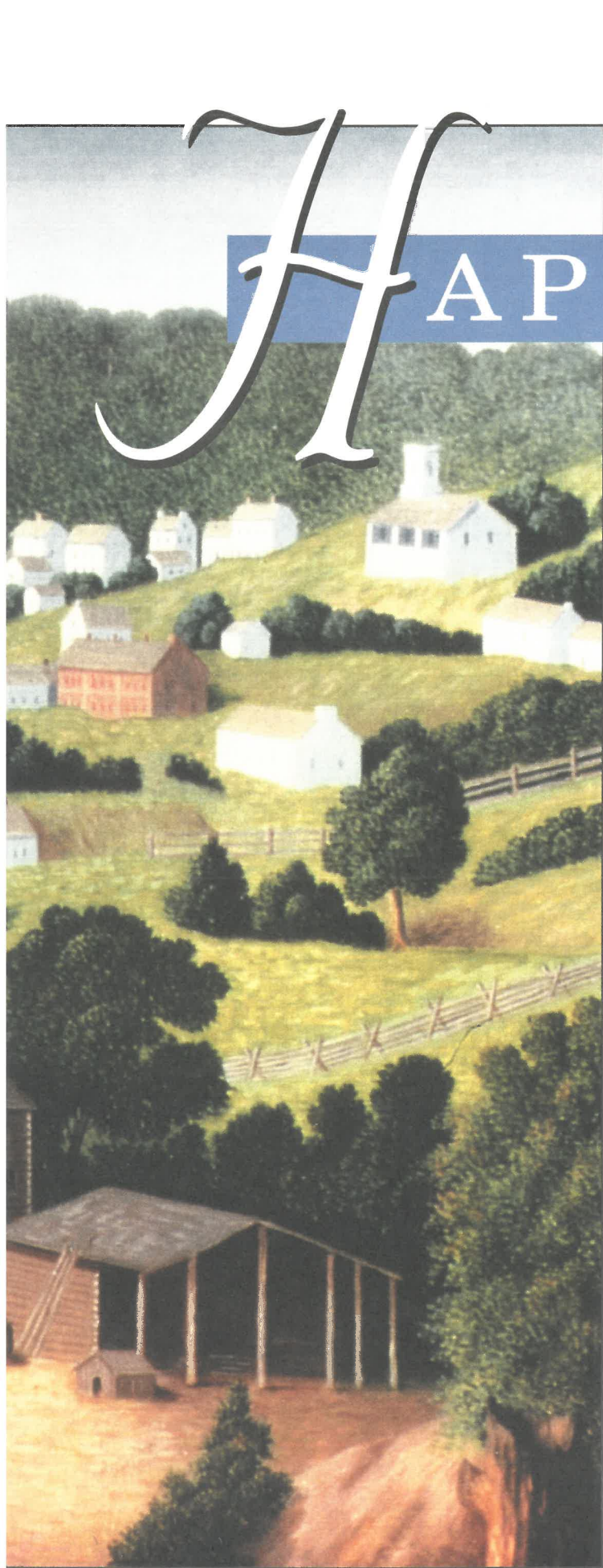




# HAPPENINGS

**St. Joseph Museum**

July / August 1998

## *St. Joseph - 1850*

This view of St. Joseph in 1850 was painted by Harry Wright who was the St. Joseph Museum's artist from the early 1940s until the late 1960s. Mr. Wright based his painting on an engraving by Hermann Meyer. Mr. Meyer probably stood just south of the present-day site of the St. Joseph Museum when he sketched the panorama of the town in the mid-19th century. The white building which appears at the top right of the painting was St. Joseph's Catholic Church which stood at Fifth and Felix Streets. Joseph Robidoux donated the quarter block on which the church was built in 1847.

# St. Joseph Museum Happenings

## Gold Rush Exhibit to be Built



*L. to R.: William L'Ecuycer, Vice-President of Missouri-American Water Co.; Rich Nof, Director of the St. Joseph Museum; Jim Lehn, Trustee President; and Terry Steinbecker, President of St. Joseph Light & Power, talk following the two companies' presentation of their combined \$2,000 contribution for the new Gold Rush room.*

*The* 150th anniversary of the California Gold Rush is fast approaching. St. Joseph played an important role as a jumping off point for emigrants going west in search of wealth. In fact, from 1849 - 1851 more people left from St. Joseph than any other jumping off point.

To commemorate St. Joseph's role, the museum is building a new California Gold Rush exhibit. Construction is underway, and the exhibit is scheduled to be completed in March 1999. The museum has asked corporate partners to help sponsor the exhibit. Already, Commerce Bank, Missouri-American Water, St. Joseph Light & Power, and American Family Insurance have responded to our request. Keep watching for more information about this new exhibit!

## Recent Donations to the Collections

**Kitap County Historical Society Museum** - A metal campaign pin which reads, "Vote for St. Joseph, Mo. Elks Reunion 1907, BPOE #40," and a Missouri Sales Tax Token.

## Survey Results Being Compiled

*Thanks* to everyone who returned the surveys on the new *Happenings* format! Your comments are greatly appreciated. By next issue, we will have a summary of the results for you to see.

## Calendar of Events

**September 7** - Labor Day.  
The museum is open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**September 1 - 30** Archaeology Month. During September, there will be a "dig display" at the River Bluffs Regional Library, Central Branch.

**September 3** - The St. Joseph Archaeological Society and the St. Joseph Museum will host "Discoveries in the Dust" by Michael Fuller. The program will begin at 7 p.m. at the Missouri Conservation Department, 701 NE College Drive.

**September 19** - The St. Joseph Archaeological Society and the

## Cataloging the Past

*Mike Fisher and Ed Barlow* have served as adjunct staff members for many years. They have been involved with numerous projects for the museum, including the digs at King Hill, the Pony Express stables, and the site of Joseph Robidoux's

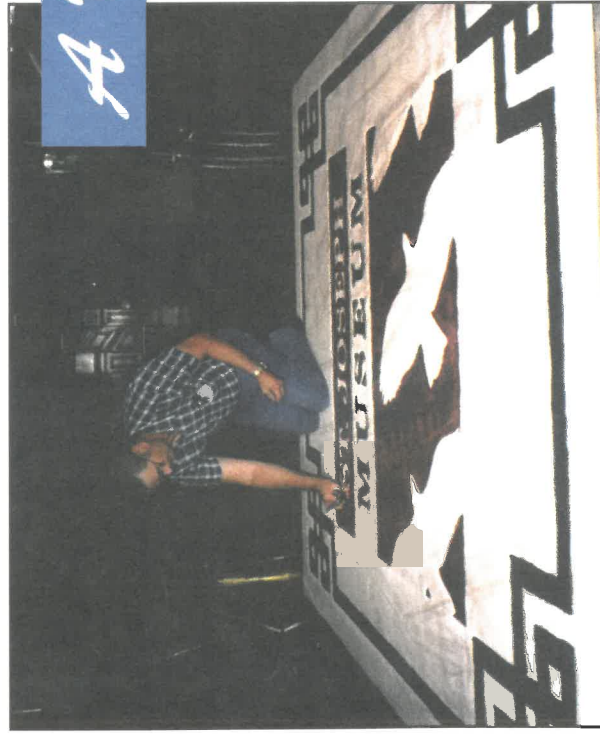
fur most For the past several years they have been



tur post. For the past several years, they have been meeting weekly at the museum to catalog archaeological artifacts. Brandon Salsberry has spent the summer working with and learning from the veteran archaeologists.



*L. to R.: Ed Barlow, Brandon Salsberry, and Mike Fisher stand before the archaeological storage cabinets that they have been filling with cataloged items.*



## *A Welcome Addition*

**Hank Heckman** is shown putting the finishing touches on the magnificent rug he made for the St. Joseph Museum. The rug, which depicts the museum's logo, greets visitors at the front door. The trustees and staff are very appreciative of Mr. Heckman's skill and his generous donation.

## *Eugene Field Exhibit*

**A temporary exhibit** on Eugene Field will be in the museum's mini gallery until mid-November. Carol Willis (on ladder) and Kristy Hendrix are shown putting the finishing touches on the exhibit. They are hanging the dress worn by Julia Comstock at her wedding to Eugene Field. The dress was donated to the museum by Miss Ada Claire Darby.



Archaeological Society and the St. Joseph Museum will host "Close Encounters of an Early Kind: Hrolf Rodsander, Viking (around 983 A.D.), portrayed by Ralph M. Rowlett." The program will be at 2 p.m. at the Missouri Department of Conservation Building, 701 NE College Drive.

**September 29** - The St. Joseph Archaeological Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Pony Express Community Room, 914 Penn. Dr. Robert R. Corder, Jr., will present a program entitled, "Mayan Indians of the Yucatán Peninsula."

**October 14** - Gateway Chapter of OCTA will meet at 7 p.m. at the First Bank of Missouri, Woodbine and Faraon. The program will be on quilts.

**December 3** - Lighting Ceremony. The bird carvings of Jim Dick will be featured at the Lighting Ceremony.



For details call  
232-8471

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