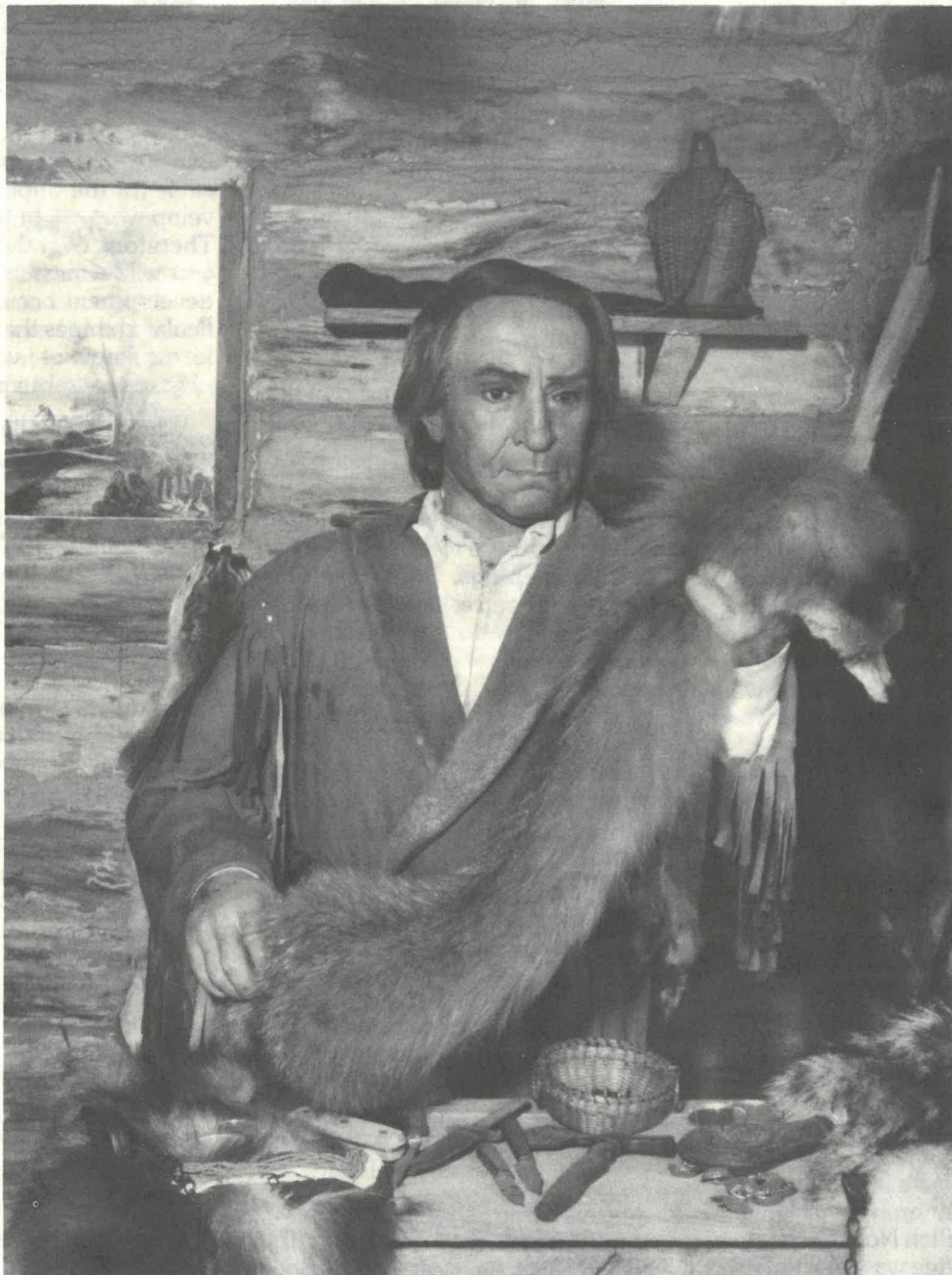


The Happenings

ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM
PONY EXPRESS MUSEUM

January - February 1989



Interior of Robidoux's fur trading post, an exhibit at the St. Joseph Museum.

From the Director

Early in January I received a letter from the Director of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History advising me that the Summer issue of the *Explorer* would be its last. The *Explorer*, as you know, is the quarterly journal supported jointly by 4-3 natural history museums and published by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The discontinuance of the *Explorer* came as a total surprise. It's my understanding that other institutions were equally unaware of, and unprepared for, this suspension.

A staff meeting was called to review our options. It has always been our policy to give something tangible in exchange for the membership dollars we receive. Two clear avenues developed: one was to wait and see if some other institution would pick up where Cleveland left off and offer a similar type of consortium; and the other avenue was for us to review our total publications program and, as a part of that review, evaluate the effectiveness of the *Explorer*.

A staff committee, composed of Jackie Lewin, David Mead and Linn Hoyt, developed a plan to review the effectiveness of our publications. The plan entailed a questionnaire and the assignment that each of the curatorial staff survey a minimum of five members (many contacted more than that) to record their responses to the questionnaire. By distributing the workload we were able to personally interview approximately 15% of our membership. Following the collection and compilation

action of the data, the staff evaluated the responses. Some really interesting information came from this survey and a general direction was clearly indicated. The majority of those interviewed only casually looked at the *Explorer* and it was a rare individual that read the *Explorer*. In contrast, the vast majority of members read our own newsletter, and it was the rare individual that just glanced at it! When asked about the St. Joseph Museum publishing a quarterly, the clear consensus was to not produce one. But when asked about expanding our own newsletter and its content, people were very positive and contributed a number of ideas.

With this information the following decisions have been made: We will not replace the *Explorer* with any kind of quarterly, either produced by ourselves or another museum. And, secondly, we will expand *The Happenings*. This expansion can occur in a couple of different directions, one would be in the number of pages and the other in the frequency. Furthermore it is our desire to upgrade and redesign the total format of *The Happenings*, bearing in mind those suggestions and desires that we received from the membership via the questionnaire. However, this will not happen overnight!

Through consultations with the curatorial staff I have established a totally different procedure for the publication of *The Happenings*. Specific responsibilities have been established thereby creating a publications team. Their initial task will be that of publishing *The Happenings*, but other publications that are in various stages of planning development will be coordinated by the same persons. The publications team is composed of:

1. The museum staff should explore from where the museum has come so as to help project needs for the future.
2. Any expansion should be done with the full participation of the staff in the planning. A retreat for preliminary planning was recommended.

three of the members have a long time history with the museum and three are quite recent to the board, thus providing a balanced insight.

At its first meeting the committee made a variety of recommendations on the direction it should take.

Senior Editors: Marilyn Taylor and Rich Nolf
Content: Jackie Lewin and Bonnie Watkins
Layout and Design: David Mead and Robbie Sipes
Production: Linn Hoyt

It is our objective to have a feature article in each issue, along with some smaller, satellite articles. These articles will evolve around the different areas of the museum, its exhibits and collections. We will be using more photographs as this was almost a universal request from those surveyed. In addition, there will be a segment with consistent categories which will contain such information as: membership, donations, calendar of events, etc.

Already in this issue you will note some changes from the preceding issues of *The Happenings*. It will take a while for the publications team to develop what might be the "new image." Therefore, over the next several issues you will witness this evolution as the development occurs. If there are particular changes that you like or dislike, let us know — we are trying to be responsive to our membership.

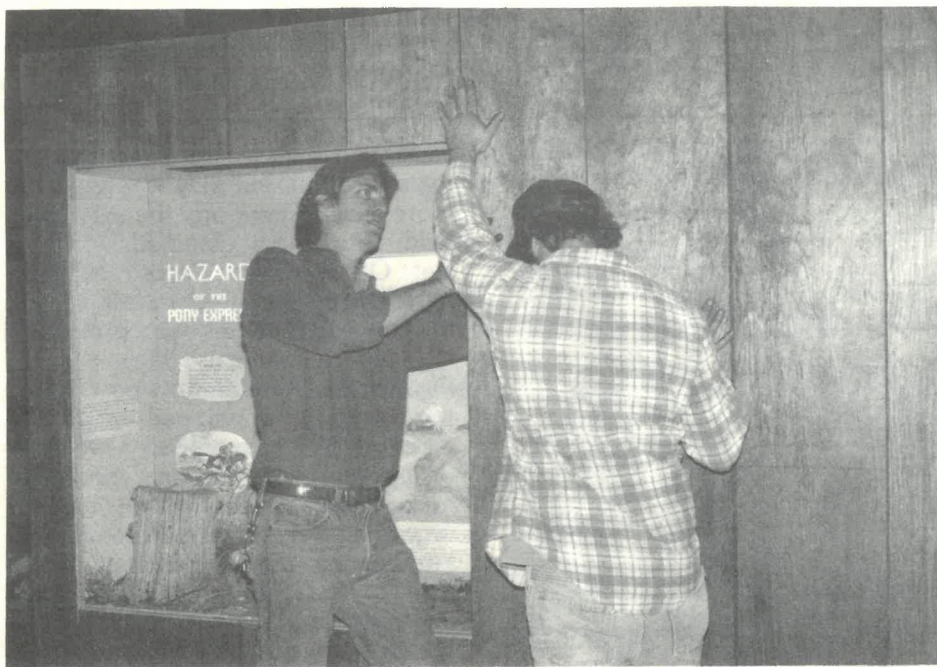
What I find really exciting is the overwhelming response, support and forthrightness that each of the members gave the staff during the interviews. It is my perception that the staff is equally excited about the changes that are taking place. As one thinks back to the first issue of *The Happenings* in July 1974, we have come a long way. However, considering what we have to offer, we have a long way to go. I am personally excited about all the opportunities that are available for all of us. Thank you for your support. ■

3. The committee would be involved in a portion of this retreat.

4. The museum staff and the committee would commence an in-depth study of other institutions with similar program disciplines.

5. The staff and committee would commence physical studies of similar institutions that have recently experienced either new or recycled construction.

The committee has been quite active since that time. The planned retreat was extremely beneficial and successful. In addition, an extensive field trip to three museums has been planned. ■



Renovation work at the Pony Express Museum. Robbie Sipes (l) and Wade Mayer (r).

Staff/EEC Retreat

In an earlier article the newly formed Exploratory Expansion Committee recommended that there be a full staff and committee retreat to develop and conceptualize as many ideas as possible for the expansion of our facilities and programs. A site away from the museum was sought and American Angus generously agreed to allow us to use their board room. It is truly an exceptional location and the personnel at American Angus were just fantastic. Our sincere appreciation goes to Dick Spader, Executive Vice President, and Dean Hurlbut, Director of Activities.

Senior Curators, Marilyn Taylor, Jackie Lewin and Bonnie Watkins were assigned the responsibility of planning the agenda for the retreat with Nancy Hampton and Rich Nolf from the committee assisting. The retreat was laid out whereby the morning session involved only paid museum staff and the afternoon session involved curatorial staff and the Exploratory Expansion Committee.

The morning session was divided into three segments. The first was an ice breaker which relaxed everybody, was challenging and served as an aid in thought exploration. Segments two and three were two specific questions designed to facilitate brainstorming. The nominal group technique was used for discussion. This method allows and encourages all members to participate and contribute and also insures that no

one or group of individuals dominate the process.

Question 1: In your wildest dreams, what programs would you wish to see accomplished at the St. Joseph Museum and/or the Pony Express Museum?

Question 2: If the St. Joseph Museum and/or the Pony Express Museum had unlimited money for physical expansion, how would you use it?

Both of those questions produced a large number of responses — Question #1 received 88 and Question #2, 64. No response was criticized, although some could be considered “far out,” or long-ranged, but they were viable responses. Others were extremely practical and could be implemented almost immediately.

Lunch had been prearranged at 36th Street Food and Drink where the Exploratory Expansion Committee joined us. The board members and the staff were integrated around three tables to facilitate the group development. Following lunch, the non-curatorial staff returned to the museum to open for the public and the curatorial staff and the Exploratory Expansion Committee reconvened at American Angus. During the afternoon session we corporately reviewed the morning exercise and additional suggestions were added to the list. The group agreed upon the method of categorizing that information so that it would be manageable for future reference and development. ■

The Pony Express Museum Renovation

In order to take full advantage of the off-season at the Pony Express Museum, a renovation of the case fronts and lighting in the bay area were recently completed.

The case fronts, which were previously a smooth painted surface, are now a rustic looking barn board to better match the existing interior. Prior to its opening this spring new lights and case tops will be added to the exhibits.

Track lighting in the bay area is also a new addition that makes viewing the exhibits much easier. The previously existing spot lights that were located at various places around the bay area were removed, and the new lighting system was installed down the center of the building. ■

Natural History Exhibits Planning

The natural history exhibits on the third floor of the St. Joseph Museum have been the topic of much discussion during the past few months. Due to their deteriorated condition, many of the exhibits need to be renovated or replaced. Rather than merely repair or duplicate existing exhibits, plans are being made to entirely redesign third floor.

Curator of Natural History, David Mead, and Curator of Exhibits, Robbie Sipes, are in the process of developing a story line and flow plan for the new exhibits. They will concentrate upon wildlife and habitats of this region, with an emphasis on conservation and wise use of our natural resources. Although most exhibit design and fabrication is done “in-house,” outside sources are consulted and often help in construction. In keeping with this policy, museum staff recently met with several professionals in natural history and conservation fields to discuss a preliminary natural history story line. Attending the meeting were Dr. John Rushin, Missouri Western State College biology professor, Jack Fennell, Missouri Department of Conservation; Curt Walker, USDA Soil Conservation Service and Mike Fisher, archeologist. We appreciate their input and involvement in this project. ■

On February 8th, staff members Rich

Noff, Marilyn Taylor and Jackie Lewin along with Jim Lehr, board president, and Marcus Eckhardt, museum intern, set out with measuring tape and compass. The morning was cold (about 5 degrees) and a passing motorist suggested they would be more comfortable in an office. But, this was an event that the staff members had been anticipating. The first stop was the intersection of Main and Jules Streets where the exact center of the street was determined. Then a sighting was taken and more measurements made to determine block 3 of the original town. The destination was in property adjacent to the railroad tracks and McArthur Drive just to the north of Jules Street. This was the site of Joseph Robidoux's store according to an 1839 government surveying map. However, according to a map drawn by surveyor Frederick Smith in 1843, Robidoux's store was about 100 feet further east. After subsequent research determined that Smith's plat was the one that should be used as a basis for locating the store, professional surveyors were hired to make the exact measurements. On March 6, 1989 (another cold day), Jackie, Marilyn and staff member David Mead met surveyors Duane Morgan and Doug Mink of Buzzard Associates at the site. It took Duane and Doug about four hours to locate reference points and determine the exact location of the old store and storehouse. Posts and paint were used to mark what had been the four corners of both buildings. The buildings were just north of where, today, Jules Street meets McArthur Drive. The land is fenced off since it is part of the I-229 right-of-way.

There has been much speculation in recent years as to the exact location of Robidoux's early store and storehouse. The various suggested locations ranged from Francis Street to Faraon Street to Jules Street to a short distance up Blacksake Creek near where Wire Rope Corporation is now located. Pursuing and verifying this location had been a goal of Marilyn Taylor and Jackie Lewin for some time. During the past two years they had extensively researched the St. Joe Road of the California Trail from the Missouri River to just west of Marysville, Kansas. This was done in preparation for last summer's Oregon-California Trails Association's



Joseph Robidoux, fur trader and founder of St. Joseph.

cation's national convention in St. Joseph. Utilizing sources uncovered during this research, they decided to collect all known data about the Robidoux post.

Missouri was admitted into the Union in 1821, but did not include the six county area of northwest Missouri then known as the Platte Territory. This was Indian Territory and was occupied by the Iowa, Sac and Fox. However, settlers in Missouri coveted the land between the Little Platte River and the Missouri River and complained about the Indians being so close to them. [1] The idea of a natural boundary (the Missouri River) between settlers and Indians gained popularity, and finally, in 1837, the Platte Territory was added to the already existing state of Missouri through the Platte Purchase Treaty. Before the land could be legally claimed, sold or purchased, it had to be surveyed. Robidoux, of course, had been living in the Platte Territory legally as a licensed fur trader since 1826. The survey was done in 1839 by William Monroe of the Government Land Office. Copies of the original survey maps were obtained by the museum staff. Along with other information, the maps denoted various settlers fields and, more importantly to this research, Robidoux's store and storehouse (Map A). This gave

Jackie and Marilyn a clue to the approximate location, but they wanted to be more exact. Therefore, the surveyor's field notes were obtained from the state Office of Land Records in Rolla, Missouri. As far as the staff knows, these notes have not been previously used by local historians to try to pinpoint the location of Robidoux's post. When the surveyor first mapped the area in October 1839, he made extensive notes of where he set corners, species of trees used for reference points, types of vegetation and existing roads, and sometimes he mentioned buildings. Notes were generally about six handwritten pages for each section. Following is a quote from surveyor Monroe's field notes of October 12, 1839 for what is now the riverfront area of St. Joseph. The staff was thrilled to see Robidoux's store mentioned in the field notes!

I continue the line North between Sections 7 & 8 Township 57 North Range 35 West of 5th P M counting the distances from the place of the corner to Sections 7, 8, 17 & 18 in river (31.50 chains) left prairie & timbered land - bs [beats] SE & NW Robidoux's Store about 2.00 chns East on river Bluffs bs SE & NW (40.00 chains) Set a post for quarter Section corner from which a black oak 7 in dia bs S 58° W. 125 links distant, no other tree [2]

This meant that Monroe was standing on the section line looking east where the land began a gradual rise to the bluffs, and he guessed that the post was two chains east. Today this location is in a parcel of land owned by Union Pacific Railroad and is just west of the railroad tracks by McArthur Drive. However, the key word in these notes is "about" 2.00 chains. [3] This vague

[1] Originally, the Platte River in Missouri was named the Little Platte to distinguish it from the Platte River of Nebraska. What we know today as the Little Platte River (the main feeder of Smithville Lake) was first called Smith's Fork. [2] U.S., Government Land Office, Public Land Survey, Volume 471 A, 108 and 109. Original in the files of State Government Department, Rolla, Missouri. [3] A surveyor's chain is 66 feet long. Two chains equal 132 feet.

Another missionary, Father Pierre-Jean Desmet, spent two hours at Black-snake Hills in May 1838. He thought the place was "one of the finest on the Missouri for the erection of a city." While here he had a long talk with Joseph Robidoux, who operated a trad-

covered with woods. . . . [9]

At this place Mr. Rubedoux has a trading post, and an uncommonly fine farming establishment on the Missouri river. His buildings are on a small elevation of land, having a delightful prospect in front of more than a thousand acres of open bottom land, lying along down the river; and hills on the north and east partially

Other early visitors who saw Robidoux's post left descriptions of interest. In June 1835, the Reverend Samuel Parker, en route to Oregon, camped at Blacksnake Hills. He wrote:

Toward four o'clock in the afternoon we reached the beautiful chain of the Black Snake Hills, and, not long after, Rubedoux's trading house in the neighbourhood of the Joways, and Saukies, or Sacs. . . . The two houses at this spot were painted white, which, when seen from the river, gave them a picturesque appearance amid the surrounding green. Behind the dwelling houses were extensive fields of maize, protected by fences, and very fine cattle were grazing in the plain. Mr. Rubedoux, the owner of the house, and his son, were away from home. . . . [8]

On May 16, 1834, on his way back down river over one year later, Maximilian again records an account of the Robidoux post:

On the 24th we saw the chain of the Blacksnake Hills. . . . Near to the steep bank a trading house has been built, which was occupied by a man named Rubedoux, an agent of the Fur Company. This white house, surrounded by the bright green prairies, had a very neat appearance, and Mr. Bodmer sketched this pretty landscape. . . . [7]

Maximilian wrote in his journal: mount interest is the description Prince and Blacksnake Creek. Also of a post in relation to the Missouri River it shows the location of the fur trade significance of Bodmer's sketch is that which measurement was correct. The sketch shows the buildings in the positions later recorded by both surveyors, it is impossible to tell from the sketch to the north of it. [6] Although the

[6] The original is a watercolor and pencil on paper 8 7/8 inches x 10 3/4 inches. This sketch was one of Bodmer's watercolors rediscovered after World War II by Josef Roder at Wied near Koblenz in Germany. In 1959 Friedrich Wilhelm, Prince of Wied, sold the Maximilian-

ing post and a fine farm. [10]

By 1840 Robidoux had added a third building to his settlement. Richard Hayes McDonald while on a visit to see his cousin, Dr. Silas McDonald who was an early Buchanan County physician, wrote: . . . went to where the city of St. Joseph is now located, and where the only occupant and owner of a business house was a Frenchman named Robidoux, who had lived there a number of years as an Indian trader, and who was at that time still engaged in the occupation. He was moving around dressed in an old, red flannel shirt, his trousers strapped around his waist, on his head a slouched hat, and so tanned and weather-beaten that it was difficult to tell whether he was a white man, a mulatto, or an Indian. His establishment consisted of three log-cabins, one or more of which were filled with furs of otter, beaver, buffalo, deer, bear, and other skins; in the other buildings were stored provisions, trinkets, and supplies for the Indians, the latter chiefly in whiskey, tobacco, and liquors. [11]

Bodmer collection to M. Knoedler and Company in New York. They in turn sold it to the Northern Natural Gas Company in 1962. The "Northern" collection, in addition to Bodmer's art, also includes Maximilian's journals, letters, scientific notes and an atlas of thirty-nine maps plus his North American library. In 1986, this collection was permanently donated to the Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska.

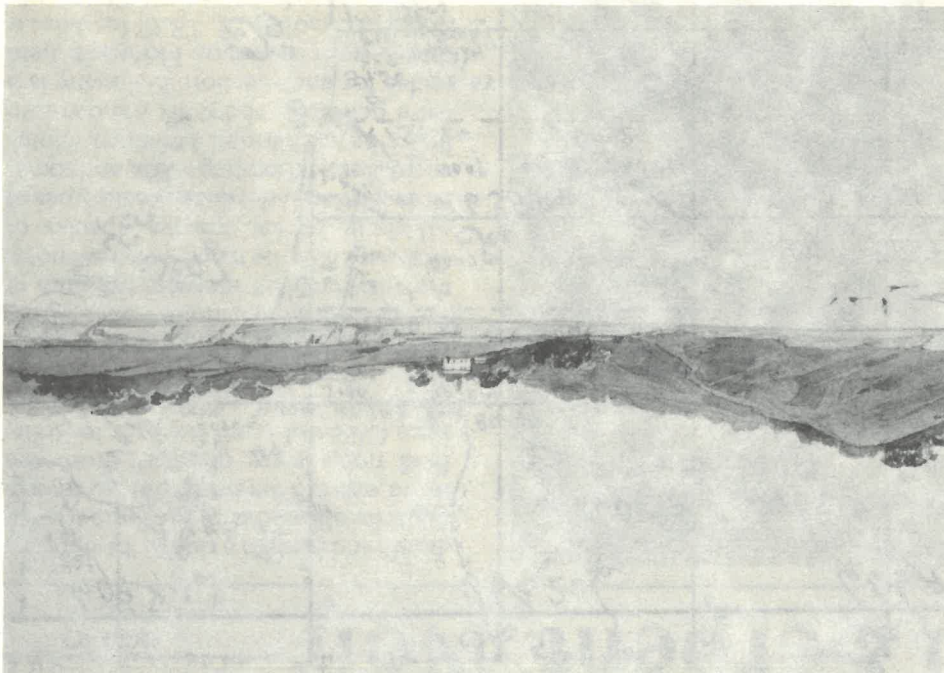
[7] Maximilian, Prince of Wied, *Travels in the Interior of North America, 1832 - 1844*, Volume XXII of *Early Western Travels*, edited by Reuben Gold Thwaites (Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1906), 257.

[8] *Ibid.*, XXIV, 111.

[9] Samuel Parker, *Journal of an Exploration Tour Beyond the Rocky Mountains Under the Direction of the A.B.C.F.M. Performed in the Years 1835, 1836, and 1837*. . . . (Ithaca, New York: Published by the author, 1844), 36.

[10] John Upton Terrell, *Black Robe: The Life of Pierre-Jean Desmet Missionary, Explorer and Pioneer* (Garden City: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1964), 41.

[11] Sheridan Logan, *Old Saint Joe* (The Stinehour Press, 1979), 21-22.



Karl Bodmer's "Blacksnake Hill, Robidoux's House" sketched in 1833. Courtesy of Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska.

Robidoux had built his first post in the Blacksnake Hills area in the fall of 1826 at the mouth of Roy's Branch. Early traders and settlers who were the first to move into an area and had the choice of a prime location almost always elected to settle "on the banks of small rivers near their junction with large rivers." [12] The location of Roy's Branch and the course of the Missouri River in 1826 can be noted on the map (Map A). In 1826 the river was closer to the east bluffs. The mouth of Roy's Branch emptied into the Missouri River where today McArthur Drive crosses over the railroad tracks. No one knows for sure why Robidoux decided to move down river the next spring to the mouth of the Blacksnake Creek, but there has been speculation that since the Roy's Branch site was in the flood plain, it may have been prone to spring flooding.

In any event, by the spring of 1827, Robidoux had established his headquarters near the mouth of Blacksnake Creek. Over the years there has also been a question as to whether the post was north or south of Blacksnake Creek. Both the 1839 and 1843 surveyors' maps show that Blacksnake Creek was east and south of the post. The staff feels that the tree line to the right of the buildings in Bodmer's sketch was following the course of Blacksnake Creek in 1833.

Blacksnake Creek has been somewhat elusive. Today, it disappears from sight into a sewer as it flows under Karnes Road in north St. Joseph and does not appear again until it empties into the Missouri River at Francis Street, just north of Robidoux Landing Park. Through researching the early minutes of the meetings of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Saint Joseph, Marilyn and Jackie found that in 1845 Blacksnake Creek followed the course shown on Map B and emptied into the Missouri River at the foot of Felix Street. [13] At various times, Blacksnake Creek was moved as the Board of Trustees approved plans for new channels to be dug. Evidently during flood season the creek and the Missouri River current created severe problems in the maintenance of a wharf area causing land in the town to be washed away down the river. Although the trustees at one time briefly entertained the idea of diverting Blacksnake Creek north to Roy's Branch, it appears that the current location of Blacksnake Creek is the farthest north it has been. [14] Therefore, Robidoux's post was less than a block west

of the creek and almost two and one half blocks north of its mouth.

Another factor which may have led to confusion over the location of Robidoux's post is that there were later stores built nearby. Robidoux later lived at several other locations, including a house at the corner of Main and Jules and at Robidoux Row at Third and Poulin where he died in 1868.

Joseph Robidoux, in addition to being the founder of St. Joseph, was the leader of a fur trading family. [15] From this post at Blacksnake Hills, he sent out men to trade with the Indians in many parts of the West. His brothers maintained outposts in Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico. His life span on the Missouri River allowed him to see the area develop from its virgin beginnings. His first trip up the

[12] **Gottfried Duden, Report on a Journey to the Western States of North America and a Stay of Several Years along the Missouri (during the Years 1824, 25, 26, and 1827)** (Columbia: State Historical Society of Missouri, 1980), 58. The original of this report was printed in 1829 in German and encouraged many German immigrants to settle in Missouri. There are recurrent citations of settlements at the mouths of waterways in the **Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition 1804 - 1806 Vol. 1** edited by Reuben Gold Thwaites (New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1904) including "on

the Stbd. Side called Osage Womans R, about 30 yds Wide, opposit a large Island and a (American) Settlement. (on this Creek 30 or 40 famlys are Settled..." p. 27; "Camped at the mouth of a Creek called River a Chouritte, (La Charette), above a Small french Village of 7 houses and as many families, settled at this place to be convt. to hunt, & trade with Indians..." p.28-29; "We came to and camped in the lower edge of a Plain where the 2d. old Kansas village formerly Stood, above the mouth of a Creek 30 yds wide this Creek we call Creek Independence..." p. 67.

[13] St. Joseph was governed by a Board of Trustees from May 8, 1845 until April 11, 1851. On April 14, 1851 the city council form of government was instituted.

[14] Entry of Friday, September 7, 1849 of the **Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Town of Saint Joseph** reads: "Dr. Crane made a motion to the board to appoint a committee to inquire into the expediency of changing the channel of Black Snake so far as to make it empty into Roys Branch Motion lost" The original minutes are in the office of the St. Joseph City Clerk.

[15] For further information on the Robidoux fur trading empire see Merrill J. Mattes "Joseph Robidoux" in **Mountain Men and the Fur Trade, Vol. VIII**, ed. by LeRoy R. Hafen (Glendale: Arthur Clark Company, 1971), pp. 287-314.



Marilyn Taylor, Duane Morgan, Doug Mink and Jackie Lewin at the site of Robidoux's post. In Robidoux's day the location of the Missouri River channel was the same as shown in this photo.

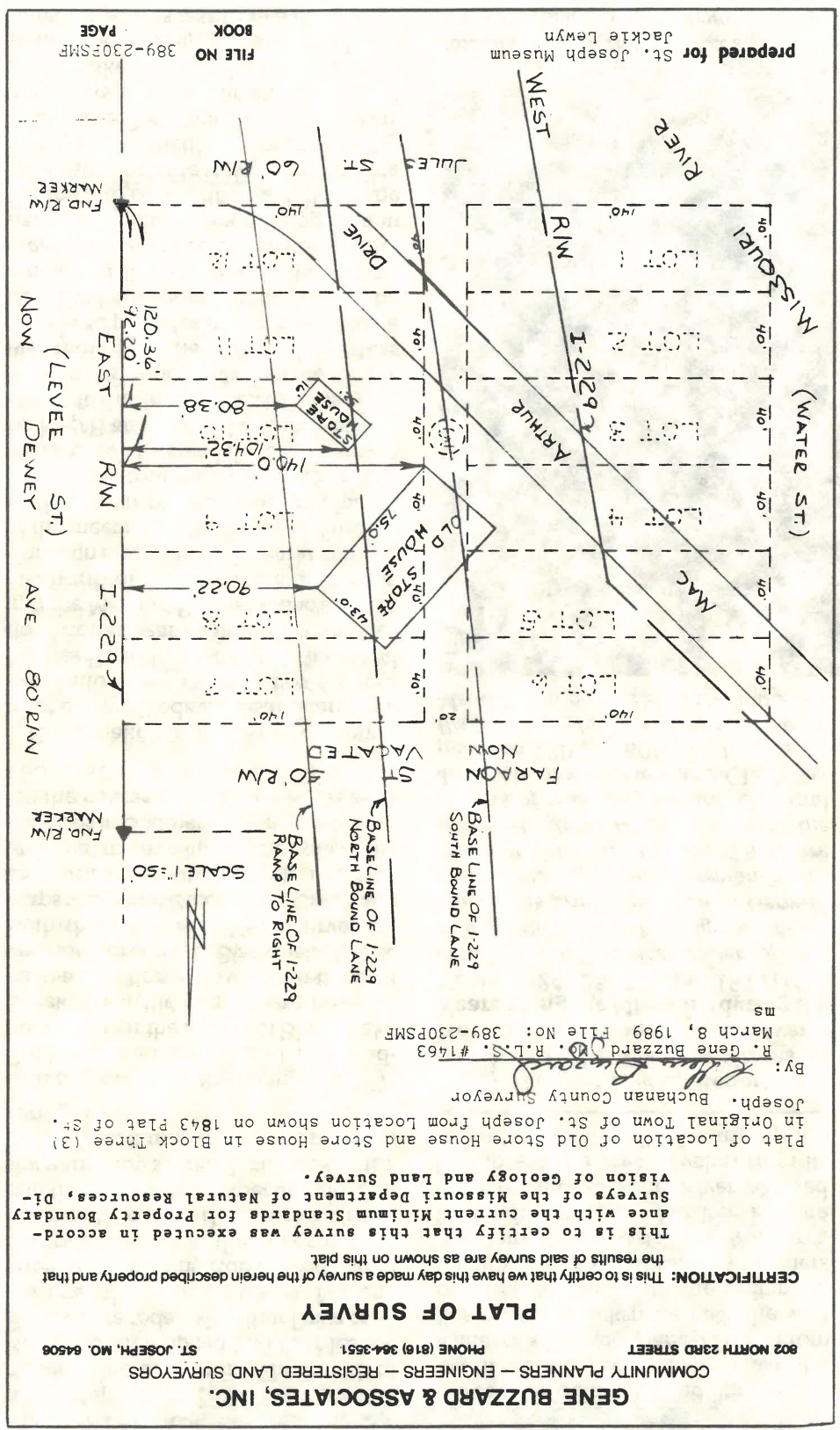
[16] Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Saint Joseph, May 8, 1845.

Because of the renewed interest of the city in the riverfront and the development of the Robidoux Landing Park and the surrounding areas, the location of the early store is particularly significant (Map C). The staff feels it is unfortunate the city does not own the actual location, but hopes that some recognition can be given to the site of the original post. It is not anticipated there will be any discoveries as far as archaeological remains are concerned. There have been significant changes to the area over the years wrought by the grading for roads and railroads and the encroachment of the Missouri River. Obviously, the early city fathers were not successful in stopping the Missouri River from taking parts of the town. In comparing Map B and Map C one can note that several original streets and blocks are now missing, lost due to flooding and normal erosion as the current washed against the river bank. Nevertheless, one can go to the site of the post and look down the river and back up at the bluffs to get an idea of what Joseph Robidoux observed as he stood outside his establishment. St. Joseph Museum staff members did just this on March 6, 1989. ■

Missouri was in 1799 when he was sixteen years old and the fur trade was at its height. He met Lewis and Clark in 1806 and saw well-known travelers such as Maximilian, Catlin, Father Desmet and Audubon, as well as many other courageous people who ventured into the then unknown reaches of the Missouri. Since he lived in close proximity to the Indians, their customs were well known to him. When civilization moved in to his isolated area, he met it by claiming and selling land to settlers and thereby helping to establish the town where he served as the first chairman of the Board of Trustees. [16] Robidoux lived to see the mass emigration of those going to Oregon and California, the coming of the railroad, the excitement of the Pony Express and the turmoil of the Civil War. At his death, the town which arose from the store and storehouse known as "Le Poste du Serpent Noir" (literal translation is: the post of the serpent black) had grown to a population of about 19,000 people and was the 68th largest city in the United States. [17]

[17] Census Reports Vol. I, 12th Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1900, William R. Merriam, Director (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Census Office, 1901), p. 432, Table 6 which shows "population of cities having 25,000 inhabitants or more in 1900 at each census: 1790 - 1900" lists St. Joseph as having a population of 19,565 in 1870, just two years after Robidoux's death.

Authors: Jacqueline Lewin, Curator of History and Marilyn Taylor, Curator of Ethnology at the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Dec. 3 Marilyn Taylor guided a group of Brownies from Troop 148 through the St. Joseph Museum. The girls were earning a "Heritage" patch and the museum visit was to help toward meeting the requirements.
- Dec. 16 David Mead gave a presentation on bird watching to the John Glenn fourth grade classes. There were approximately 50 students in attendance. David used four mounted specimens from the museum as a part of his program.
- Dec. 28 Two sessions of Cadet-Senior Scouts from the Midland Empire Girl Scout Council met at the St. Joseph Museum for participation in "Museum Introduction" courses. Bonnie Watkins and Marilyn Taylor conducted the gatherings which were designed to aid the scouts in fulfilling the requirements to obtain a "Museum Discover" patch. Twenty-five participants from northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas learned about record keeping, conservation and toured several storage areas.
- Jan. 9 An audience of approximately 20 John Glenn PTA members attended David Mead's "Missouri Wildlife" presentation. Three mounted specimens were exhibited as a part of this demonstration.

Other Community Programs

David Mead has been representing the St. Joseph Museum at the weekly Riverfront Development Committee at the City Hall.

The Museum is being represented by Kathy Reno in Leadership St. Joseph — 1989. The 1989 program began February 22 with a retreat and will conduct scheduled sessions through May 10.

Riverfront Development Committee

David Mead, Curator of Natural History, recently served on an advisory committee to produce guidelines for development of St. Joseph's Riverfront Park. David and Mike McKenzie represent the Audubon Society's interest in preserving the riverfront wetland as a natural interpretive area to be accessed by an elevated boardwalk and trails system.

A series of riverfront proposals were presented to the committee and from these it was decided that a number of components should be considered when development begins. In order of priority, those components are:

- Living Experience Theme Park
- Western History Interpretive Center
- Robidoux Landing
- Riverfront Park area with event capabilities
- Historic Trails Center (National Parks Service)
- Wetland Natural History Area
- Recreational vehicle park
- Boat dock and marina
- Train rides and exhibits
- Theatrical playhouse

Based on these components and other guidelines determined by the committee, five development firms have been selected to be interviewed

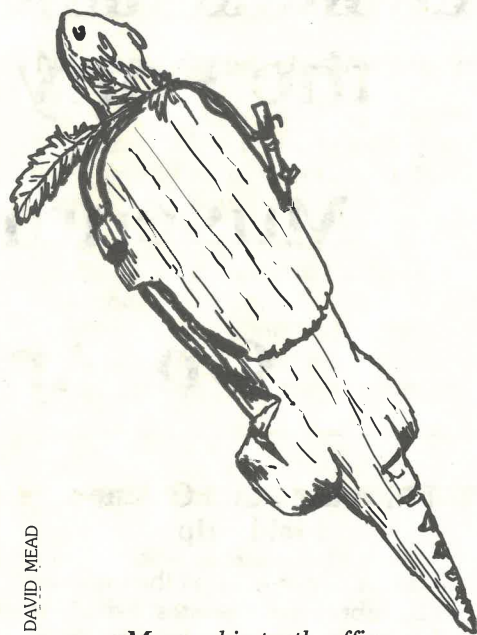
by a committee designated panel. From these firms one will be chosen to develop the final "Master Plan" and supervise its implementation. ■

Iowa City Field Trip

As a part of continuing staff education, museum personnel periodically journey to other museums. These trips include visits with other professionals and help keep the staff informed about what is happening in the museum world. On February 22 and 23 such a trip was planned to coincide with the "Art of the Red Earth People: The Mesquakie of Iowa," an exhibition at the University of Iowa Museum of Art. Staff members were looking forward to seeing the exhibit which included a turtle effigy from the collections of the St. Joseph Museum. Before the Platte Purchase, the Mesquakie (or Fox) lived in what is now northwest Missouri.

While in Iowa City, the staff took the opportunity to visit the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History. Robbie Sipes and David Mead were familiar with this museum, but Bonnie Watkins, Mary Packard and Marilyn Taylor, who were also on the trip, had not previously visited the University of Iowa. On the return trip, the group stopped in Des Moines to visit the museum at the Iowa State Historical Building.

This building was completed only 14 months ago, so the staff was able to see exhibits in various stages of completion.



Mesquakie turtle effigy

One unplanned stop proved very enjoyable. On the way to Iowa City, the staff noticed an interesting geodesic dome adjacent to the interstate. Directional signs at the next exit identified the dome as the Des Moines Botanical Center, so plans were made to stop at the botanical center on the return trip if time permitted. Fortunately, time was available, and a refreshing hour was spent inside the dome among lush tropical vegetation while snow-covered countryside and cold weather stayed outside. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH:	Tues., 3-27	7:00 P.M. — Reception honoring Mike Fisher and Ed Barlow for their volunteer work at the St. Joseph Museum — museum members invited.
APRIL:	Sat., 4-1	PONY EXPRESS MUSEUM OPENS FOR SEASON Hours: 9 - 5, Monday thru Saturday, 2 - 5, Sundays and holidays
	Sat., 4-1	ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM — SUMMER HOURS BEGIN Hours: 9 - 5, Monday thru Saturday, 2 - 5, Sundays and holidays
	Mon., 4-3	Pony Express Riders' graves at Ashland, Mount Mora and Mount Auburn to be decorated commemorating the beginning of the Pony Express on April 3, 1860.
	Thurs., 4-20	MUSEUM FIELD TRIP — NELSON ATKINS MUSEUM IN KANSAS CITY TO VIEW THE THOMAS HART BENTON EXHIBIT — Details regarding time and registration will be announced in a separate mailing.
MAY:	Wed., 5-24	MUSEUM FIELD TRIP — OMAHA ZOO, OMAHA, NEBRASKA — Details regarding time and registration will be announced in a separate mailing.

the Pony Express Museum Opens On April 1st

Milwaukee and Chicago Field Trip

It is one of our goals at the museum to keep abreast of the latest exhibiting techniques being employed by other leading museums. As part of this practice the curatorial staff at the museum has planned a field trip to the Milwaukee Public Museum, the Field Museum of Natural History, located in Chicago, and the Chicago Historical Society Museum.

At each of these locations our staff will be meeting with staff members from these other museums for a behind-the-scenes look at how they are currently operating.

The trip is scheduled for the March 20 through March 24 period. During this time the St. Joseph Museum will maintain its regular visiting hours. ■

Want Ads

NEEDED — ST. JOSEPH CITY DIRECTORIES AROUND 1860 TO 1930

We use our city directories for various research projects and we could do a much better job with a more complete set. If any of our readers have directories from this period, please contact the St. Joseph Museum received a request to print the following in our newsletter:

Wish to locate descendants of pioneer St. Joseph merchant Grandchildren W.L. Blondeau and Julia Chippis lived in St. Joseph in 1970s. Contact: Dawson County Historical Society, Box 369, Lexington, NE 68850. ■

Field Trip

A field trip is planned to visit the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art on April 20 for a guided tour of the Thomas Hart Benton exhibit. This exhibition, "Thomas Hart Benton: An American Original," will be in Kansas City for a limited time. Plans for the remainder of the day-long trip have not yet been finalized. Look for our mailing later this month for announcement of the finalized plans and registration information.

**THOMAS
HART
BENTON**
AN AMERICAN ORIGINAL

The Nelson-Atkins
Museum of Art
April 16 - June 18, 1989

Gift Shop

The gift show in Kansas City was attended by staff members Kathy Reno, June Swift and Avis Batsell. The trip proved to be very helpful in choosing new items for the coming season. A few of the new items have already arrived — black quartz crystals, porcelain from the Nest Egg Collection and limited edition pewter from Chilmark. The new pieces from Chilmark titled "Summit" and "High and Mighty" are composite sculptures of pewter and alabaster.

Also new to the shop is "A Cooking Affaire," a cookbook published by Butcher Block Press. This is an entertaining, fresh idea in cookbooks that serves up a heritage of 1,200 tried and proven recipes passed along through the years in the heartland of America. The 8½ x 11 inch format has 416 pages with 21 nostalgic pen and ink section-page illustrations. Category titles in this cookbook include "Overtures" (beverages); "Appeteasers" (appetizers) and features such as "Under the Mistletoe" for Christmas specialties and "Sugar and Spice" for the younger hands. "A Cooking Affaire" has sold 20,000 copies in the last two years and is now ready for a third printing. The authors, Jan Bertoglio and JoLe Hudson, admit this is not a book for dieters, but for the adventuresome.

This spring the shop will be receiving a new line of pewter sculpted by artist, Boyd Perry. This collection of sculptures is called "Small America" and features such once-familiar sights as the out-

house and the bunkhouse. Perry recreates the old mill house, silo, rock barn, smoke house, dairy barn, hen house, fuel tank, windmill, tractor wagon, haymower, tractor, stock tank, water tower and farm house. Trillium Crafted Glass has used some new ideas in the stained glass items that they presented in the gift show last January. Several of the new designs should arrive this summer. They include pyramids and banks of confetti stained glass, kaleidoscopes and jewel suncatchers.

If you are looking for something unusual, it is a good idea to check the St. Joseph Museum Book and Gift Shop first. ■

Collections

Volunteer, Pat Marston, and new staff member, Mary Packard, are assisting Curator of Collections Bonnie Watkins in a continued effort to deacidify and encapsulate the remaining documents in our collections. It is our fervent hope that this project will draw to a close in 1989. This has been a particularly time consuming project, both because of the dual nature of the job and because of the number of documents in the collection.

After the completion of the Archaeology Exhibit late last year, volunteers Mike Fisher, president of both the Missouri Archaeological Society (MAS) and the St. Joseph Archaeological Society, and Ed Barlow, MAS Trustee and St. Joseph vice-president, began a new career in collections. With the aid of staff, they have initiated a rearrange-

ment of the archaeology collections in storage. A start has been made by accessing some old collections. After this is accomplished a more informed rearrangement can be made. Their expertise in this area makes their help here invaluable. ■

Donations

The following have recently made donations to the collections of the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums:

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Clark — doll with Eskimo-type clothing — parka, leggings, mukluks and mittens.

Janet Fisch — eleven "Needlecraft Magazine" from December, 1923 through November, 1924 containing many interesting articles and pictures.

Midland Empire Audubon Society — book, **Life In The Balance**, author David R. Wallace, donated through Audubon President David Mead. ■

New and Reinstated Members

The St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums welcome the following new and reinstated members and thank them for their support:

Mr. and Mrs. Brian Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Edmonds
Katherine Fiquet
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Heinrich
Mr. and Mrs. John Leamon
Mr. and Mrs. William Wenz ■

The St. Joseph Museum and Pony Express Museum are cultural institutions established for you. There is a continuing effort and dedication towards obtaining top quality educational programs for the children of our community. Our goal is to strive for betterment, and to succeed, we need your support. You can contribute through a donation of your time (as a volunteer), your membership money (cash donations) or materially (adding to our collections). Helping us helps you.

Please make your check payable to the ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM. It's tax deductible.

Mail to:

ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM
11th and Charles Streets
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I Wish to Help With the Following Membership Pledge:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ \$2,500.00 Benefactor | ☐ \$250.00 Sponsor | ☐ \$30.00 Sustaining |
| ☐ \$1,000.00 Patron | ☐ \$100.00 Donor | ☐ \$15.00 Associate |
| ☐ \$ 500.00 Fellow | ☐ \$ 50.00 Subscribing | |

I wish to help by pledging to donate _____ hrs. per week.

I prefer _____ on _____
(a.m. or p.m.) (day of week)

NOTE: if you have questions, please call the Museum, 232-8471, and ask for the Coordinator of Volunteers.

I wish to help materially. I have a (Historic) (Ethnological) (Scientific) material contribution which I would like you to consider.

Please call me at _____
(your phone number)

at _____
(time of day)



Saint Joseph Museum

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Pony Express Museum

Extension of the St. Joseph Museum

ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI

