

The Happenings

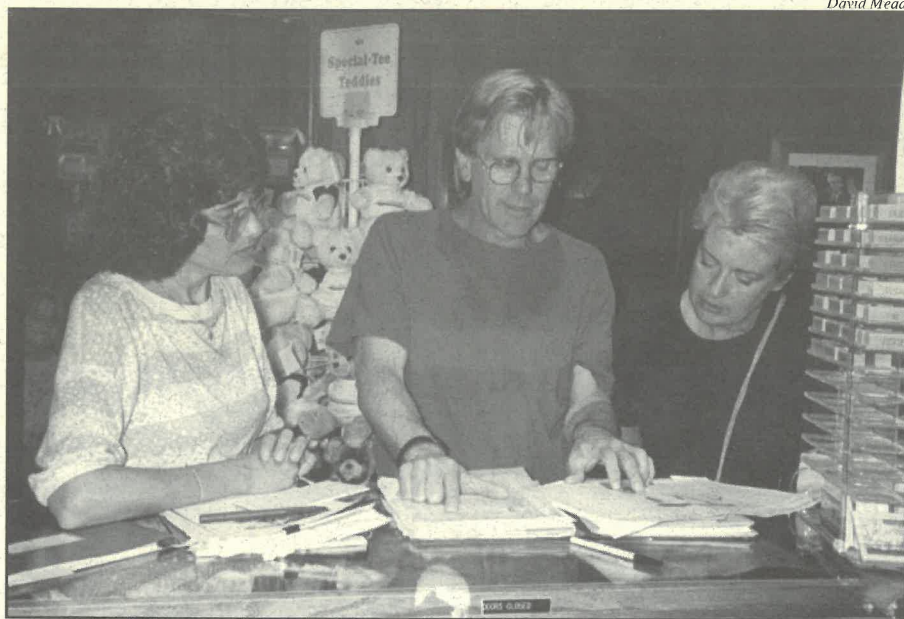
September 1992

St. Joseph Museum

Pony Express Museum

GREAT-GRANDSON OF PONY EXPRESS RIDER VISITS PONY EXPRESS MUSEUM

Dwight Ritter and his wife, JoAnn, of Hanover, Massachusetts, recently spent some time at the Pony Express Museum. In addition to being the great-grandson of Pony Express rider George Scovell, Mr. Ritter is an author. Currently, he is writing a novel entitled, *The Autobiography of George Scovell*. Part of the novel will evolve around Scovell's career as a rider. Mr. Ritter was here gathering information to portray the Pony Express in a historically accurate manner. He is also planning a camping trip along the section of the trail in Nevada where his great-grandfather rode. Mr. Ritter's education and his business experiences are indicative of his varied fields of expertise. He is a graduate of



David Mead

Dwight Ritter, (center) and his wife, JoAnn, (right) visit with Jackie Lewin, curator of history.

both the John Herron Art School in Indianapolis, Indiana, where he majored in painting, and Indiana University in Bloomington with a major in marketing.

Soon after graduation, Mr. Ritter joined Armstrong Cork Company in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, as a writer for Armstrong Circle Theater; then

continued on page 5

YOUTH REPRESENTS PONY EXPRESS



Lauren Mullican

St. Joseph and the Pony Express have had a youthful and enthusiastic supporter this summer in what has been an exciting experience for an attractive St. Joseph woman.

She is Lauren Mullican, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Mullican, and was selected early this summer as Missouri's American Co-ed Queen.

That honor meant a trip to Hawaii where she would represent Missouri at the Miss American Co-ed Pageant in Honolulu, August 19 through 27.

While there, Lauren would proudly display her support of the Pony Express Museum and would hand out replicas of the famous Pony Express hand stamp in an effort to interest others in this fascinating part of American history.

Lauren has always wanted to compete in beauty and talent pageants. The 18-year-old graduate of Central High School began to think seriously about her ambition in her freshman year, but she had really nurtured her

continued on page 4

FROM THE DIRECTOR...

Every Monday morning at approximately 9:00 a.m., we "WAG". That is an acronym for "Week at a Glance". During this time, the staff gathers in the office in front of the master calendar and we review the coming week's events. Due to the long hours the museum is open and the varied schedule of the individual staff members, it is very difficult for everyone to get together at any one time. Therefore, WAG notes are made and distributed promptly to those not present. WAG is also an opportunity for me to speak briefly about some segment of the museum and to give recognition to individuals.

It was on such an occasion recently that I pointed out how nice the museum grounds are looking. A year or so ago, we made the decision to focus on the renovation of the grounds. We had been concentrating on the interior and exterior of the building over the preceding years, but had tended to neglect the grounds themselves.

During the past several years, we have focused on planting and transplanting grasses, re-moving and trimming trees and a number of other physical changes. The circle drive and staff parking lot were patched and seal coated. The picnic tables have been rebuilt and painted, the old lights on the exterior restored, the flag pole and black iron fence painted, stairs and doors rebuilt and painted, and a number of other "small" maintenance tasks accomplished. No single one of these jobs is major, but when combined, they dramatically improve the looks of the grounds.

Even mother nature has helped by contributing large amounts of water for our reseeding program! Everything looks green and lush, and the new grasses are getting established nicely.

As a staff, we are pleased about the way the grounds are shaping up. A lot of hard work has gone into the project, and I want to express my appreciation to those who have been involved. I would encourage all of you to come around and take a look.



Rhonda Clem

Scott Koch prepares the grounds for a new prairie plot. It will take several years before it comes to maturity.

ST. JOSEPH & PONY EXPRESS MUSEUM

STAFF

PROGRAM

Rich Nolf Director
Jackie Lewin Curator of History
Marilyn Taylor Curator of Ethnology
Robbie Sipes Curator of Exhibits
Bonnie Watkins Curator of Collections
David Mead Curator of Natural History
Kathy Reno Gift Shop/Membership
Heidi Hornaday Curator of Development
Reva Fish-Rocha Public Relations Coordinator
Sandy Taylor Special Events Coordinator/Campaign Coordinator

SUPPORT

Gail Rose Executive Secretary
Susan Noland Bookkeeper
Scott Koch Exhibits Technician
Sarah Elder Research Assistant
Rhonda Clem Graphic Artist
June Swift Secretary
Margaret Hatt Librarian
Mary Knab Staff Assistant
Eric Robinson Staff Assistant
Mike Dyer Staff Assistant
Chris Fisher Staff Assistant
Avis Batsell Receptionist
Lanell Mead Receptionist
Kern Paulman Receptionist
Carole Combs Receptionist
Camille Grable Receptionist
Barbi Edwards Receptionist
David Rich Receptionist
ADJUNCT
Mike Fisher Archaeological Research Associate
Jim Feagins Archaeological Research Associate
Russ Mooney Saddle & Tack Consultant
Mary Helen Burrowes Publications Consultant

FUNDING UPDATE

Dr. and Mrs. R. Philip Acuff
 Gertrude H. Ayers
 Gwen Bartlett and Irene Smith
 Robert and Jane Bolin
 Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Brown, Jr.
 Mary Helen Burrowes
 The Cabbage Roll
 Mr. and Mrs. Bill Carpenter
 Bill and Joy Cole
 Commerce Bank of St. Joseph
 Computerland
 D & G Restaurant, Pete Miner
 Mr. and Mrs. Dick DeShon
 Designs by Gordon
 Lester Einbender
 Maxine R. Ferguson
 First Street Graphics, Tim Burtner
 Leo W. Fletcher Trust
 Rod and Anne Fletcher
 J. M. Ford, II
 Mrs. John R. Forgrave
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Goetz
 James T. and Karen Graves
 James J. and Ruth H. Gray
 Mr. and Mrs. Clark Hampton
 William and Vicki Hinde
 Linda J. Hume
 Robert F. Keatley
 The William T. Kemper Foundation,
 Commerce Bank Trustee
 Mrs. G. T. Lacy
 Bill and Judy McMurray
 Midwest Mobile Radio Service, Inc.,
 Robert S. McCammon
 Mobilpage, Inc.,
 Robert S. McCammon
 Mr. and Mrs. Don Paton
 Prudential Summers Realtors,
 Jim F. Summers, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Gary Rosenthal
 Mrs. Irwin Rosenthal
 St. Joseph Auto Parts, Jerome L. Lund
 Sanders, Mogg and Associates
 Allen Schreiber
 Sinclair Realtors, Gary & Connie Francis
 Roy L. and Lana Tewell
 Ben and Katherine Vineyard
 Thomas D. Watkins
 Mrs. Edwin B. Wright
 Mr. and Mrs. William O. Wylie

TRIBUTES

David and Heidi Hornaday
 in memory of Natalie Murdoch

VOLUNTEERS ARE WHAT MAKE CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS WORK

The Pony Express National Memorial Capital Campaign training session took place Thursday, July 9. Thirty-five volunteers met at the Holiday Inn Downtown Conference Center in St. Joseph to view the Pony Express National Memorial video and receive their training packets.

Dick DeShon, president of Pony Express, Inc., welcomed the volunteers. Bob Simpson, Major Gifts Committee chairman; Sandy Taylor, campaign coordinator; and Heidi Hornaday, curator of development, gave the Major Gifts report, explained the Missouri Neighborhood Assistance Program tax credits, distributed the campaign materials and presented the campaign schedule. Mignon DeShon and Karen Graves discussed successful fundraising strategies with the volunteers.

Bob Simpson announced that Mignon DeShon and Dr. Jim McCarthy are co-chairing the Friends and Affiliates Division and Karen Graves and Bill Cole co-chairing the Business Division. The campaign ran July 9 through August 21 ending with a capital campaign reporting luncheon. The Cabbage Roll hosted the luncheon. Since "The Happenings" is going to print as the campaign is being completed, no results are available. Check your October issue for complete details!

A special thanks to all the volunteers who have worked and continue to work hard to make the vision of The Pony Express National Memorial a reality.

- Sandy Taylor

Robbie Sipes



Thirty-five enthusiastic volunteers attended the campaign training session.

for the dance for more than a dozen years.

on-to-be freshman at Arizona State University at Tempe has been ng dance at the Dance Arts Center and, due to her interest in the eld of "Industrial Psychology," will major in dance and psychology ege. She hoped the contest would provide some financial help to- her college expenses.

people in charge of the Miss American Co-ed Pageant are wonder- Lauren said. "They are very caring and professional, concerned the contestants. They are interested in not only physical appear- ut in leadership, scholarship and the inner person."

it on a par with her interest in the dance and psychology is Lauren's on to children. Her experiences with youngsters includes her work eguard and instructor in scuba diving. She loves crafts and various ects.

us of the trip to Hawaii was the fact that her mother was allowed to h her. In fact, the young contestant gives most of the credit for her ss to her family. She feels family support is very important and I could not have done it without them."

ress requirements for the pageants are very strict, Lauren noted, and id to raise \$900 for advertising. She agrees that the schedule has ectic but said, "It is all worth it."

ng will include one formal interview and appearances in an evening and bathing suit. Excellence of speech and a good appearance also nsidered.

proud to represent the Pony Express," Lauren said. "St. Joseph is little town, but it has one of the most interesting landmarks in ican history. The Pony Express riders risked their lives to deliver ail and now, I'm able to travel to Hawaii in one day.

is where it all began," Lauren continued. "Thank you so much, ly to the Pony Express Museum but to the whole St. Joseph com- y for helping me so much."

Mary Helen Burrowes

VOLKSWALK WILL BE IN OCTOBER

The St. Joseph Family YMCA and the St. Joseph Museum are once again co-hosting a volkswalk of his- toric downtown St. Joseph. The volkswalk will be held on Saturday, October 3. This year the starting point for the walk will be the St. Jo- seph Museum, 11th and Charles Streets. The route will cover a 10-kilometer (6.2 miles) trail through historic St. Joseph taking participants into Rivertown Park where the annual Oktoberfest will be in full swing. Walkers will also go past many antique shops, restau- rants, museums and other points of interest including Patee Town and the Pony Express and Jesse James areas. The starting time is 8 a.m. and all participants must be finished by 3 p.m.

Other sponsors for the volkswalk in- clude: Mercantile Bank, Good Health Club of Heartland Health Systems, Mead Products and the Felix Street Mini-Mall. We appre- ciate their support of the Family Y and the St. Joseph Museum in this project.

Watch your mail for a flyer with the complete details and registration in- formation.

Reva Fish-Rocha

GREAT-GRANDSON OF PONY EXPRESS RIDER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

he became a copy writer for Young and Rubican in New York City. In 1966, he became a salesman for Ocean Spray Cranberries.

Mr. Ritter was coaxed back into advertising in 1968, this time in management. The following year he started his own company which encompassed publishing, vocational education franchising, educational research and human interaction counseling. Among many other things, he authored a study on a unique communications system for the deaf.

This highly talented man also has written major educational curricula, such as elementary and high school programs in Music, English and Social Studies, just to name a few. He continues to be involved in numerous projects on a world-wide basis.

During his visit, Mr. Ritter donated several photos of George Scovell, photocopies of Scovell's 1859 emigrant diary and a speech written by Scovell about his life. Numerous newspaper clippings concerning Scovell were also donated.

Mr. Ritter's generosity in donating the Scovell materials and his interest in our museums is greatly appreciated. We look forward with pleasure and excitement to the prospect of working with him in the future.

-Jackie Lewin



Pony Express rider George Scovell is pictured with his wife Carrie M. Scovell and their daughter Lillian.

George Scovell was born in 1837 in Walpole, Massachusetts, and was 23 years old at the time he rode for the Pony Express in eastern Nevada. In 1871, Scovell returned to Massachusetts where he was a dealer in dairy products at Faneuil Hall Market in Boston. Scovell died in 1915. During his later years, he was a popular speaker, telling about his experiences in the west.

Scovell wrote in his reminiscence. . .

"I received orders to go east as far as Roberts Creek and there to camp for my western home station until the 'Pony' mail came to me. . . so I went into the express business, taking my initial act April 5th about 5 P.M. We had as good horses as money could buy in that part of the country. I had four relays of animals, about twenty miles for each, and the time about six and one-half hours. That first night was an awful lonesome ride and I never shall forget it. Before midnight of that initial ride, I imagined that I could see more Indians beside the trail in hiding than I believe now were in the country. I could see them peeping at me from behind rocks and trees. I remember well that first mid-night ride on the trail."



Children line up to touch the bullsnake after the snake program at Carnegie Library.

SNAKE GOES TO LIBRARIES

The bullsnake from the St. Joseph Museum's live snake exhibit made several visits to local libraries during July. Accompanied by David Mead, curator of natural history, the snake's appearance was part of the Rolling Hills Regional Libraries Summer Reading Program. David gave snake presentations at all four libraries, drawing audiences of over 100 children at each library. Although many adults do not like snakes very well, most children are fascinated by them and will touch them if given the opportunity.

-David Mead

Rhonda Clem



David Mead, curator of natural history, tells children at Carnegie Library about the bullsnake.

NEW AND REINSTATED MEMBERS

The board of trustees and staff of both the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums would like to welcome the following new and reinstated members. We appreciate their interest in the museums and we are very grateful for their support.

Steve Kent Olson
St. Joseph, Missouri
Constance Saxton
St. Joseph, Missouri

MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ New member ☐ Renewal ☐ Gift

Your Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____

Gift membership for: (please fill in your name above)

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____

Enclosed is a check for:

\$ _____

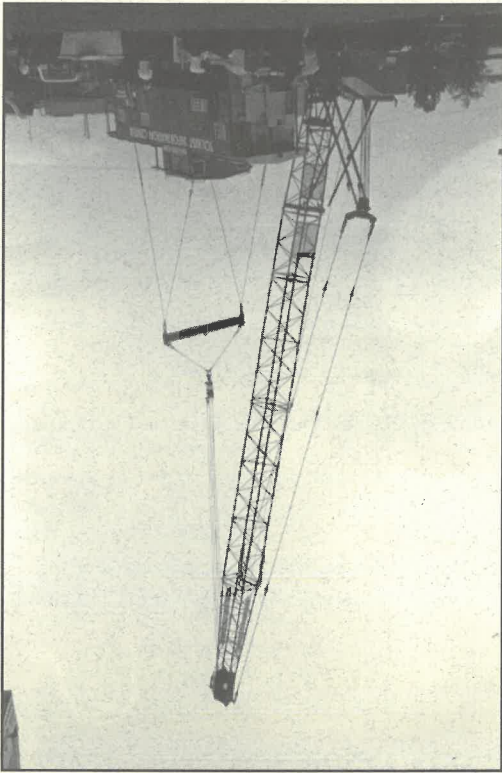
Please make your check payable to the St. Joseph Museum or Pony Express Museum and mail to:

ST. JOSEPH
MUSEUM
1100 Charles Street
St. Joseph, Missouri
64501-2874

Membership level:

___ \$1000.00	Patron	___ \$100.00	Donor
___ 500.00	Fellow	___ 50.00	Subscribing
___ 250.00	Sponsor	___ 25.00	Sustaining

The Pony Express Region Tourist Information Center located at the I-35 and U.S. 36 intersection in Cameron is now open. Special thanks to Chuck Sutton for moving the caboose and to Brooner & Associates for setting it in place.



David Mead

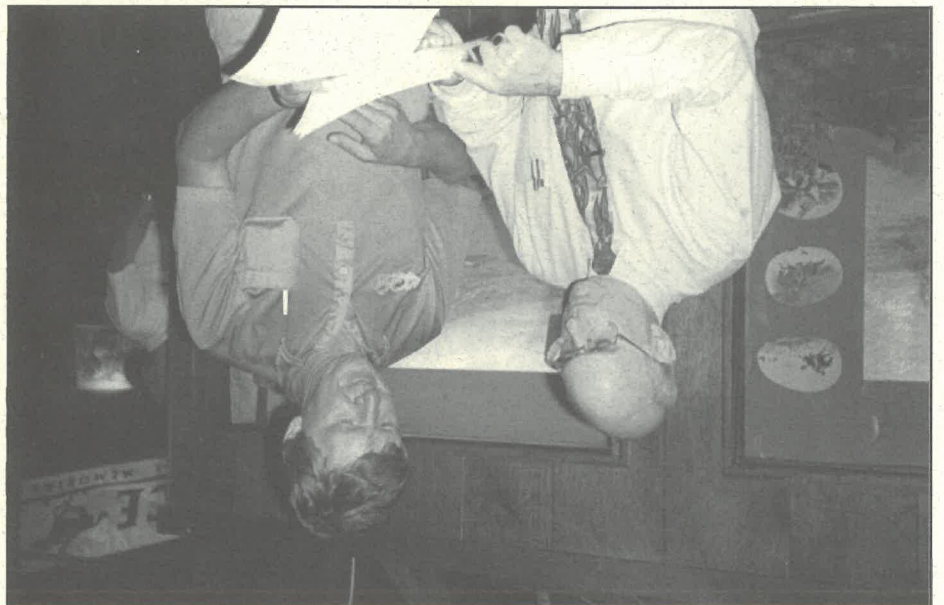
DID YOU KNOW?

On Tuesday, July 21, the Senate passed the bill to designate the California and Pony Express Trails as National Historic Trails. President Bush signed the bill on Monday, August 3. St. Joseph is the eastern terminus of both of these trails.

Lawrence and Topeka, Kansas
Thursday, October 15
Complete details will be coming in a separate mailing.

"THE LAND OF AHS" FIELD TRIP

Dave Novak, KQTV commercial producer, and Rich Nolf, museum director, look over the script for the Pony Express Museum segment of "Discover America" which will air nationally on "The Travel Channel" in September. KQTV was responsible for the taping of all the local segments. More details will be included in the next issue of The Happenings.



Reva Rocha

RECENT DONATIONS

Jim D. Feagins - two periodicals, *American Heritage*, March 1988, and *The Kansas City Archaeologist*, "Special Bulletin No. 3—Dedicated to Margaret Shippee," April 1992. The donor serves as one of the editors of the latter.

Robert Dunnigan - a book, *Abbot-Downing and the Concord Coach*, written by Harry N. Scheiber in 1989.

Cultural Resource Report #9 - Archaeological material collected from a site in Jackson County, Missouri, in April 1992, by **Jim D. Feagins**.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 11 - This Kansas City area field trip will include the Kansas City Museum, the Steamboat Arabia, shopping in historic Parkville and lunch at Stroud's Oak Ridge Manor.

September 15 - Oregon-California Trails Association-Gateway Chapter, 7:00 p.m., Pony Express Museum, 914 Penn Street.

September 28 - St. Joseph Archaeological Society meeting, 7:30 p.m., Bank of St. Joseph (basement), Faraon Street and Woodbine Road. For more information call Mike Fisher, society president, 232-5738.

For more museum information call 232-8471

St. Joseph Museum, Inc.

James A. Lehr.....	President
Simon Rositzky.....	Vice-President
Robert S. Siemens.....	Treasurer
Nancy H. Hampton	Secretary

R. Philip Acuff, M.D.	Robert A. Brown, Jr.
William A. Brunner	Mary Helen Burrowes
Richard N. DeShon	J.M. Ford, II
George T. Hopkins, D.D.S.	Patricia A. Marston
John W. Rushin, Ph.D.	V. Craig Sumner, C.P.A.
Ronald G. Wade, D.V.M.	

Pony Express Museum, Inc.

Richard N. DeShon.....	President
James J. McCarthy, Ph.D.....	Vice-President
David B. Oliver, Ph.D.....	Treasurer
Thomas D. Watkins.....	Secretary

R. Phillip Acuff, M.D.	Patricia A. Marston
Robert A. Brown, Jr	Michael Meierhoffer
William A. Brunner	Robert R. Mooney
Tim Burtner	Carol Moya
William A. Carpenter	Donald N. Paton
Bill D. Cole	Donald J. Ransom
Mignon DeShon	P. Gordon Robaska
Frank L. Goetz	Gary Rosenthal
Karen M. Graves	Simon Rositzky
Clark W. Hampton	Robert S. Seimens
Ted Hatfield	Robert L. Simpson
Lee R. Keith	V. Craig Sumner, C.P.A.
James A. Lehr	Creath S. Thorne

Printed on Recycled Paper

St. Joseph Museum

1100 Charles Street

St. Joseph, Missouri 64501-2874

Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.

Sundays and Labor Day 1-5 p.m.

Pony Express Museum

914 Penn Street, P.O. Box 244

St. Joseph, Missouri 64502-0244

Monday through Saturday 9-6 p.m.

Sundays 1-6 p.m.

Labor Day 9 - 6 p.m.

NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID ST. JOSEPH, MO PERMIT NO. 40
--

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED