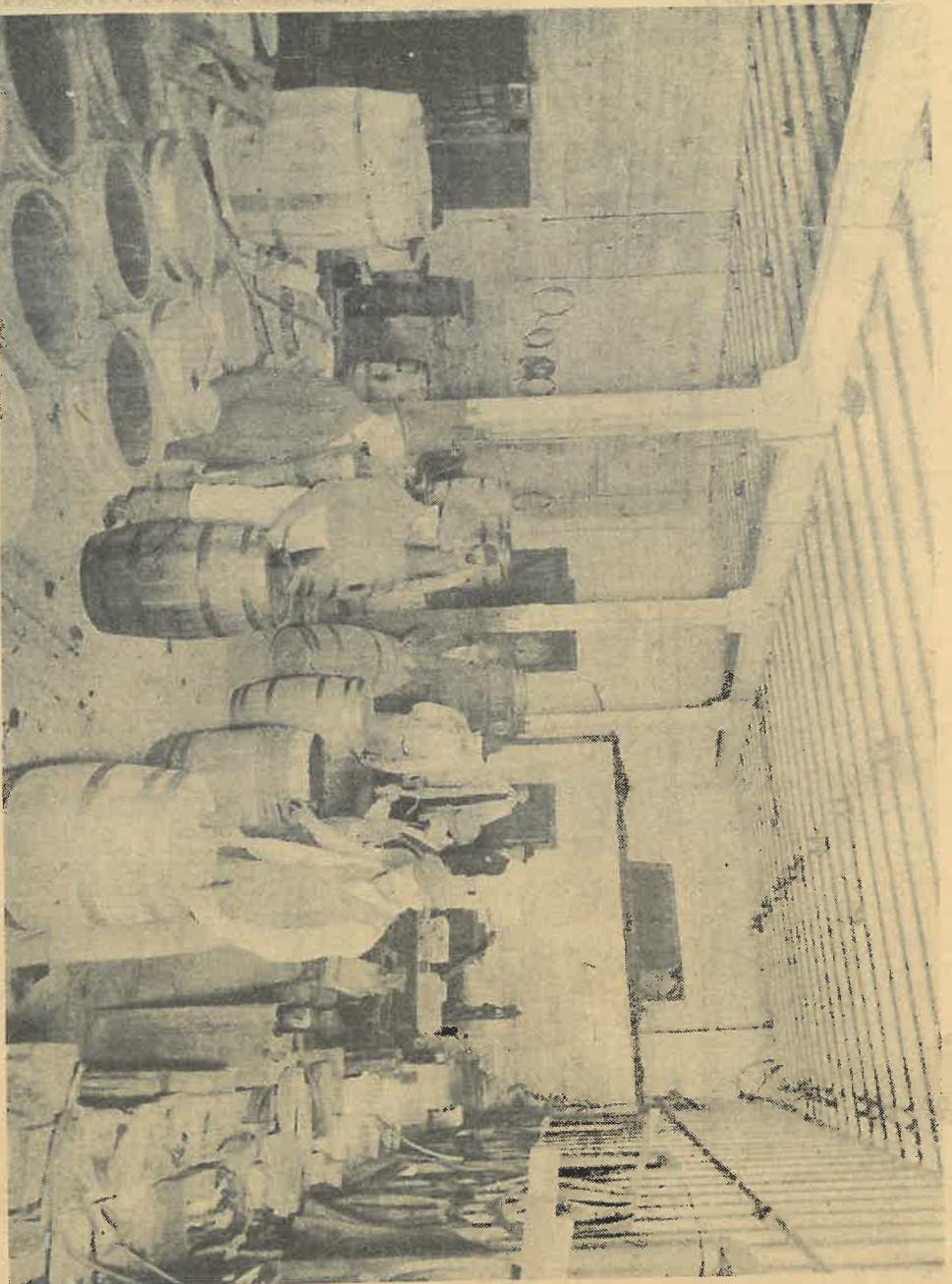




Drug Store Circa 1907

This picture of a drug store at the southeast corner of 19th and Olive streets was taken in July, 1907. At the left is the owner, Frank Long, and in the center Louis W. Pilgram. The identity of the man at the right is unknown. Mr. Long and Mr. Pilgram were both registered pharmacists. Mr. Pilgram was a druggist here for more than half a century before dying several years ago. He operated his own drug stores and worked in others. This picture is owned by his daughter, Mrs. Jack D. Vancil, 2812 Sacramento.



Armour Cooper Shop in 1908

This photograph shows the interior of the cooper shop at Armour and Co. taken in 1908. It was submitted by Joseph Moore Jr., 1522 South 22d, who retired from Armour's after 50 years of service, starting there when he was 15. Among those pictured are John L. Kashner, foreman; Fred Pioch, Frank Gist, Joseph Moore Sr., and Henry T. Summers, plant chief of police.



This undated photograph from the St. Joseph Museum shows downtown as it once was — a thriving place of business for those who lived around it. Drug, department and grocery stores lined the streets of downtown St. Joseph. Today, antique and gift stores are the primary tenants, changing the face of downtown and who shops there.

Werner's Shoes closing heralds end of an era

6-7-98

By FRED KOENIG
 fredk@npgco.com
 St. Joseph News-Press

As the Werner's Shoe Center, 110 S. Eighth St., prepares to close shop after serving downtown St. Joseph for 75 years, it signifies one of the last rem-

that carry many different brands of shoes have changed the marketplace.

"It is hard for independent operators to make it with a retail business now," Mr. Parson said. "It is hard to compete with the volume the other shoe stores handle."

Plus, the face of those who shop downtown is



Business and agriculture

Local magazine struggles to publish

By JULIE BLOMQUIST

Staff Writer

The January 1986 edition of the magazine "Sights & Sounds of Saint Joseph" will probably be the final one, if subscriptions don't double by that time, Bennett Walker Jr., owner, said Wednesday.

The magazine — the third attempt made in the last decade to publish a local-interest monthly — has been beset with delayed publication dates, a lack of advertising and subscribers and reports of contributors who have not been paid for their work.

"One of our biggest problems is cash flow," Walker said. "We are fighting night and day to keep the magazine running.

"I think the people of St. Joseph want it, but there are not enough subscribers."

"Sights & Sounds," which began publication in April 1985, has 900 subscribers, 75 of which live outside the city. Walker said he had anticipated a circulation of 2,500 by this time.

"Since May, subscription has doubled, but I thought it would double each month," the owner said.

The August and September issues were not published because the printers, Boelte-Hall Litho Co. Inc. of Kansas City, were replacing their equipment, Walker said. The next magazine will be a combined August-September-October issue, he said.

"The equipment broke down because they were not set up for such a large publication," he said. "The July issue was late because the magazines were (originally) printed crooked."



Staff photo by ROBERT ROGERS

Bennett Walker says he's fighting to keep the St. Joseph magazine going.

Local hotels and restaurants should be particularly interested in placing ads in "Sights & Sounds," Walker said, because the publication focuses on past and present points of interest in St. Joseph.

Along with printing problems and a lack of subscribers and ads, Walker owes money to several of the magazine's contributors.

me off again, I will probably go to small claims court."

Walker said he had arranged with Herman to "pay as he could."

One contributor, Phillip Geller, already has resorted to court action to get his money. The court recently ruled that Walker should pay Geller \$104.50 for photos of the old city Auditorium used in the June issue of

him he couldn't afford to pay him, but would do so when he was able.

Harrison Hartley, St. Joseph, said he would have been happy to write for "Sights & Sounds" without payment, but that Walker offered him money before he wrote two articles that have since been published in the magazine. Hartley said he has received only \$50, when the "going

Keeping jobs: And the wait goes on



The Quaker Oats plant in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, shown here, faces the same uncertainty as five other plants in five other

Way campaigns and to the March of Dimes in some areas. In short: Nobody wants to lose Quaker.

St. Joseph's Quaker plant is the fourth-largest manufacturer in the city with 600 employees. The plant has had a presence here since 1926, when it bought out Aunt Jemima Mills.

Economic development officials have been discussing economic incentives with Quaker officials for months. They aren't alone.

Here's a look at how Quaker fits in to five other communi-

ties and what those cities are doing, if anything, to try to keep the plants:

- Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is home to the largest and most enduring Quaker plant. In fact, Quaker began there in the mid-1800s. Now, Cedar Rapids is home to a 1,200-employee cereal mill and manufacturing center, producing cold cereals, hot cereals and corn products like grits.

It is the largest cereal mill in the world, said Todd Bergen, president of Priority 1, an economic development

group in Cedar Rapids.

"I think there is certainly a possibility that we could be affected," Mr. Bergen said. "My gut feeling is that everyone will be affected. It may be that we gain certain things and we lose others and that it doesn't affect employment, or that it does."

By most accounts, Cedar Rapids is considered economically healthy. Unemployment ranges between 1.5 and 3 percent. Quaker contributes to that low rate, as it is among the top 10 in employers in the city, with General Mills and Rockwell as

Photo courtesy of Cedar Rapids Gazette

other larger employers in Cedar Rapids, a city of 120,000.

Mr. Bergen said he's not sure there is anything he can do to stop the company from cutting jobs in Cedar Rapids.

"They make decisions based on significant, broad business factors," Mr. Bergen said. "Even if we gave them a million dollars to stay here, that might work for a couple of years, but then they might eventually say, 'We can no longer support the cost of the plant.'"

6 cities await Quaker Oats decision

Continued from Page A1

Mr. Bergen and other city leaders plan to stay in touch with Quaker officials.

"We are hoping history plays to our strength, but who knows?" Mr. Bergen said. "I can tell you this much: We are not panicked yet. We are talking to all the right people and keeping our bases covered."

● Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, is home to a Quaker plant that employs 600 people. Like St. Joseph, the plant is a major economic force in the city of 70,000. The plant in Peterborough manufactures granola bars, hot cereal, pancake mix, cookie mixes and cold cereals.

And it sits right in the middle of town, which would create a huge empty space in the city if vacated, according to Douglas Armstrong, general manager of the Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce. He also worries about the economic trickle down to other industries if the Quaker plant in Peterborough were to close.

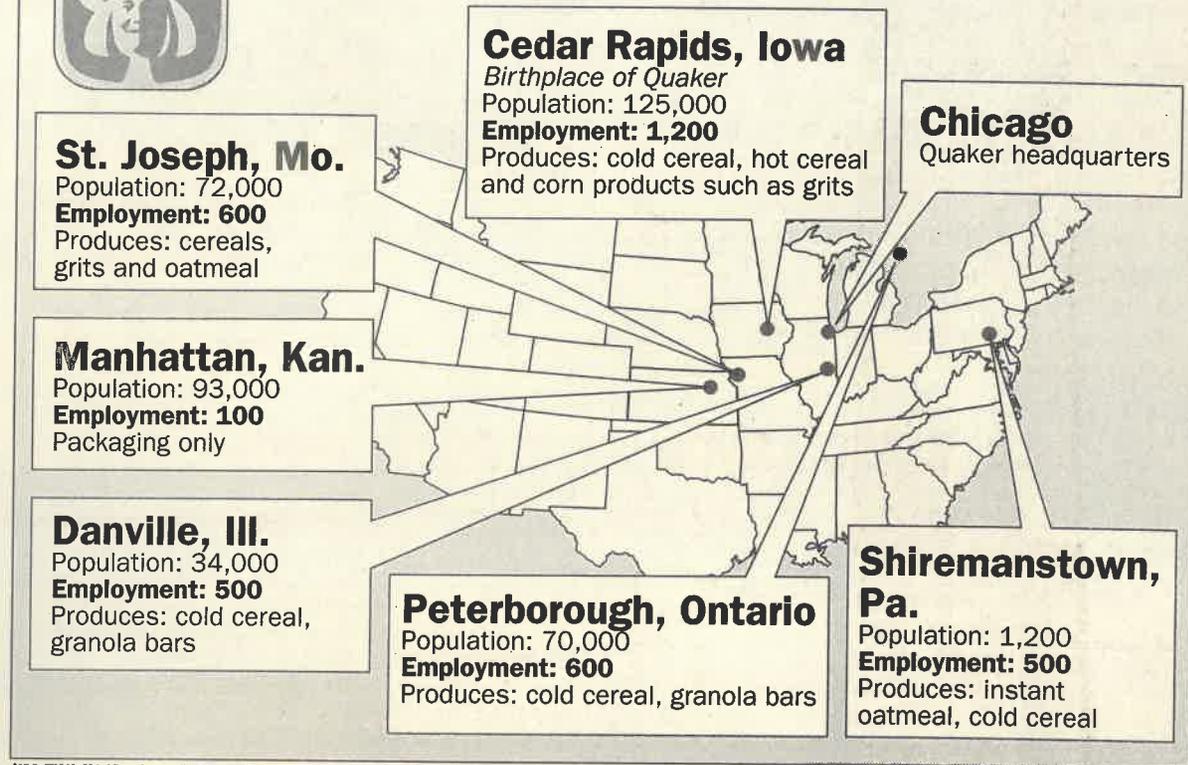
"The spinoff would be very dramatic," Mr. Armstrong said. In Peterborough, economic incentives are illegal, so that isn't a card he can play.

"We have had companies leave because they were offered economic incentives to go to the states," Mr. Armstrong said. "That can only go so far, though, until the community goes bankrupt because you can only give away so much money. The real question is, is it more economic to produce products here in Peterborough or is it more economic to do it somewhere else?"

● Danville, Ill., a city of 34,000, ranks Quaker as their 11th largest employer. Like many cities, the Quaker plant has been a major employer.



Quaker's food plants



JIM FINLAY/St. Joseph News-Press

art said. "So we are not caught by surprise when they are considering things like this."

Danville, though, might have more at stake than other cities because of the community's relatively high unemployment. Numbers released just this week show the county at 6.7 percent unemployment, which she said is average for the community.

Danville officials were also working on economic incentives for the Quaker plant.

● A small suburb of Harrisburg, Pa., Quaker is a dominant force of life in Shiremanstown, Pa. The plant employs about 500

cumulative affect of several plant closings.

"By the very nature of the company and what they produce, it provides a lot of ancillary employment to the community," Mr. Messner said.

Trucking and rail car industries, along with warehousing, have prospered due to the area's rich food trade business. Quaker was one of the building blocks in the area's thriving food business, Mr. Messner said.

Mr. Messner didn't say if the community would offer economic incentives.

● Though Manhattan, Kan.,

tention to operate in Manhattan, she said. But that doesn't mean Quaker is no longer important.

"We consider Quaker to be one of our major employers," Ms. Harts said. "We are just a community that does everything we can to make sure all of our employers are satisfied here."

Ms. Harts wouldn't say if the community would offer economic incentives or not.

No matter what Quaker does, 1,400 job cuts will be heavily felt somewhere.

The cuts could stretch to the company's headquarters in Chicago and to distribution cen-

St. Joseph News Press

'Tain't 'phunny'

3-13-81

Mayor Wiser doesn't think the Phony Express logo is very "phunny."

The logo, which appeared in the Friday Gazette, shows a resolute Pony Express rider clenching a bundle of flowers while mounted on a stick horse. It is the symbol of YOUTH Inc., an experimental business for young people sponsored by the state department of alcohol and drug abuse.

Both the newspaper and the corporation will soon receive formal notice of the criticism in letters from the mayor's office.

"It's all been handled very tastelessly," Wiser said. "I think the paper handled it very poorly."

"And I can't imagine anyone in their right mind making such an attack on the single-most important symbol this city has."

A spokesman responded that he did not feel the logo was in poor taste. The project official, however, refused further comment until discussion of the matter with program supervisors.

Program offers youths business training

3-13-81 *Phony Express* *by G. J. White*

By JOHN RICHARD MIER II

Staff Writer

If you're between the ages of 14 and 18, would like an opportunity to display your talents in a multi-faceted business setting — and make some money doing it — The Phony Express may be your answer.

Made possible through funding by the Prudential Insurance Co., The Phony Express is a youth operated business project developed under the auspices of Y.O.U.T.H. Inc.

"The organization Y.O.U.T.H. Inc., has been around for about a year, but it fell apart," explains Larry Black, program director.

"Basically, we picked up where they left off and changed projects — one we think we can get kids involved in."

That project, The Phony Express, will include singing telegrams, a floral service and other areas in a professional business setting operated by youth for the benefit of youth and the community in which they live.

"Prudential got into this thing as a way to allow kids to achieve and develop self-worth by doing things they are interested in," Black says.

The nationwide insurance company's "Channel One" program offers the

funnel for youth-oriented projects, usually through state agencies, such as Missouri's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

"In Missouri it's treated pretty much as a drug and alcohol prevention type of thing, with the idea that if kids can do things they're interested in, the won't need to abuse chemicals," Black says.

"This is a drug and alcohol prevention program, but we're not hitting that very hard. We're not offering therapy. We're not doing consultations.

"We're a business, and through that maybe we can give them something to do that's not just educational."

Black describes The Phony Express as a very structured, professional organization where participants will know from the beginning what they can expect in terms of involvement.

"It's like a corporation. We have a board of directors, and it's our goal that the majority of board members will be youth. There still will be adult members, but the emphasis in this thing is youth.

"A major point of the project is to make it a self-sustaining type of thing. Hopefully, it will teach that you get out of it what you put into it."

What "you put into it" has virtually unlimited bounds, as displayed by the various divisions of The Phony Express: floral; talent; business; Pony Power (where customers can purchase services such as lawn mowing and odd jobs); art gallery; and general work experience.

"The way we're set up, if a kid comes in with a talent, we'll make a place for him," Black says. "They don't have to have a particular talent when they first come in."

According to the design of The Phony Express, workers begin in an apprenticeship program of totally voluntary training, then go to a 50-50, pay-volunteer basis, then move on to a full-time pay scale, which may be set on an hourly or commission basis.

Black explains that how quickly the worker progresses to the full-time pay level depends on the worker, just like in the real world of business.

This Saturday, from 9 to 4, Black and co-director Shloe Barrick will be at The Phony Express headquarters at 721 Edmund St. to take applications, discuss the program and answer questions.

Black hopes the operation will get under way by mid-April or May.

'Phony Express' youth program takes last ride

By MARK SHEEHAN
Staff Writer

The Phony Express Friday closed its door as the once highly touted youth business group found an even quicker death than its namesake.

Its fate had been sealed since last fall. But even as the final piece of equipment was being hauled from the store front at 712 Edmond St., officials expressed disappointment with its passing.

"I am disappointed," Joseph Smith, regional manager of the Missouri Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, said Friday morning. "I guess partly because I put some effort into getting it started.

"As I remember, it would have been two years old this past December. Of course, most of that came while we were organizing. But, still, I would like to have seen it go on."

The Prudential Insurance Co. financed the program through the fed-

erative, ---
burden on the adult program ---
tors, he said.

81
eral government. The goal is to move young people away from drugs and alcoholism by getting them involved in a business they organize, operate and from which they benefit.

Under Smith's coaching, the program developed here first as Y.O.U.T.H. Inc. and later as the Phony Express. The latter opened as a floral design, singing telegram and student art business in May of last year.

The market for those goods was apparently bad, Smith observed.

"I would like to think it fell victim to the same economic conditions that are hitting us all," the regional manager said. "You know the things they sold, while they were not exactly luxury items, weren't exactly necessity, either."

Musical chairs among the adult advisors also lent a "disruptive" element in the program's closing, Smith

See PHONY on Page 2A

'TIMELY' OBSERVATIONS**FREDERICK W.
SLATER****Small bakeries
make come-back**

THE COMING SHUTDOWN OF BAKING OPERATIONS at Colonial Bakeries — originally Cripe Baking Co. — recalled to some the days where there were more than 30 bakeries in St. Joseph. The vast majority of those bakeries, 50 and more years ago, were Mom and Pop affairs.

Some of those names were Bellon, Bergman, Binswanger, Burnstein, Carpenter, Danbach, Dycus, Fiedler's, Filkovich, Herman, Houston, Kallauner, Kunzelman, Mueller, Pinger, Riffer, Schinze, Shambarger, Stephan, Stumpf, Staedtler, Vavra, Vogelmann, Wank, Witt and Woellner.

THE ONE we knew most about was Fred Stephan's bakery on the east side of North 11th Street, halfway between Powell and Corby streets. Fred and his wife and their family lived upstairs in the two-story frame structure and the bakery was on the first floor — with a bell that jangled when a customer opened the door. Mrs. Stephan usually waited on customers though at times Fred, with a liberal dusting of flour on his baker's garb, would do counter duty.

On the north side of the building was, at times, a great stack of cord wood, with pieces approximately three to four feet long, waiting to be burned in the baker's oven. The woodpile would go down week by week and then be built up again as a new load of fuel arrived.

SIDES SELLING HUGE DOUGHNUTS for a dozen and snails for a dime a dozen, the offered bread, which was unsliced, as a selection of tasty pies and cakes and there was a candy counter which featured candy, including chocolate covered

peanuts which Mrs. Stephan would count out ten for a penny, one-cent jawbreakers, nickel candy bars and licorice whips.

OUTSIDE WAS A CAST IRON FOUNTAIN which had a horse watering trough on the cobblestone gutter street side and a water spout for humans — mostly small boys — on the sidewalk side. At times, the fountain would be covered with a wonderful green moss which did not deter either boys or horses from drinking the cool water. In early winters, when someone would forget to turn off the water on a chilly night, the fountain would become a miniature ice mountain by morning as the water continued to flow — and freeze in fantastic shapes.

Of course, if one wanted rye bread, he could walk over to North Third Street to Fischer's Bakery or go down to Burnstein's on South Eighth Street for pumpernickel. Grocery stores carried bread, usually baked by the larger bakeries. Many of the unsliced and unwrapped loaves carried a small paper stamp, the indication it had been baked by union bakers.

SOME BAKERIES, such as Mueller's on Frederick Avenue and Fiedler's, downtown, specialized in cakes as well as other pastries.

But the closing of Colonial may be a shot in the arm to smaller bakeries such as Bee Wayne's, Baby Cakes, B & D's, Sugar Shack, Jerre Anne's and a host of doughnut shops. People who want St. Joseph-baked pastry, bread, cake, pies and cookies have kept and will keep those places going — and sometimes selling out before the end of the day.

FROM PAGE 1

ST. JOSEPH (MO.) NEWS-PRESS C

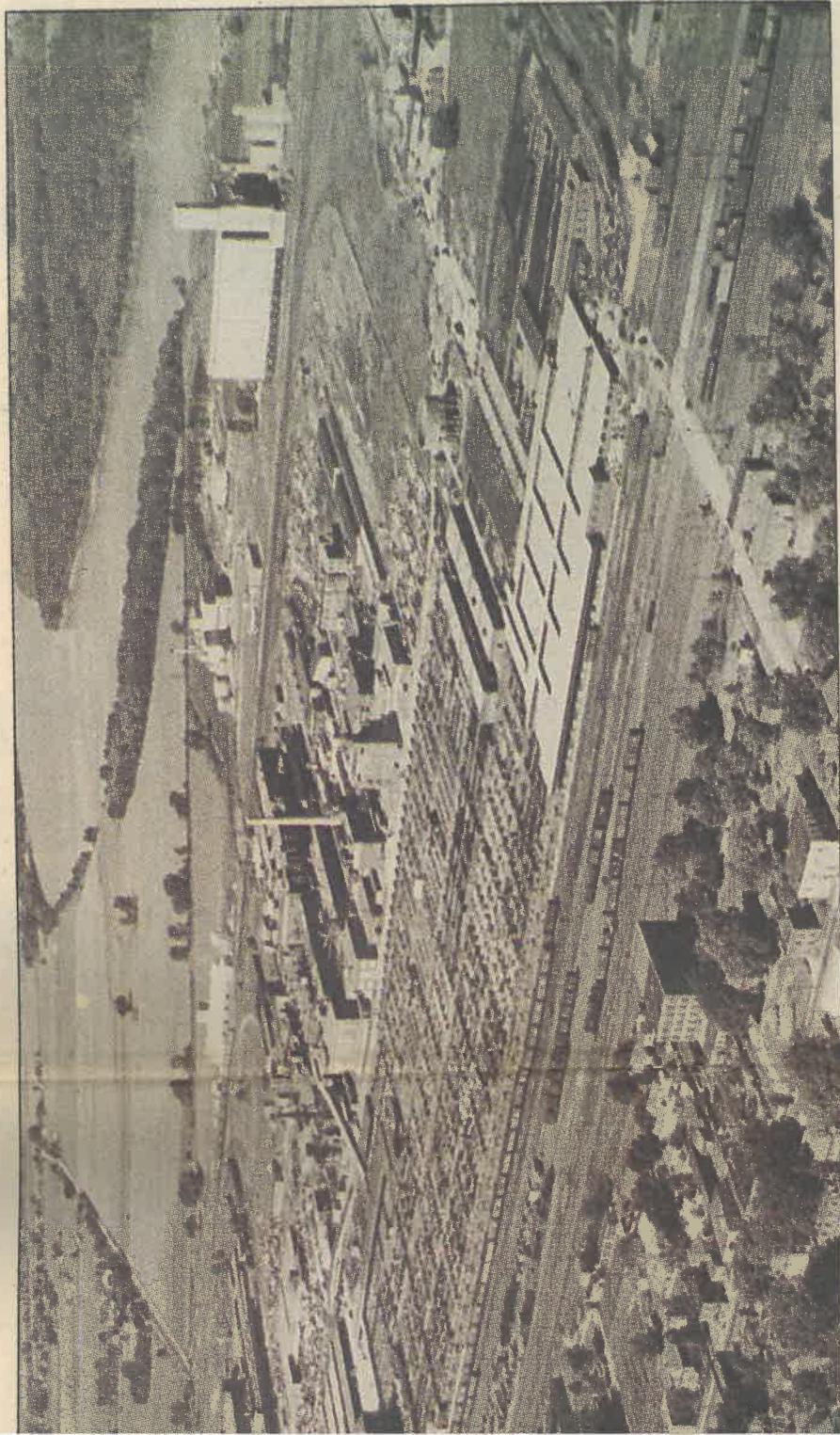


Photo courtesy of the St. Joseph Stockyards.

Area surrounding it shows the
at one time, Swift and Armour

had plants surrounding the Stockyards. St. Joseph Stockyards was once the fifth
largest in the nation. Swift and Armour have since left the city.

cline of an empire

g plants left town,

but the Stockyards lives on

1887
The stockyards opened for business at the present location

1894
The stockyards purchased the failed Moran Packing Plant and leased it to Swift & Co.

1897
Swift & Co. became majority owner of the stockyards

1898
Original Exchange Building on Missouri Avenue destroyed by fire

1899
New Exchange Building built

1927
St. Joseph was the fifth largest livestock market in the U.S.

1989
Stockyards purchased by United Market Stockyards

By **SUSAN MIREs**
susanm@npcco.com
St. Joseph News-Press

With sights and sounds and an atmosphere all its own, the St. Joseph Stockyards functioned for years like an independent city.

The Stockyards Exchange Building boasted its own post office, telegraph office, bank and restaurant. The stockyards, and the meat packing industry that went with it, even gave rise to its own suburb in South St. Joseph.

Like any city, the history of the stockyards is marked by periods of booming trade and phenomenal growth, followed by disappointing setbacks and finding new ways to survive.

"You've got to find your niche. You cannot fight trends and survive," said Ed Czerwien, current stockyards manager. Mr. Czer-

A Century of Business



wien came to the stockyards in 1989 when it was purchased by United Market Services.

Today, the St. Joseph Stockyards' largest venture is marketing feeder cattle through weekly sales. During the winter, as many as 5,000 head of cattle are moved on sale day. The stockyards also market slaughter hogs, feeder pigs and sheep.

Today's trade volume seems

paltry, however, to those who remember the heyday of the stockyards in the middle of this century.

"There is no comparison now to what it was way back when I started," said Dale Wheeler, who took his first job at the stockyards in 1958 and retired this spring. During those 41 years in the cattle yards, he witnessed a marked decrease in the amount of livestock moving through St. Joseph.

"It didn't drop off all at once. It just kind of declined through the years," Mr. Wheeler noted.

But before local packing plants closed and before farmers marketed livestock direct to processors, the St. Joseph Stockyards was one of the busiest places in the Midwest.

Please see **The decline/Page C3**

Meatpacking brought jobs to So

By **SUSAN MIREs**
susanm@npcco.com
St. Joseph News-Press

The St. Joseph Stockyards was not only a world of its own, it helped create a portion of the city.

In the heart of farm country, St. Joseph seemed destined to become a livestock and meat packing center. As early as the 1840s, reports of large hog and beef slaughters were recorded.

In 1880, 25,000 tons of ice was chopped

from the Missouri River and Lake Conrardy for the packing houses.

When three companies — Swift & Co., Nelson Morris & Co. and Hammond Packing — opened large packing plants in St. Joseph, the people celebrated for three days in May 1898.

Most of the plants' first workers were from Eastern Europe, where they had learned how to make sausages and other fancy meats. Many of the workers lived in houses built by the packing companies in South St. Joseph, an area culturally and

physically separated from the city. In fact, it was originally George or Georgetown.

At one point, the plants, which were well covered 83 acres and e-

rs. "If you wanted a job across the tracks to and if you did your job your whole life, Crockett, Western sioner for Buchanan

Keep your fingers crossed and eat your cereal

Shame on you. You haven't been eating your Toasted Oatmeal your King Vito

that most of those cuts will come from the cereal



to the community, the great gaping hole such an empty plant with leaves

plants, ranking the neediest cities first.

BUSINESS/C/S/ESS/CT/C/ISSIFIED

Aunt Jemima started here

N-P 2-11-00

Many people in St. Joseph will be shocked when they read "Slave in a Box," subtitled "The Strange Career of Aunt Jemima." The book, published by the University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville and London, was written by Maurice M. Manring, director of media relations at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

The shocking news?

- The original Aunt Jemima was a man.



Fred Slater
Timely Observations
Emeritus

- Aunt Jemima is racist, and her image belittles black women.

- Aunt Jemima is sexist, making women kitchen slaves who are exploited by males.

The book

states the entire Aunt Jemima legend is advertising baloney. That was not a surprise, as many have known for years that the legend was a very successful advertising gimmick.

The first three points will be considered heresy by many St. Joseph residents, most of whom think of Aunt Jemima as a manufacturing plant named after a kindly black woman, a plant that for more than a century has been a major St. Joseph employer, pouring millions of dollars in salaries and grain purchases each year into our economy.

Even though Quaker Oats, which bought the Aunt Jemima firm some 75 years ago, is shutting down its St. Joseph plant in a year and a half, Aunt Jemima remains a colorful symbol of a blend of Southern hospitality and good cooking with Yankee manufacturing, promotion and success.

But Mr. Manring's book deals more with socio-cultural matters, not with actual manufacturing, although he

Mr. Rutt, seeking a catchy name for the product, latched onto the name "Aunt Jemima," after he saw a Baker & Farrel minstrel show in which a white man, in blackface and dressed as a Negro nanny, was a key performer. A caricature of Aunt Jemima went on the one-pound paper bags in which the mix was sold, and the name clicked. Aunt Jemima became "the" pancake flour.

In essence, the new book shows Chris Rutt selected the name, and Purd Wright created the legend about the Southern cook who worked for a Colonel Higbee on Rosemont, a Louisiana plantation. Newell Convers Wyeth, noted illustrator — father of Andrew Wyeth and grandfather of James Wyeth, both famous Pennsylvania/Delaware artists, and William Webb Young, a genius at the Walter J. Thompson advertising agency — fleshed out the legend and provided the artwork that made Aunt Jemima the nation's best known black woman — perhaps best known woman of her time.

In the 1890s, the firm's first Aunt Jemima was Nancy Greene, who had actually been a slave. She was a major hit at the Chicago Columbian Exposition of 1893 as she flipped a million pancakes and told tales. Later, the St. Joseph firm had 350-pound Anna Robinson who toured the country. In post World War II days, the Quaker firm used several black women at the same time to visit fairs and other promotional events.

Over the years, the picture on the pancake box changed until today Aunt Jemima appears as an attractive, smiling light-colored woman — minus a bandanna.

When civil rights became popular, Aunt Jemima became a lightning rod for protests. As the author notes in his book, Cyril V. Briggs, publisher of a black magazine, initiated the attack as he termed Aunt Jemima "an insult" to blacks and black women.

In Chicago, the National

“
When civil rights became popular, Aunt Jemima became a lightning rod for protests.
”

Jemima promotion resulted in the firm receiving thousands of requests for lithographed cloth that was used to make stuffed dolls; Aunt Jemima, Uncle Moses — that was her husband — and Diana and Wade, their children. As Mr. Manring says, those dolls could be cuddled, dropped, thrown and sat on and would still turn up good as "new."

Where are the paintings Mr. Wyeth made that were used in the advertising? For years, until civil rights came along, the works of art were in the lobby of the Quaker Oats office on South 11th Street in St. Joseph. Answer: Now they are in storage in St. Joseph — and probably pretty valuable as are other works by N.C. Wyeth who is famous for his illustrations in "The Last of the Mohicans."

The paintings depicted "A Gray Morn," the burning of the steam boat Emily Duncan with Aunt Jemima serving pancakes to the survivors; Jemima's goodbye to the Old Plantation before leaving for St. Joseph where she would be paid in gold for her recipe and show Northerners how to make pancake flour; Aunt Jemima at the 1893 World Fair, and guests dropping in for pancakes. One was titled, "The Cook whose Cabin Became More Famous than Uncle Tom's."

Mr. Manring, who hails from nearby Albany, Mo., and who spent three years researching and writing his book, summed things up best when he concluded, "Aunt Jemima lives on because white Americans like having a

Goosetown still home to many in St. Joseph

Continued from Page B1

The settlers organized a Catholic congregation in 1883, and after purchasing the home of Mr. Hall at 20th and Messanie streets, converted it into a church called SS. Peter and Paul.

They even changed the name of the street the church sat on.

"Anybody doubting they came from Poland only has to see that the only street not numbered is Warsaw Avenue, and that's the Polish capitol," said Mr. Chilcote.

Many businesses thrived in the area for several years and became well-known fixtures of the community and of the city. Many folks today can still remember such Goosetown icons as: The Plaza Theatre, Mackiewicz Grocery, Mull Barbershop, Harold's Tavern, L & M Tavern, Old Maid's and Rezac Hardware and Rental store.

"I still remember when the old electric street cars used to run up and down this street," Mr. Harris said.

Today, new businesses like Fred's Barber and Beauty Shop, Merritt's Office Systems and Acme Music Company call

Goosetown home. No one owns any geese in the area anymore, and it's a melting pot of many racial and ethnic groups.

"When I was a kid, lots of Polish people were still there, and they raised geese," Mr. Chilcote said.

"But as families got older, the younger generations moved elsewhere. There was no longer any allegiance or reason to stay in the community."

Mr. Harris himself even thought about leaving Goosetown once. But like the neighborhood, he too has persevered.

"When long hair came in, I didn't want to learn how to cut long hair and do hair styling; and I about went broke, so I got a part-time job at Wonder Bread," he said.

"Now the styles are going back to spikes and flattops, and I'm back in business."

Tales of the Midland Empire is published weekly. If you know an unusual story, unusual bits of history or an unusual person in the area, call Alonzo Weston at 271-8574 (800) 779-6397 or e-mail him at alonzow@npgco.com.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. JOSEPH, MO
PERMIT NO. 274



Telegraph

Thursday, March 21, 1991 No. 12

Large sign is issue at Council meeting

by Duane Thies
Telegraph Staff Writer

A large 45-foot tall sign being built just to the east of Fast Gas 'n Snacks at 38th and Mitchell Avenue has many residents of that area upset.

And it became one of the topics of the St. Joseph City Council meeting Monday night.

Eugene Bartels, 3821 Mitchell Avenue, representing residents of the neighborhood, said he was con-

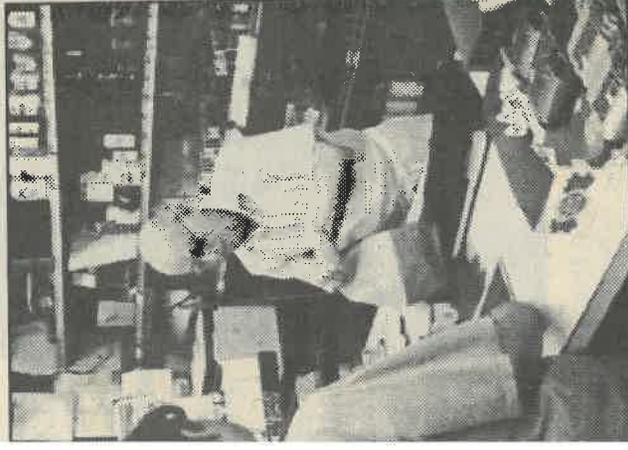
from the properties in the neighborhood. He said he had talked to members of the Planning and Zoning staff who said the property is zoned for C-3 or commercial, which permits the sign.

"This is the only commercial property in the neighborhood, and the sign is adjacent to a residential district," Bartels said. "If this kind of thing is permitted under present zoning codes, then our codes may need to be updated."

Mayor Glenda Kelly said City Manager Patt Lilly is looking into the situation.

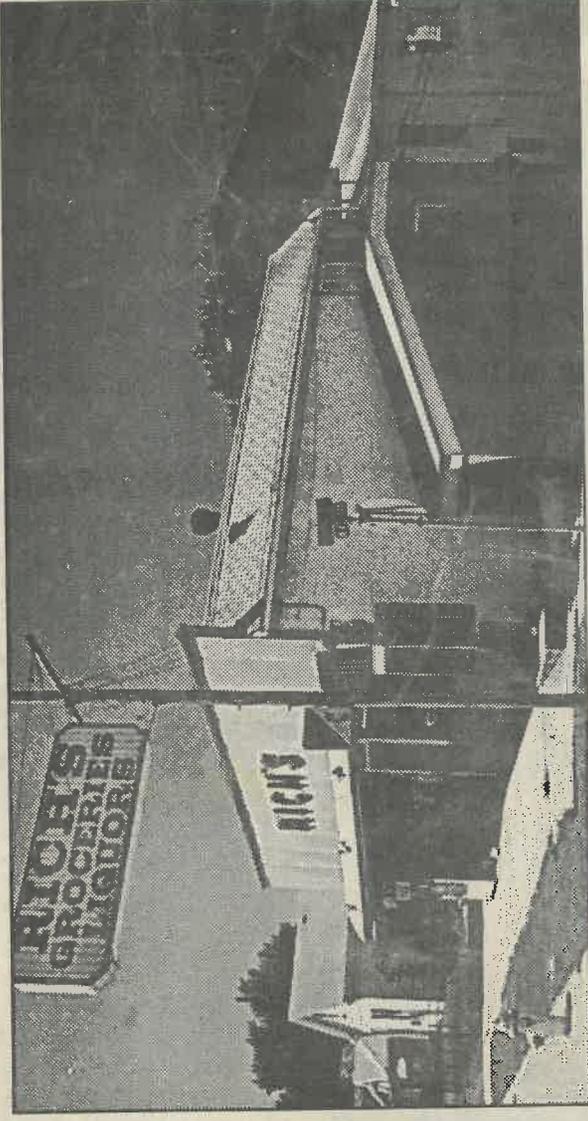
and I did. “We worked right out of a Western Dairy Truck,” he explains. “It would pull up next to the building and I had to cut a hole to get all the extension cords through so it could get power.”

Unfortunately, not everyone who comes into a neighborhood grocery is a customer. Ben remembers the time two men pulled guns and demanded



sfy customers after 51 years in business.

I don't cash. “I just put my hands up,” he says, “and said, ‘Take anything you want. Take the whole damn store.’ Then I put my hands on the back of Lil's waist and said, ‘Come on, honey,



Ben changed the store at 19th and Mitchell and added a seven-room house at the back to raise his family. two convenience stores. “He never did Liquor,” it would be okay, but like it pull a gun,” Ben explains, “but he had is, you'll have to take it down.” something in his pocket. I thought it “Okay,” Ben said, “I'll get it.” “I mean was probably a toy, but I didn't take NOW,” the state man snapped, no any chances with it.” doubt feeling great satisfaction at

Nor are thugs the only unpleasant visitors. During “Blue Law” days, Ben had put a new awning on the front facade reading “Rich Food and Liquor

Store.” Shortly after, a Missouri liquor inspector came in. “How long have you had that awning?” he asked. Ben replied, “Oh, couple of months, I guess. Why?” “Because,” the state man said, “there are NO ‘liquor stores’ in Missouri! If it said ‘Food Store and

Liquor,” it would be okay, but like it is, you'll have to take it down.” “Okay,” Ben said, “I'll get it.” “I mean NOW,” the state man snapped, no doubt feeling great satisfaction at enforcing such a fine distinction. Ben found a bucket of whitewash and corrected the problem.

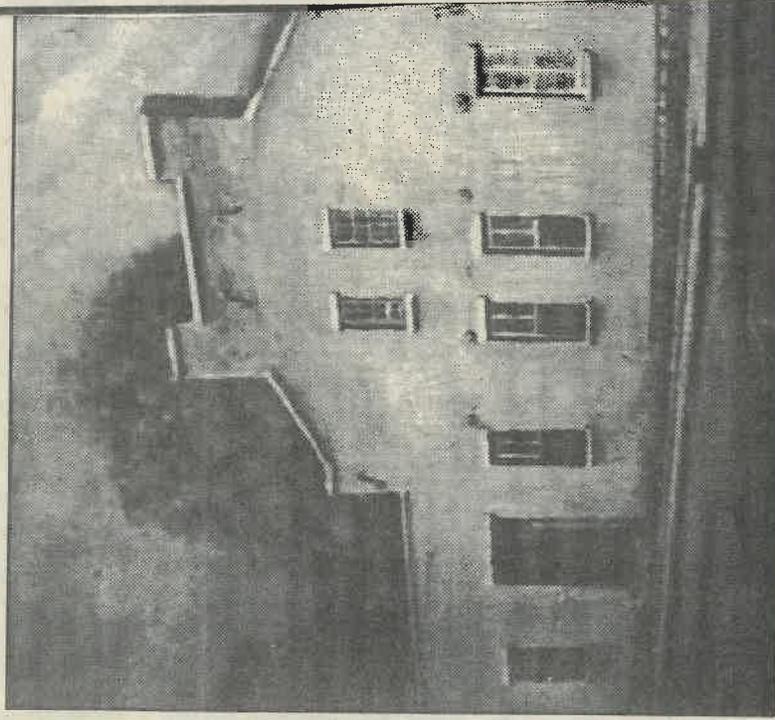
In the last 51 years Ben has seen many changes. He built a homey seven-room addition on the back of his in-law's building to accommodate his family; daughter Diane (now an Andrew County housewife) and son Jeffrey (a professional airman who, it is said, looks exactly like his dad).

Miss Lillian passed away in March, 1996, but Ben carries on the Rich tradition providing (among other things) nearly legendary ham salad. “We sell maybe 50 pounds a week,” Ben says. “That and our ground chuck are main items. And we're the only ones around who slice our lunch meat fresh.”

For Ben Rich, the rewards of a job he never intended to do have been great. “The business has been good to me. I like meeting the public, visiting, trying to satisfy they.”

From all accounts, in this last real neighborhood grocery, he has indeed done that.

e's home was uni



This was the Beauvais House at Second and Michel streets, presently unrelenting bad luck for the unfortunate building.

From fairly early in this century (and possibly before) it was treated as a duplex and let out to rent to various families, none of whom established a real love for the

Ben and Lillian Friedman Rich

Ben and Lillian Friedman Rich married in 1944 and took over the store.



Once, too, Ben had to cut a hole in the wall to accommodate customers. emptied the cash drawer and left." Ben and Lil were robbed a second time one Thanksgiving Day, and a third time by a thug who had robbed

Grocery store owner enjoys very

Special to *The Telegraph*
by Harrison Hartley

After 51 years in the neighborhood grocery business — a business he never intended to get into in the first place — nothing about Ben Rich has dulled or dimmed. He still treats each customer with the same courtesy you might expect from a family member, and maybe, in some way, Ben's customers are members of his family.

The eldest of three brothers, Ben's parents, Jake and Jennie Rich, came to St. Joseph from Smolensk, a city of around 200,000 some 225 miles southwest of Moscow. They may have picked St. Joseph because Smolensk is also a river city, being near the headwaters of the great Dnieper which flows 1,420 miles into the Black Sea. The family first lived at Ninth and Patee (where Ben was probably born), but shortly took up residence above the grocery store they managed at 1006 South 10th (now the Blue Town Tavern, and the house in which Ben's brothers were born).

Of his childhood, Ben remembers playing with neighbor girls Duffa and Delma Smith who lived next door in

a double tenement. He also remembers some of the effects of the depression. "In those days, there was a big fountain in front of Patee Hall and Jake Rosenthal and I used to go and sit under it. We'd put out some bread crumbs or something and the pigeons would come and we'd reach out and catch 'em and take 'em to Jake's barn. Then we'd feed 'em and they always came back! Sometimes we'd sell those birds — for about a nickel apiece, I think — for people to eat. Times were hard back then."

There has never been a time when Ben wasn't at work, one way or another. At 12, he landed a job at Magoon's Delicatessen where he could not get a vacation. "I'd been working for Ben Magoon for about four years and hadn't had any time off, so I asked for a vacation," Ben explains, "and he said, 'You know what a vacation means?' I said 'No,' and he said, 'It's a way of telling someone you can do without them and I can't do without you,' so I didn't get the vacation."

World War II was no vacation for Ben either. He had fallen in love with a beautiful young lady named Lillian Friedman, whose parents, Dave and Esther, ran a grocery on the northwest



Ben Rich's neighborhood store presented this front in the late 1940s. They were married July 2, 1944, and on the 7th, as a Forward Observer for the artillery, Ben shipped out for France and a tour which would include The Battle of the Bulge with Patton's 3rd Army. "I told Lil when I left, 'Goodbye, Dear. I'll see you next year,'" Ben re-

calls, "and when our division back and landed in Boston on the 2nd of June, 1945, I called her and she meet me in St. Louis on my way west to my new post. We met on the 2nd of July!"

Returning to St. Joseph, Ben and Lil intended to go on to Colorado

Rich life



40s before the business was expanded. came set up on their own, but Mrs. Friedman was gravely ill and Ben agreed to take over the grocery "for a year or so." The rest of the story is obvious, but it was no piece of cake. "We took in \$12 our first day," Ben remembers; but he and Lil stuck with it after Mrs. Friedman passed away. "It became a

. Voltmer

"Bud" Voltmer, age 84, Thursday, December 17, 1915, had been a li

as a graduate of C had attended bus college. He had Eastern Tablet Factory and at Rosecrans Found School Supply American Airlines Company Joseph Builder Supplement in 1979.

member of St. Paul Lutheran various offices with the church; a member Women League, Downtown Postmasters International of Green Acres.

24, 1937, he married Louise Couvrey. Some.

was preceded in death by S. Haenni; his parents Wilhelmina Vollmer, Leonard W. Voltmer, Louise David and Doroth

Survivors include two daughters of St. Joseph, and Cheryl A. Brock, California; three and two great-grandchildren. Services were held December 15 at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Rev. Weinhold officiated. Burial was at Memorial Park Cemetery.

Family suggests memorial

Dale F. Hines

Dale Franklin Hines, age 86, of St. Joseph, died Thursday, December 9, 1999.

Hazel B. Sanders

Hazel Belle Judd Sanders, age 81, of St. Joseph, died Thursday, December 9, 1999.

Jake and Jennie Rich, Ben's parents came to here from Smolensk.



Se



IVAL LAWHON JR./St. Joseph News-Press

Gary Harris has been a barber at 2201 Lafayette St., the area of the city that used to be known as Goosetown, for the past 33 years. Getting a haircut is Herb Ellis of St. Joseph.

Many still call Goosetown home

Settled by Polish, portion
of town now melting pot

1-20-2000
By ALONZO WESTON
alonzow@npgco.com

St. Joseph News-Press

Not much has changed about Gary's Barber Shop since Gary Harris opened up at 2201 Lafayette St., 33 years ago. He still has three chairs. He still has the huge mirror with the ball caps and 33 years of who knows what all on its shelf. He

Tales of the
**MIDLAND
EMPIRE**



explained Gary Chilcote, curator of the Patee House Museum. "It's characterized by lots of little shotgun houses with the idea being if you'd stand in the front door of the house and fire a shotgun (the pellets) would go right through the house out the back door. It's many little houses built on very small lots."

Goosetown's origins are obscure, but St. Joseph historian Sheridan Logan believes it was founded in the late 1880s after the death of then Missouri governor Will Pro-

Geography helped make St. Joseph a meat-packing town

By **TERRY RAFFENSPERGER**

Business Editor

St. Joseph was well positioned in the mid-19th century to become a livestock and meat-packing center. The city was strategically located between the range to the west and the hungry populations to the east.

The Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, built between 1857 and 1859, helped St. Joseph become more accessible to the east.

But a decade before that, in the late 1840s, with the Gold Rush in California, St. Joseph found itself as the jumping off point for fortune seekers and pioneers. And the city became a major supplier for them and the emigrants heading west along the Oregon and Santa Fe trails. Those heading west bought their supplies here, including meat products — mostly cured pork.

First plant

John Corby established the first pork packing house in 1846 and in the next few years a number of others followed. They were located close to the riverfront near what is now the downtown area. The massive growth of the industry and shift to the city's South Side would not occur until the stockyards were constructed about 40 years later.

By 1861, records show there were three pork packing plants

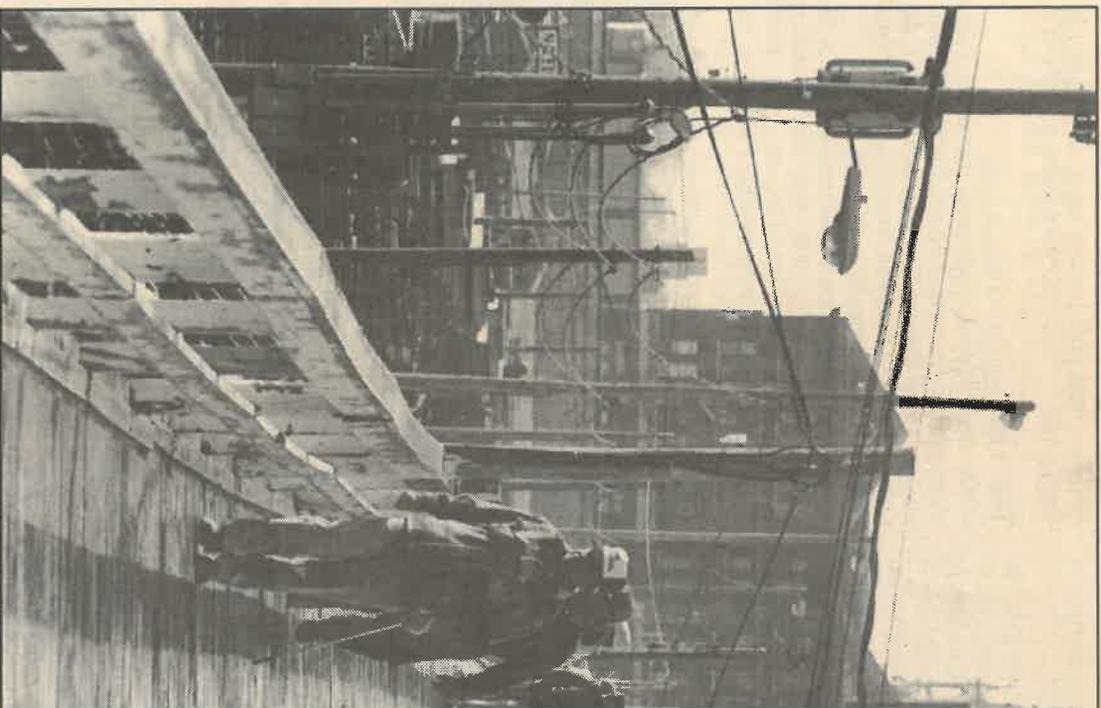
That plant, which opened in 1898, was described at the time as "one of the largest, most complete and most modern packing houses in the world."

Encouraged by Swift's presence, other major packers moved to St. Joseph. Nelson Morris & Co. built a plant in 1897 and Hammond Packing Co. built a plant that employed 1,000 in 1899. Hammond was later purchased by Armour & Co., in 1912. Armour and Swift would go on to dominate the packing industry in St. Joseph for the next 60 years.

By 1915, Krug Packing and Hoefler Packing were the only two packing houses not located in the stockyards area. Also at the stockyards, besides Swift and Armour, were Nelson Morris and Viles & Robbins.

The Dugdale Packing Co. opened a new plant in 1932 on South 11th Street, just south of where Quaker Oats now operates. Today, the city's only remaining meat packing company, Seitz Foods, traces its origins back to 1936. The company's current facility, at Lower Lake Road and Packers Avenue, was built in 1957.

During its heyday, from World War I to the 1950s, the meat packing houses employed about 3,500 people in St. Joseph. St. Joseph was the fifth largest livestock market in the nation. But in the 1960s, the industry began to change. The development of the



CATTLE WALK

In this 1980s photo, the Stock Yards Exchange Building towered in the background as buyers and sellers walk above the pens at the meat packing business, centered in the city's slaughtering operation. Seitz con-

Carter Hughes & Co., James Hamilton Jr. and Pinger & Hauck. By 1880, there were pork slaughtering operations run by the Hax Brothers, David Pinger & Co., Valley Packing Co., the Connett Brothers, O.E. Smith Packing Co. and the Henry Krug Packing Co.

The South Side stockyards opened in 1887 on 440 acres of land, and its owners donated 80 acres for meat packers to build plants. The focus of the meat packing industry moved south, where it would expand into a leading source of revenue and employment for St. Joseph.

The first packing plant to open at the stockyards was Anchor Packing, in 1891. It was soon followed by John Moran Packing Co. in 1892. Moran only survived two years but then one of the first packing house industry giants, Swift & Co. of Chicago, came to town and leased the Moran plant. Swift also purchased controlling interest in the stockyards and began building its own massive packing plant.

nation's highway system made it easier to transport cattle by trucks. That cut down on reliance upon railroads and helped decentralize the industry.

Union vs. management

There was considerable labor-management strife in the local industry in the 1950s. Workers with years of seniority built up high wage rates. The old packing houses could not compete in price or production with new plants and their new mechanized equipment. Consolidation of the industry and mergers left the industry in the hands of just a handful of major players.

Swift began to phase down its operation here in the 1966, and by 1970 it was closed. Swift officials said the plant was too old and costly to maintain, and rehabilitating it could not be financially justified.

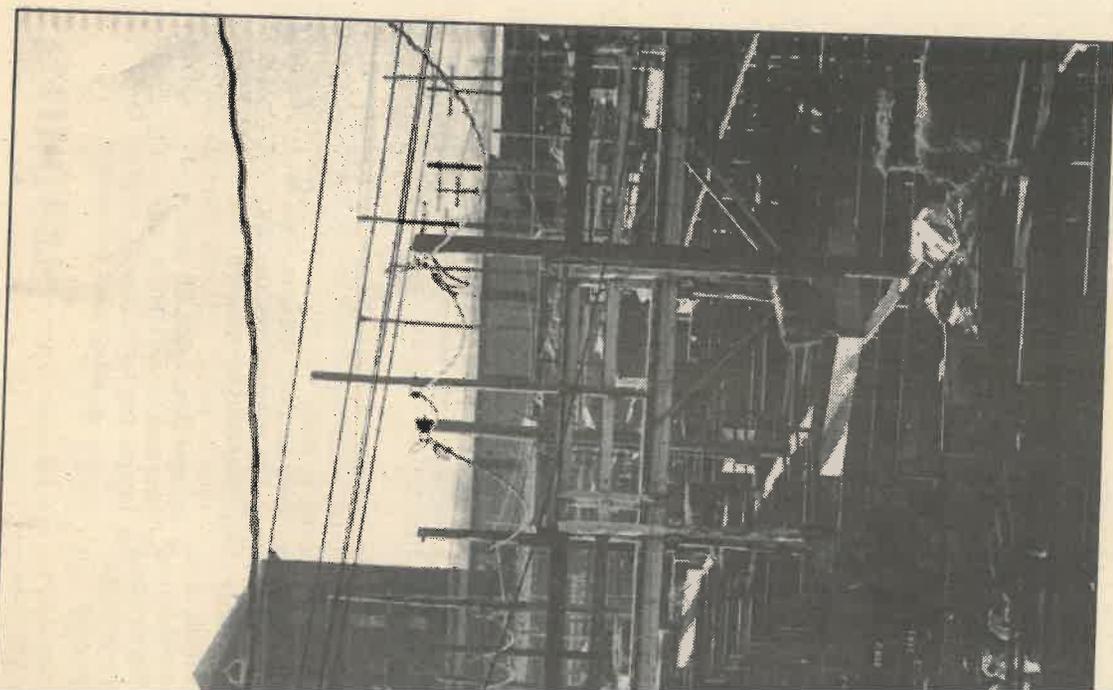
Armour closed its sheep slaughtering here in 1972 and the next year ended beef slaughtering. Dugdale shut its doors in 1971 and that same year Seitz ended it



St. Joseph (Mo.) News-Press 19

shape and support St. Joseph through much of the 20th began a rapid decline in the 1960s. Experts debate alized buying and slaughtering will ever return.

File photo



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1995

Murders will out, and some folks will talk about them for decades

By **JESS DeHAVEN**

News-Press Staff Writer *2-5-95*

Jesse James' 1882 shooting death in St. Joseph may be the most notorious murder in the city's history, but a number of other killings also have been the talk of the town.

One of the most sensational murders of the early 20th century involved then-Buchanan County prosecuting attorney Oscar D. McDaniel and his slain wife. Mrs. McDaniel was found in her bed late July 14, 1916, with her head bashed in, according to news reports. Her husband, who found her, said he was out looking for a drunk relative at the time of the beating and was shot at as he returned home.

Mrs. McDaniel died the next morning, and her husband was charged with her death 10 weeks later. Rumors of problems in the McDaniels' marriage gave rise to the theory that the prosecutor had killed his wife.

However, after a nearly three-week trial, Mr. McDaniel was acquitted of the murder. He had been defeated in his bid for reelection just weeks before his trial, and served out the remaining month of his term and then went into private practice.

About three years after his wife's death, Mr. McDaniel, who had remarried, left the city with his family, leaving behind at least \$4,000 in debt.

Mob lynching

A dark event in St. Joseph history occurred on Nov. 23, 1933, when a young black man was taken from the old Buchanan County Jail and lynched.

A mob of about 1,500 people began demanding the sheriff turn over Lloyd Warner, who had pled guilty to raping a white woman earlier that day.

The sheriff refused the request and the National Guard sent two tanks to the scene, but the crowd

Bloody death

Perhaps the grisliest murder in St. Joseph history occurred fittingly on April Fool's Day 1947. The body of a 57-year-old church employee was found in the basement of Christ Church, Seventh and Francis streets, the following day.

Found near the body were a bloody pipe and hammer. In the corner of the room, behind some cardboard, a bloody electric drill with pieces of hair and flesh on the bit was discovered.

Six days after the murder, on April 7, Stuart Allen, the 16-year-old adopted son of the church's

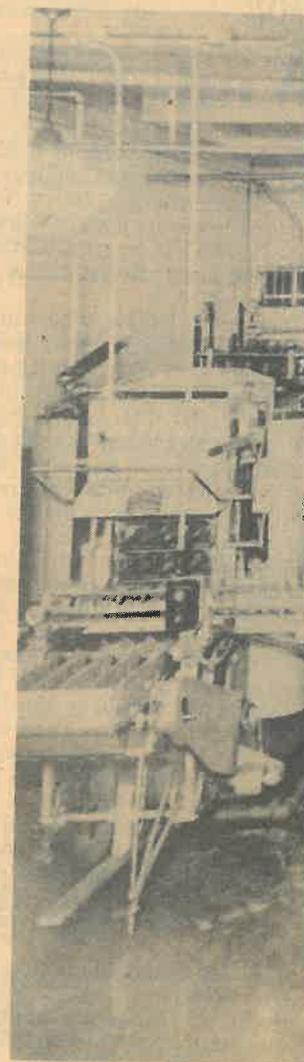
pastor, was arrested in a classroom at Central High School where he was a sophomore.

After a week-long trial that summer, Mr. Allen was found not guilty of the murder by reason of insanity and ordered to a mental hospital.

Tragic kidnapping

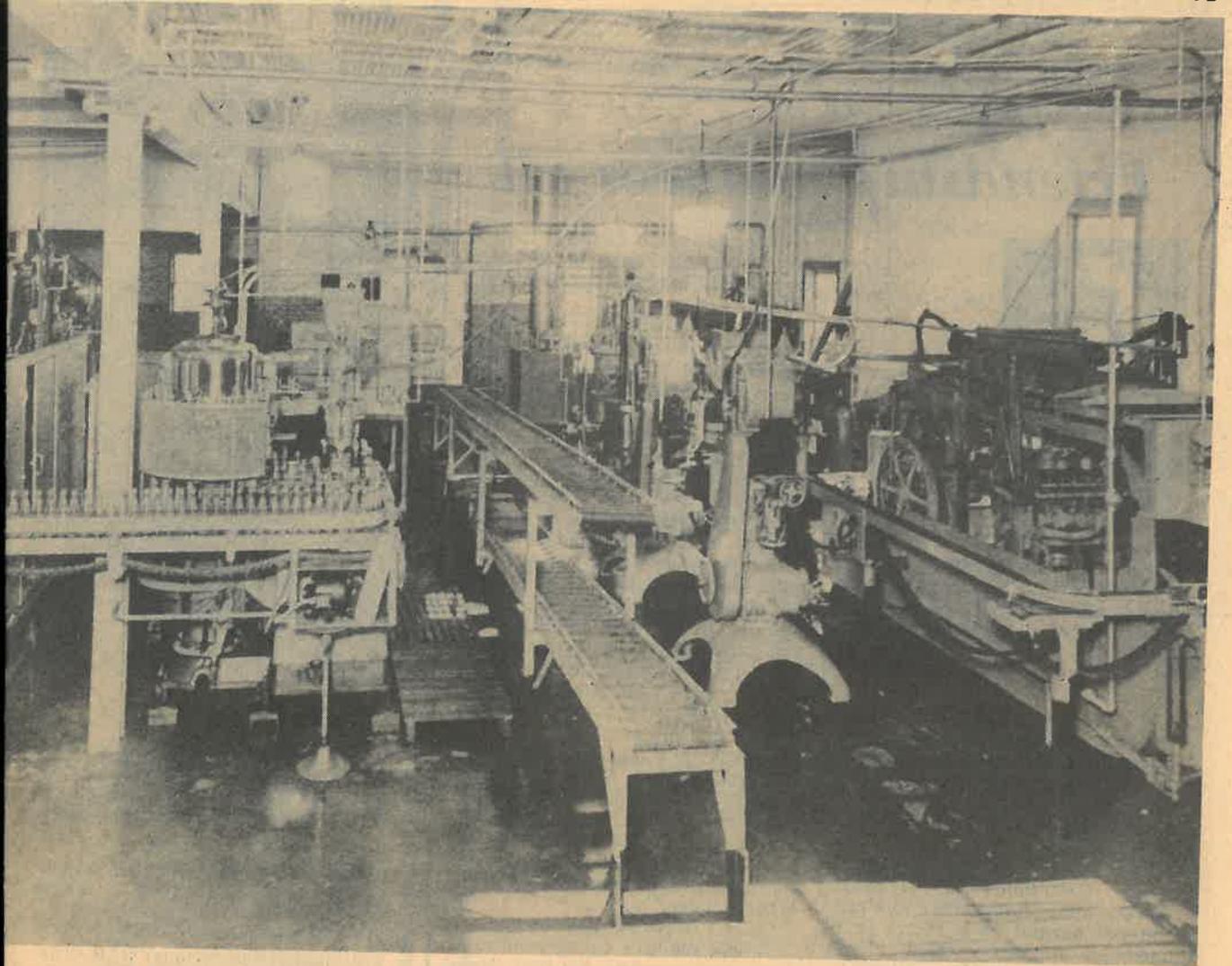
Still remembered by many in St. Joseph is the 1953 kidnapping and murder of a 6-year-old Kansas City boy by a local couple, Carl A. Hall and Bonnie Heady. In an effort to raise money, the two took Bobby Greenlease, the

Please see **Murders/Page 19**



Soda pop syrup was mixed in 20-gallon self-emptying jars. Showing them are Delbert Harvey (left) and Steve Culver, Midland Bottling Co. officials.

Dow



This trim looking equipment, which no longer is in place, bottled the soda water in the old Fuelling plant, later the Midland plant. The picture was made from an old photograph.

n to the last bottle

Fuelling's Plant Sold to Harvey

Assets of Louis Fuelling and Sons, Inc., have been purchased by Lyle Harvey of St. Joseph, who will operate the bottling plant at Dewey avenue and Franklin streets. The name will be changed to Midland Bottling Co.

Joseph F. Harris, president of Louis Fuelling and Sons, Inc., will wind up the affairs of that company and the Fuelling estate.

Fuelling's bottling works was founded in 1855 by Albert Andriano, who came here from Mannheim-Baden, Germany. His son, Joseph, took over the management, formed a partnership with Louis Fuelling, and sold the latter complete control in 1871. The business is believed to be the oldest continuously operated bottling works in the country.

Mr. Harris became president last year when Harry A. Miller sold his stock in the company.

The new owner of the bottling works will handle the same products: Kist flavors, B-1, Dr. Pepper and Squirt, all of which are bottled in the plant. The business is franchised in Doniphan and Atchison counties in Kansas and Atchison, Holt, Andrew, Nodaway, Worth, Gentry, De Kalb, Clinton and Buchanan counties in Missouri. Dale Hunt, who has been with the business 35 years, will continue to serve as production manager.

Mr. Harvey is a native of St. Joseph and a graduate of Lafayette High School. From 1943 to 1952 he had the International Harvester

. On living

(Mo.) News-Press/Gazette

Times rolls back again for the Renaissance Festival which starts Saturday. See Friday's Focus.

Advice
News
Comics

yer performs musical memories

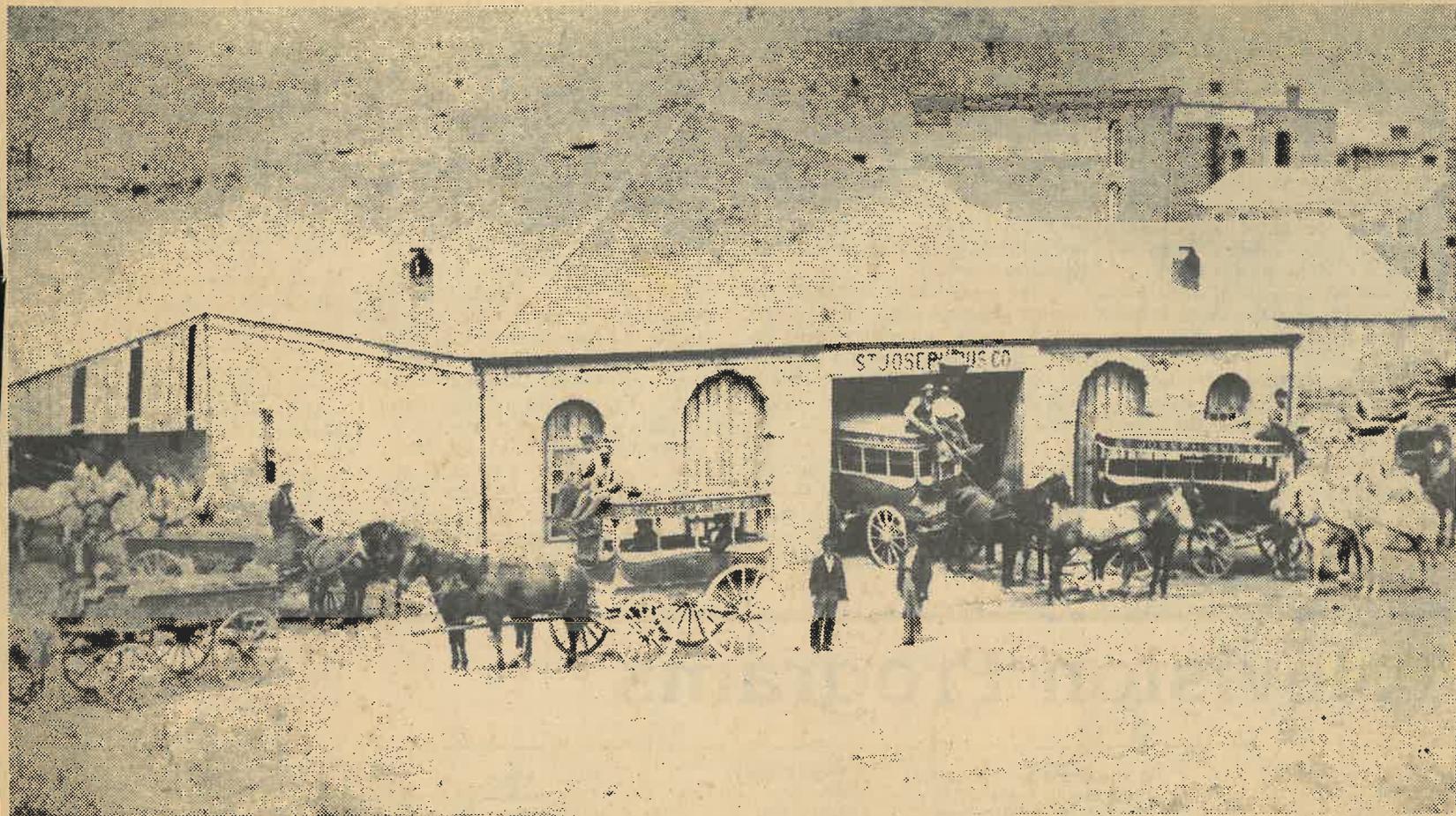
ore actors foil
manager of KFEQ radio,
rence Koch.

r. Koch came in to have coffee with Mr. Engel, and they by the music department. Koch said, 'Let's start a radio am with Tillie.' ... I was on air from 11:30 to 12 noon day but Saturday," Mrs. hauser says. "I played piano ang and sold sheet music for a dollar."

ng from the mezzanine at otel Robidoux, the show ing Mrs. Fankhauser was air for four years, during time she became a local ty. Her fame even brought ions to endorse products, as Eva Hopkins Beauty

ER TILLIE MET and fell with Oda Fankhauser in r. Koch began to talk of a edding. Though the young were eventually married '30 home ceremony, they ne of the featured be- couples that year in an of Radio Digest magazine. "With Cupid on the Air," icle stated, "Chatterbox t KFEQ sounded good to





St. Joseph's horse-drawn buses leave their station 100 years ago. AP 5-27-83

When the buses were pulled by horses

5-27-83

By **FREDERICK W. SLATER**
Staff Writer

Most people, if asked, would say that St. Joseph's bus system dates back to the mid-1920s, when buses began to replace electric trolley cars.

But actually, St. Joseph had buses even before it had electric-powered streetcars.

That fact came to light recently when banking executive Robert Keatley gave an old photograph — one at least a century old — to George Heckel Jr., retired savings and loan executive and local historian.

The photograph, mellowed to a brownish hue by

time, shows a sizable brick stable with a sign, "St. Joseph Bus Co." above the entrance. Emerging through the large doorway is one bus, drawn by four horses, while two similar vehicles, smaller and drawn by two horses, are in front of the building.

While the location of the building is not given, it is, if histories are correct, the brick stable which Joseph A. Piner built near Eighth and Olive streets in 1880, or an earlier one he erected in 1868 near Eighth and Mary streets.

Piner, who also was mayor, headed the St. Joseph Omnibus Co. "Omnibus" was Latin

meaning "for all," and evidently it was shortened to "bus" by the owner and the public.

But Piner did not have a monopoly on transportation.

City directories of the period showed three other companies, all operating horse-drawn vehicles, in the city. They were the Citizens United Railway, St. Joseph & Lake Narrow Gauge Co., and the St. Joseph Herdic Coach Co.

Piner did have the contract to haul mail from the post office to all trains and, according to one history, the letters were carried in "an electric mail wagon."

URBAN RENEWAL STEP

Voss Firm After Century at Present Location to Move

NP-1-2-72

By FREDERICK W. SLATER
(News-Press City Hall Reporter)

One of the city's oldest business firms—probably the firm at the same location for the longest period—is taking a forthcoming relocation due of urban renewal in stride.

The company is the Henry Voss Wallpaper Co. which was founded 111 years ago by Henry Voss, a German immigrant. The firm has been at its present location on 3d street, just south of Felix street, for around a century.

Histories show the original Mr. Voss, born in Holstein, Germany, in 1831, came to St. Joseph in 1855 by steamboat and was employed as an upholsterer by David J. Heaton, pioneer furniture dealer and undertaker. In 1860 Mr. Voss opened a store near 3d and Edmond streets which specialized in making mattresses. A few years later he moved to a portion of the present location and as business grew, expanded into adjoining buildings.

Still in the building is the

framework of a hand-operated elevator shaft. The lift was used to move moss, utilized in mattress making, to various floors of the building.

As times progressed, the firm added wallpaper and then discontinued mattress making. Mr. Voss had four sons, Oscar and George, who operated the wholesale section of the business, and Ervin and Frank, who handled retail business.

A grandson of the founder, Frank H. Voss, who still owns the business, continued his active connection until a few years ago. A great-grandson, Henry Voss Jr., also lives in St. Joseph. He was connected with the firm for a number of years.

Francis Brandow, who has been with the company for 32 years and is now manager of

the busi
anxious
possible.

He rec
has a qu
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“Origin
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Spring fury

*Killer twisters
take heavy toll*

Page 3A



Weather Forecast:

Flash flood watch.

(Complete Forecast
on Page 2A)

ST. JOSEPH

VOL. 107, NO. 193

(2d Cl. Post Pd. at St. Joseph, Mo.)

ST. JOSEPH, MO., WEDNESDAY



Elevator blast

*Explosion injures
K.C. grain workers*

Page 5A



**WANTED
FOR EASTER**

Taste treat

*Ham traditional
for holiday feast*

Page 1D

NEWS-PRESS

WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 11, 1979

60 PAGES

EIGHT
SECTIONS

154

Housing bias holds

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new study said today the federal government has failed to eliminate housing discrimination for three reasons: the law has no teeth; the agencies charged with enforcement have too little money, and the job they have done is inadequate.

"Housing discrimination remains widespread in this country," the U.S. Civil Rights Commission said in a 235-page report that rained its heaviest blows on the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"When HUD finds discrimination and attempts to conciliate a resolution, the department is successful only about half the time," the study says.

"If respondents do not agree to HUD's proposals in conciliation, the probability of further action is low; only 10 percent of the cases HUD cannot conciliate are referred to the Department of Justice and few of those cases are pursued."

combatting discrimination.

"Their programs are largely complaint-oriented and ad hoc, despite the fact that few victims of housing discrimination file complaints or are even aware that their rights have been violated," the study said.

And it added that in the absence of a strong example of enforcement and guidance from the two departments, other federal agencies with fair housing responsibilities "have also been ineffective in carrying out their duties."

The report criticized HUD and Justice for not strenuously seeking more money for enforcement.

"Even when all other fair housing programs and agencies are included, the federal fair housing budget is only \$17.4 million," the study said.

"Comparing this figure with the more than \$300 million which the government currently spends on the enforcement of equal employment laws, it is clear that the government

The study pointed to the Veterans Administration as doing a poor job of handling complaints and said "there is considerable evidence that minorities applying for loans from VA do not receive as favorable treatment as non-minorities."

The Justice Department came in for some praise, however.

Its housing and credit section "has consistently been successful in its efforts to obtain relief in fair housing cases," the report said. "In the entire course of its existence, the section has lost, on the merits, only two cases."

But the study said that section is hampered by its small size.

"As the sole federal entity specifically assigned (fair housing) enforcement responsibility, the section needs to be able to bring considerable more litigation than the slightly more than 300 cases it has brought to date."

The report also said the section has initiated relatively few cases "involving issues such as mortgage and

Love for wooden boats helps keep builder young

By ALONZO WESTON
alonzow@npgco.com

St. Joseph News-Press

7-15-00

It's been said that if people like what they do for a living they will hold onto their youth longer and add years to their lives.

If that's true, Cliff Schomburg is a man who loves his work.

With his slender frame, tanned skin, cutoff jean shorts and slightly graying brown hair, the 80-year-old gentleman looks 20 years younger.

And when he talks about the days when he designed and raced the latest Speedliner boats, his eyes light up, a smile

spreads across his face and his voice sounds like that of a teenager.

"Boats have always fascinated me. I don't know what got me into boatmaking," he said.

Mr. Schomburg retired as owner of Seejay Boats in 1985. His son Steve now owns the business, which is on River Road in St. Joseph.

"He is the chairman of the board," said Steve Schomburg. "He just comes down here to do something."

Since February, Cliff Schomburg has been visiting the shop to build by hand an M-114 Trophy model wooden boat.



JOSH BIGGS/St. Joseph News-Press

Cliff Schomburg stands in front of the Speedliner boat he refinished at Seejay Boats in St. Joseph.

Business

Sunday, January 27, 1991 St. Joseph

Business beat

Terry
Raffensperger

Business
Columnist



Mall makes hot-issue list again

The downtown pedestrian mall has become a hot issue again. Will this finally be the year the mall will be ripped out and traffic will be restored to Felix Street?

Clearly it should.

But the question now is will it be completed in 1991? Or will delays such as we are seeing now drag the project through next winter? If so, that would leave the merchants who are still struggling to survive down there with the prospect of a torn up, muddy, and even more inaccessible street, through the critical Christmas 1991 shopping season.

The key date now seems to be June 1. If work on the project can get under way by then, without any unforeseen problems, it should be completed by fall.

Plans for removing the mall were thrown a big curve ball last July when the firm hired to design the new street.

Bus

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 1994



■ THE BOTTOM LINE

By TERRY RAFFENSBERGER
Business Editor

ConAgra moves plant to Mexico

ConAgra Inc., parent company of Monfort Pork, was responsible for shutting down the hog processing plant in St. Joseph.

The company said the St. Joseph plant was "not economically viable" but declined to explain just why that was the case, as it wiped out 1,050 jobs.

Now the giant, multi-national food company apparently has found a pork processing plant in Mexico that is economically viable. ConAgra announced last week that it had signed a letter of intent to pay \$25 million to acquire a 20 percent interest in a pork and poultry plant in Mexico City.

The Mexican company, called Univasa, is a subsidiary

option to increase its interest in Univera to under 50 percent during the next four years.

Philip Fletcher, ConAgra's chairman and chief executive officer said in a prepared statement: "We are very enthusiastic about this opportunity. Univera is a successful, growing business. ConAgra shares a strategic commitment with Desc to help Univera grow and to seek new opportunities in the food industry in Mexico."

According to a recent story in the *Omaha World-Herald*, ConAgra has about \$200 million in annual sales in Mexico.

"It's a meaningful market for us," a company spokesman told the *World-Herald*. "But what we've really been interested in doing is establishing a strategic alliance with a partner in Mexico."

ConAgra wants to have a substantial presence in Mexico; in order to do that the company first needed a foothold and a partner. This arrangement gives them that, the spokesman said.

Univera's annual sales are \$185 million, and most of that comes from three poultry processing plants, but just last year the company opened a pork processing plant.

Remember the endless arguments during the North American Free Trade Agreement debates about whether the trade agreement would cause companies to export either more product or more jobs? Now we can see what ConAgra has in mind. Instead of exporting pork from St. Joseph to Mexico, maybe in a few years, ConAgra will be exporting pork from Mexico to the southern United States, as the tariffs are removed.

But ConAgra told the *World-Herald* the venture in Mexico has nothing to do with NAFTA.

"If there had not been a NAFTA, we would be doing this anyway," said the spokesman. "Our interests in Mexico preceded NAFTA."

Businessman wages sign war on downtown parking meters

By JAMES FITZHENRY
News-Press Staff Writer

3-21-95

Drivers heading downtown Monday afternoon got their eyes opened by a sign protesting parking meters in that part of St. Joseph.

The sign — which beckoned visitors to pardon the parking meters, aggressive enforcement thereof and urban blight — was placed by business owner Richard Mastio to protest the meters, Mastio said on Monday.

"The parking meters need to be removed," said Mastio, president of Mastio and Co. at Eighth and Francis streets. "The purpose is to motivate things to happen. It won't be the only sign downtown."

The message was draped over a sign on the intersection of Frederick Avenue, 9th and Francis streets. The brown sign it covered directed visitors to different tourist attractions in town. Mastio owns the property.

Downtown merchants have long asked for the removal of parking meters in the central business area of St. Joseph. Several plans have been presented to the City Council for removing the

meters in the past four years.

But the council so far has rejected removal of the meters because of concerns of lost revenues to pay for repairs on the three city-owned parking garages.

The city is using meter revenues and fines to pay for the bonds issued to pay for extensive repairs to the garages.

"I'm sure it is just frustration," Mayor Larry Stobbs said. "They're preaching to the wrong choir if it's directed at me."

Stobbs, who pledged to work to remove the meters during last year's mayoral campaign, this month renewed that effort. The council last May turned down Stobbs' plan for removal.

He said the sign probably will have a mixed impact on the council.

"Some of them will be madder than hell, others will laugh at it," he said. "We're still working on the problem."

Mastio says downtown merchants are working on the problem in their own way. He says it's unfair for businesses downtown to have meters when other merchants along city streets in other areas don't have them.

"Why does it take a major resolution of the City Council to get something moving?" he said.



Staff photo by TIMOTHY J. JONES
Workers for the Dillon Co. put up a sign, which protests parking meters. Touchtone callers dial 364-6464, when prompted, enter one of the

t. (Public parking lot) 9:5
 820 S. 4th St. Tfwy. (Hwy. 7) 10:3
 parking lot)
 re minutes before the departure time.
 from the Argosy at 4:05PM.

chedules and gaming times subject to change w
 gnate pick-up points.

ARGOSY
Riverside
 CASINO
 Reservation
 Required
 1-800-900-3

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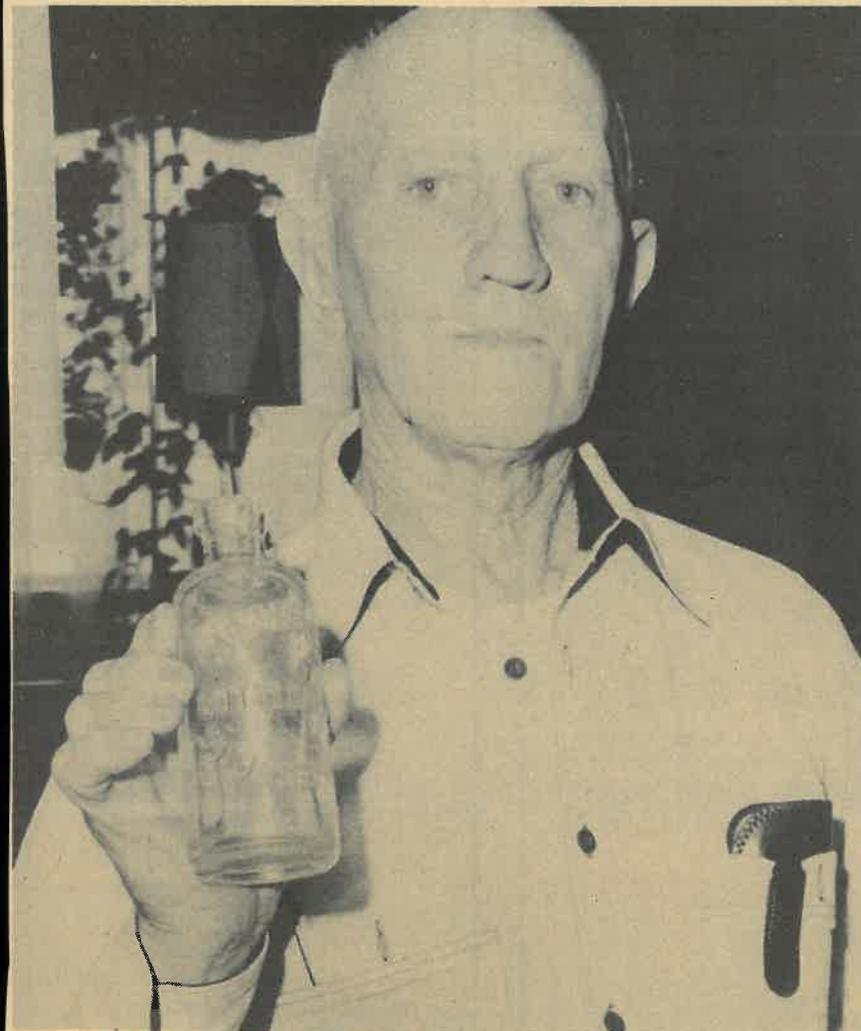


—Staff photo by Jean Shifrin

Melon-raiser Russell Forbes, with his dog, 'Scotty'

Customers come from far and wide

Melon business grows from home



News—Press photo by STEVE SLATER

Mystery is solved

In 1932, Forest Fitzpatrick was excavating at property he owned at 214 Ohio. There he uncovered a heavy glass pop bottle from the Andriano Bottling Co. of St. Joseph. He had never heard of that company and never ceased to wonder where its plant was. In the Jan. 12 edition of The News-Press he found his answer. Andriano was the predecessor of the old Fuelling plant at Dewey and Franklin. Fitzpatrick had walked past the place often as a boy and later, when driving a Burlington truck, had taken many loads of bottles to it. Here at his home, 5724 Pleasant, he is shown holding the bottle with most of its old time stopper intact. The Andriano company was established in 1855. Louis C. Fuelling acquired complete control in 1871.

St. Joseph Concerned With New Industry a Century Ago, Too

By **BOB WALDROP**

Gazette City Hall Reporter

St. Joseph is vitally concerned today with new industries and population expansion. Efforts constantly are being renewed and accelerated to bring about growth.

It was ever thus, as a peek into the past discloses.

Commercial activity in the St. Joseph area began as early as 1799, the record indicates, with the travels of Joseph Robidoux and his trading with the Indians.

122 Manufacturers

From this beginning the St. Joseph economy blossomed by 1877 into activities which resulted in an annual output of products amounting to a startling \$12,000,000.

A grand total of 122 manufac-

ices still in demand: Nine wagon factories, three ax handle factories, two foundries, three machine shops, three cider firms, two cracker bakeries, one starch factory, one glue factory, one soap factory, one woolen factory.

Other items produced then are still in use: Eight harness manufacturers, one tannery, two planing mills, two boot and shoe manufacturers, two furniture factories, one plow factory, 17 cigar makers, one pottery works, one broom factory, one shirt factory, eight brick yards and six carriage factories.

One other firm busy in 1877 put out a new product which the county probably would like to obtain now: One iron fence and jail works.

turing concerns poured fourth these goods. They employed 2,100 skilled artisans in 1877 whose wages—without tax deductions as we know them—averaged \$12 to \$20 a week.

Landing in 1826

These interesting statistics have been compiled by David Sutton, associate planner on the staff of City Planning Director Lorin A. Dunham. Mr. Sutton has come up with a variety of details on the early St. Joseph economy, in connection with non-residential land use studies.

Much of his data came from the Illustrated Historical Atlas of Buchanan County, Missouri, published in 1877. A pertinent section was written by John R. Williams.

The first permanent com-

mercial enterprise, after Joseph Robidoux' mobile mart, came with the landing of his keel boat at Roy's Branch in the fall of 1826, Mr. Sutton's report shows.

The founder of St. Joseph moved his stock of goods the following year southward to the mouth of Blacksnake Creek, and enlarged his company by employing men who traveled in the area, buying and trading animal pelts.

Soon a flour mill and a sawmill were in operation, too, and by 1842 the population reached 200 persons.

In just one more year the population boomed to 500, and local industry included a cracker factory, saddle and harness shop, a smithy, barber and

Concluded on Page 2A—Col. 6

K.C. Times
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mid-america

BELT BALLROOM

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WELING

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BILLIARDS

EN CENTER
SO ENT
BOWLING IS BACK
SUNDAY SPECIAL
\$ TO 1



Steve Gilpin
Donna Palmer/Special to The Times
ready to open

Famed Ballroom Back in Business —But No Big Bands

By Steven Gunn
A Member of the Staff

ST. JOSEPH—The building once used for the Frog Hop Ballroom, which became famous for its big-band sound, will reopen here tonight with a new name, a new management and a new beat more akin to Saturday Night Fever than Lawrence Welk.

For a half century, the Frog Hop was the place to be seen in north-west Missouri. It attracted patrons from Kansas City, Omaha, Topeka and points in between. Some thought it was this city's biggest attraction, and buses taking people from Kansas City to St. Joseph just for a night on the wooden dance floor were not uncommon.

Miss Wilma Wise, who works in an office across from the ballroom, recalled, "This was the spot to get the big bands. I would never miss a dance when I was there. The floor was good, the crowds friendly and there was some good dancing."

Another dancer, Mrs. Gloria Sullivan, recalled, "The silver leaves in the ceiling are gone now, but as long as they didn't change the dance floor, I'll go back. It's the best place."

Tonight the Belt Ballroom will open on North Belt Highway near 36th Street in the building that housed the Frog Hop until last year. The Belt Highway building was the third for the Frog Hop, which first opened in southeast St. Joseph on New Year's Eve in 1928. Prohibition kept the Frog Hop from serving champagne that night, but more than 3,000 patrons crowded into the ballroom to ring in the new year with music, soda pop and ice cream.

During the next 17 years, some of the biggest names in music came to

St. Joseph, often bypassing Kansas City for a gig at the Frog Hop. They included the king of New Year's Eves, Guy Lombardo, as well as Benny Goodman, Jimmy Dorsey and Lawrence Welk.

The ballroom was destroyed by fire in 1945. It reopened on the same site the next year, but a second fire destroyed the place in 1952.

Six years later, the Frog Hop came back to life in the Belt Highway building, which was built as a truck garage and converted to a ballroom with seating for 900 and a dance floor to match. At the third site, the Frog Hop appealed to patrons with musical tastes ranging from Chubby Checkers to Don Hoy.

Last year the Frog Hop's lease expired, and the owners are said to be looking for a place to reopen. But Steve Gilpin, whose grandfather built the Belt Highway ballroom, has converted the place to a disco emporium, though he hopes to provide more than disco music.

"We changed some things," he said. "For example, we added a new sound and lighting system and built a new bandstand and got new furniture."

But the dance floor is still solid wood, and Gilpin said he would try to attract some big-band combos to the ballroom, as well as other kinds of musicians.

"Only time will tell if we have a good atmosphere," Gilpin said.

The doors will open at 8:30 tonight and customers will have to pay a \$1.50 cover charge.

"Sure, I'm going to try it out now," Miss Wise said. "I hope they get some big bands in there, though. That way you get the glamour of the East and West coasts right here in the Midwest."

Frame shop matches interests

By **ROBYN L. DAVIS**
robynd@npgco.com
St. Joseph News-Press

Brenda Reilly spent 13 years working for a frame shop in St. Joseph part-time while raising her children. She had studied art, and it was a good match for her interests and skills.

But this year, she decided to open her own shop, and has spent nearly the entire year renovating a home in preparation for opening her frame shop called Wallflowers. She opened about a month ago, but is still trying to get the word out about her store.

"I enjoy what I'm doing," Ms. Reilly said. "But it takes a while to get the word out about the shop."

Ms. Reilly has turned some of the bungalow-style home's nicest elements into display areas for her shop. Two rooms are display rooms, including one with woodwork and a mantel she stripped and refinished. In the display rooms, she has some art work for sale already framed, but hopes to work her way into more custom framing and creating shadow boxes for customers.

"Customers will definitely get personal attention here," Ms. Reilly said, who runs the shop from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. "Sometimes people come in and they don't have any idea what they want, and I help them choose something that will work with what they've brought."

Wallflowers is at 810 S. 36th St. and the store's phone number is 232-1565.

Savannah's developments

A new Sonic drive-in in Savannah should be open by mid-January, and the Break Time/Taco Bell combination should follow soon after, according to City Administrator Patrick Turner.

Mr. Turner said he visited the site of the new Sonic on Tuesday and the builder in charge of the project said asphalt was poured and some building was left, but that the restaurant should be open soon.

"They were shooting for a late December date but the rain held them back," Mr. Turner said. The new Sonic will be at U.S. 71 and E Highways.

Just a half-mile away, plans are

taking shape for a Break Time convenience store with a Taco Bell inside. Mr. Turner said that isn't quite as far along, and said it might be open by the end of January. The Break Time store is being built by Break Time/MFA, a farmers' cooperative based in Columbia, Mo. Officials from Sonic and Break Time did not return calls.

Albany

Economic developers in Albany, Mo., can see a lot of uses for an empty grocery store building on the town square, so can business people who have contacted Albany's economic developer.

"We've had several hits as far as people interested in that," said Lee Langerock, economic developer for Albany.

Among the uses contemplated for the building are a youth center, a grocery store or a retail store, she said. Most of those who have called Ms. Langerock are looking to have completed any transaction within six months, she said.

"Their time frame is pretty close," Mr. Langerock said. "They aren't speculating."

If you have retail news, call Business Editor Robyn L. Davis at 271-8573.





ERIC WELCH/St. Joseph News-Press

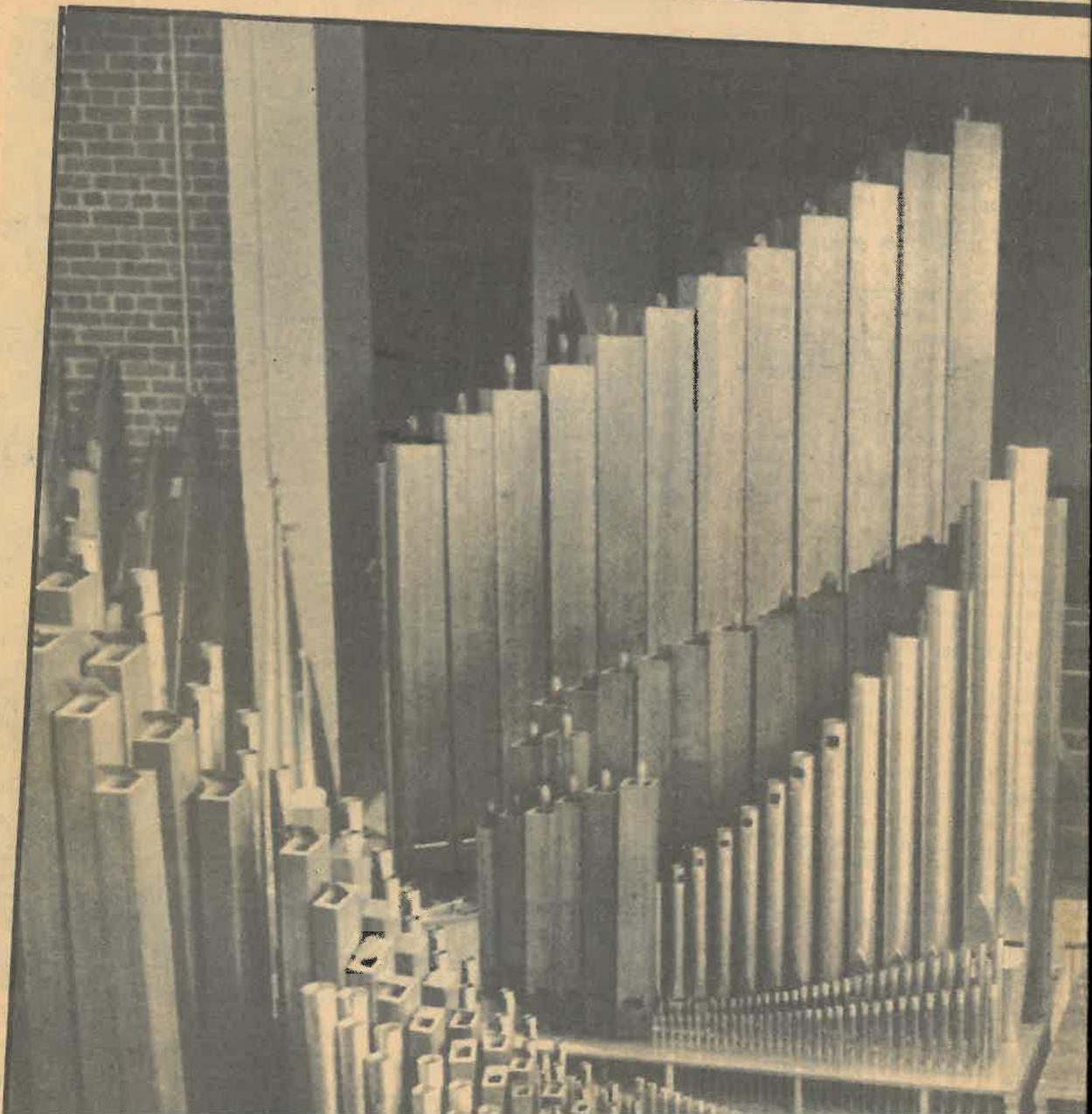
Jeannie Franklin's art gallery and framing shop, J. Franklin Gallery, not only does framing but has art items for sale, such as the duck decoys in the foreground and limited edition prints.

Frames still surround art

Jeannie Franklin's shop art.

ST. JOSEPH NEWS-PRESS

Section D, Sunday, October 28, 1979



Daily Living

