

HAPPENINGS

May/June 1996

St. Joseph Museum

Pony Express National Memorial

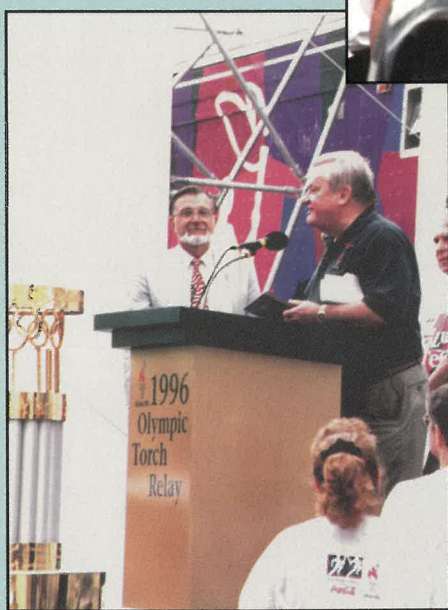
1996 OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY AT THE PONY EXPRESS

Watching the Olympic Torch Relay was an event that many people will remember for many years. The staff of the St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express National Memorial was very active in the events that took place in and around Patee Park. Rich Nolf served on the local arrangements committee.

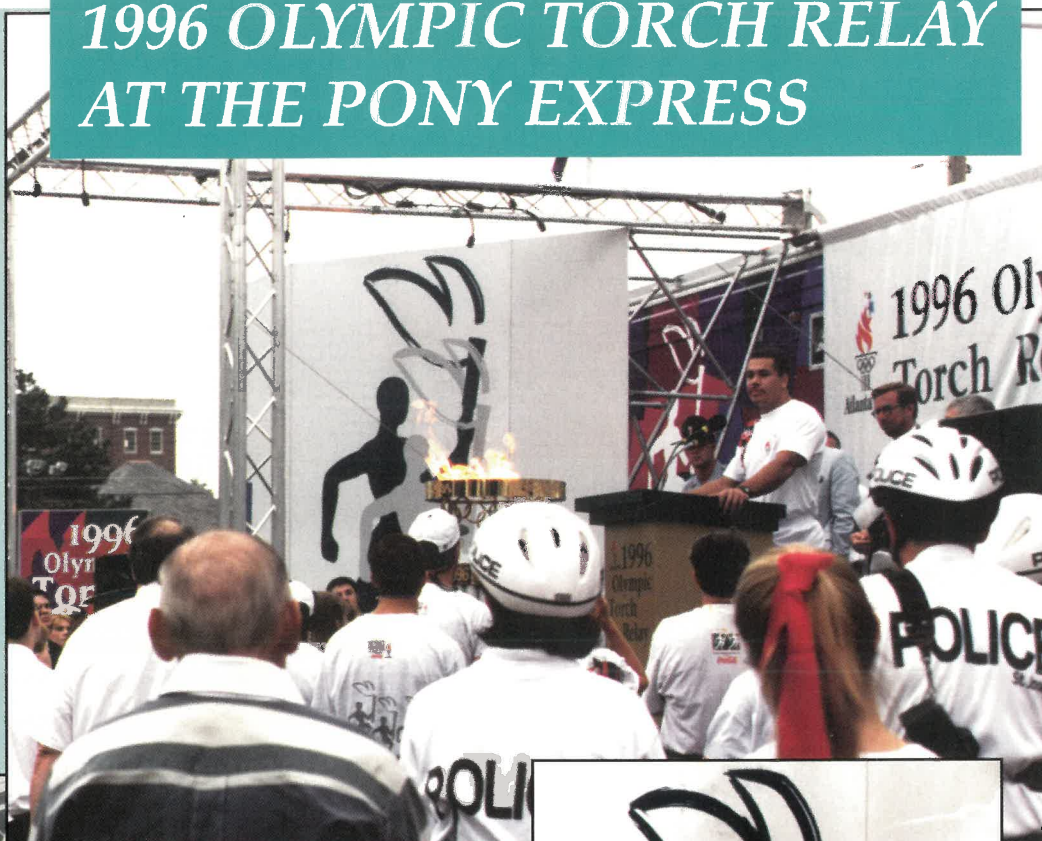
On Wednesday, the men on staff constructed a

Wes Barnett, one of St. Joseph's Olympians, addresses the crowd.

Photos by Clint Sims



L. to R.: Mayor Larry Stobbs listens as an enthusiastic Frank O'Malley thanks everyone for coming. Mr. O'Malley was chairman of the local arrangements committee for the torch relay.



large platform, using scaffolding as a base. This was used by the media, radio and television, and provided them with an excellent view to narrate and record the events. Several members of the local committee, including Rich, worked with the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) in locating the position of the various vehicles. One was the super-size semi that converted to a stage with a complete sound system. *Story continued on next page.*



Karen Graves, who is a Pony Express National Memorial trustee, is ready to begin running a section of the torch relay route.

ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM & PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL MEMORIAL STAFF

PROGRAM

Rich Nolf Director
 Jackie Lewin Curator, PENM
 Martlyn Taylor Curator of Ethnology
 Carol Wills Curator of Collections
 David Mead Curator of Natural History
 Robbie Sipes Curator of Exhibits
 Sarah Elder Curator of History
 Kathy Reno Museum Shop Manager
 Clint Sims Graphic Artist
 Dee Phillips Director of Marketing & PR

SUPPORT

Susan Noland Bookkeeper
 Sawnya Kernes Secretary
 June Swift Secretary
 Scott Koch Exhibits Technician
 Chad Lawhon Exhibits Technician
 Dale Brizendine Maintenance Technician
 Albert Bingham Maintenance Technician
 Mary Knab Research Assistant
 Keri Mills Curatorial Assistant/Receptionist
 Georgia Brooks Receptionist
 Lori Calloway Receptionist
 Jerome Goolsby Receptionist
 Marcelene Green Receptionist
 Charlie Henry Receptionist
 Helen Mathews Receptionist
 Aliana Smith Curatorial Assistant/Receptionist
 Leonard Elliott Receptionist

ADJUNCT

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

HAPPENINGS is published by the

St. Joseph Museum, Inc.,
 and Pony Express, Inc.,
 not-for-profit corporations,
 P.O. Box 128, 1100 Charles Street
 St. Joseph, Missouri, 64502-0128
 (816) 232-8471
 Fax: (816) 232-8482.
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The ACOG officials asked if the museum could provide personnel to assist in setting up the stage. Up until 24 hours before the event, we were told that the stage would not arrive until 3:00 a.m., Thursday morning. The day before, we learned that the stage was going to arrive at 5:00 p.m. Wednesday—thank goodness! The men helped to set up the mobil Olympic stage and completed the task in two hours. Three hours is the norm!

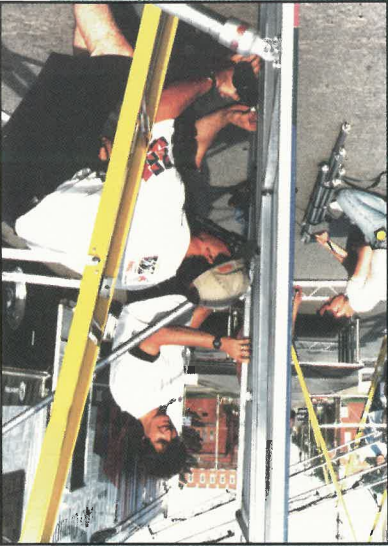


Prior to assisting McDonalds at the Wednesday evening dinner, staff members pose with St. Joseph's Olympians. L. to R. Carol Wills, Sawnya Kernes, Sarah Elder, Wes Barnett, Pete Kelley, Martlyn Taylor, Susan Noland, and Jackie Lewin.

Dave Shinneman and Tim Hoffman of McDonald's planned and coordinated a Wednesday evening dinner to serve between 200-300. The dinner was to recognize and honor the local and regional torch bearers, ACOG personnel, and local committee members. Both the men and the women from the staff helped to set up for the dinner. A number of the women

staff served as hostesses and helped to clean up afterwards. They did not quit working until after 10:00 p.m.

The following morning, McDonald's hosted a breakfast for the first 2,000 people to arrive at Patee Park! All of the staff turned around and went back to work at 5:30 a.m. The women came in to help setup and prepare for the breakfast while the men helped with parking and were available for last minute tasks.



L. to R.: Staff members Chad Lawhon and Robbie Sipes assist an ACOG official set up the stage.

After the relay, all of the staff pitched in to help clean up and assist where they were needed. The men helped to tear down the mobil Olympic stage so that it could move on to the next site, while the women picked up around the Pony Express National Memorial and Patee Park. It truly was a memorable experience.

STUDENTS EXPLORE THE OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAIL

Museum staff members were involved in helping 47 students from Bern, Kansas, Elementary School learn about the Oregon-California Trail (St. Joe Road) through their area. Teachers Julie Strathman, Julie Froge, and Jackie Olberding had spent some class time working with students. Students also enjoyed playing the Oregon Trail computer game and became quite familiar with hazards of the trail. The teachers, along with the 1988 OCTA Kansas Friend of the Trail award recipient, Jim Sudbeck, requested that Jackie Lewin and Marilyn Taylor lead a bus tour along the trail for

Jackie Lewin



Jackie Lewin



Students place a post on Main Street in their hometown of Bern, Kansas. The St. Joe Road of the Oregon-California Trail intersected Main Street just about a block from the Bern School. Jim Sudbeck, a native of Bern and owner of the site where the St. Joe Road crossed the Nemaha River, helps start the marker into the ground.

"Awesome" was the word one student from Bern, Kansas, used to describe Alcove Spring. The spring is under the ledge to the right of the photo and empties into a pool under the rock ledge. The area was a campsite for many emigrant wagon train members just before they crossed the Big Blue River.

their students. A few blocks from the school, the students paused to place a National Park Service/Oregon-California Trails Association carsonite post in the area where the trail passed through present-day Bern. At the Nemaha River crossing, property owner Jim Sudbeck actually drove the bus load of children down to the riverbank for a close-up view of the rock ledge that allowed wagons to more easily cross the river. Even though the day was rainy, the young emigrants persevered and pushed on. They next visited the new park in Marysville, Kansas, dedicated to the trails. The park features a replica rope ferry similar to the one used to ford the Big Blue River. At Alcove Spring, the students were greeted by Jack Haller of the newly formed Kanza Chapter of OCTA. He spoke about the site and told the students how local people were working to preserve it. Students then returned to Bern a little wet, but much wiser in what it would have been like to travel the trail through their area about 150 years ago.

VOLUNTEERS LUNCHEON

Thirty-nine volunteers from the community were honored at a luncheon for the time and talent they have donated on a regular basis over the last year to the St. Joseph Museum and Pony Express National Memorial. Jim Lehr, president of the St. Joseph Museum, and Dick Deshon, president of the Pony Express National Memorial, not only welcomed the group, but also were honored by the staff for the many hours they give to support the museums.

Volunteers have served in several areas including collections and as tour guides. Their help plays a vital role in the success of the museums. Thank you to our volunteers:  

Enjoying the covered dish luncheon prepared by the staff are left to right: Barbara Maxwell, Jim Lehr, Margaret Elder, Mary Jo Sprague, and Marilyn Maxwell.

Photos by Clint Sims



L. to R.: Jackie Lewin and Carol Wills call out volunteer names as Jacque McNeiley receives a thank you from Allana Smith and Rich Noff.

Lois Heimsoth	Bob Bangerter
Joe Houts	Ed Barlow
Delia Lamb	Betsy Bartlett
Jim Lehr	Helen Bonebrake
Pat Marston	Georgia Brooks
Dave Martin	Bobbie Brown
Barbara Maxwell	Kit Carson
Marilyn Maxwell	Scott Clark
Jacque McNeiley	Margaret Corken
Jeanne Patterson	Shirley Couldry
Dorothy Pettijohn	Bernice Curry
Dennis Riche	Margaret Elder
Freda Rock	Leonard Elliott
Mary Jo Sprague	Kim Felker
Jean Sweet	Mike Fisher
Roy Teter	Norma Gallagher
Hildegard Uhlhorn	Ray Glick
Jim Watkins	Marcelene Green
Herbert Woodbury	Nancy Hampton
	Marlys Hauglie

During April, staff members Marilyn Taylor and Jackie Lewin taught a graduate level class for area teachers which was offered through the cooperation of the Missouri State Teachers' Association, Northwest Missouri State University, the St. Joseph Museum, and the Pony Express National Memorial. The topic of the class was the Pony Express. Part of the class involved a detailed tour of the trail from St. Joseph to Marysville, Kansas. Twenty teachers participated in the class and hopefully will be able to share the information with their students.



GRADUATE LEVEL CLASS FOR AREA TEACHERS

Photos by Jackie Lewin



Teachers from the St. Joseph area stand in a swale of the Pony Express Trail just east of Guittard Station near present-day Beattie, Kansas. Property owner Lyle Polson, third from the left, graciously escorted the group to the site.*

** A swale is a depression with sloped sides indicating where a trail or road once existed.*

The teachers imagine a ride on the rope ferry at the Big Blue River crossing site. The replica ferry is a new addition to the park being developed by the city of Marysville, Kansas, and dedicated to the trails.

VOLKSWALK TOUR AT ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM

On May 29, 45 people arrived at the St. Joseph Museum at 7 a.m. to begin the local Year-Round Volkswalk. From Dayton, Ohio, they were stopping at various communities where volkswalks are available. As they began returning from the walk in mid morning, we heard many compliments about the city, the volkswalk, and the museum. The group left from the museum to head northwest to other volkswalks including those at Pierre, South Dakota; Mount Rushmore; and the site of Custer's battlefield. ✕



Clint Sims

MOSCOW VISITS THE PONY EXPRESS

On April 17, two visitors from Moscow were escorted around the Pony Express National Memorial by Dick DeShon and Dave Waller. Dr. Vasily Vydrin, Chief of Veterinary Department of Krusk Oblast Administration, and Marina Avagimova, interpreter, were part of a group of Russian specialists inspecting U.S. poultry processing plants. Accompanying the two Russians to St. Joseph was Mike Rose, a facilitator for the U. S. Department of Agriculture. 

Photos by Clint Sims



Dr. Vydrin tries on a Pony Express Stetson for size while Mike Rose and Ms. Avagimova watch. Dick DeShon assists with the search for the correct size.

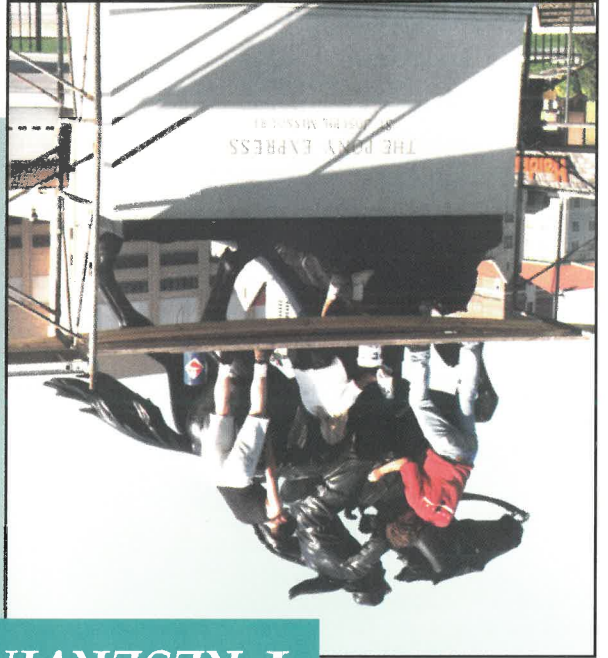


L. to R.: Dick DeShon, Dr. Vydrin, Ms. Avagimova, Mike Rose, and Dave Waller pose before the map at the Pony Express National Memorial.

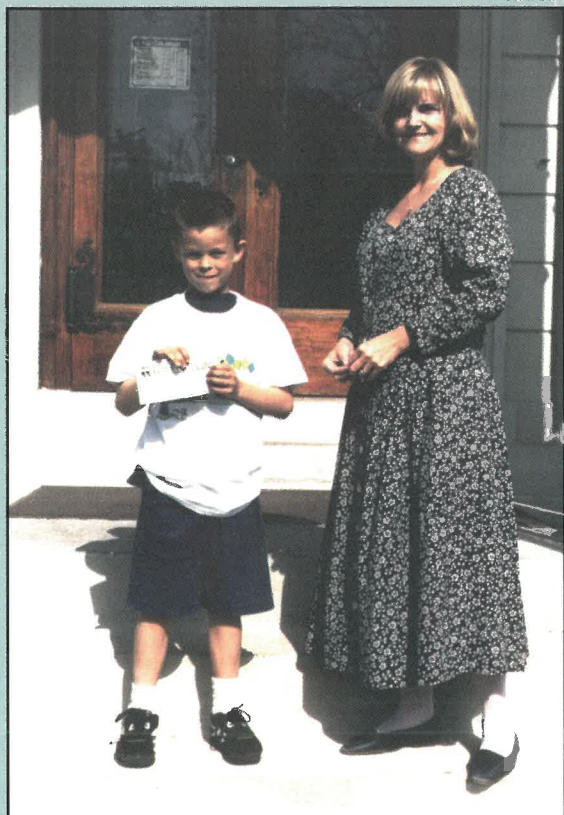
PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

For a number of years, the St. Joseph Museum and the St. Joseph Department of Parks and Recreation have collaborated in the conservation of the Pony Express Statue. Major restoration was done on the statue several years ago, and now a biennial cleaning keeps the statue in prime condition. Museum staff members perform the conservation measures that are necessary which usually include scrubbing, waxing with a pigment, lacquering, and applying a final coat of wax.

L. to R.: Robbie Sipes, Carol Wills, and Chad Lawhon use a combination of wax and elbow grease to make the Pony Express statue as good as new.



HOW MANY BEANS CONTEST WINNER



Susan Noland presents Cody Zahner with his contest prizes for guessing "How Many Beans."

Cody Zahner was the winner of the "How Many Beans" contest held during Children's Week April 9-14. The correct number of beans was 15,085. Ten people guessed 15,000. The ten entries were put together, and Cody's name was drawn. In addition to a Children's Week tee shirt, Cody received a Museum Shop gift certificate and a museum membership. ✂

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Tom & Dixie Olmstead	Mrs. Robert Bristow
Dr. & Mrs. Ron Wade	36th Street Food & Drink
M/M Fred C. Hunt	Margaret & Jack Corken
Louis Westheimer	M/M Felix Rizvanov
M/M Paul Spence	M/M Frank Weaver
M/M Hugh Welch	Jane Pertain
Jean K. Conner	M/M J.P. Barclay
John Mothershead	James & Karen Graves
M/M Oliver Prophetter	Albert Krofft
Dwight Dannen	River Bluff Architects (Reed Graves)
Dr. & Mrs. E.F. Butler	John & Ali Wray
Butcharts Flowers	Mercantile Bank
M/M Warren Hinton	M/M Jerry Gray
Dr. Wallace McDonald	M/M Richard Optican
Mrs. Eulalie Petersen	M/M William R. Wenz
Mary Hillix	Velma & Caton Lake
Carol Matt	M/M Jack Tootle
M/M David Rich	Lt. Col. & Mrs. Carroll Hicks
M/M Gerald Sprong	Eastowne Power Equipment
Barry & Gail Rose	
Margaret Richter	
Barbara Braxdale	
Ron & Barbara Bielby	
Dorothy Smith	
Betty & Ed Blakeley	
Karen Foley	
Bob Bangerter	

Memorials

Pony Express National Memorial

From Mr. and Mrs. Dick DeShon
in memory of Norbert Wisneski

From Mr. and Mrs. Dick DeShon
in memory of Mrs. Mildred "Jerry" Alexander

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 4 - Independence Day. St. Joseph Museum open 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. No admission charge. Pony Express National Memorial open regular hours. Regular admission charge.

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

August 1 - Thursday. Edward Whapp, an internationally known Sac-Fox flutist, will appear in the Community Room of the Pony Express National Memorial at 7:30. Admission is \$5.00 per person. Jointly sponsored by the Native American Heritage Museum and Pony Express National Memorial.

August 12-18 - Annual meeting of the Oregon-California Trails Association in Elko, Nevada.

August 17 - Third Annual Trails West! Commemorative Stick Horse Re-Run Relay Race beginning at the Pony Express National Memorial at 10:00 a.m. For more information call the Allied Arts Council at 233-0231.

September 2 - Labor Day. St. Joseph Museum open 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. No admission charge. Pony Express National Memorial open regular hours. Regular admission charge.

September 19 - Bobby Sipes Art Show/New Native American exhibit opening. For more information call 232-8471.

October 12-13 - Pumpkinfest at the Pony Express National Memorial. For more information call 279-5059.

St. Joseph Museum

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

Pony Express National Memorial

914 Penn Street, P.O. Box 244
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Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.
Sundays 1-5 p.m.

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