

The Happenings

St. Joseph Museum

Pony Express National Memorial

July/August 1994

Clint Sims



Arrowhead reproduction.

MUSEUM CAMP 1994

The first annual museum camp sponsored by the St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express National Memorial was a tremendous success! Twenty-three youngsters participated in the week long camp.

Attending the 1994 Camp were Abigail Acuff, Kali Carroll, Jacob Carlson, Ryan Castle, Joshua Clark, Tabitha Crawford, Matt Grunwald, Joe Houts, III, Josh Holdsworth, Marly James, Linnea Johnson, Michael Kozminski, Becky Lewin, Megan McClain, Jonathan McClain, Andrew Peterson, Chayne Stallbaumer, Thor Stewart, Lizzy Thorne, Dane Weber, Doren Wells, Kristin White and Katie Wills.

The idea of doing an educational workshop for children started with David Mead, Curator of Natural History. David drew in the other curatorial staff members and the concept grew into a museum camp.

Focal areas of the St. Joseph Museum and Pony Express National Memorial were studied, and participants learned about what goes on behind-the-scenes at a museum. The natural history segment was a study of birds with one day spent in the field bird-watching. A day at the Pony Express included a visit from "Johnny Fry" and a trip to Bill's Saddlery. The children learned about Native Americans through studying artifacts from the collections. Toys, clothing and various other items of the 19th century were Friday's topics. Arrowhead reproduction and hands-on activities gave the children a glimpse of some of the types of jobs the museum staff does every day.

The museum camp culminated with the presentation of certificates and t-shirts. With the enthusiastic response from the participants, parents and staff, a 1995 camp is a must!



Bird-watching.



Roping.

Jackie Lewin

ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM & PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL MEMORIAL STAFF

PROGRAM

Rich Nolf.....Director
 Jackie Lewin.....Curator, PENM
 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
 Reva Fish-Rocha.....Customer Service Coordinator
 Sarah Elder.....Curator of History

SUPPORT

Gail Rose.....Executive Secretary
 Susan Noland.....Bookkeeper
 Scott Koch.....Exhibits Technician
 Clint Sims.....Graphic Artist
 Chad Lawhon.....Intern
 June Swift.....Secretary
 Carol Willis.....Secretary
 Mary Knab.....Research Assistant
 Dale Brizendine.....Maintenance Technician
 Ken Mills.....Receptionist
 Camille Grable.....Receptionist
 Helen Matthews.....Receptionist
 Richard Hill.....Receptionist
 Lori Calloway.....Receptionist
 Jane Erickson.....Receptionist
 Marys Hauglie.....Receptionist
 Marcelene Green.....Receptionist
 Allana Smith.....Receptionist
 Charles Thompson.....Receptionist

ADJUNCT

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

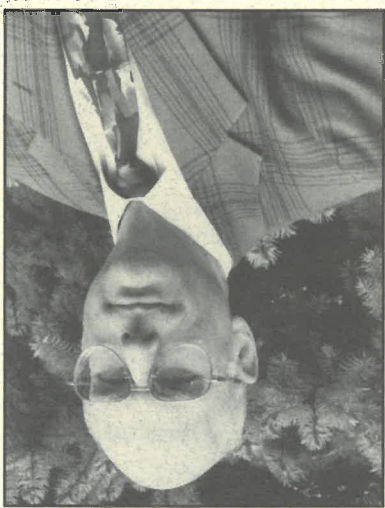
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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Museums sometimes represent a source of confusion to folks. They are not sure whether museums are recreational or educational. When some people think of recreational, they think of swings, teeter-totters, ball fields, and the like; when they think educational, they envision classrooms with teachers and prescribed hours. In reality museums are both recreational and educational.

Several weeks ago, we received a letter from the First Presbyterian Church here in St. Joseph. It is not unusual to receive a response from classes that visit one or both of the



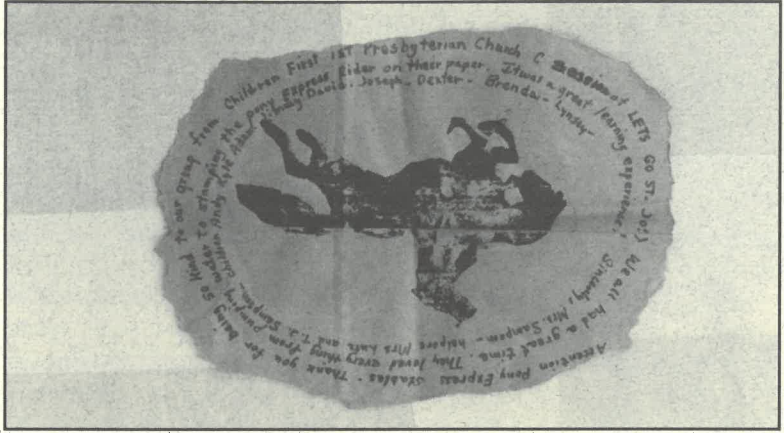
St. Joseph Museum

museums, but this envelope caught my eye immediately. My first thoughts were, "This envelope has been traveling a long time in the postal service or it's gotten wet." I checked the postmark and it was current. I opened the envelope and inside was one of the most unusual responses we've received from a visitation to the Pony Express National Memorial.

The children had cut out a very large oval from a brown paper grocery bag. They had sponged-painted a running rider in the center and had written their message around the perimeter. They were, in essence, emulating the design of the hand stamp used to cancel the Pony Express mail. It then became obvious that the envelope was artificially stained with coffee or tea to give it that "old weathered quality."

Their message read: "Attention Pony Express Stables - Thank you for being so kind to our group from Children First, 1st Presbyterian Church session of LETS GO ST. JO! We all had a great time. They loved everything from pumping water to stamping the Pony

Clint Sims



A thank-you note from the First Presbyterian Church.

JACKIE LEWIN TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP ROLE IN OCTA



Several months ago Jackie Lewin, Curator of the Pony Express National Memorial, shared some privileged information with me. She told me that she had received a phone call from Dave Bigler who is the

chairman of the nominating committee for OCTA. OCTA, in case you are not familiar with that acronym, stands for **Oregon-California Trails Association**. It is a national organization with over 3,000 members whose focus is on the preservation and interpretation of the early emigrant trails. The group is composed of very active advocates of the trails. Dave Bigler, from Salt Lake City, Utah, is the current president of OCTA. On behalf of the nominating committee, Dave had asked Jackie if she would be willing to have her name placed on the OCTA ballot in August 1994 as Vice-President/President-elect. It was obvious that this had come as quite a shock to Jackie although I must say it was not a surprise to me since I know that she is an exceptional person. I also knew some of the thoughts that were going through Jackie's mind in terms of the amount of time it would take, the responsibility involved, the support she would get here, and the impact on her own family, just to name a few. I was very confident that Jackie could do the job, and I hoped that she would accept the nomination. However, I made it very clear to her, as we talked, that I would honor whatever decision she made.

The next day I received a call from Greg Franzwa, an old friend who is an author, publisher, trail advocate and OCTA board member. In fact, Greg was a founding member and the first president, serving in that capacity for four years. Greg had called to urge me to convince Jackie to accept the nomination. He and the other members of the nominating committee were unanimous in their selection and knew that she could do the job. She would, in fact, be the first woman Vice-President/President-elect that OCTA would have. I explained to him that this was Jackie's decision, and if she did accept, she would receive full support from both museums.

Jackie's background and experience equip her to do an excellent job. She holds a master's degree in American history, has taught high school, and has done extensive research. She coauthored the *St. Joe Road*. The research for that book had formed the nucleus of the field trips for the national meeting of OCTA held in St. Joseph in 1988. The museum was intricately involved in those meetings since I was convention chair. Jackie's thorough, rich background in western history, particularly the trails and especially the Pony Express, gives her a vast knowledge base so others listen when she speaks. She was first elected to the board of OCTA in 1988 and reelected in 1991. As chair of the membership committee, she was responsible for the creation of a new four-color brochure and a growth in the membership base.

I told Jackie that if she accepted the nomination, I would like to share the information with Jim Lehr and Dick DeShon and ask for their support and the support of their respective boards. After several days of careful consideration, Jackie did agree to accept the nomination. Both Jim and Dick were absolutely delighted and pledged their support. Both boards unanimously, and with glowing praise for Jackie, pledged their support. They felt it was excellent recognition for her, the museums and St. Joseph. This is really not out of character for the two organizations since it has always been the policy of the museums to fully support a staff person who takes an active role within a professionally related organization.

Jackie was elected on August 10, 1994, at the OCTA convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, to serve as Vice-President/President-elect for one year. Next August, she will assume the Presidency for a two-year term and then serve in the position of Past President for two years. OCTA has acquired a great deal of clout since its founding in 1982. The organization influences legislation on the state and federal level. The OCTA Presidency is a prestigious office that is sought after. It is an honor for Jackie and the museums for her to have been selected. I congratulate the OCTA nominating committee on their astute choice. The St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express National Memorial boards are proud of Jackie, the staff is proud of her, and I am proud of her.

ALCOVE SPRING - HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Alcove Spring Historic Trust to preserve the area. At this time, the group owns 300 acres surrounding Alcove Spring and the Independence Crossing of the Big Blue River. The Historic Trust's short range plans include enlisting volunteers to serve as guides, identifying sources of funding for site development, and improving visitor parking and trails. Long range plans (within 10 years) call for an interpretative center in Blue Rapids, Kansas. The Alcove Spring Historic Trust hopes to create a visitor area where Edwin Bryant's descriptive feelings can be experienced again.

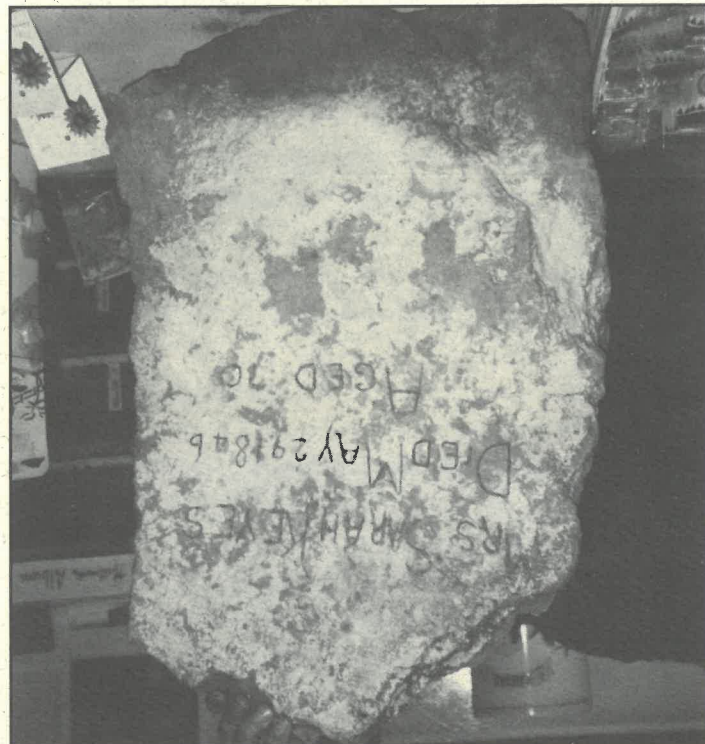
The Historic Trust's plans have sparked an interesting development: The Donner-Reed party camped in the Alcove Spring area in 1846 while preparing to cross the Big Blue River. A member of the group was Mrs. Sarah Keyes who was traveling with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. James F. Reed. While camped near Alcove Spring, 70-year-old Mrs. Keyes died. According to Bryant, she was buried, "A short distance from the camp, under an oak tree on the right-hand side of the trail." Bryant goes on to write that a tombstone marked the burial site. Because of the association with the Donner party this incident is very familiar to historians. Over the years, many people have searched the area for the tombstone or a trace of the grave, but nothing was ever found.

However, around the first of June 1994 what may be Mrs. Keyes' tombstone was mysteriously left behind some bushes in front of the Marysville Advocate, the town newspaper. If the stone is authentic, it will be a truly significant find. Research by local historians from Blue Rapids and Marysville has been intensive. They are hoping to locate the site where the stone originally stood. In addition, they are trying to determine the route of the trail as it crossed the bluffs into the valley of the Big Blue River.

Story continued from 2

Alcove Spring, located in Kansas near the east bank of the Big Blue River and about halfway between Marysville and Blue Rapids, is a site that is well-known to anyone interested in the Oregon and California Trails. Diarist Edwin Bryant wrote about the area on May 26, 1846: "About three-fourths of a mile from our camp we found

Jackie Lewin



The original Sarah Keyes tombstone? Trail buffs in the Marysville - Blue Rapids, Kansas, area are intensively researching the possibility.

a large spring of water, as cold and pure as if it had been melted from ice. . . . Altogether it is one of the most romantic spots I ever saw."

Alcove Spring remains much as it was when Bryant saw it. A group of citizens in Blue Rapids has formed the

Express rider on their paper. It was a great learning experience! Sincerely, Mrs. Sampson - helpers Mrs. Lutz and T.J. Sampson - children Andy, Kyle, Adam, Jimmy, David, Joseph, Dexter, Brenda, Lynsey."

What they had done was take an idea and expand and modify it. Isn't that really what education is all about? Education is going beyond what you might

formally and informally receive and then think, create and expand on a theme or an idea. In this instance the subject was the Pony Express. What a fun way to learn. We were pleased to receive their message about their visit. Thank you Mrs. Sampson, Mrs. Lutz, T.J. Sampson, Andy, Kyle, Adam, Jimmy, David, Joseph, Dexter, Brenda, and Lynsey.

Edwin Bryant

"THE PONY EXPRESS MAP"

On June 29, 1992, the American National Bank (now the Mercantile Bank) gave the Pony Express National Memorial "The Pony Express Map" which for many years hung in the Hotel Robidoux's Pony Bar'n. At the time of the gift, all the money being received for the Pony Express National Memorial had been allocated to the expansion and restoration project, so there were no funds to move and restore the mural. However, different methods of preservation, stabilization, and restoration of the mural were researched. The single greatest problem was its sheer physical size; the mural is 24 by 6 1/2 feet. We really had something of a dilemma—the gift of a great artifact, but the challenge of moving and restoring it. One could not just walk out of the bank with the mural since it is on the second floor, and there are no exits large enough to accommodate its removal. It is like the proverbial "boat in the basement!" Now thanks to the American National / Mercantile Bank, the five local Questers chapters and a Questers International Grant, "The Pony Express Map" will be on display in the Pony Express National Memorial where tens of thousands of people will view it. (See "Questers International Grant" on page 8.)

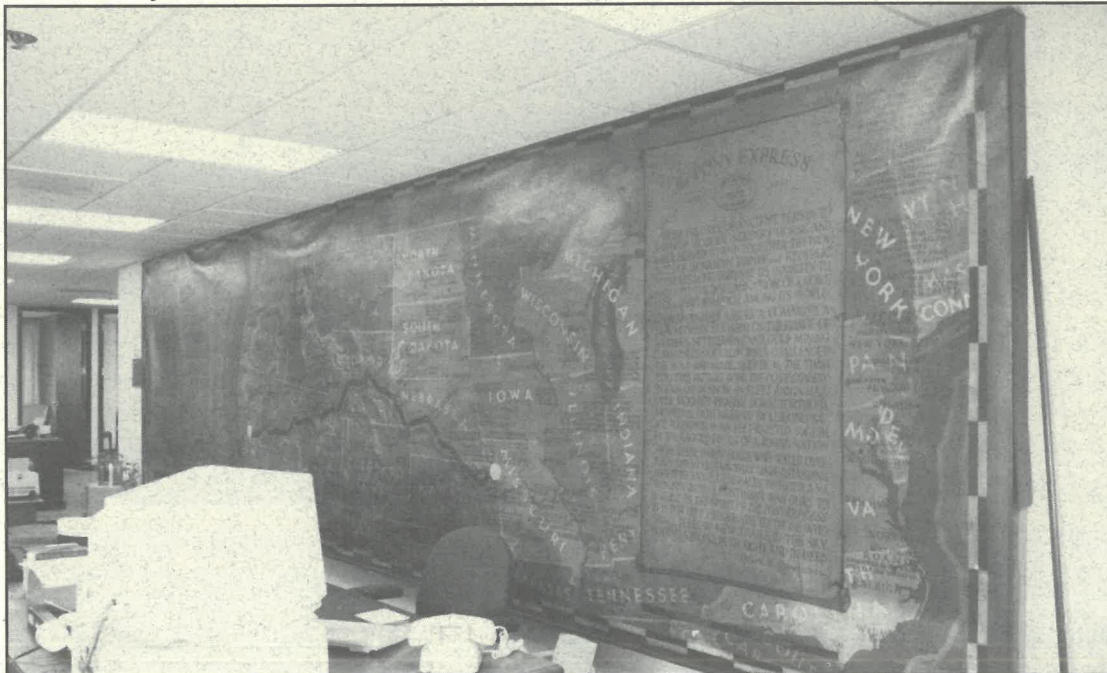
The artist was George Gray who worked for General James Leslie Kincaid, president of the American Hotels Corporation, during the depression. General Kincaid did not believe in government or federal projects, but instead hired people to do specific tasks. George Gray, a young artist, was hired to go around the country and

paint historic murals in various American hotels of which the Hotel Robidoux was one.

This mural is particularly significant, not only because of its subject matter, but because it was unveiled by Eleanor Roosevelt on October 15, 1938. Many visitors to St. Joseph as well as local residents remember the mural well since it was in the Hotel Robidoux's bar, the Pony Bar'n for many years. The mural was removed from the wall prior to the hotel's demolition in 1977. It was later rehung in a frame and placed on the wall of the Trust Department of the American National Bank shortly after the bank was constructed. It has remained in the Trust Department since that time although the bank has become the Mercantile Bank. In the Trust Department, the mural is exposed to more light and is easier to see than it was in the low-lit bar area of the hotel. However, this increased light boldly illustrates the many surface stains and dirt that have accumulated over the years. Since it is hanging on a frame, it shows a great deal of sagging due to the weight of the canvas. This is because the mural is of monumental proportions. One must remember that the mural was originally adhered directly to the plaster wall of the hotel bar which gave the canvas total support. Because of the accumulation of surface stain and dirt, as well as the extended hanging, it is in serious need of restoration and stabilization.

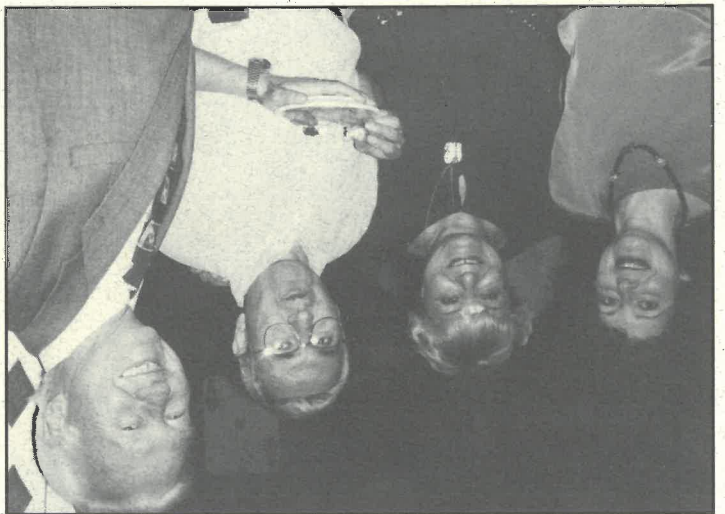
Grants from the five local Questers chapters and Questers International will finally enable the Pony

Express National Memorial to exhibit American National / Mercantile Bank's wonderful gift.



This large mural showing the Pony Express trail is now hanging in the Mercantile Bank but will soon be moved to the Pony Express National Memorial.

“AN EVENING WITH MAVERICK”



Jackie Lewin

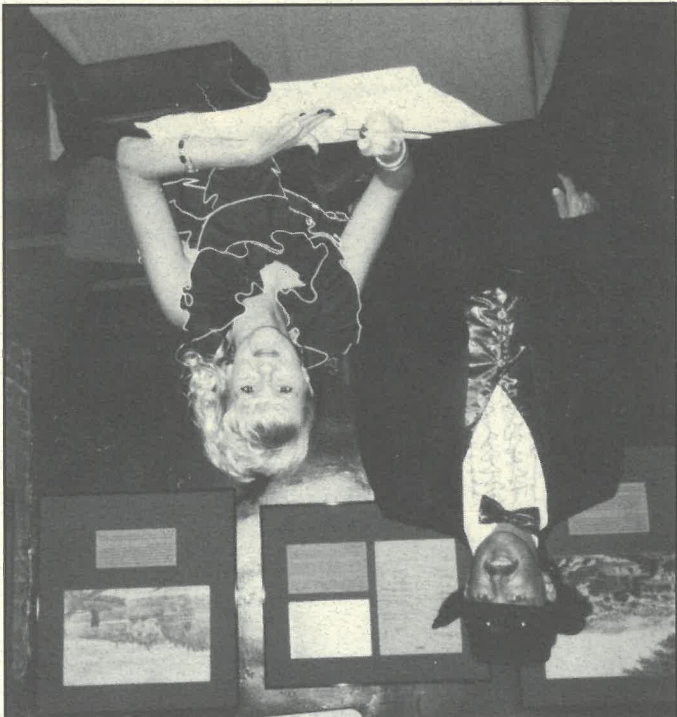
Carol and Carlos Moya visit with co-hosts Yvette and Don Paton.



“An Evening with Maverick” was the theme for the annual fund raising event held at the Ice House Theatre on June 24. Don and Yvette Paton and Herb and Peggy Iffert hosted the evening. Riverboat gambler attire was optional.

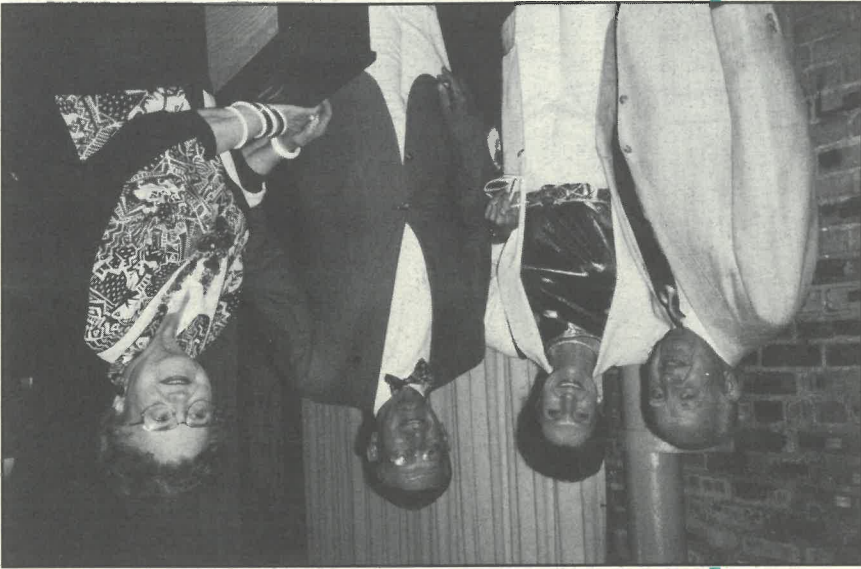
Upon arrival, the 56 guests were treated to delicious hors d'oeuvres prepared by the Holiday Inn staff under the direction of Yvette Paton. Following a beef tenderloin dinner, the guests enjoyed the opening-night, benefit performance of “The Nerd.”

Thank you to the guests who took advantage of this fun opportunity to financially assist the Pony Express National Memorial. A special thank you to the Patons and the Ifferts for hosting the event.



Jackie Lewin

Museum staff member Carol Wills and her husband Bobbie, registered guests as they entered the Ice House Theatre. Costumed to match the theme, An Evening with Maverick, they helped set the mood for the evening.



Jackie Lewin

Herb and Peggy Iffert, co-hosts, greet Diane and Phil Acuff as they arrive at the Ice House Theatre.

1994 MISSOURI GROUP TOUR CAUCUS

The Missouri Division of Tourism presented the annual Group Tour Caucus on July 29 in St. Louis. The caucus is an opportunity for everyone involved in tourism in Missouri to come together and learn about the newest trends in the group tour industry. Over two hundred representatives from restaurants, hotels, museums and entertainment attractions attended the caucus.

The caucus began with a first-timer's session to help those new to the tourism industry prepare for such events as familiarization tours of their area and promoting themselves through the various marketplace conventions that will be coming up this fall. Ed Dresel, President of Destinations Unlimited, Southington, Connecticut, was the first speaker. He gave a presentation on escorted tour types which focused on a profile of the type of person who takes an escorted tour and why they decided to travel with a group. A few of the primary reasons travelers give are safety, convenience and value. He mentioned that historical tours rank second as the most popular type of tour. This is very good news for our museums.

Susan Kier of "Let's Go!" Travel and Training Services of Antioch, Tennessee, spoke on expanding your customer base through compliance with the new Americans with Disabilities Act which now recognizes 900 different conditions. She urged everyone to remember to keep their focus on appreciating people as individuals and being people accessible. After all, she reminded the audience, we are all TABS (temporarily able bodied).

After lunch, Tom Jaffa, President of Jaffa Travel and Marketing Services of Seattle, Washington, gave tips for dealing with tour operators and hosting familiarization tours for them. Kim Lowery, Executive Director of the Travel Expo Plus 95' in Branson, invited everyone to attend the Travel Expo which is an opportunity to meet directly with tour operators. Doc Milner of Opryland Tours in Nashville, Tennessee, spoke about working with group tour leaders. Hank Phillips, Senior Vice President of the National Tour Association presented ways to make the most out of meeting with tour company owners at the National Tour Association Convention and other marketplace conventions.

The wrap-up for the day featured Marjorie Beenders, Director of the Missouri Division of Tourism and a look at all the tourism events the Missouri Division of Tourism will be sponsoring in the coming months. First on everyone's mind is the Missouri Showcase in Jefferson City on August 29. Missouri Showcase is an opportunity for the representatives of attractions in Missouri to meet with 40 tour company owners in scheduled appointments to tell them about their attraction. The St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express National Memorial will both be represented at Missouri Showcase.

Our appreciation to the Missouri Division of Tourism for bringing together experts from all over the United States to help us meet our goals of increasing tourism.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT SERVES AS INTERN AT MUSEUMS

Steve McGinnis of Cameron, Missouri, was the St. Joseph Museum and Pony Express National Memorial's most recent intern. Steve, an alumnus of Missouri Western State College, is currently enrolled in the graduate program at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri, as a history major. As one of his course requirements, Steve had to complete 120 hours of work during the summer at a history-related organization.

Beginning in June, Steve divided his time equally between the St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express National Memorial. Learning experiences at the St. Joseph Museum included data entry, deacidifying documents, and working on a microfilm index. At the Pony Express National Memorial, Steve served as a docent and worked in admissions and the museum store. He also served as an assistant on the Santa Fe Trail field

trip which was cosponsored by the two institutions.

Steve completed 120 hours by the middle of July. He enjoyed his time at both sites although working with the microfilm seemed to be his favorite task.

QUESTERS INTERNATIONAL GRANT

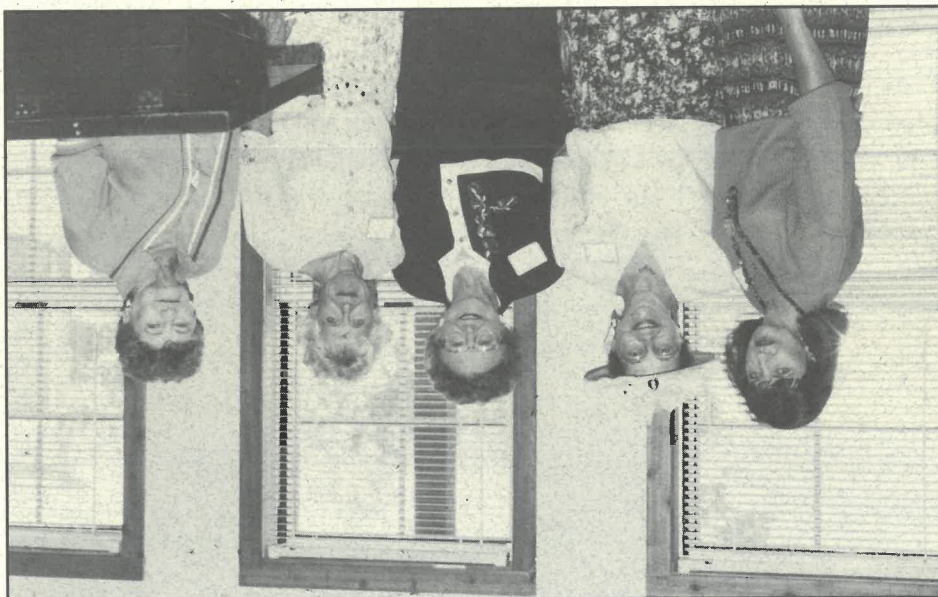
newsletter is published four times a year which is composed of articles submitted by individual members. Questers International has two major objectives. The first is to donate funds for the preservation and restoration of objects or sites, and the second is to provide scholarships for selected historical, architectural students at Columbia University in New York.

Some eight to ten months ago, Peggy Iffert and Jeanie Burnham approached us with the idea of submitting an application for a Questers International Grant. Peggy was the President of the Pony Express Chapter and Jeanie the President of the Westward Gateway Chapter. We discussed various kinds of projects and their relationship to the very strict criteria placed upon applicants. We agreed that "The Pony Express Map" restoration was a wonderful project to bring before all the chapter presidents who would, in turn, present the idea for discussion within

their own chapters. (See "The Pony Express Map" on page 5.)

I want to digress here to explain a little about the Questers. The Questers organization was founded in 1944 by Jessie Elizabeth Bardens of Fort Washington, Pennsylvania. She had invited 14 of her friends into her home with the purpose of establishing an antique study club with the focus on preservation and restoration of objects and sites. Questers have since grown to become an international organization with over 900 chapters in Canada and the United States. There are 18 chapters in Missouri and 5 chapters in St. Joseph alone. The individual chapter may be as small as eight persons and as large as twenty-four. The average is between 18 and 24. The members meet monthly in homes where one of the group makes an extensive presentation on an antique or historic site. An international

Left to right: Jeanie Burnham Map Project Chair; Shirley Spillane, 1995 International Convention Chair; Peggy Iffert Map Project Co-Chair; Ione Berry, Immediate Past President Missouri Questers; Jennie Potts, Quester guest from St. Louis.



The fact that there are five chapters in St. Joseph alone should come as no surprise since this town possesses such a rich historical heritage. The five chapters in St. Joseph were founded over a 22 year period. Westward Ho Chapter #173 was founded in 1962 followed by Pony Express Chapter #400 in 1969, Hyde Forge Chapter #632 in 1973, Joseph Robidoux Chapter #1029 in 1982 and Westward Gateway Chapter #1066 in 1984.

My first contact with Questers was when the Hyde Forge Chapter made a special donation early in the capital campaign for the Pony Express expansion. Subsequently, the other four chapters, with the aid of a state Questers grant, funded the archeological exhibit at the Pony Express National Memorial.

Coming back to the mural project, the five presidents were favorably impressed with the



Left to right: Ione Berry presenting 10-year award to Jeanie Burnham and the Westward Gateway Chapter.

project and took the concept back to their individual chapters for discussion. The presidents were Betty Ray, Hyde Forge Chapter; Mary Baker, Joseph Robidoux Chapter; Delores Kline, Westward Ho Chapter; Eleanor Jackson, Pony Express Chapter; and Jeanie Burnham, Westward Gateway Chapter. After several more meetings involving all of the chapters, it was agreed to pursue the maximum grant limit of \$5,000 from Questers International. To assist in the funding, the five local chapters agreed to collectively raise another \$5,000 to match the grant. Jeanie Burnham agreed to be project chair and Peggy Iffert co-chair. All of this was predicated on the receipt of the grant which we knew would be up against stiff competition.

In May of this year, Jeanie Burnham attended the Questers International meeting in Detroit, Michigan. To her delight and on behalf of the five St. Joseph Quester Chapters, she was presented with a check from Questers International for the full amount requested - \$5,000! There had been over 46 applicants, but only 15 were funded for sums ranging between \$500 and \$5,000. "The Pony Express Map" project was one which was clearly embraced by the Questers International meeting.

On June 29, 1994, all five St. Joseph Chapters gathered together for their annual meeting. This was a very special event for several reasons. Shirley Spillane, 1995 International Convention Chair and Ione Berry, Immediate Past State President were present. It was the 25th anniversary of Pony Express Chapter #400 and the 10th anniversary of Westward Gateway Chapter #1061. The Questers International Grant was announced to the local chapters and during this meeting of the five chapters,



Westward Gateway members from left to right: Billie Barclay, Pud Ransdell, Susan Fay, BeBe Grimes, Sharon Schultz, Barbara Barnes, Janice Morris.

attended by over 70 members, a silent action was held with the proceeds going towards the map project. Questers International is very restrictive on the methods used for soliciting funds and so the local monies being raised must be done under stringent guidelines.

We at the Pony Express National Memorial are very pleased by the Questers involvement. The fact that we have five chapters in St. Joseph is a real asset to the project. I am not sure if any community can boast of five chapters, certainly not any community of this size. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all Questers, but particularly the five St. Joseph Chapters who are still diligently working to raise \$5,000 to match the Questers International Grant.

Post note: The actual process of the restoration and the stabilization of the Pony Express Map will be the subject of an article with photos when the project is completed.

RECENT DONATIONS TO THE COLLECTIONS

PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Peter & Sally Preston - a book, *A Thrilling and Truthful History of the Pony Express*, by William Lightfoot Visscher. Published in 1908.

Kathleen Wilham - two letters written to the Honorable Thomas L. Anderson, House of Representatives, from William H. Russell, one of the founders of the Pony Express. Both letters regard a claim that William Russell made against the United States Government. One is dated December 24, 1857, and the other is dated April 8, 1858. Also included was information on Thomas L. Anderson, John W. Russell, and Greenleaf Davis; an article from the Hannibal Messenger, 1857; and a 1910 article about the Pony Express.

ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Clark - various order forms, receipts, cards and letters from different businesses in St. Joseph. These include the Oxford Music Company; the Stuebner Cleaning and Mercantile Company; The Princess; Townsend, Wyatt & Wall Dry Goods Company; C.P. Fordyce, M.D.; and Brady-Mehornay Furniture Company.

Larry Ball - a map, "History of American Indian Tribes" using symbols and showing Indian tribes throughout the United States and history of them. Done by Wounded Swallow in 1986.

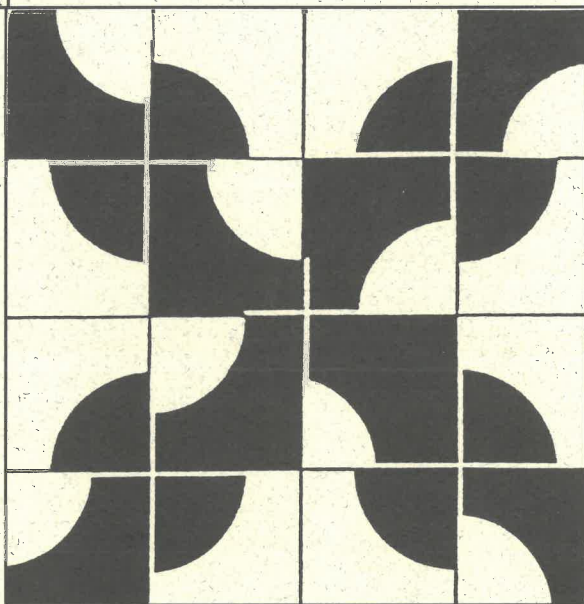
A LOOK INTO

TREASURES IN THE TRUNK

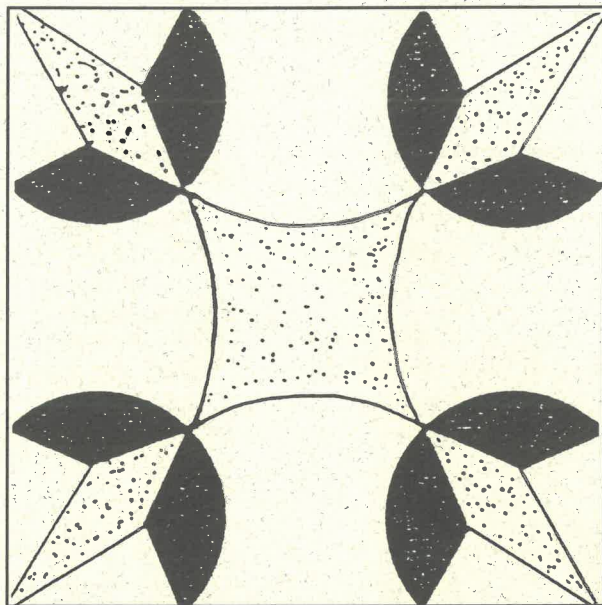
activities. She separates the quilts into three categories: those made before the journey, those made during the trip, and those made afterward, covering the period from 1825 to 1915. You don't have to quilt to enjoy this book. Cross gives the reader a fascinating look at the lives of these women through their Oregon Trail experiences, information about their husbands and families, the important events in their lives, and, of course, the personal style each maker brought to her quilting.

The Oregon Trail quilt featured in the book is a pieced quilt, 69 by 67 inches in size, made by Julia Ann Sturges Dibble around 1880. Julia Ann crossed the Oregon Trail in 1852 with her husband Horace and their three children. They settled in Clackamas County, Oregon. Her pattern is one of the many variations grouped under the general name of Drunkard's Path. If you have a quilt that has been handed down in your family, you will be particularly interested in a chapter called "Preserving the Treasures."

the pattern, instructions for a full size quilt, and material cut for the pattern and ready to assemble for one 12-inch sampler block. The kits, which sell for only six dollars, are proving to be a popular item with both novice quilters and the more experienced quilt makers.



Oregon Trail quilt pattern.



Wandering Foot quilt pattern.

The Pony Express National Memorial store is carrying a new craft kit created by The Piece Corps Quilter's Guild located in St. Joseph. The guild came up with the idea of producing a kit that could be used to create a quilt block or begin a complete quilt. They approached the museum for historical design ideas, and fortunately the store had just received copies of a new book titled *Treasures in the Trunk, Quilts of the Oregon Trail*. Published this spring, the new book is a wonderful collection of the quilt patterns that were popular with the pioneer women who traveled the Oregon Trail. Of the fifty-one quilt patterns explored in the book, four were chosen for the Quilter's Guild project. They include: the Log Cabin, the Wheel, the Oregon Trail, and the Wandering Foot. The kits include the history of

Trunk celebrates the gaily colored quilts which came across the trail in the big chests and trunks while being used as wrapping for a few cherished dishes and other treasures. This book was written by quilt researcher, Mary Bywater Cross. A graduate of the University of Iowa, she specializes in the study of women's history. Treasures in the Trunk is illustrated in full color and presents quilts as document of history (similar to diaries) which can give insights into the lives of the women who made the migration. Cross studied seventy quilts found today in national museums, western public museums and private collections. Her studies have shown that women used their needles to make quilts that reflected the passages in their lives. Quilts were produced for the major events of birth, childhood, coming of age, marriage, death, and involvement in church and community

MUSEUM CURATORS AID SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE

St. Joseph Museum Archives



This photo of town founder Joseph Robidoux was provided by the St. Joseph Museum to accompany the Smithsonian magazine article "Pioneers Made a Lasting Impression on Their Way West."

St. Joseph's role as a jumping off point for wagon-train emigrants in the mid-1800s was highlighted in an article in the "Smithsonian" magazine, May 1994. The article, entitled "Pioneers Made a Lasting Impression on Their Way West," was authored by Bil Gilbert who initially set out to write about the Oregon Trail, but

and civic groups bought newspaper ads, hired agents in Eastern cities, distributed handbills and testimonials from satisfied customers. A principal selling point for St. Joe was its location."

Jackie Lewin, Curator of the Pony Express National Memorial, and Marilyn Taylor, Curator of Ethnology at the St. Joseph Museum, were paid by the magazine to serve as consultants on the historical accuracy of the information about St. Joseph. Jackie and Marilyn are the authors of The St. Joe Road, Emigration Mid-1800s. The St. Joseph Museum also provided several photographs that were used in the article. After reading the first draft of the article, the two curators made corrections and suggestions. Telephone calls continued between the curators and the Smithsonian's editorial department as details were corroborated and the printing deadline approached.

narrowed the focus of the story to the jumping off towns. The author noted in the article: "Independence and St. Joe - as it was invariably called - competed ferociously. To promote their own community and disparage the other, merchants

Smithsonian subscribers number two million, and readership exceeds that number because people pass the magazine around. It is gratifying to know that several million people have been made aware of St. Joseph's role in the westward migration.

NEW AND REINSTATED MEMBERS

The St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express National Memorial boards of trustees and staff are pleased to welcome the following new and reinstated members. We appreciate their interest in the museum.

A.D. and Shirley Barrons
Brian and Kimberly Clark
Kathleen A. Craven
Lyman and Jane Frick
H. Kenneth and Betty Miller
Pony Express Neighborhood Network
Mrs. Paula Schultz

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP FORM

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All contributions are equally divided between the St. Joseph Museum and Pony Express National Memorial unless otherwise specified.

Enclosed is a check for:
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Please make your check payable to the St. Joseph Museum or Pony Express National Memorial and mail to:

ST. JOSEPH
MUSEUM
Box 128
St. Joseph, Missouri
64502-0128

Your contribution provides a one-year membership for you and your immediate family. A majority of your membership contribution is tax deductible under 1994 IRS guidelines for charitable contributions. After receiving your membership, we will send you a receipt that includes further information on tax deductibility.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 13 - The Oregon-California Trails Association - Gateway Chapter meeting at 7 p.m. at Robidoux Row Museum, 3rd and Poulin. The topic is "The California Trail in the Salt Lake City area" by attendees of the national convention.

September 26 - The St. Joseph Archaeological Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Pony Express National Memorial, 914 Penn Street.

September 27 - The Midland Empire Audubon Society presents "Traveling Talons" at the Fine Arts Theater, Missouri Western State College. A

demonstration of live hawks, owls, falcons, and other raptors. Birds of prey will be displayed, discussed, and flown above the audience by trained handlers. 4:30, 5:30 & 7:00 p.m. There is an admission charge.

October 1 - The Family YMCA and the St. Joseph Museum will cosponsor the 1995 Volkswalk. This year the walk will begin at the Krug Park Castle.

October 31 - The St. Joseph Archaeological Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Pony Express National Memorial, 914 Penn Street.

For more museum information call 232-8471

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St. Joseph Museum

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