

The Happenings

ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM
PONY EXPRESS MUSEUM

Volume 17

1990

Number 1



The Cooper's hawk, an uncommon visitor to the St. Joseph Museum.

Photographed by Robbie Sipes, Curator of Exhibits.

From the Director

Last November 15th, Robert T. Bray came to the Pony Express Museum and spent the day consulting with us on the historical excavation we had been working on. Bob Bray is a



A major problem that has plagued Mike in sorting out the evolution of the building is the fact that there are two foundations! At this point you are asking yourself, "How can there be two separate foundations for the same building?" That's a fair question. Fact one is that there is no evidence indicating that there was any other structure on the lots involved other than the Pony Express Stables, or Pikes Peak Stables as it was originally called. Fact two is that we do know that the St. Joseph Transfer Company owned the building between

Rich Nolf.....Director
Jackie Lewin.....Curator of History
Marilyn Taylor.....Curator of Ethnology
Bonnie Watkins.....Curator of Collections
David Mead.....Curator of Natural History
Robbie Sipes.....Curator of Exhibits
Pam Pritchett.....Administrative Secretary
Wade Mayer.....Maintenance Engineer
Kathy Reno.....Receptionist - Membership
June Swift.....Secretary
Stanley Novak.....Assistant Receptionist
Margaret Hiatt.....Assistant Receptionist
Avis Batsell.....Assistant Receptionist
Mary Packard.....Staff Assistant

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ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM STAFF

1886 and 1914. In 1887 shortly after the transfer company purchased the building, they wished to make it a more permanent structure. The original building was all wood. In essence what they did was to dig a new trench inside the walls of the wooden structure and lay up a new foundation and side walls composed entirely of brick. The side walls were raised to a height sufficient to pick up the existing joists and roof rafters. After the brick walls were completed, the wooden side walls were torn off and discarded. I have made this evolution sound simpler than it really was. There are a lot of questions that we do not have the answers to and now is the time to seek them before the ground is covered with a concrete floor when our expansion begins! We've already decided that one of our exhibits will be of one, or more, of the actual squares excavated so that the visitor will be better able to understand the evolution that the building went through.

Bob's advice and expertise was very helpful. In essence he advised us to continue the excavation until the entire back portion has been exposed. In order to accomplish this, the number of persons required to complete the dig within a reasonable time must be increased. The decision has been to open the task to the public. Anyone who is interested in being a part of and contributing to a genuine historical archaeological excavation may apply at the St. Joseph Museum. Mike will reconvene the dig in the spring after the weather has broken. Late April to early May is the targeted time to start again. No specific talent is required other than to be over 16 years of age, be able to follow directions and not mind getting on your hands and knees and playing in the dirt. Call us if you are interested so that Mike can plan you into the schedule.

Richard

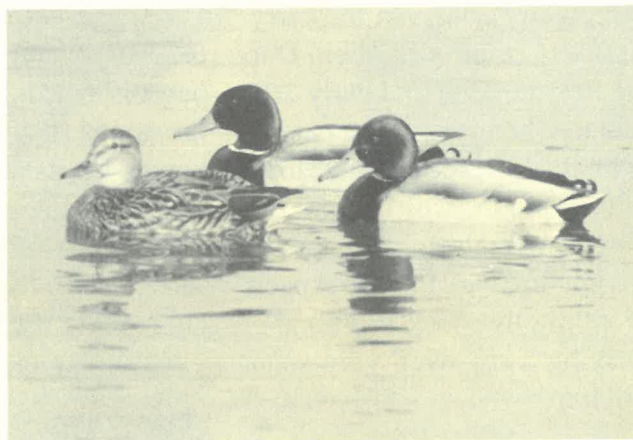
Richard A. Nolf, Director

SNEAK PREVIEW

1990

MUSEUM SPONSORED FIELD TRIPS

The staff has been busy making preliminary plans for the three field trips that the museum will sponsor in 1990. On May 3, 1990, a trip to Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge is tentatively scheduled. The natural history buffs will enjoy the many birds and animals at the refuge in addition to the museum located there.



Don Reynolds

Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge is home to many species of waterfowl, such as these mallard ducks.

This spring, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art is hosting a traveling exhibit entitled "Impressionism: Selections From Five American Museums." A field trip to take in this exhibit and other Kansas City sites is scheduled around June 12, 1990. The third and last trip for the year is tentatively planned for September 11, 1990. This time the destination will be Lincoln, Nebraska, where there are many interesting locations to visit. These will be narrowed down according to the time available.

Please mark your calendars ahead of time so that you do not miss any of the trips that sound interesting to you. You will be receiving more detailed information about each trip as it is finalized. This note is just to give you an idea of what is coming and approximately when. ■

Bonnie Watkins, Curator of Collections

URBAN RAPTORS CITY-DWELLING BIRDS OF PREY

by Robbie Sipes and David Mead

bird, it has readily adapted to the urban habitat. The bad reputation

hawks have among poultry farmers stems largely from the deeds of this bird, a true "chicken hawk." The presence of this bird in St. Joseph was because of the high pigeon population, especially in the downtown area.

The first sighting of this bird, a large female Cooper's, was on the St. Joseph Museum grounds. Perched on the lawn, she was plucking the feathers from a fresh kill, a pigeon. Concentrating on this task, the hawk paid little attention to the staff who were able to view her from as close as ten

has contributed to the more frequent sightings.

Due to these and other changing factors, several species of raptors are frequent visitors within the city limits of St. Joseph. During the winter of 1988 - '89, there were numerous sightings of a Cooper's hawk in the downtown

St. Joseph area. The Cooper's hawk is a medium sized hawk of the genus *Accipiter* (accipiters) known for its predation of other birds. Characteristic of the accipiters, the Cooper's hawk has short rounded wings and a long tail lending it speed and agility. Though typically a woodland

Historically, eagles, hawks, owls and other birds of prey have been

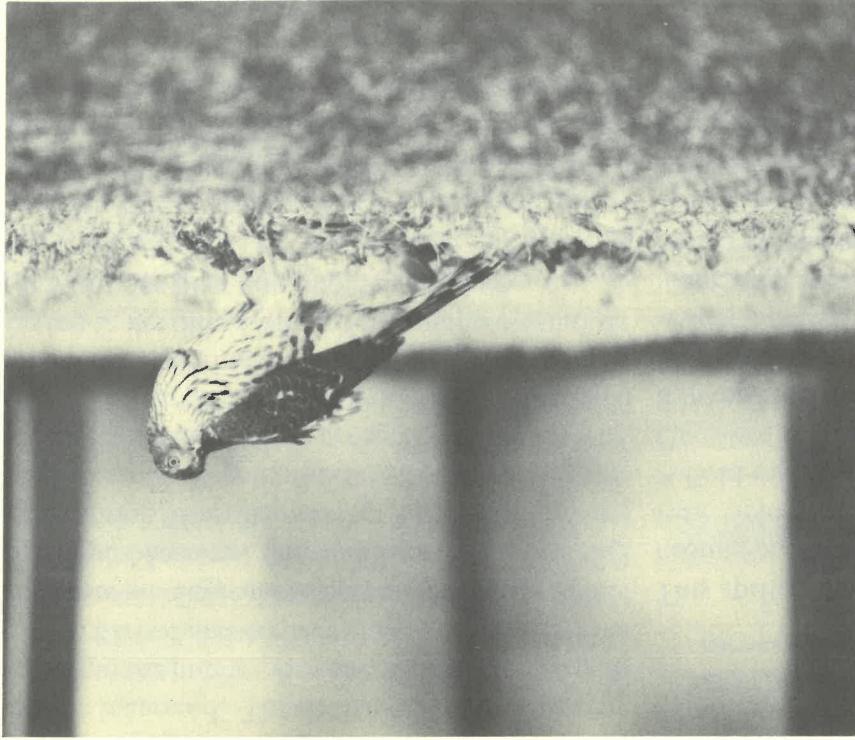
the most maligned and misunderstood group of birds. Also known as raptors, these birds kill other birds and animals as a means of survival. They have been accused of many depredations, including the killing of livestock and poultry and even the carrying away of little children. During the late 19th and early 20th century, bounties were paid to individuals who killed and turned in the carcasses of certain raptors. Although some raptors do kill poultry, very few are capable of killing livestock and none of

carrying away even very small children.

Now protected by state and federal laws, conservationists understand the valuable role these birds play in population control among some species of animals and birds. Raptors not only help to prevent overpopulation of certain species, but also weed out the weak, sick and incautious individuals.

While these birds were once inhabitants of prairies and forests, man's encroachment upon these habitats is forcing them to adapt to a more urban environment. This is evident by the increased number of species and individuals sighted in cities and suburban areas. Perhaps a heightened awareness of birds of prey

David Mead



A female Cooper's hawk feeds on a freshly-killed pigeon. This photo was taken on the St. Joseph Museum grounds.

feet. During the next few weeks, the bird was sighted feeding on pigeons in several locations throughout the downtown area. With the over-abundance of pigeons in the urban area, the benefits of this raptor are obvious.

Another winter visitor to the St. Joseph area is the sharp-shinned hawk, the smallest of the accipiters. During the winter of 1988 - '89 sharp-shinned hawks were sighted in numerous locations in St. Joseph, including the museum grounds. Frequently seen around bird feeders, these hawks have earned a bad name by preying on song birds. However, as mentioned earlier, this predation tends to weed out the inferior individuals, leaving a healthier population.

Other raptors seen in the St. Joseph area include members of the genus *Falco* (falcons). Generally smaller and more streamlined than the accipiters, falcons have long pointed wings which enable them to fly at great speeds. The peregrine falcon is the fastest creature alive, capable of diving at speeds in excess of 170 miles per hour. Commonly called "the duck hawk," the peregrine is known for taking ducks, and other birds, from the air.

The peregrine is another raptor that has adapted well to the urban environment. So well, in fact, that they are being introduced in large cities where they nest on skyscrapers and feed on pigeons and other birds. Though not a common visitor to St. Joseph,



Don Reynolds

The American kestrel has adapted well to city living.

peregrines are occasionally sighted in this area. The last sighting was a female perched on a radio tower at 16th and Duncan. Museum staff members Robbie Sipes and David Mead were the first to spot the bird and report it to the Rare Bird Hotline so other local birders could see it.

The American kestrel, the smallest member of the falcons, has also adapted well to the urban environment. Sometimes called the "sparrow hawk," the kestrel is often seen perched on a high wire or hovering over an open area

where it hunts for small birds, rodents and insects. Since kestrels are cavity-nesters, urban dwelling kestrels nest in buildings where some sort of appropriate access is available, such as a hole under an eave.

Frequently kestrels are seen on the St. Joseph Museum grounds perched in the tall trees and on the building. There is an especially abundant population on the grounds during the nesting season as the local church towers and other buildings offer prime nesting places. The availability

of animals, including skunks, mice, birds and even fish. During the daytime, this owl will roost in a dense thicket or conifer, only taking flight when disturbed, to quickly land in a sheltered area. Sometimes, great horned owls can be seen in the daytime being pursued and heckled by a mob of crows.

St. Joseph's many parks, parkways and tree-covered cemeteries are good places to find great horned owls, which usually nest in hollow trees. They are also found occasionally in the downtown and residential districts, where they sometimes build nests in abandoned buildings.

Another owl often found within city limits is the screech owl, known for its distinctive call. Not over nine inches tall, this little owl's call is a long, quavering wail that can send a chill up one's spine. Also cavity-nesters, screech owls usually nest in hollow trees or old buildings. Their diet consist of insects and small animals.

The barred owl is a medium sized owl with dark eyes and brown barring on its upper breast and back, hence its name. Unlike other owls found in St. Joseph, the barred owl has no ear tufts, or "horns," on its head. Though sometimes called a "hoot owl," it has a higher-pitched call than the great horned owl. The barred owl's call is often transcribed as "who-cooks-for-you, who-cooks-for-you-all." In St. Joseph, barred owls are usually found in



Red-tailed hawks have keen eyesight, enabling them to detect their prey at great distances.

Frequently, they are heard calling to each other at night, especially during their breeding season. During the cold nights of February, while most birds are just trying to survive, owls are courting and preparing to nest. By early spring, when other birds are beginning breeding seasons, the owlets have already hatched. In the twilight hours of dawn and dusk, owls are often seen foraging for food. Due to these nocturnal habits, owls have excellent night-time vision and acute hearing.

One of the easiest raptors to spot in the St. Joseph area is the red-tailed hawk, a common bird of the more open habitats. Red-tail are often seen perched in the top of a dead tree, on a telephone pole or soaring high overhead. Some of the easier places to spot red-tails in St. Joseph are the open areas near Hilliard Technical School, St. Joseph State Hospital and Missouri Western State College, where they hunt for mice and other small animals. Occasionally, red-tails are sighted in the inner city perched atop a church steeple or other high promontories.

Several species of owls have adapted to urban living, also. great-horned preys on a variety



This snowy owl was photographed near Rosecrans Airport.

dense forests of a wetland area, such as the Riverfront Park, or in other wooded areas, such as Krug Park. Strictly tree cavity-nesters, these owls are seldom found far from wooded areas.

Other owls which have been sighted in the St. Joseph area are the saw-whet owl and snowy owl, rare winter visitors from the north. The saw-whet, a little owl about the size of a screech owl, has been sighted on several occasions in Ashland Cemetery. The snowy owl, a raptor of the tundra, has been spotted several times in the river bottoms near Rosecrans

Field. It is thought that severe winters push them southward.

Though the raptor's habits have given them a bad reputation in years past, their only crime is survival in a changing environment. As problems for these raptors increase, more people are seeing them for what they really are: not dangerous, ruthless killers, but creatures that are equipped with amazing adaptations for catching prey. Many people also feel these raptors add beauty and excitement to the wild, as well as maintaining a balance in nature. ■

Robbie Sipes is the Curator of Exhibits and taxidermist for the St. Joseph Museum. Robbie received his museum training at the University of Iowa.

David Mead is the Curator of Natural History for the St. Joseph Museum and president of the Midland Empire Audubon Society. David is currently seeking a degree in commercial art at Missouri Western State College.

THE 89TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

On December 16, while most people were out doing last-minute Christmas shopping, area birders were out counting birds from dawn till dusk. Museum staff members Pam Pritchett and David Mead joined ten others to brave minus seven degrees weather for a long, cold day of identifying and recording every bird sighted. Another eight observers listed every bird that visited their backyard birdfeeders during the day.

This seemingly absurd activity (conducted every year at Christmas time throughout North and South America including the West Indies and Bermuda, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Hawaii and Guam) is known as the National Audubon Society Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The 1989 count marks the 27th year that a CBC has been conducted in St. Joseph. The results of the St. Joseph count are compiled by Ival Lawhon Jr., sent to be verified and eventually published in book form by American Birds, a National Audubon birding journal.

St. Joseph CBC participants started at 5:30 a.m. using tape recordings of owl calls to attract owls. They birded until 5:00 p.m. counting a total of 54 species. Four teams covered a total of 297 miles by car and 7 1/2 miles on foot. The most unusual

VISITORS ENJOY A "MYSTERY TOUR" of the Pony Express Museum

A FAM (familiarization) tour of the Pony Express Museum was held last fall for 40 tour operators. Several of those who attended have written to say thanks for the tour and to let us know that they will definitely include St. Joseph in their 1990 schedule.

We have been pleasantly surprised at the response to our "package deal" for tours of the Pony Express Museum. The idea came to us through Robin Carolus who was Conventions and Tourism Manager for the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce. She suggested that we offer refreshments and entertainment for the tour companies who would like to visit during the evening. With the help of the Chamber, we held a FAM tour with all the trimmings for 40 tour operators. The evening was a success and we had our first official request from Grand Tours of Boxholm, Iowa, this fall.

Clay Groff of Grand Tours had enjoyed the FAM and asked if he could bring a group that would be on a Mystery Tour on October 28. As the name implies, a Mystery Tour is a trip where the participants have no idea where they will be going or what they will be seeing from place to place. The evenings entertainment at the stables was provided by hampered dulcimer player, Esther Kreek, and saddle maker, Russ Mooney. Esther performed period music from her "Touch the Past" album. She introduced each song by title, gave some information about its origins and included excerpts from a pioneer diary. She also dressed in the fashion of the times

and explained the purpose behind the pioneers' choice of clothing for working and traveling. Russ Mooney of Bill's Saddlery gave guests some background information on the history of saddle making and brought several different types of saddles to demonstrate the versatility of the Pony Express mochila (mail bag). He explained that saddle styles often differed from one part of the country to another and the mochila had some basic features that allowed it to be used with all types of saddles. He also brought several parts of an unassembled saddle to give visitors a chance to see what goes into the construction of the finished product. He then invited the group to ask questions, where he obtained his leather and the cost of saddles today. Refreshments served at the stables included apple cider, cheese, crackers and a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables.

We are excited to find that this kind of a tour has a great deal of appeal, and we have now booked Nealy Tours of Godfrey, Illinois, and Travel Assured of Rock Valley, Iowa, for tours in 1990. We have been encouraged by Mr. Groff of Grand Tours to promote this package to an even wider audience. This is proving to be a successful new project for us, and we are very grateful to both Esther Kreek and Russ Mooney for their participation. ■

Kathy Reno, Membership Secretary

sighting was a green-wing teal, a first for the St. Joseph count. Also, a record number of 56 downy woodpeckers were sighted. All count participants enjoyed the day and spent far less money than those unfortunate souls who had to go Christmas shopping! ■ *David Mead, Curator of Natural History*

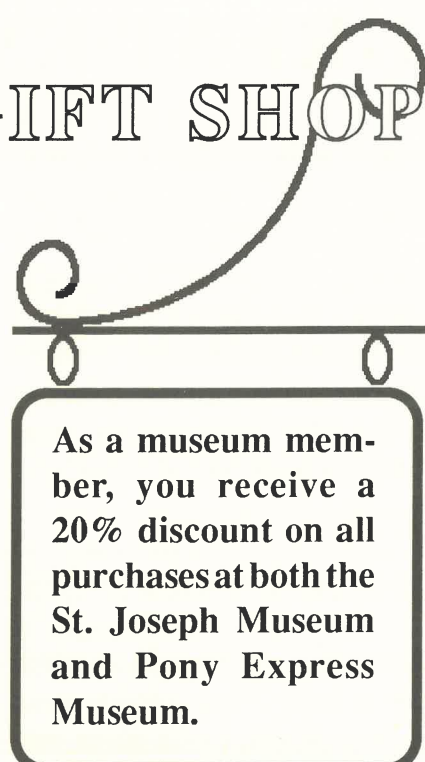
NEW ITEMS IN THE MUSEUM BOOK & GIFT SHOP

The St. Joseph Museum Book and Gift Shop has been stocked up for the winter season. We have added two new books to our inventory. The first is *The Santa Fe Trail Revisited* by Gregory M. Franzwa. Mr. Franzwa is the author of four books on the Santa Fe Trail and two on the Oregon Trail. He is the founder and first president of the Oregon-California Trails Association, a member of the Santa Fe Trail Association and the initial author of the legislation designating the Santa Fe Trail as a National Historic Trail. His new book tells the story of the Santa Fe Trail as it stretched from the booming mid-Missouri town of Franklin to the delightful plaza in Santa Fe. *The Santa Fe Trail Revisited* includes detailed instructions guiding the vacationer to precise locations along the trail wherever they may be reached by contemporary roads and streets. This mile-by-mile driving guide also contains fascinating excerpts from the diaries of some of the individuals who traveled this route. Trail buffs who felt the romance of the Oregon Trail through Franzwa's *Oregon Trail Revisited* are bound to be captivated by the Santa Fe Trail.

We have also just received the new edition of the historic book on the Pony Express by Merrill J. Mattes and the late Paul C. Henderson that was recently published by the Patrice Press. *The*

Pony Express from St. Joseph to Fort Laramie was compiled in 1960 at the suggestion of the Nebraska State Historical Society. The work first appeared in the society's quarterly and later was reprinted as a pamphlet. The large amount of new data that has surfaced since the original publication warranted a new edition. A portion of that data comes from the field work of Don Reynolds, long-time assistant director of the St. Joseph Museum, who uncovered artifacts pinpointing station locations. That data was not originally available to Mattes and Henderson. The new 82-page edition has 40 photographs, many of them taken by Don Reynolds.

A new item has been added to the pewter stamp collection. The stamp plates are three dimensional reproductions of the commemorative Pony Express stamp engraved on Colonial and Britannia pewter. The natural rich metallic surface is dramatically silhouetted against a recessed black matte-finished background. The pewter replica of the stamp is available in belt buckles, letter openers, stamp boxes, marble paperweights, charms, tie tacs, key chains and now plaques. The plaques are pewter replicas of the stamp mounted on a dark walnut base with an engraveable plate that can be placed on the lower portion of the base. The ability to personalize the plaques make them the perfect "thank you" gift



As a museum member, you receive a 20% discount on all purchases at both the St. Joseph Museum and Pony Express Museum.

for out-of-town speakers, visiting business associates and loyal customers. They have also been used as office warming gifts and welcoming presents for exchange students.

Remember that the St. Joseph Museum Book and Gift Shop is the place to visit when you are in need of something unique. We always have a wide selection of items in pewter, stained glass and porcelain. We carry Native American baskets and pottery, Frederick Remington posters, jewelry, educational books for adults and children and a large selection of miniatures for the collector. We now have a large selection of sweatshirts and long-sleeved tee-shirts in a variety of designs with a distinctive Native American influence. The designs are screen printed on rich winter colors in a flocked texture. ■

Kathy Reno, Gift Shop Manager

GREAT EXPRESS ADVENTURE CLEAR THE TRACK AND LET THE PONY EXPRESS COME THROUGH!

ride of the Pony Express, the museums will sponsor "The Rider Comes Through" during the week of April 13. All St. Joseph elementary and middle schools can participate in this culminating special event. At each principal's request, a horseman will ride onto the school playground and demonstrate how a mochila fits on his horse's saddle and how the mochila was transferred at relay stations. Lastly, the horseman will collect letters from students and ride away with the mail.

Writing a letter to give to the "Pony Express" rider during the week of April 13 is an important learning activity which all students in the elementary and middle schools can engage in as part of the museums' Pony Express Educational Project.

Students in grades K - 3 can write a letter or draw a picture describing what they have learned about the Pony Express and address it to themselves. When "the rider comes through" to their school, he will carefully place the mail in his mochila and deliver it to the Pony Express Museum. There, the letters will be imprinted with a Pony Express hand stamp and returned to the students via the U.S. postal service.

Sacramento, California, the western terminus of the Pony Express, was the destination for the mochila loaded with mail in 1860 - To promote pride in St. Joseph's heritage and celebrate the first of the program is \$100. The cost

April 3 - 13, 1990, will mark the 130th anniversary of the first completed run of the Pony Express Museum. The Pony Express Museum and St. Joseph Museum have planned a number of educational and entertaining activities to commemorate this singular American event.

The announcement of the Pony Express sent a thrill through the heart of every young man along the route. The museums want young people today to experience some of the excitement and adventure of the Pony Express by learning more about the founders, riders and trail route and transporting the mail.

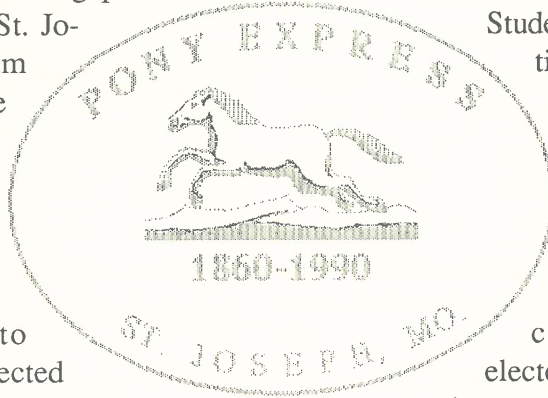
To stimulate young people's interest in the Pony Express and to increase their knowledge of the role it played in the development of our country, the museums are offering a program of educational aids to teachers and students in St. Joseph public and parochial schools.

In early February, elementary and middle school principals and teachers will receive an information packet describing the special programs and materials which the museums will make available to the schools in March and April.

A Pony Express Teacher Guide Book has been prepared by the museum staff for teachers in grades 1 - 4. The booklet in-

61. Students in grades 4 - 6 can become aware of what students in Sacramento know about the Pony Express and share information about how the 130th anniversary is being celebrated in that city by becoming pen pals. The St. Joseph Museum will provide the names and addresses of pen pals. Letters to Sacramento will be collected at the school by the express rider, hand stamped and mailed to California.

Middle School Social Studies and Language Arts Classes can par-



ticipate in the pen pal program, or teachers may instruct their students to write letters to Congress in support of current legislation which would make the Pony Express Trail part of the National Historic Trails System.

Students who participate in the letter writing campaign can gain experience in communicating with elected officials, and may receive a response from members of Congress. The trails bill, if passed, would have a long - term positive impact on St. Joseph's tourism industry. ■

Heidi Hornaday, Museum volunteer (Education Coordinator)

IOWA INDIAN RESEARCH SHARED WITH GATEWAY, OCTA

Curator of Ethnology, Marilyn Taylor, has been conducting extensive research on the Iowa Indian tribe and at the January meeting of Gateway, OCTA, collaborated with Nancy Sandehn to present a program. Nancy is Preservation Planner for the Mo-Kan Regional Council. Many of you are familiar with her survey of historic barns in northeast Kansas. Nancy's work has also led her to historic sites on the Iowa Reservation near White Cloud. There she has become quite impressed with the future plans of the Iowas in regard to capitalizing on the tourist possibilities offered by these sites.

Whereas Nancy's part of the program centered on the Iowas from the time of the Civil War up to the present, Marilyn dealt with the early years of the Iowas. This is the period during which they were gradually moved from the Great Lakes area, to the Platte Purchase Territory to the Kansas Territory. Much of the information Marilyn presented was from primary research material such as letters between sub-agents, agents and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. She also included a few comments from the journals of an Iowa Indian who was in a delegation to Paris. His observations of European culture were quite interesting! ■

Jackie Lewin, Curator of History

NEW AND REINSTATED MEMBERS

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

Dana Ayler
Mrs. Betty K. Bartles
James Bennett
Melody Boring
Shirley Bradley
Mary Helen Burrowes
Ralph Coster
Eugene Eisiminger
Roy Farley
Jeff Glickman
Mary Helen Goff
Mr. and Mrs. John Hunziger
Carrie Lacy
Patrice B. McLaughlin
Ronald Murphy
Debbie Nadolski
Karamaneh Oschwald
Dr. and Mrs. C. A. Potter, Jr.

Dave and Sharon Pritchett
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Reynolds
Bill Roberts
Donald Schmidt
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Simpson
Mark A. Spratt
Greg and Jennie Starkel
Kathy Starling
Craig Sumner
Deanna Swan
Fran Thompson
Mary Vandiver
Mrs. Lewis H. Wallace
Laura S. Wijkowski
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Woodbury
Ronald F. Worley
Carol Young

7. Citizens of St. Joseph and Buchanan county, and the whole followed by trains of omnibuses, wagon, drays and carts.

After traversing several of the principal streets it finally halted at the river improvement,⁴ foot of Jule street, when Joseph Robidoux, Esq., the venerable founder of the city, was formally introduced to the crowd; after which, Col. W. Broadus Thompson⁵ in a neat and appropriate address proceeded with the novel but suggestive ceremony of commingling the waters of the Atlantic, Lake Michigan, Illinois and Mississippi rivers, with that of the Missouri.

Hon. W.P. Hall,⁶ the orator of the day, was then introduced, and delivered a powerful and telling Railroad speech, which was generally appreciated. Invited guests, to the number of about five hundred, met in the evening at Concert Hall⁷ to partake of the

4. The Missouri River current was an ongoing problem for the early city as it cut deeper into the east bank, washing away the wharf and city land. Various improvements were made through the early years in attempts to stabilize the river bank and make a suitable wharf for steamboats. This particular river improvement area was near the site of Robidoux's original trading post.

5. Brother of M. Jeff Thompson and prominent St. Joseph lawyer.

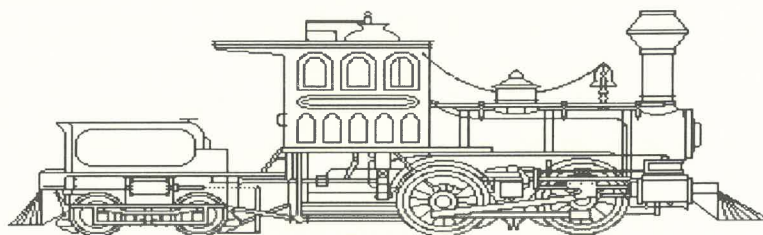
6. St. Joseph lawyer who previously had been a member of Congress and in 1864 would become Governor of Missouri.

7. This building which stood on the corner of Fifth and Felix was also known as Odd Fellow's Hall.

hospitalities of the city. The tables literally groaned with every conceivable good thing, and full justice was done to both the edibles and drinkables by those present. St. Louis, Hannibal, Quincy and Chicago, were toasted, to all of which

appropriate replies were made by representative of their respective cities. It was altogether a most interesting affair, and will long be remembered with pleasure by those who had the good fortune to be there." ■

Jackie Lewin, Curator of History



RECENT DONATIONS

Harry Kloppenburg - Book, *Panhandle Profiles*, "Bank of Billings (1889-1989)" by John K. Hulston, 1989.

Vivian Geiger - Donated in memory of Charles & Berniece Willits - Pink cotton quilt featuring the motif of a girl with a large sun bonnet, measuring five feet, ten inches by seven feet.

Nell Miller Estate - Archaeological collection of Mrs. Miller's husband, J. Don Miller. It is believed that Miller, who died in 1985, found most of his collection in DeKalb, Daviess, and Clinton counties where he lived most of his life.

L.A. Waldsmith - Painting on a sheep skin of a Pony Express rider being chased

by Indians in the distance. The Korean artist, Red Hand, copied it from a painting by D. Hanson.

Jean Moranville - Shoe stretcher made of wood and metal that belonged to donor's grandmother and mother. It is believed to be c. 1889.

Clara Kirschner - An October 3, 1848, application for citizenship by John Peter Kirschner, grandfather of donor's late husband.

Robert Dunnigan - Book, *The Bead Dictionary*, "A Complete Revision of a Short Dictionary of Bead Terms and Types" by Peter Francis, Jr., 1989. Included was a photocopy of a newspaper article about Francis, dated October 19, 1989.

Whatever the facial expression, False Face, a supernatural being who had been punished by the Great Spirit for his boastfulness by being condemned to spend eternity healing the sick.

Europeans were not even aware of the Northwest Coast Indians until 1741 when Vitus Bering, a Danish explorer under the sponsorship of the Russian crown, visited the area. The Northwest Coast encompasses a narrow strip of land between the sea and the mountains stretching from present day southeast Alaska to northern California.

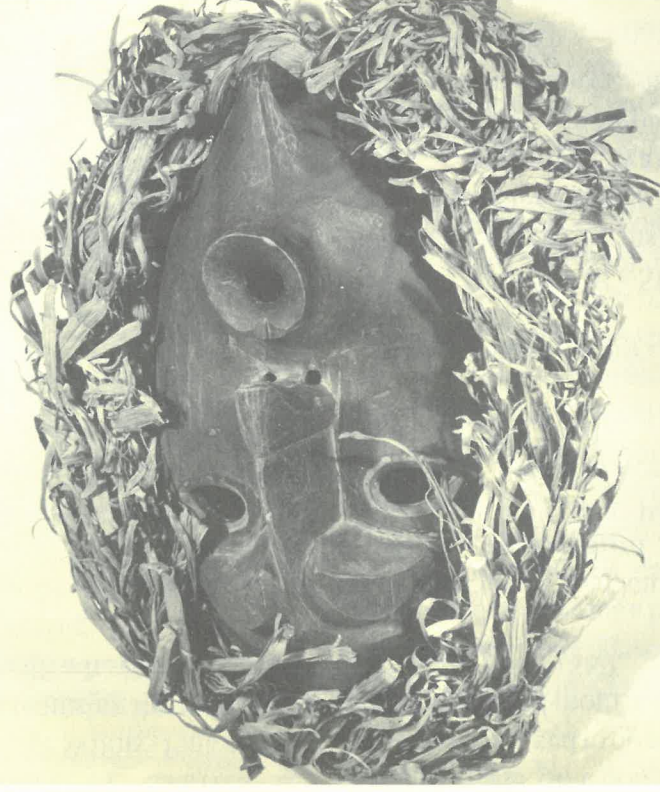
The Northwest Coast mask pictured here represents a Haida crest, a sea bear which is a mythological creature. It is not a typical Northwest Coast mask since it is made from hammered copper rather than wood. The eyes and teeth are inlaid abalone shell. This well known mask has been loaned to several important exhibitions of Native American art. In the early 1970s it was a part of the exhibit, "The Far North," which was shown at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; the Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum, Alaska; the Portland Art Museum, Oregon; and the Amnon Carter Museum of Western Art, Fort Worth, Texas. In 1976 the sea bear mask was one of several items from the St. Joseph Museum loaned for the

Among the more than 3,000 items comprising the Harry L. George* collection at the St. Joseph Museum are several outstanding examples of Native American masks. Many Indian tribes of North America used masks in their ceremonies in the belief that the wearer took on the spirit of the being or creature the mask represented.

The False Face Society of the Iroquois was one of the first Native American religious organizations encountered by Europeans who settled the east coast of North America. The early settlers knew about the False Faces and some of their rituals. At their ceremonies False Face members wore masks which they

agape, straight-lipped or smiling, the mouths might be crooked, cornhusk fringe. On other masks carved from wood with a

picked up ashes from the fire which they blew at the patient; ground corn was also blown. The picture of an Iroquois mask with pursed lips that accompanies this article illustrates the type of mask worn for blowing. This mask is carved from wood with a cornhusk fringe. On other masks the mouths might be crooked, agape, straight-lipped or smiling.



Iroquois False Face Mask.



Haida Sea Bear Mask, from the Harry L. George collection.

exhibit, "Sacred Circles," which was displayed at the Hayward Gallery, London, England, and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri.

The masks shown here are just two of a number that Mr. George accumulated. In addition, there are many other outstanding artifacts in the collection. The museum and the citizens of St. Joseph can be justifiably proud of this fine collection.

*The George collection was assembled by a St. Joseph citizen, Harry L. George, during the latter half of the 19th century and the early part of the 20th century. In 1947 the collection was purchased from George's heirs by William K. Goetz, President of the Board of Directors of the St. Joseph Museum from 1927 until his death in 1953. Mr. Goetz donated the collection to the St. Joseph Museum in memory of his parents, Michael Karl and Caroline W. Goetz. ■

Marilyn Taylor, Curator of Ethnology

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

On Tuesday, January 9th, the Gateway Chapter of the Oregon - California Trails Association (OCTA) held their monthly meeting at the Joyce Raye Patterson Senior Citizens Center. Approximately 25 members were in attendance to enjoy the presentation on the Iowa Indians given by Marilyn Taylor and Nancy Sandehn, both members of OCTA.

On Wednesday, January 17th, David Mead gave a presentation to the Maxwell Heights Presbyterian Church Youth club. David explained to the 38 people in attendance how to identify poisonous snakes and what their characteristics are. The museum's live bull snake accompanied David to the presentation. ■

Pam Pritchett, Secretary

PONY EXPRESS NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

The monthly meeting of the Pony Express Neighborhood Network (P.E.N.N.) was held on January 11. Donna Ellis is president of the group.

Dale Nimz, Associate Planner/Historic Preservationist, represented the Landmarks Commission and discussed the history, construction and future of Patee Hall.

P.E.N.N., which coordinated the building of the new gazebo in Patee Park, is now in the process of seeking funding for the building of a 20' by 30' shelter house. The gables of the shelter house will be constructed to appear similar to the front of the Pony Express Museum. Plans for the coming year show the group's

dedication toward helping their neighborhood. These include an Easter egg hunt in Patee Park, music and entertainment in Patee Park on summer weekends, flower planting in Patee Park, an entry in the Apple Blossom Parade, a neighborhood clean-up day and a "Yard of the Month" award.

P.E.N.N. also plans a membership drive and encourages those who live between 9th and 16th Street and Mitchell Avenue and Locust to join them. In addition, anyone interested in the historic neighborhood around the Pony Express Museum is invited to become a member. ■

Jackie Lewin, Curator of History

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 9 Monthly meeting of the Pony Express Neighborhood Network (P.E.N.N.) to be held at the RLDS Church at 12th & Penn, 6:00 P.M.

February 10 Smithville Lake tour, Midland Empire Audubon Society (M.E.A.S.). Meet at the west parking lot of Perkins Restaurant in St. Joseph to carpool to the lake. Dr. Leo Galloway will lead this outing which should include viewing of water and shore birds. Bring a sack lunch as this outing will last into the afternoon.

February 23 Owl Prowl, M.E.A.S., join the Audubon members as they travel to areas likely to have owls. They will use tape recordings of owl calls to coax owls closer to the area. They will meet at the parking lot of Perkins Restaurant at 7:00 P.M. to carpool to the areas. This outing will last approximately three hours and will be led by local Audubon president, David Mead.

March 10 Dulcimer workshop at the St. Joseph Museum (see related article on page 17).

March 13 Gateway Chapter, OCTA - The group will meet at 6:00 P.M. to carpool from the museum to Maryville, Missouri, for a program on the research facilities at Northwest Missouri State University.

March 13 M.E.A.S. program, "Crane River" a National Audubon Special, will be presented at 7:00 P.M. on the campus of Missouri Western State College in the Learning Resource Center, Room 111.

March 16 National Audubon Society's Spring River Conference in Kearney Nebraska, will be held the 16th, 17th & 18th. For more details contact David Mead or Pam Pritchett.

March 17 M.E.A.S. will tour the Smithville Lake area in search of the American woodcock and its sun down ritual. Dr. Leo Galloway will lead this tour. Meet at 4:00 P.M. at the parking lot of Perkins Restaurant in St. Joseph to carpool to the lake.

April 3 Membership reception in honor of the 130th anniversary of the Pony Express. *

April 9 A public program celebrating the 130th anniversary of the Pony Express. *

April 3 - 13 A week of special programs created for the public and parochial school systems honoring the 130th anniversary of the Pony Express.

*There will be a special mailing detailing the events scheduled for the April celebrations of the 130th anniversary of the Pony Express.

DULCIMER WORKSHOP

TO BE SPONSORED BY THE ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM

An all-day workshop on the mountain dulcimer will be given at the St. Joseph Museum on March 10, 1990. The workshop will cover an introduction to the mountain dulcimer, beginning and intermediate playing techniques, music theory as it relates to the dulcimer and the use of tablature to learn tunes and songs.

The instructors for the workshop are Allen Macfarlane and Lawrence Chapman, accomplished performers on the instrument. The workshop will begin promptly at 9:00 A.M. and end at 5:00 P.M. with a one hour break for lunch from 11:30 to 12:30 and a mini-concert from 2:45 to 3:45. Participants will be responsible for his or her own lunch. There are several restaurants nearby, or those who desire may bring a sack lunch to eat in the museum's lounge.

The cost of the workshop, including handouts and other workshop materials, is \$20 per person, payable to the St. Joseph Museum. Registration for the workshop should be made in advance at the St. Joseph Museum. Your registration is confirmed upon receipt of your payment. The minimum class size is 5 and the maximum is 20. Participants are expected to bring their own instruments in good working order or may borrow an instrument that will be provided by the instructors. Please indicate

at time of registration whether or not you will bring your own instrument. Only a limited number of loaner instruments will be available.

The mini-concert will be given by Macfarlane and Chapman demonstrating a variety of playing techniques and performing American and Scots-Irish fiddle tunes and songs of the 19th and 20th centuries. The mini-concert will last from 2:45 to 3:45 P.M. and is **open to both participants and the public without charge.**

Macfarlane and Chapman, both from Lawrence, Kansas, have been playing music on the mountain, or Appalachian, dulcimer for at least the last ten years. They have performed professionally at Prairie View Festival, the Kansas City Renaissance Festival, the Topeka Kansas River Valley Art Fair, the Lawrence Independence Days celebration, the Fort Scott, Kansas, Good Ol' Days Festival and at several other festivals in the midwest.

Both are active members of the Prairie Dulcimer Club in Kansas City where they have shared their knowledge and appreciation of the instrument through workshops and performances. During the summer of 1988, they gave mountain dulcimer workshops at the Cranberry

Gathering, Binghamton, New York. Macfarlane has taught through the Lawrence Arts Center, Lawrence, Kansas, and both men have given private individual lessons for many years. In 1985 Chapman placed fifth in the Southern Regional Dulcimer Contest, Mountain View, Arkansas.

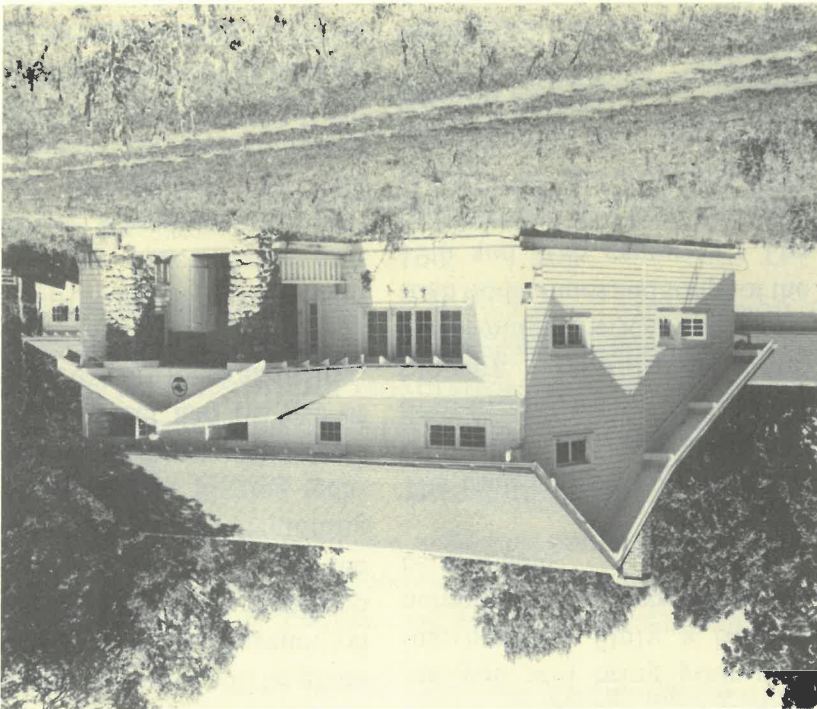
During the last ten years both men have attended workshops given by such prominent musicians as Neal Hellman, Bonnie Carol and Larkin Bryant and have attempted to incorporate the enthusiasm and talent of these fine musicians in their own music. Macfarlane and Chapman usually perform together and their repertoire is primarily composed of American and Scots-Irish traditional music and more recent pieces composed by other acoustic musicians.



Allan Macfarlane and Lawrence Chapman demonstrate their mountain dulcimer playing techniques.

Courtesy of Allan Macfarlane

LOG CHAIN PONY EXPRESS STATION OWNERS RECOGNIZED



Museum Photo File

Log Chain Pony Express Station site southeast of Seneca, Kansas, as it appeared a few years ago.



Jackie Lewin

Helen Souk (left) and Patti Grollmes (right) receive Certificate of Appreciation from Gateway president, Francis Peniston.

Last fall at the Gateway Chapter, OCTA award dinner certificates of appreciation were presented to Patti Grollmes and Helen Souk. Some of the events of the dinner were related in the last newsletter. However due to the length of the proceedings some happenings were saved to be reported on in this newsletter.

Patti Grollmes of Fairview, Kansas, and Helen Souk of Hiawatha, Kansas, are the new owners of the Log Chain Pony Express Station site, having inherited it from their father. Log Chain was the fifth relay station out of St. Joseph. Noble Rising built the house in 1861. His son Don was a Pony Express rider. The house still stands today, although in an altered form. For many years the Pony Express marker (shown in the picture) hung above the door. Helen and Patti remember that during their childhood many visitors interested in the Pony Express came to their home and were welcomed by their father.

Currently, they are in the process of restoring the building to enhance its historical significance. Their interest in the Pony Express and the Log Chain Station is greatly appreciated.

Jackie Lewin, Curator of History

JOIN THE ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM!

The St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express Museum are cultural institutions established for the purpose of preserving our history. We strive to provide top quality interpretive exhibits, preserve our priceless collections and act as an educational resource for our community and beyond. Our goal is to keep abreast of current exhibit techniques, provide educational programs for youth and continue our work in the areas of collection and research. To succeed, we need you. You can contribute through a donation of your time (**as a volunteer**), your membership donation (**monetary contribution**) or materially (**adding to our collections**). Together, we make the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums institutions we can all be proud of.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP:

Members of the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums have the benefits of receiving the museum publications, free admission, museum gift shop discounts, discounts on museum sponsored field trips and the opportunity to attend "Members Only" events such as exhibit openings, autograph sessions and tours of storage areas. Membership contributions are tax deductible on itemized returns.

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