOLOGIST, SPECIAL BULLETIN NO. 3, DEDICATED TO MARGARET SHIPPEE

The Kansas City Archaeological Society has published Vol. 3 of "The Kansas City Archaeologist." As with previous titles in the series, No. 3 is designed to emphasize archaeology in Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas. What it was like to be the wife of a Kansas City area pioneer archaeologist is told in the biographical sketch of Margaret Shippee. Written by her daughters, this sketch describes the struggles and humor of a courageous woman dedicated to her family. It describes her belief in her husband's (J. Mett Shippee's) archaeological work and her willingness to suffer financial sacrifices in order to enable his research to continue.

Various kinds of anthropological information is included in this volume. The feature article by Judith Deel summarizes what is known about the prehistoric Nebo Hill people (circa 2,000 B.C.) and describes the excavation of an important Nebo Hill site about 30 miles southwest of Kansas City. Deel is the local government coordinator for the Historic Preservation Program, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, headquartered in Jefferson City. Vol. 3 also contains a bit of history of archaeology in the Kansas City area taken from the diary of Richard G. Slattery. He is president of the Iowa Archaeological Society. Slattery's journal gives a glimpse of what it was like to work for Dr. Waldo Wedel as a member of the Smithsonian Institution's archaeological crew during the Depression.

Jim Feagins, frequent advisor to the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museum staffs, was one of the editors of the 100-page Vol. 3. It may be purchased for \$4.50, plus \$1.50 postage and handling, from the KCAS, c/o Florence Peaslee, treasurer, 10904 East 63rd St., Raytown, MO 64133.

Mary Helen Burrowes



Ryan Koerner, 1992 USA National Missouri Teen, makes her state essay presentation "Gateway to the West" at the USA National Teen competition. Special thanks go to Russ Mooney of Bill's Saddlery for providing the mochila, Marcia Bogess for the loan of the hat and Bob Brown for the red shirt. Ryan placed in the top 5 in two categories - talent and sportswear. Congratulations Ryan!

NEW AND REINSTATED MEMBERS

The board of trustees and staff of both the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums would like to welcome the following new and reinstated members. We appreciate their interest in the museums and we are very grateful for their support.

Terrence H. Allen
of Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Bill and Joy Cole
of St. Joseph, Missouri

Constance R. Saxton
of St. Joseph, Missouri

KIDS LEARN... *continued from page 1*

Wilson and her assistants, Marci Pickard and Brandon Sumner, recently spent a morning at the Pony Express Museum. They interviewed Jackie Lewin, curator of history, in addition to recruiting the assistance of three young visitors. The trio, Sarah, David and Rose Barnes, along with their parents, David and Cami, were visiting the museum as a part of their five-month touring vacation of the United States. What a great way to get an education!

The Barnes children live with their parents on Whidbey Island which is approximately two hours north of Seattle, Washington. The children receive most of their schooling at home, however, at various times they do go to public schools.

Along with Jackie Lewin and the Barnes children, Pickard and Sumner filmed various exhibits and artifacts throughout the museum. After viewing the Pony Express National Memorial video, Wilson, Pickard and Sumner decided they also want to include footage of the horse and rider and NASA Astronaut William F. Fisher, M.D.

The program will air on Saturday, November 7, at 11:30 a.m. on KSHB-41 and again in the spring of 1993. One hundred fifteen stations will carry the show this fall and 150 in the spring.

The Pony Express Museum extends our sincere thanks to Suzanne Bradley for being the catalyst for this opportunity. Her discussion with her long time friend Ann Cooling, who is a partner in FOR KIDS, BY KIDS, INC., led to the Pony Express being included in the communications segment of the show.

Reva Rocha

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Enclosed is a check for:
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Museum or Pony Express
Museum and mail to:

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— 250.00	Sponsor	— 25.00	Sustaining

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 3 - Volkswalk cohosted by the St. Joseph Museum and the Family YMCA.

October 10 - Midland Empire Audubon Society field trip - Kansas River Bottoms.

October 15 - "The Land of Ahs" field trip including Lawrence and Topeka, Ks.

October 17 - Midland Empire Audubon Society field trip - Weston Bend State Park Fish Hatchery.

October 26 - St. Joseph Archaeological Society meeting, 7:30 p.m., Bank of St. Joseph (basement), Faraon Street and Woodbine Road. For more information call Mike Fisher, society president, 232-5738.

For more museum information call 232-8471

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St. Joseph Museum

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St. Joseph, Missouri 64501-2874

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Pony Express Museum

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