

St. Joseph Museums, Inc. October/November/December 2006

The St. Joseph Museum received the highest institutional award at the Oregon-California Trails Association's (OCTA) banquet held last August in St. Joseph. For over 20 years, the museum has supported OCTA, trail preservation, and education. In 1986, the St. Joseph Museum organized a meeting of local trail enthusiasts and formed the Gateway Chapter in order to host the first national convention in St. Joseph. Since that time, museum staff has researched the trails from St. Joseph, published the information and raised community awareness of the important role St. Joseph played in western migration. The museum conducted a graduate course for teachers, provided numerous school programs and field trips for the public. Staff aided the National Park Service in researching the exact route of the trail in this area, and the museum maintains an archival collection of St. Joe Road materials. Recognition from OCTA, the nation's leading trail preservation group, was a significant honor.



Trustee Dr. Phil Acuff accepted the award on behalf of the St. Joseph Museum.

Members View New American Indian Exhibits

Members and guests attended the September 28th reception to open five new rooms in the American Indian Galleries. The new exhibits feature artifacts from the museum's collection and the Mett Shippee archaeological collection.

Guests enjoyed a variety of Native American foods



Daughters of Mett Shippee (L-R) Jane Rhule, Barbara Shippee-Larson, Helen Raven, & Joan Wagner view their father's collection.



Slave Dwellings in Missouri's "Little Dixie"

The Black Archives Museum presented a Lunch and Learn with Gary Fuenfhausen of Kansas City as presenter. He spoke about preservation of the remaining slave pens of pre-Civil War Missouri. Visiting with Fuenfhausen about their genealogy are (right) Patty Boldridge and (left) Sonya Boldridge.

Museum helps Trails West!

Interim Director Jackie Lewin was a presenter in the Chautauqua Tent at Trails West! Her program was "Diaries of the Overland Emigrants." Museum staff also helped man the Heritage Tent where non-profit organizations could sell items related to the history of St. Joseph.



Archaeology Day Camp



Ten children took part in the 4-day archaeology workshop at the St. Joseph Museum. Highlights included a special visit by archaeologist Dr. Jimmy Albright and a pretend dig for artifacts.

New and Reinstated Members

**From July 1, 2006 to
September 8, 2006**

Renewals

Gwen Bartlett
BI Vetmedica, Inc.: Shanya
Hunter
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Blakeley
Ed and Helen Borgens
J. Bruce Clark
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Corder
Julia Cox
Walter T. Drannan
A. M. (Susie) Evans
Stephanie Francis
James and Karen Graves
Jo Anne Grey
Harrison Hartley
Jennifer Higgs
John Jarrett
Barbara Shippee Larson
Jerry and Jackie Lewin
Mr. and Mrs. Allan H.
Lowenberg
Marshall & Ilsley Trust Co. NA:
Lyman L. Frick, Jr.
Russell and Carol Matt
Mary McGarry
Mrs. Roy F. Nelson
Charles Nill
Nodaway Valley Bank: William
Carpenter
William and Jane S. Rhule
Mildred Roberts
George W. Roth
Marietta Russell
John and Barbara Rushin
Katherine Stevenson
Webb Stevenson
Lucinda Weaver
Mrs. Virginia Woodbury
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh D. Welch, Jr.

New Member

Chuck Rosenberger

*the modern paved way between the two cities. The party started one afternoon and went by way of Faucett and New Market to Platte City, where the cyclists arrived about 8 o'clock at night and remained all night, their bicycles being a great attraction and the first that many persons along the road had seen. Leaving again early the next morning they continued by way of Parkville and entered Kansas City about 10 o'clock. The roads were rough and almost straight up and down in places through the bluffs, but the trip was made without mishap.*⁵

The photo below shows Frederick Wenz in downtown St. Joseph with snow and ice on the streets. The last newspaper article about one of Wenz's Independence Day rides was July 1953. Wenz was 81 years old, and it was his 64th ride. Frederick Wenz died on April 23, 1960.⁶ The bicycle is now on display on the first floor of the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion.



Notes

- ¹ St. Joseph Museums, Inc., Archives. Accession Record 468 in Accession Book 13
- ² Polk, R.L. & Co. *Polk's St. Joseph City Directory 1926*. Kansas City: R.L. Polk & Co. Publishers, 1926.
- ³ Hartwig, Caroline. St. Joseph Business-History Questionnaire and attached note by Mrs. Norris. St. Joseph Museums, Inc., Archives. 1988.
- ⁴ "Takes Annual bike Ride." *St. Joseph News-Press* 4 July 1938.
- ⁵ "Wenz Takes Out 'Bike.'" *St. Joseph News-Press*. July 1953. St. Joseph Museums, Inc., Archives.
- ⁶ "F.J. Wenz, Retired Shoe Merchant, Dies." *St. Joseph News-Press*. 24 April 1960.
- ⁷ This style of bicycle originated in England. "Penny-farthing" is an analogy between the wheels size difference and the size of England's largest and smallest coins.

by Jackie Lewin

Known as a "highwheeler," "penny-farthing,"⁷ or "ordinary," it had pedals on the larger front wheel. A large front wheel would increase the distance and speed covered with each revolution of the pedals. To offset the weight added to the front wheel, the back wheel was made smaller. In 1889, pneumatic rubber tires, which made the ride smoother were invented and are on this bicycle. The "highwheelers" popularity lasted only a couple of decades because they were dangerous. Since the rider was five feet off the ground, an accident could be quite dangerous. The crude brakes were incapable of stopping it on a downhill run.

Photo from the William and Helen Borgens Collection.

Collections News

Recent Donations

Since July 2006, the St. Joseph Museums, Inc., has been proud to accept as donations to the collections the following items:

John H. Elliott - Two spears and two knives. The donor received these items in trade in the Philippines when his regiment retook Bataan in 1945.

Jim Feagins - Cultural Resource Survey conducted in Clay County, Missouri, with items found at the site.

Jeff Jacobs - Scrapbook that belonged to the Spratt family. Found in a trunk purchased by the donor.

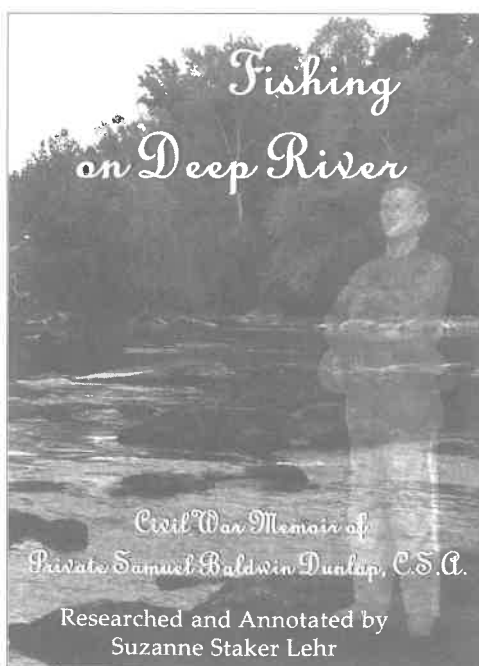
Diana King - Arrow found by donor's husband. Metal point with fletches intact.

Dr. Robert Corder - Pamphlet titled *Eighteenth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Methodist Hospital and Home* from 1916.

Platte Purchase Publishers

New Release from Platte Purchase Publishers!

Platte Purchase Publishers, the publishing division of The St. Joseph Museums, Inc., is proud to announce the publication of *Fishing on Deep River*, which is annotated by author and Museum Research Associate, Suzanne Staker Lehr.



Fishing on Deep River is the Civil War Memoir of DeKalb resident Samuel Baldwin Dunlap during his years as a private in the Confederate Army. Sam writes about his experiences as a cannoneer, detailing the endless marches and camping experiences in between battles. His journey ultimately takes him a thousand miles from home to Deep River in North Carolina. By the time he returned to Missouri, he had seen thirteen battles and faced the challenge of getting his brother Caldwell to a surgeon following the Battle at Kennesaw Mountain.

Author Suzanne Lehr will speak on the topic of her new book at the St. Joseph Museum, 3406 Frederick Avenue, on Tuesday, October 10, at 7 p.m. Admission is free and books will be available for purchase.

Suzanne Lehr is also the author of *As the Mockingbird Sang*. Both books are available at the St. Joseph Museum Gift Shop and in area bookstores.

Calendar of Events

October 7 - American Indian Market Day - The St. Joseph Museum, 3406 Frederick Avenue, will host the second annual American Indian Market Day featuring Native American food, art, dancers, & musicians on the Museum grounds from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is free.

October 10 - Civil War Program - The St. Joseph Museums, Inc. will host a program on the topic of the latest Platte Purchase publication, *Fishing On Deep River, the Civil War Memoir of Pvt. Samuel Baldwin Dunlap, C.S.A.*, at 7 p.m. at the St. Joseph Museum, 3406 Frederick Avenue. Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

November 30 - Christmas Lighting Ceremony - The annual Christmas Lighting Ceremony will be held at the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, 11th & Charles, from 6 - 8 p.m. Admission is free.

November 30 - The Art of George C. Mayfield - A for sale exhibit of paintings by renowned portrait artist George C. Mayfield will be featured at the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, 11th & Charles, through January 6.

December 9 - Nature's Noel, Christmas Craft Workshop - A Christmas craft workshop for children 4 to 10 yrs. of age with a natural history theme will be held at the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, 11th & Charles, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. The cost is \$15 per child, \$25 for two children, & \$30 for three children. Lunch is included. Space is limited and pre-paid reservations are due by Friday, December 1.

December 17 - Christmas High Tea at the Mansion - A High Tea at the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, 11th & Charles, will be held at 2:00 p.m. The menu will include scones, a chocolate fountain, & tea sandwiches among other delicacies. The cost is \$20 and prepaid reservations are required.

St. Joseph Museums, Inc. includes the St. Joseph Museum, Black Archives Museum, and Glore Psychiatric Museum at 3406 Frederick and the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion at 1100 Charles Street.

St. Joseph Museum
Glore Psychiatric Museum
Black Archives Museum
3406 Frederick, P.O. Box 8096
St. Joseph, Missouri 64508
Monday through Saturday 10-5 p.m.
Sunday 1-5 p.m.

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