

Distance from Congress may give St. Joseph

Assume nothing.

Don't assume, for instance, that the recent brouhaha about identifying the body of Jesse James is going to bring tourists here to check out the home where he was shot.

In *The Kansas City Star*, for instance, a front-page story and an inside jump mentioned St. Joseph only obliquely, and that regarding the question of whether the bullet that killed Jesse James exited his head or not. Scientists now say it did not.

"The finding contradicts the long-held theory that the bullet that killed James created a hole in a museum wall in St. Joseph," the *Star* said.

And that's the first time the city pops up in the story. Never mind that the bullet hole

has long been in doubt — I've heard for years that, almost immediately after the shooting, ghoulish souvenir hunters

gouged up the wall and the floor looking for blood-splattered plaster and wood. What seems

strange in the article is that nowhere does it actually come out and say that this most famous of murders happened in St. Joseph.

We are told there is a museum here with a hole in the wall and, later in the article, that there is a Jesse James Home here. But not exactly what it all adds up to.

Which is still better than coverage in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, where St. Joseph doesn't rate a mention at all.

There a front-page, lead article only comes this close to our town: "James, shot to death by trait-



JOE TOWN

BY PRESTON FILBERT

Features Editor

orous Bob Ford, is buried in the grave in Kearney, Mo., just north of Kansas City."

Correct — as far as it goes — but it doesn't go far enough to help our town and its tourism

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And then there's the *Des Moines Register*, where the Jesse story doesn't even rate a mention at all.

Sigh.

So it's up to us again. We have to capitalize on this windfall coverage, which didn't fall our way at all.

Strangely, however, St. Joseph does pop up in a recent advertisement in *The Economist*

magazine.

The magazine — so upscale it posts its rates on the cover for Hong Kong, South Africa and Russia — features an ad touting the benefits of Fairfax County, Va., and comparing that county's proximity to Washington, D.C., to other locations in the United States.

The page, apparently directed toward lobbying organizations, boasts that Fairfax County is only

from Congress may give St. Joseph a boost

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The page, apparently directed toward lobbying organizations, boasts that Fairfax County is only

a quarter mile from policy-makers in the nation's capital, while all the other cities are miles away. The alphabetical listing includes St. Joseph (1,048 miles away), but doesn't mention our good friend Kansas City.

I called the county to see how we rated this honor, and they never returned my call. Presumably they are too busy influencing policy decisions in Washington.

But given the rest of the country's disapproving attitude toward Washington these days, it seems like we ought to be able to take advantage of our distance.

I'd suggest a new motto: "St. Joseph — as close as you'd want to get to Congress."

Preston Filbert's Joetown column appears Sunday in the *News-Press*.

Historians pallbearers for James

Outlaw to be buried for 3rd time Saturday

News-Press Staff Report 10-26-95

When Jesse James is finally laid to rest Saturday in Kearney, Mo., the man who exhumed him and historians from the James-Younger Gang will be pallbearers for the outlaw's third funeral.

Betty Barr of Overland Park, Kan., great-granddaughter of Jesse James, said James E. Starrs, professor of law and forensic sciences at George Washington University, will be among the eight pallbearers.

Mr. Starrs headed the team of scientists who removed the outlaw from the grave last July to conduct DNA tests.

Other pallbearers are Jesse James historians Wilbur Zink, Don Hale, Gary Chilcote, Bill Breckenridge, David Smith, Phillip Steele and Lee Pollock.

Honorary pallbearers will be George Warfel, Ted Yeatman, Emmett Hocter and Ed Bauman. Officiating ministers will be Dr. Charles Baker and the Rev. John Killian.

The funeral is scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Kearney. Burial will be at Mr. James' gravesite in Mount Olivet Cemetery at Kearney.

Jesse James was killed in St. Joseph by Bob Ford on April 3, 1882, and was originally buried on his mother's farm near Kearney.

The remains were moved to the town cemetery a few miles away in 1902 when another brief memorial service was conducted. That time, former Quantrill gang members who served with Mr. James were the pallbearers.

Hair sample a 'godsend'

Mr. Starrs said this week the hair sample that was turned over to him by the James Farm has been "a real godsend."

"We know that the hair had been dyed and trimmed to about 1½ inches," Mr. Starrs said from his home in Washington, D.C. "Half of the hair is at Penn-

ington, D.C. Half of the hair is at Penn State University for DNA tests, and the other half at Florida State University for drug analysis."

He said two teeth found in the grave have DNA with a mutation that only a few people would have. He said the next step will be to determine if that mutation in the mitochondrial DNA matches the donating DNA from Oklahoma City relatives.

"The skull has been reconstructed, and a mold is being cast so the original skull can be reburied in the grave next Saturday," Mr. Starrs said.

Chemical tests from the left side of the skull show lead traces, and a beveling of the skull on the right side is consistent with a bullet entering from the right.

"The bullet was reported to have been fired into his head behind the right ear," Mr. Starrs said. "It either exited on the left side, or was embedded, and removed later. We know it hit full tilt and is providing us with a lot of information."

Mr. Starrs said his final report on whether the body was really that of Jesse James won't be released until Feb. 23 at a forensic scientist meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

But he said all evidence to date is consistent with the remains of the man who was shot in St. Joseph in 1882, and exhumed last summer, being those of Jesse James.

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V-P 5-4-95

Jesse denied official infamy

JEFFERSON CITY — The spirit of Jesse James nearly had another run-in with "the law" Wednesday.

While the outlaw may have died in St. Joseph at the hands of Bob Ford in 1882, his spirit touched the Capitol for a moment when Sen. Harold Caskey, D-Butler, proposed an amendment to make him the official "state outlaw."

The Missouri Senate was discussing legislation that would make the Missouri mule the official state animal. Caskey later withdrew the amendment.

History-minded Mrs. Carnahan to attend Jesse's burial No. 3

By SCOTT CHARTON

Associated Press

N-P 10-17-95

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Missouri's governor once put a price on Jesse James' head and kept a loaded pistol in his Capitol desk to deal forcefully with any outlaw reprisals.

What a difference a century makes.

On Oct. 28, first lady Jean Carnahan will attend the third burial of James — a figure she calls "a

very unique part of Missouri history."

Gov. Mel Carnahan would like to attend, too, but he has another commitment that day, spokesman Chris Sifford said Monday.

"Like Mrs. Carnahan, the governor is very much interested in the history of Missouri and is intrigued by the history involved in this funeral. He'd like to be there," Sifford said.

Any kind words by Missouri's first family about the state's most

famous outlaw are notable.

That's because Jesse James was an outcast to state government during the last century, when he rode as a Confederate guerrilla before turning to bank and train robberies.

The conflicts between outlawry and officialdom are remembered today in the state Capitol Museum.

There, Gov. Thomas Theodore Crittenden's revolver and bullets are displayed alongside Jesse James' silk handkerchief and

photograph.

Backed by exasperated railroad barons, Crittenden put up a \$5,000 reward for the outlaw's capture.

"Jesse James was one of the biggest headaches of Governor Crittenden. And it was reported that there were outlaw threats on the first family," Mrs. Carnahan said in a telephone interview.

But within months of Jesse James' assassination in April 1882, his brother Frank turned himself in to Crittenden, dramati-

cally surrendering his gun to the governor.

Frank James was acquitted a trial, and died at home in 1915.

"Jesse James was significant in our history, because what we saw with his first burial was really an end to a period of lawlessness we had in our state," the first lady said.

The funeral is to be held in the chapel of William Jewell College in Liberty, a Baptist school from which two of the Carrnahan's children graduated.

James-Younger Gang anticipati

Associated Press

SPRINGDALE, Ark. — When the body of Jesse James is exhumed this month in Missouri, Phillip Steele of Springdale is sure that years of his own research into the outlaw's life will be substantiated.

As president of the James-Younger Gang, a group of Western history enthusiasts that specializes in research on the bank and train-robbing James brothers, Steele will be on the research team at the exhumation.

Steele, the author of two books on the James family and its folklore, said Friday he hopes it is proved that James was killed when Bob Ford, a member of the James gang, out to collect a reward, shot him in the head April 3, 1882.

A Missouri judge ruled Thursday that a George Washington University forensic scientist can exhumate Jesse James' remains for genetic testing.

The scientist, James Starrs, hopes to settle a longstanding dispute among hundreds of peo-

ple who claim to be the outlaw's descendants. Researchers also hope to end rumors that James lived longer and fathered more children.

"When he was killed, there were over 1,000 people who viewed his body, and nobody said it wasn't him back then," Steele said.

Steele said the researchers will look at genetic and physical evidence. In addition to testing the body's DNA, researchers also will check the fatal wound (which should be behind the right ear), a

missing middle finger from the left hand (shot off during a gunfight), his height and shoe size.

Once tests are complete, would-be descendants can take a blood test to determine whether they could be a James descendant, he said.

Steele, who doesn't claim any relation to the James or Younger families, helped organize the modern James-Younger Gang in 1993. The group publishes a quarterly newsletter and hosts a national convention each year. The gang boasts a membership of 300

ing exhumation

n the United States and in Eu-
rope.

"Jesse James is a phenomenon.
He's the best-recognized person
in American history worldwide,"
Steele said.

Several Gravette residents can
trace their history to the James
family, including James and
Steve Benson and their sister
Shuella Emmanuel. They signed
papers to give researchers per-
mission to exhume.

James Benson, a Gravette vet-
erinararian, said he's always
known that he's a descendant of

Frank and Jesse's sister, Susan
Palmer. Benson's father, Allen
James Benson, was Palmer's
grandson.

"It didn't bother my brother
and I if they wanted to exhume
him and do some DNA testing.
He's been dead 100 years," Ben-
son said.

George Washington University
will pay the \$5,000 to \$10,000 for
the exhumation.

SUNDAY, JULY 9, 1995

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DNA tests bring Jesse up to date

**Latest technology
helps trace lineage**

By **GARY CHILCOTE** 7-14-95
News-Press Special Correspondent

Before the O.J. Simpson murder trial, DNA was only some initials tossed about by scientists, and few people even today can pronounce the words deoxyribonucleic acid despite daily doses of the trial on television.

Soon the skeletal remains of Jesse James will be subjected to tests to establish whether the body in the grave is indeed Jesse's. The test will compare his DNA to descendants of the famous outlaw.

James E. Starrs, the George

Washington University professor in charge of exhuming Jesse James, says DNA as it exists in all living cells comes in two basic forms.

"The basic concept of DNA matches is grounded in the biological fact that every person's DNA is unique, except for identical twins," Starrs said.

The type used to match blood samples to a living person, as in the Simpson trial, is called nuclear DNA. This type is not suitable in tracing a family member from one generation to another because of possible mutations.

The second type is mitochondrial, the type used to identify remains of Vietnam War veterans, and the type used to disprove that Anna Anderson was not the long-lost Anastasia, youngest daughter of Czar Nicholas II.

Mark Stoneking, a molecular biologist from Penn State University who handled the Anastasia case, will also be in charge of testing the DNA obtained from Jesse James and his descendants.

Please see **DNA/Page 6B**

JESSE



JAMES

DNA

Continued from Page 1B

Nuclear DNA is composed of two strands twisted together like an pigtail, while mitochondrial DNA is watermelon-shaped, like a coil within a coil.

"Nuclear DNA is not useful for cases like this one where a generation gap exists between Jesse James and his oldest living relative, Judge James R. Ross, his great grandson," Startts said.

He explained that both parents pass along nuclear DNA, but in the fertilization process the male sperm does not contribute mitochondrial DNA to the offspring.

"This fact allows identification of unknown remains or bodily

samples to be made by comparison to the mitochondrial DNA of known descendants on the female side," Startts said.

He said Jesse James' mitochondrial DNA would not be inherited by his children, Jesse Edwards and Mary. Therefore, the DNA found in James' remains will be compared with that of descendants from his sister, Susan, since she and Jesse had the same mother, Zerelda Samuel.

Susan had daughters, and they had daughters who have continued that direct lineage to Robert Jackson, an Oklahoma City attorney. Jackson has agreed to provide a blood sample to test against Jesse James' DNA.

He inherited the DNA from his

mother, but cannot pass the mitochondrial DNA on to an offspring. Other James descendants will also provide blood samples.

"I think it's exciting," Jackson said last week after Clay County Judge Victor Howard ordered the exhumation. "A lot of people say they are related to Jesse James. This establishes it on the maternal side of our family tree."

The tests will take at least several weeks to complete, and Startts' final report on the exhumation of Jesse James won't be given until next winter.

But Startts hopes a preliminary report on results from James' DNA tests can be made when he addresses the annual meeting of the James-Younger Gang on Sept. 24 in Lexington, Ky.

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1983

charge of driving with a suspended license.

Mell Andre Wilson Sr., 23, 421 1/2 S. Ninth St., about 6:45 p.m. Wednesday at his home on state warrant from Buchanan County charging him with failure to appear in court on a speeding offense.

Roger Petrzilka, 32, Omaha, Neb., about 9:30 p.m. Wednesday by Missouri Highway Patrol troopers on state warrant from Buchanan County charging him with driving an overlength truck.

Jeremey Lee Richardson, 18, Tampa, Fla., about 11:30 p.m. Wednesday by Missouri Highway Patrol troopers on charge of possession of an altered driver's license.

Tina Darlene Tubbs, 27, Wathena, Kan., about 4 a.m. Thursday at Fourth Street and St. Joseph Avenue on charge of driving while intoxicated after the van she was driv-

Summonses issued

Angela I. Gribbs, 30, 2230 Jule St., about 4:45 p.m. Tuesday at Venture, 137 N. Belt Highway, on charge of stealing cologne, perfume and sandals from the store.

Charles K. Mitchell, 46, Tonganoxie, Kan., about 7:15 p.m. Tuesday at American Gold Mine, 2102 S. Belt Highway, on charge of stealing an amplifier from the store.

Thefts reported

Amoco, 4125 King Hill Ave., two 12-packs of beer from the store.

Bradley T. Wolfing, 4204 N. 31st St., billfold with five credit cards from vehicle at 31st and Jackson streets.

Vandalism reported

Ruth L. Carrel, 2307 Goff Ave., door damaged at residence.

CIRCUIT COURT

Division 5

Judge Keith Marquart
Sentenced to jail
William K. Merrigan, 32, 3209 S. St., for 60 days after pleading guilty to charge of driving with an altered driver's license, but

chemical dependency.
Fined
Aaron S. S. Black, 29, 3103 Per St., \$100 after pleading guilty to misdemeanor charge of passing a bad check.
Jimmy Douglas Goble, 33, 15 Carriage Drive, \$500 after pleading guilty to charge of driving while intoxicated and payment of \$100 or fine.

Pinkerton catches up with old foe James

Agency will provide guards at grave

By GARY CHILCOTE 7-15-95
News-Press Special Correspondent

It's enough to make Jesse James turn over in his grave.

The notorious outlaw successfully eluded the Pinkerton National Detective Agency for more than a dozen years before his death at the hands of his own gang member in St. Joseph in 1882.

Monday, when the body of Jesse James is unearthed in Kearney, Mo., for a new autopsy, uniformed Pinkerton guards will be on hand to provide security and crowd control.

JESSE



JAMES

It may have taken the Pinkerton men 113 years to catch up with Jesse James, but the irony of the occasion isn't lost on James Starrs, the scientist in charge of the project.

"Pinkerton Security and Investigation volunteered to provide security around the clock while we are exhuming the body of Jesse James," Starrs told the *News-Press*. "I think it's an interesting historical note to have them protecting the remains. They said they wanted to 'complete the loop.'"

Thelma Barr of Overland Park, Kan., widow of James' grandson, Lawrence Barr, isn't so sure the Pinkertons should be allowed so close to Jesse James, though.

"I wouldn't let them do it if it was up to me," Barr said.

The James-Younger Gang and Alan Pinkerton's National Detective Agency were archenemies in the 1870s and early 1880s.

Please see **Pinkerton/Page 9A**

their ill-fated raid on the James Farm near Kearney, believing that Frank and Jesse had been trapped in their mother's home.

They arrived by special train and tossed a construction flare inside to illuminate the front room. Jesse's mother kicked it into the fireplace, where it exploded.

The blast fatally injured Jesse's 9-year-old half-brother, Archie,

As the train pulled out of the station, one of the outlaws fired his gun at the conductor, William Westphal, who fell dead beside the tracks.

Authorities later learned that Westphal was the conductor of the special train the night the Pinkertons raided the James farm more than six years earlier.

of train robbery Winston today

3:30 re-enactment of the famous train robbery.

The event will be only one of a daylong series of events to raise funds to help restore the Winston depot. A parade around the town square will begin at 1 p.m., and at 5 p.m. Winton Hoskins will deliver a historical talk.

Jay V. Groves, one of the Jesse James Days sponsors, said Starrs and his team of Jesse James scientists will be introduced to the crowd.

Starrs said while at Winston he wants his team to see the stone trestle just outside town where the James gang hid their horses during the robbery.

It was not the Pinkertons but two of James' own gang members, Bob and Charles Ford, who shot him with his back turned in his own home in St. Joseph.

At least, that's the story that has been told the last 113 years.

Next week's exhumation and the scientific study of James' body through DNA and other means will help determine if it is James who was killed in St. Joseph and if it happened like the Ford brothers claimed.

Pinkerton

Continued from Page 1A

Despite years of tracking the gang for railroads, banks and government agencies, the Pinkertons never got their man — at least until Monday at the Mount Olivet Cemetery in James' hometown of Kearney.

Pinkerton earned a name while spying for Union forces during the Civil War, while Jesse and Frank James fought for the Confederacy in guerrilla warfare.

After the war, as railroads began to offer rewards for gangs that preyed on unarmed express cars, the Pinkertons took on a new role, but one for which they were not always successful.

Pinkerton agent John W. Whicher arrived in Liberty, Mo., in the winter of 1874 with plans to catch the James gang.

He was last seen alive on March 10 of that year, walking toward the James farm. His body was later found across the Missouri River in Jackson County.

Jesse James took a dim view of Pinkerton activities while he was courting his first cousin, Zerelda Mimms, for nine years. They finally married April 24, 1874.

Less than a year later on Jan. 26, 1875, the Pinkertons staged their ill-fated raid on the James Farm near Kearney, believing that Frank and Jesse had been trapped in their mother's home.

They arrived by special train and tossed a construction flare inside to illuminate the front room. Jesse's mother kicked it into the fireplace, where it exploded.

The blast fatally injured Jesse's 9-year-old half-brother, Archie,

Re-enactment of train robbery scheduled in Winston today

On a warm evening 114 years ago today, Jesse James and his gang robbed the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad at Winston, Mo., in 1881.

Today, as the Winston Historical Society holds its annual Jesse James Days, afternoon guests will be James E. Starrs and four members of his scientific team who will begin exhuming Jesse James' body on Monday.

Starrs confirmed Friday evening that his team members, accompanied by a few television crews, will be at the small Daviess County community in time to watch the

3:30 re-enactment of the famous train robbery.

The event will be only one of a daylong series of events to raise funds to help restore the Winston depot. A parade around the town square will begin at 1 p.m., and at 5 p.m. Winton Hoskins will deliver a historical talk.

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and blew off the hand of his mother, Zerelda Samuel. Jesse and Frank were nowhere around, and the Pinkertons fled empty-handed.

But Jesse and Frank had long memories. Six years later on July 15, 1881, the gang turned up on a hot night at Winston, Mo., and robbed the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad train.

As the train pulled out of the station, one of the outlaws fired his gun at the conductor, William Westphal, who fell dead beside the tracks.

Authorities later learned that Westphal was the conductor of the special train the night the Pinkertons raided the James farm more than six years earlier.

It was not the Pinkertons but two of James' own gang members, Bob and Charles Ford, who shot him with his back turned in his own home in St. Joseph.

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PRO/REGION

St. Joseph (Mo.) News-Press

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Curious expected to view exhumation

By GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent

When some of the nation's top forensic scientists begin the ex-

cavation Monday to locate the body of Jesse James, major news media from around the world are expected to show up at the grave site in Kearney, Mo.

James' body is to be exhumed to allow modern DNA tests to determine whether the remains really are those of Jesse James and to answer other questions about his death in St. Joseph on April 3, 1882.

Dr. Gerald Lee, Clay County medical examiner, and James E. Starrs, professor of law and fo-

rensic sciences at George Washington University, want the exhumation to be done as quietly as possible.

But they acknowledge that Jesse James is world famous and that crowds of reporters, camera crews and curious spectators may complicate the dig, scheduled to begin shortly after 8 a.m. Monday in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

"We have been contacted by all the major networks in the U.S. and several other countries," Starrs said.



JESSE

JAMES

Some, including NBC and German Television ARD, will be in St. Joseph today to film at the Jesse James Home, where the outlaw was killed.

The Kearney cemetery is directly across the street from a small shopping center, but Starrs wants people to park east of the cemetery to avoid crossing busy Missouri Highway 92 at Kearney.

Starrs thinks that the body of Jesse James will be relatively intact despite having been buried for more than 113

years. James originally was buried on his mother's farm in 1882, then exhumed and moved to the town cemetery in 1902 and buried in a new metal coffin.

"It is not known whether Jesse James was embalmed prior to burial, even though newspaper reports have said he was," Starrs said. "However, it can be reasonably speculated that some form of preservative was employed to delay decomposition of the body."

Starrs said reports from the 1902 burial suggest that "the condition of the remains will be today what they were in 1902 — skeletonized but in analyzable condition."

At the time of his death, Jesse

James was about 5 feet 9 inches tall, with a solid, muscular build; blue eyes; an oval face; black hair; and a carefully trimmed brown beard.

He had two bullet wounds in his right chest and a bullet wound above one knee, and the tip of his left, middle finger had been shot off.

The metal coffin will not be opened at the cemetery once it has been removed from the grave.

Starrs plans to take it intact to the Kansas City Regional Crime Lab, where only members of his scientific sleuthing team will be permitted to view the remains. There will be no public photographs, he vows.



1845-1995

St. Joseph News-Press

TUESDAY, JULY 18, 1995

St. Joseph, Missouri

Jesse's remains prove elusive

By GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent

KEARNEY, Mo. — In death, Jesse James remains as elusive as he did in life.

The grave of the infamous outlaw stubbornly refused to yield the body to some of the nation's top forensic scientists gathered here Monday.

Maybe it was the presence of a half dozen Pinkerton men in Mt. Olivet Cemetery here that caused James to remain in hiding, but after an all-day dig, team leader James Starrs had turned up only one badly deteriorated bone.

More than 300 people were present to watch the first scoops of earth lifted from James' grave. Fully one-third of the crowd was news media from around the world.

Town people agreed it was probably the biggest thing to happen to Kearney since James was buried here in 1902.

But as the day wore on, Starrs voiced disappointment that the exhumation of Jesse James, intended to determine if it is in-



Kearney, wasn't to be as easy as he originally believed.

The coffin was found almost six feet down after hours of digging, using both shovels and masonry trowels.

Instead of a metal coffin, only deteriorated wood was found. And six metal coffin handles were recovered.

The glass faceplate in the coffin was found broken, and the wooden coffin showed signs of partial collapse.

Michael Finnegan, professor of anthropology from Kansas State University, reported that the only bone yet recovered, from the foot of the grave, was a spouty leg bone in very bad shape.

He said a larger leg bone is needed to conduct proper mitochondrial DNA tests to determine if the body is really James'.

"We are at the right place, and we have a casket," Finnegan said. "At this time we haven't made any identification."

He said if the skeletal remains were in perfect condition, they would be out of the ground by now. Instead, when the exhumation resumes at 8 a.m. today, it will be a full archaeological dig, carefully documenting each item found.

Please see **Jesse/Page 3A**

Members of the news media from around the nation and the world horde around the grave of Jesse James in Kearney, Mo.,

on Monday as researchers attempt to find the casket containing James' remains.

World's eyes focus on dig

By GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent

KEARNEY, Mo. — President Clinton couldn't attract as much news media to one spot as the city of Kearney, Mo., is attracting this week with the exhumation of outlaw Jesse James.

Of course, Jesse James is probably a better-known name around the world.

That's why three German television crews — Spiegel TV, RTL Television, and ARD — are sending live televised pictures by satellite to Europe as each shovel full of earth is tossed from the James grave.

Australia also is receiving live coverage from Clay County, where Jesse James was buried in 1902.

At one time Monday, nine live remote TV broadcast trucks lined the south side of Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

The major American networks were pre-

sent, along with "A Current Affair" and a reporter for *People* magazine. The *Washington Post* has had a reporter assigned for the past three days, and every local radio and TV station has been on hand.

To be sure everything is documented in detail on video, Gary Hochman, senior producer for Nebraska Educational Telecommunications, keeps cameras focused on the dig.

He uses a 20-foot long boom that holds a remote-controlled television camera giving a bird's-eye view of the excavation as a television pool feed for any station wanting to use the information.

The Nebraska video will be used to create a documentary of the exhumation of Jesse James. Discovery Channel was unable to negotiate a deal with James Starrs, the exhumation leader, to cover the event.

Even the Jesse James Home in St. Joseph has been visited almost daily by the

news media in the frenzy to come up with additional James folklore.

During the dull times Monday, reporters roamed through the crowd seeking Jesse James' relatives, historians and others they could interview to get an exclusive comment or two while the forensic scientists were busy digging into James' grave.

Today cameras will be banned from looking into the excavation. The Clay County sheriff's office is concerned about violations of privacy as individual remains are uncovered.

Nearby on a truck sits a copper-colored concrete vault that will be installed in the grave opening once the coffin is finally removed.

The vault will contain James' new coffin once the body is ready for reburial, not later than Oct. 31.

Staff photo by IVALL LAWSON JR.

ARM
fe on
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GOP proposal for Medicare offers options

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Medical sav-
ings accounts and managed-care
health plans would be among the
options provided to Medicare re-
cipients under a plan being dis-
cussed by House Republicans, a
staff document shows.
The document, prepared by
GOP staff of the House Ways
Means Committee, en-
titled "The Medicare
service: The tradi-
but only
many
ser

TUESDAY, JULY 18, 1995

Jesse

Continued from Page 1A

sifting the soil from the grave and recording each find.

Finnegan said that as an alter-
native to DNA tests on material
found in the grave, the team
might have to test a few small
bones and a tooth found when
James' original grave was ex-
cavated in 1979. A court order is
expected today authorizing the
James Farm to turn over those
remains that are buried in a
Tupperware container on the
farm.

The excavation was done in
sight of the public and the news
media, without the announced
protective tent. By late afternoon
an overhead shade was installed

to keep the open grave from
drying the remains as they were
exposed.

Today the search for Jesse
James' remains will continue, but
with new rules limiting access of
the news media and the public.
This time security is handled by
Clay County sheriff's deputies.

Family privacy was cited as the
reason for the tightened rules on
coverage.

Gathered here in Kearney are
some of the top Jesse James his-
torians, including George Warfel
from Venice, Fla.; Phillip Steele
from Springdale, Ark.; Lee Pol-
lock from Princeton, Ill.; Wilbur
Zink from Appleton City, Mo.;
Emmett Hocter from Platts-
mouth, Neb.; and David Smith
from Liberty, Mo.

Closely watching the ex-

cavations Monday were Betty
Barr, great granddaughter of
Jesse James, from Overland
Park, Kan.; and Robert Jackson
from Tulsa, Okla., a great-grand
nephew of Jesse James who will
be providing the DNA blood
match.

Also on hand was Vince Sim-
mons, a "non-relative" who
claims to be James' grandson
born long after his 1882 death.
Also here is Bud Hardcastle from
Arkansas, who insists Jesse
James lived until 1951. From the
Jesse James Museum in Adair,
Iowa, is Jackie Wilson.

But what was expected to be a
simple one-day dig is now begin-
ning to look like a slow archae-
ological expedition that could
take hours, and perhaps days, to
complete.

Starrs said if the body is not re-
covered from the cemetery today,
the next opportunity will be
Thursday, since there is a funeral
at Mt. Olivet on Wednesday.

By then the team of a dozen his-
torical and forensic experts will
be ready for a day of rest.



■ NEWTON'S LAW

By KEN NEWTON
City editor

Jesse James may play out last surprise

Not since Marmaduke was popular has there been such newspaper interest in buried bones. 7-16-95

While purportedly not living long enough to see a diesel-powered engine at work, Jesse James had to endure a backhoe driving atop his permanent resting place Monday. So much for permanent. So much for resting.

And newspaper reporters from near and far — from our own humble journal to *The Washington Post* (with presumably no governments to overthrow this week) — came calling to a burg named Kearney this week. So did the electronic brethren.

J.J. was making a comeback, albeit in thinned-out form.

To Jesse James, the building blocks of life were a dependable pistol, a warm meal on the range and a compliant bank teller. The building blocks of life are now understood as DNA, which Jesse had and never knew about and which scientists now want to examine.

If the science goes badly for the heretofore rightful kin of Jesse James, buried in Kearney is just another poor sap with a bullet hole in his head. The theory that Jesse lived on after the ersatz assassination in 1882 ("Et tu, Bob") may then have some validity.

or St. Joseph, this

F makes for an interesting predicament. The city for years has taken a certain rogue pride in its association with outlaw residency and vigilante murder. For a lifetime of thievery and killing, Jesse James finds his way into local tourism brochures.

It isn't so odd, is it? Surely Milwaukee enlivens its convention trade with frequent references to Jeffrey Dahmer.

Thus, if Jesse James was not killed in St. Joseph, instead living some Elvis-like afterlife and prodigiously fathering little Texans, our fair city has one less selling point. Next thing you know, they'll decide the Pony Express began in Agency and our civic meal ticket will be permanently punched.

Beyond community implications, there is the matter of a hoax being perpetuated for 113 years. The tale advanced by some is that James faked his death to baffle lawmen and lived into the 1950s in Texas.

Even given meager communication standards of the 19th century and the motive and capacity for Jesse James to produce a bogus corpse suitable for burial, this would be a neat bit of chicanery.

Think of the folks you would have to enlist in this conspiracy: the assassin, Mrs. James, funeral directors, Texans who knew him later in life. Perhaps he lived long enough to vote for Lyndon Johnson. Perhaps he died in time to have his vote recorded for Lyndon Johnson.

It must be like one of Oliver Stone's dreams. ("All right," the director would say, "President Lincoln was assassinated in Ford's Theater, then Jesse James was gunned down by Bob Ford, then Gerald Ford was on the Warren Commission. Coincidence? We're through the looking glass here . . .")

It seems a little far-fetched that Jesse James, a man for whom subtlety involved not getting another person's blood on his boots, could mastermind a scheme able to hold up more than a century. Still, he may be capable of one more surprise.

Ken Newton's column appears Wednesday in the *News-Press*.

Jesse's dig produces a great circus

KEARNEY, Mo. — Jesse James owned top billing Monday.

They were, after all, exhuming his body from a grave in the Mount Olivet Cemetery on the west edge of town. Jesse was the show that brought them in from across the country and around the world.

But the side show alone was worth the price of any ticket. A Zerelda James wannabe came in costume — from her black hat to her black boots to her necklace that displayed small portraits of the James family members — to watch scientists steal James' 113-year-old corpse from Mother Earth.

Jesse's a hot commodity, according to the woman who plays Jesse's wife in productions across the United States. She's bringing in a tour group of 300 Jesseophiles here in late September to learn about the infamous outlaw's roots.

Vince Simmons brought an entourage to the dig to bolster his claims that he was the grandson of the real Jesse James. Simmons says Jesse's not in the grave. Charlie Bigelow is or was. Mainly, Vince let his two sidekicks do the talking while he just smiled for the camera.

"What do you want out of this?" a reporter from German television asked.

"Just the truth," Vince said with a smile. Oh, by the way, he was also hocking copies of his book on the real history of Jesse James.

Matt Myer made sure he stood out in a crowd. He wore a bright crimson blouse with his Confederate cap and sky-blue pants. Myer stood a silent watch with a



By MARK SHEEHAN
Timely Observations

Rebel flag at the perimeter of the dig area — that is until some reporter asked for an interview. Matt, a Son of the Confederacy member, tended to stand watch wherever reporters gathered. He gave plenty of interviews.

Crowd counts at events like this border on being meaningless. Folks came and went as the count hovered around 200. Other numbers may have been more significant. No fewer than a half-dozen satellite dishes served up "live feeds" to the clear-blue, morning sky.

A couple dozen television camera crews rimmed the dig site that was marked with yellow police tape tied around headstones. For every news crew, there were two regular folks with a cam-corder ready to capture this moment in history. Mix in an equal number of print reporters and photographers, and you got what we call a gaggle of reporters.

This was big news, and we knew it because that's what Marion Boyles told his bosses back at "Current Affair."

"This is all about DNA," Boyles said into his cellular phone. He was too tan, too New York to care. But darn it, he did. "You've got tons of stuff here. ... Missouri is stuffed with stories."

The crowd broke roughly into three groups — the inner circle, the press and the experts. The inner circle was just that — people allowed inside the tape perimeter which was guarded by Pinkerton agents. Professor James E. Starrs, the man who organized the dig, became the axis of attention with his assistants.

The prima donna was, of course, Betty Barr, a great-granddaughter of Jesse. She moved like a queen bee from her chair under a shade tree to the grave site and back, occasionally offering a comment or two to reporters.

The tragedy was that the reporters outnumbered the relatives by at least five-

to-one, so everybody became an expert. One man in a black cowboy hat said he used to work with someone at the General Motors plant who was related to the mortuary where Jesse was supposedly embalmed. No way, this expert pronounced, definitively.

When Randy Miller of Young Country 104 begged James Benson, a great-grandson of Jesse's sister, for an interview, Benson agreed but with a warning — "I don't know anything about it, so I won't have much to say," Benson, who came all the way from Gravette, Ark., for the dig, said.

Forty-five minutes later, Benson was giving KQTV anchor Scott Pickey an interview, with WDAF Channel 4 reporter Brad Harvey waiting on deck for the next shot at Benson. Who would have ever figured his 15 minutes of fame would come on a sunny morning in Kearney?

Kearney was ready. It turned out the police, fire, rescue, sheriff and Lions Club. The Incident Management Command Center truck even showed up.

The *Kearney Courier* was ready with T-shirts with Jesse's picture and the caption, "Probing a mystery." Ten bucks cheap as compared to the inner circle T-shirt that proclaimed, "Science tracks Jesse James." A woman in a dark green "I'm a member of the James Gang" shirt cooled herself with a battery-operated hand fan. So cool.

But as the sun climbed higher and the search for the casket grew dimmer, a new sub-class broke away from the three main groups — gawkers, folks who were curious enough to show up and hope to see history. A hot sun melts a gawker's spirit fast.

My cue to leave history for stronger hearts came before lunch when one of the diggers lamented: "They sure do bury them deep in Missouri."



1845-1995

St. Joseph News-Press

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 1995

St. Joseph, Missouri

Diggers uncover bones at Jesse James' grave site

Experts think remains belong to outlaw

By GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent

KEARNEY, Mo. — If the mortal remains of outlaw Jesse James were those that slowly began to emerge here Tuesday for the first time in 93 years, then he resisted efforts to pull him from the grave as stubbornly as he resisted lawmen during his lifetime.

By late afternoon on the second day of James' exhumation, these were the findings of project chairman James E. Starrs and his crew:

- Skull fragments were found under the crushed glass faceplate on the coffin had been rushed to the Kansas City Regional Crime Lab for preservation and X-ray study for possible lead bullet fragments.
- A "projectile," possibly a bullet, was found in the general region of the chest area.
- A corroded chest plate from the coffin

was recovered, with scrollwork visible, but no engraved name detected.

- A saw cut around the cranial area indicated the body had apparently been subjected to an autopsy, as reported in St. Joseph in 1882, with the brain exposed. It also lends credence to the report that James' brain had been removed, and possibly a fatal bullet recovered.

The exhumation to verify that Jesse James was killed in St. Joseph on April 3, 1882, and is now buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery here, slowed from the first day's digging with a back hoe and shovels to one of dry paint brushes and small trowels.

Starrs, the man in charge of the dig, said he now feels more certain that the grave being exhumed is that of Jesse James, not his wife or another relative in the grave plot.

Michael Finnegan, anthropologist from

Please see **Diggers/Page 7A**



Staff photo by VAL LAWTON JR.

Relatives of Jesse James, from the left, Betty Barr, Mark Nikkel, Carla Custer and Bob Jackson, look over the excavation work of James' grave site at Kearney, Mo., on Monday afternoon.

Jesse James says in Co

By GARY CHILCOTE
News-Press Spec

KEARNEY, Mo. — Stories about Frank Dalton Tex., are a lot of Simmons said father and was in 1950 at Col. Bergman Gert The middle-history book c St. Joseph on days, the bear

Jesse James in 1902 was in a metal casket, no signs of metal have been found. Starrs said the all-wood coffin appears to be either walnut or oak. The wood has badly deteriorated.

According to Starrs, portions of the coffin of most interest to the researchers have collapsed to a height of approximately four inches. A glass faceplate about 16 by 32 inches was only one-eighth of an inch thick and had badly fractured, allowing earth to enter the coffin at the skull.

Projectile finding not significant

Finnegan said it was not particularly significant that the projectile, or apparent bullet, of gray or white material, was found near the chest area because James was reburied in 1902 and the materials could have shifted.

Jesse James was known to have had two chest wounds, though, before his death, and it

could be one of those bullets.

Both the right and left arm bones were found on the same side of the casket, helping convince Starrs that it could be Jesse James since it was a "secondary burial" where no particular effort was made to place the bones in the correct anatomical position.

Tuesday's excavation attracted fewer than 100 people, and even the news media thinned. Still here was the mobile newsroom satellite truck of KFOR in Oklahoma City, plus St. Louis and Kansas City media.

Finnegan reported that 20 to 30 pieces of the skeleton have been recovered, and that there is "plenty of material" for DNA tests. They won't know until later, though, if DNA can be extracted from it.

A significant find was a molar tooth with a gold "restoration," or filling, something that Jesse James was reported to have had,

although no dental records exist. Finnegan said the gold appears to be of higher quality than the type of gold fillings used today.

The news media was banned from photographing or peering inside the grave excavation Tuesday because viewing remains of an individual would violate privacy rules regulating the exhumation.

'...a lot of dirt.'

One official who examined the excavation said it "all just looked like a lot of dirt." The anthropologists used dry paint brushes to carefully remove bits of earth from the fragile bones.

Authorities reported that no soft tissue was discovered, and that none would be expected from a death 113 years ago. James was originally buried at his mother's farm outside Kearney, and then the body moved to the town cemetery in 1902.

Historian David Smith said Jesse's wife, Zee, died in 1900, but the body was not buried at Mount Olivet Cemetery until June 1902, when both Zee and Jesse were buried together.

Temperatures were cooler around the grave site on Tuesday, and authorities were encouraged by the early finding of a coffin handle. The wooden centerpiece had rotted away, but the decorative ends appeared to be silver.

Reports indicated Jesse James' coffin had silver trim.

Clay County Medical Examiner Gerald Lee said he will be in court this morning seeking a court order authorizing Clay County commissioners to release a Tupperware container of James' fragments that are buried at the original grave site at the James farm.

The remains were found when the old grave where James was removed in 1902 was excavated in

1978. Lee said the remains should also be examined, and then buried together with bones found in the current exhumation. Clay County authorities have insisted on a court order before the materials are released.

This morning the dig resumes for third day of what had been planned as a one-day exhumation. If the team isn't finished removing the body and artifacts by noon, the search will be set over to Thursday.

Darrell Cave, volunteer trustee who operates the cemetery for the Kearney Baptist Church, said the crew will have to move out for a funeral this afternoon.

Cave spent the day making sure the cemetery was treated with respect, a difficult task with mobile TV transmitting trucks, miles of cable and cemetery lanes clogged with new media vehicles.

Diggers uncover remains belong to outlaw

By GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent

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Please see **Diggers/Page 7A**



Staff photo by IVAN LAWRIE

Relatives of Jesse James, from the left, Betty Barr, Mark Nikkel, Carla Custer and Bob Jackson, look over the excavation work at James' grave site at Kearney, Mo., on Monday afternoon.

Continued from Page 1
Mount Olivet Cemetery, showing his scrapbook "proof" to anyone who will. "My grandfather was James," Simmons says. "I didn't learn it until 1976 when Elizabeth James, an old maid school teacher, came to my home and told me."

He compares a known photo of Jesse James with a snapshot of a bearded man he says was taken in 1894, offering proof that James was "alive" 12 years after his alleged death.

"It was grandfather who was at Meremac Caverns when he was using the name J. Frank Dalton," Simmons said. "But things did not work out, and he moved back to Columbia where he died in 1950."

Simmons said someone else later claiming to be J. Frank Dalton, alias Jesse James, died and was buried at Granbury, Texas, in 1951. Other "James" kin in Texas now claim to be that man's grandchildren and want to claim any buried treasure the infamous outlaw might have left.

Discounting the claims of Simmons and others Tuesday was Betty Barr, great-granddaughter of Jesse James, and the only family member present Tuesday who traces her relationship directly through genealogy.

"I hope the DNA tests of Jesse's remains puts all these phony claims to rest, once and for all," Barr said Tuesday. "It seems like today everyone is claiming to be related to Jesse James."

Supporting the Granbury, Texas, Jesse James theory at the exhumation this week was Bud Hardcastle of Oklahoma, who has previously criticized the *News-Press* for saying James was killed here in 1882.

Citing a news story from the April 5, 1882, *St. Joseph Gazette*, Hardcastle says the paper printed a correction back then saying an earlier sketch alleged to be Jesse James was actually another man.

The story said the bearded man's picture had been hanging in the newspaper office in 1882 and that someone had jokingly added Jesse James' name to the picture.

Hardcastle said that same phony "picture" is the one now being used by the *News-Press* as the logo for the newspaper's current Jesse James series of stories.

James says in Co

By GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent

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7-22-95

Dear Reader,

The Mail Call starts this morning with a complaint from a reader about a editorial cartoon that showed Bob Dole stirring a brew of danger from lowered governmental food safety regulations. That's fair. Political cartoons are intended to provoke discussion.

The second writer may make

are not alone in their conservative ideas, and that the media have tried hard and long to convince us that grass-roots America is liberal — it's not.

Please consider this, and while we're talking about balance, could you put Mallard Fillmore on the editorial page next to Doonesbury?

SUZAN JARRETT

Cosby, Mo.

Money motivates search for James

With all the hoopla surrounding the all-important second exhumation and "autopsy" of the "well-preserved" 100-plus-year-old dead body of dear old Jesse, has everyone forgotten that he was either directly responsible for, or connected with the deaths

more of a point than we care to admit. The mix of columnists is already being reviewed.

Anyone with a favorite writer is urged to write or call.

Finally, this Mail Call would not be complete without a couple of letters on the exhumation of Jesse James. These two fill the bill nicely.

M. Sheehan

(murders) of 16 to 18 people, some innocent, some not; about eight bank robberies; five train robberies; stagecoach robberies; and other related mischief and mayhem? One wonders if history will be as kind in bestowing hero status on the likes of a Jeffery Dahmer or a John Wayne Gacy?

I find it hard to believe that all of this effort is for historical accuracy. I wonder if there has been an advance on the book rights? I think perhaps these people need to get real employment.

DAVE THOMPSON

St. Joseph

Jesse James: 'Who cares?'

I have been reading all the hoopla concerning the DNA testing to be done on the body of

Jesse James and I wonder why they want to dig up the old outlaw and further desecrate his grave, his body and his memory. What will such an act accomplish, even if by some chance they find that it isn't Jesse James in that grave?

After 113 years, who really cares?

Jesse's body was positively identified by his mother, other relatives, friends and doctors at the time of his death. Scars on his body helped confirm that it was Jesse James. The reward would not have been paid to "the dirty little coward" Bob Ford and his brother Charlie if there had been any doubt whom they had killed.

A lot of so-called "facts" surround Jesse James, one of which is that the tip of one finger had been shot off in a gunfight. He accidentally shot it off himself while fooling with his pistol. This, along with his sometimes strange temperament, earned him the nickname of "Dingus." He was so unpredictable that Quantrell would not let him ride in his gang, so Jesse rode with Bill Anderson and Frank James rode with Quantrell. Frank was the brains of the James gang.

Another "fact" is the bullet hole in the wall of the house where he was killed. The undertaker's report was that the bullet never exited his skull, but entered just behind one ear and lodged behind his eye on the opposite side. The "bullet hole" was

probably the result of someone trying to drive a nail into the plaster of the wall.

Also, there was never any proof that either Jesse or Frank was involved in the robbery or murder of a conductor named Westfall and stone mason Frank McMillan. There is also no proof that they robbed the Gallatin Savings and Loan and killed John W. Sheets. The only thing either of them ever stood trial for was when Frank was tried in Gallatin for the murder of Westfall and was acquitted.

Fiction makes for good reading, sells newspapers and creates a lot of re-enactments of alleged James gang "crimes," but such reporting cannot change the facts, so why don't we accept the fact that Jesse is the one in that grave, leave well enough alone, and let the old fellow rest in peace at last.

I know this letter is probably too long to be published, but I thought I should come to the defense of the old rascal and question the wisdom behind any DNA testing of whatever remains of him. And the question that will be asked after all the digging, testing and media confusion is over will be, "Who cares?"

JIMMY D. ESKRIDGE

Gallatin, Mo.

Grave's lead slug raising questions

7-20-95

By GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A .36-caliber bullet found in the grave of Jesse James was probably fired from an 1851 Colt cap-and-ball revolver, John Cayton said after the exhumation of the outlaw. It was not the bullet that killed Jesse James in St. Joseph in 1882, the firearm and tool mark examiner for the Kansas City Regional Crime Lab told reporters.

But Cayton, who lives in Osborn, Mo., suggested that a lead slug found in an earlier excavation of the original grave at the James farm in 1978 could be the fatal bullet because it was distorted from having struck bone.

That bullet came from a .38-caliber Smith & Wesson, a weapon that went into production only months before the James-Younger gang's ill-fated raid on the Northfield, Minn., bank in September 1876.

Jesse James was killed April 3, 1882, at 1318 Lafayette St., when Bob Ford shot him in the head as he stood on a chair to straighten a picture.

A *St. Joseph Gazette* extra of April 5, 1882, alternately calls the murder weapon either a .44-caliber Smith & Wesson, or a .45-caliber pearl-handled Colt revolver.

"The .36-caliber ball we found this week didn't appear to have hit anything except maybe soft tissue," Cayton said. "Even though Bob Ford said it was either a .44- or .45-caliber gun he used to kill Jesse James, it's possible Bob Ford was a big liar."

Forensic science professor James E. Starrs, leader of the dig, suggested it is much too early to speculate about a possible fatal bullet.

'We don't know

...we can't even say the one that was found in 1978 came from his remains," Starrs said. "There were animal bones at the site, so we don't know at this point what bullet killed James."

Other possibilities are that the fatal bullet passed through James' head, leaving the legendary "bullet hole" in the wall, or it could have been removed during the 1882 autopsy.

This week's excavation of the James grave helped confirm that Buchanan County Coroner James Heddens, back in 1882, did conduct an autopsy of sorts. The skull showed signs that it had been sawed open in a manner used in that day to probe for the fatal bullet.

It also helps confirm rumors that physicians Heddens, George Catlett and Jacob Geiger actually did remove James' brain as has been rumored for more than a century.

Cayton's assertion that James died from the .38-caliber bullet found in 1978 could be bad news for a Tennessee man who anonymously paid \$168,000 in April 1993 for what he believed to be the murder weapon.

The .45-caliber Colt, with engraving stating it was the weapon used to kill James, was sold in England by the auction house Wallis & Wallis.

Historians at the exhumation agreed more research is needed before scientists can say for certain just how the outlaw was killed.

Division 3
Judge Patrick Robb
Sentenced to prison

■ CIRCUIT COURT

Thefts reported
American Walnut Co., 2801 S. Second St., more than \$500 worth of tools from company.
Edna Verneal Clark, 3241 Mes-
sanie St., purse with \$30, check for \$27.50, four credit cards, two check-
books and medicine from cart at Cub

S. 13th St., about 2 p.m. Wednesday
at 224 N. Seventh St. on state war-
rant from Buchanan County charging
him with violating his probation on a
stealing offense.

Wait is over: James grave opens today

By **GARY CHILCOTE**

News-Press Special Correspondent

The search for the remains of Jesse James will begin at 8 a.m. today in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Kearney, Mo., while the world's news media gathers at the hometown of the infamous outlaw.

Forensic scientist James Starrs said it may take only a day or two after the coffin has been removed before tentative identification can be made on the body. Actual DNA tests will take much longer, though.

"If we find a skull with a bullet hole in the back, and the left hand with a missing tip on the middle finger, we can be pretty sure we've got the right man," Starrs said in St. Joseph on Saturday night.

Jesse James was shot in the back of the head in his home in St. Joseph by Bob Ford on April 3, 1882. James accidentally shot off the tip of his left, middle finger as a teen-ager.

Starrs, professor of law and forensic sciences for George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and Dr. Gerald Lee, Clay

County medical examiner, are co-chairmen of the team assigned to exhume Jesse James.

Lee and Starrs discussed what they expect to find today during a Saturday evening barbecue at Patee House Museum and an evening research tour of the Jesse James Home in St. Joseph.

George Stephens, geophysicist for George Washington University, took additional measurements of the bullet hole in the James Home here, plus other measurements for the computer model being prepared.

Filming at the James Home in St. Joseph on Sunday morning was Sophie Scott, a native of Australia who is covering the exhumation for ARD Television in Germany. She will send live broadcasts from Kearney to Germany today.

Her husband will send similar live coverage by satellite to the Australian network.

Blaine Harden, staff writer for the *Washington Post*, accompanied Starrs and his team to Winston, Mo., on Saturday afternoon for the 114th anniversary of Jesse James' train robbery.

Also on the tour was Gary Hochman, senior producer for Nebraska Educational Telecommunications, whose video team is working on a documentary of Jesse James.

The coffin could be removed from the grave as early as this afternoon, but officials said the dig will probably take a second day.

JESSE



JAMES

DNA tests should finalize evidence pointing to Jesse

JESSE



JAMES

7-20-95

By GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent

KANSAS CITY — Crumbling bones, 14 teeth, 30 pieces of a skull and a mysterious .36-caliber bullet, all recovered from the grave of Jesse James, were safely locked in the Regional Crime Lab here Wednesday night as the search for the outlaw's mortal remains ended.

Everything found in the gravesite was consistent with the body being Jesse James, but authorities said the recovered items will now be subjected to scientific analysis for fur-

ther proof.

"If we can establish through DNA that the person in the grave is Jesse James, and there is ample evidence that he was killed in St. Joseph in 1882, then anyone who claims relationship to someone who lived after 1882 would have an illegitimate claim," James E. Starrs said Wednesday.

At a concluding press conference with reporters, the George Washington University professor in charge of the dig declared a moratorium on releasing further findings until the annual meeting of the James-

Younger Gang on Sept. 22 in Lexington, Ky.

In Kearney, Mo., shortly after noon, Betty Barr, James' great-granddaughter, ceremonially tossed in the first shovel of earth to refill the hole where the outlaw had been buried. A back-hoe quickly finished the job.

Starrs displayed a badly corroded nameplate from the coffin, one that appeared to have one-inch letters saying "At Rest" stamped in it. There was no indication the plate had ever been engraved with the name of Jesse James. Other artifacts included

remains of silver coffin handles.

An important find was the top of a small decorative stick-pin with a stone, possibly of amethyst, in a copper or bronze mounting.

"All the bones will be taken by Dr. Michael Finnegan to Kansas State University in Manhattan for preservation and study," Starrs said. "I will take the nonbone materials back to Washington, D.C., for further study."

Finnegan said the skull is to be reconstructed with polyvinyl acetate, and that all the moist bones will need to be air-dried about 10 days before they can be cleaned and handled.

THE NEWS-PRESS . . . YOUR BEST SOURCE FOR LOCAL NEWS / SUBSCRIBE TODAY: 271-8600

Jesse's dig will begin on Monday

By GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent

For the first time in 93 years, researchers will uncover the grave of outlaw Jesse James on Monday morning at Kearney, Mo., seeking positive identification of the man killed in St. Joseph on April 3, 1882.

Excavation of the grave of Jesse James will begin in Mount Olivet Cemetery at Kearney shortly after 8 a.m. Monday.

It will be the second time that James' body has been disturbed since he was buried on the Clay County family farm April 6, 1882. In 1902 his mother, Mrs. Zerelda Samuel, moved the body to the town cemetery when she could no longer live on the farm.

James E. Starrs, professor of law and forensic sciences at George Washington University, and Dr. Gerald Lee, Clay County medical examiner, will lead a team of scientists as they seek to establish positive identity of the body through DNA tests.

The two men were granted approval to exhume the body of Jesse James at a court hearing

Please see Jesse/Page 3A

THE NEWS-PRESS

work in the cemetery, including additional magnetometer tests to precisely pinpoint the buried metal coffin of Jesse James.

"We will be setting up the bar-ricades and preparing the site for the actual excavation," Starrs said. "We may move the tombstones to a safe storage site at that

"Then we will proceed as if it were an archaeological dig, re-moving the soil with hand tools," Starrs said. "Where necessary, the soil will be screened and sifted."

If the coffin hasn't been located and removed the first day, excavation will continue Tuesday.

The excavation site will be guarded around-the-clock while the grave is open.

During the excavation, John Cayton, a forensic firearms expert on the team, will fly over the site in his airplane to record the event on film.

Researchers aren't sure what to

expect when the coffin is initially opened, since the body had been transferred from an earlier grave where the early coffin had collapsed.

Starrs said the metal coffin used in 1902 should have protected the remains during the last 93 years. The bones will be cleaned and forwarded to Kansas State University for study by Michael Finnegan, professor of anthropology.

Conducting mitochondrial DNA tests on the body, and on blood samples from living descendants of Jesse James will be Mark Stoneking, associate professor of anthropology at Penn State University.

Tests to determine any traces of drugs in James' body will be conducted by Bruce A. Goldberger, assistant professor of toxicology at the University of Florida College of Medicine.

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EXAMPLE:
Purchase \$600
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Continued from Page 1A
Thursday. Clay County Circuit Judge Victor Howard ordered the exhumation and autopsies to be done in good taste.

Starrs told the News-Press on Tuesday from his Washington, D.C., office that tight security will be in place, with law enforcement officers keeping back the curious.

On Sunday, the dozen team members will begin above-ground work in the cemetery, including additional magnetometer tests to precisely pinpoint the buried metal coffin of Jesse James.

"We will be setting up the barricades and preparing the site for the actual excavation," Starrs said. "We may move the tombs to a safe storage site at that

time, too."

Most of the excavation will take place inside an enclosed tent, but the entire cemetery is easily visible from a small shopping center across the street.

Starrs is concerned that spectators might be injured crossing busy Highway 92. A spectator parking area will be set up just east of the cemetery.

A backhoe will be used to remove up to three inches of top soil from the grave, according to Starrs. Discolorations in the soil should indicate where the ground has been previously disturbed.

"Then we will proceed as if it were an archaeological dig, removing the soil with hand tools," Starrs said. "Where necessary, the soil will be screened and sifted."

If the coffin hasn't been located and removed the first day, excavation will continue Tuesday.

The casket will not be opened at the cemetery, but instead taken to the Kansas City Regional Crime Lab for preliminary examination of the body.

Only the scientists involved in the autopsy, and possibly close relatives of James, will be permitted to view the remains once the coffin has been opened.

Betty Barr of Overland Park, Kan., the great-granddaughter of Jesse James, said this week she hasn't decided whether to view the remains of her famous ancestor before the body is reburied later this month.

The excavation site will be guarded around-the-clock while the grave is open.

During the excavation, John Cayton, a forensic firearms expert on the team, will fly over the site in his airplane to record the event on film.

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St. Joseph News-Press



7-7-95

St. Joseph, Missouri

50° 4 SECTIONS



Staff photo by ERIC KETH

essor James Starrs surveys Jesse James' grave, center, while deciding how to exhume his body.

Experts to exhume Jesse

Outlaw's body to undergo DNA testing

ay County
rcuit judge
ursday or-
d the body
se James,
ed here in
ount Olivet
emetery in
rnev Mo



*"Good friends, for Jesus' sake forbear,
To dig the dust enclosed here.
Blessed be the man that spares these
stones,
Cursed be he that moves my bones."*
— William Shakespeare

By GARY CHILCOTE

end of July, and must be reinterred within 90 days. Dr. Gerald Lee, Clay County medical examiner, was ordered to keep the remains under lock and key and to treat the entire operation with respect.

At the time James was killed in St. Joseph, he was living at 1318 Lafayette under the alias of Tom Howard. By

bone fragments were found dur-

ing a dig in 1978.

He said this time he will exam-

ine the remains to determine the

caliber of the bullet that killed

James, the distance Bob Ford was

standing when he fired, and the

angle the bullet entered.

Starrs told the court the ex-

cavation will not be done at tax-

payer expense, and that George

Washington University and other

sponsors will be footing the bill of

\$5,000 to \$10,000.

"All of the scientific experts

and testing labs are donating

their services," Starrs said after

the hearing. "This is one of the

most famous people in the

world."

"There were no objections to the

exhumation offered at the hear-

ing, and two descendants of Jesse

James were at the hearing.

Betty Barr, a great-

granddaughter residing in Over-

land Park, Kan., said she is glad

the court issued the order.

"We have full confidence in

Professor Starrs," Barr said.

"This will resolve those who

claim to be related to Jesse James

but are not."

She acknowledged that her

mother, Thelma Barr, widow of

James' grandson Lawrence Barr,

opposes the exhumation, and said

her late father would have op-

posed it as well.

Taking an easier approach was

Robert Jackson, an attorney from

Oklahoma City and great-

grandnephew of James' sister. He

came to Kansas City to attend the

hearing and will be one of three

suspicious death under violent

conditions, there are still unan-

swered questions.

In 1882, Buchanan County

Coroner James Heddens con-

ducted an autopsy on the body of

Jesse James, with the help of Dr.

Jacob Geiger and George Catlett,

superintendent of the State Hos-

pital. Results of that autopsy have

been missing for years.

Howard said his primary con-

cern is that the dignity of the

body be preserved. He was told

that 18 descendants of James had

signed approvals for the new

autopsy, and that none of the rel-

atives had filed objections.

"Even the members of the

James family who believe Jesse

was not killed in St. Joseph and

that he lived past 100 are in fa-

vor," Starrs told the court.

John Cayton of Osborn, Mo.,

chief forensic firearms and tool

mark examiner for the Kansas

City Regional Crime Lab, will be

one of the scientists working on

the body of Jesse James.

After his 1882 death, James was

buried in his mother's back yard

on a farm outside Kearney, Mo.,

When his mother, Mrs. Zerelda

Samuel, moved to town in 1902,

the body was moved to the town

cemetery on June 29, 1902.

The outlaw's wife, Zee, died in

1900, and the two are now buried

side by side.

Cayton testified of previously

examining the original gravesite

on the James farm when a few

wasn't available even 10 years ago.

other. He said the procedure

ship from one generation to an-

exhumation to establish relation-

DNA will be used in a celebrity

the first time that mitochondrial

According to Starrs, this will be

samples will be studied.

Regional Crime Lab where tissue

moved intact to the Kansas City

sire. The metal coffin will be

and family members if they de-

ed except by authorized scientists

skeletal remains will not be view-

Starrs assured the court the

exhumation will not be view-

ed except by authorized scientists

and family members if they de-

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moved intact to the Kansas City

Regional Crime Lab where tissue

samples will be studied.

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the first time that mitochondrial

DNA will be used in a celebrity

exhumation to establish relation-

ship from one generation to an-

other. He said the procedure

wasn't available even 10 years ago.

St. Joseph (Mo.) News-Press

THE NATION



■ LETTERS TO

N-P 7-6-95

Outsiders scolded for rousing Jesse

I find it incredible that nonresident, nonrelated people now seek a court order to legally open the grave site of Jesse Woodson James and probe the remains in order to satisfy the morbid curiosity of special interest groups.

There is no legal basis for such a request to be granted, and my personal advice to these intruders is simply this: Go back where you came from!

JESSE E. CARMICHAEL

Pickering, Mo.

ST. JOSEPH/REGION

St. Joseph (Mo.) News-Press

Call the City Desk/Julie Burbee at 271-8580

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DNA expert to be at James hearing

By GARY CHILCOTE
News-Press Special Correspondent

17 descendants of outlaw agree to autopsy

DNA expert James E. Starrs will appear Thursday in Clay County Circuit Court on his request to exhume the body of outlaw Jesse James for a new autopsy and DNA tests that could confirm James was killed in St. Joseph.

The new study would come at the urging of some James descendants, including James Ross, a superior court judge in California who is a great-grandson of Jesse James.

By coincidence, the hearing will be on Judge Ross' birthday, the day he retires as a California judge. He will not attend the Clay County hearing at Liberty, Mo.

The goal is to put to rest the stories that Jesse James staged the shooting in St. Joseph to elude the law, and that he lived well into the 20th century.

Starrs is professor of law and forensic sciences at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Assisting him will be George C. Stephens, professor of structural geology at the same university.

Starrs has the consent of 17 relatives of the deceased outlaw, and he has received support from people in Texas who claim to be related but insist James was not killed in St. Joseph on April 3, 1882.

He will have a team of scientists and historians who back the plan to use modern scientific sleuthing to answer questions about the killing that the original 1882 autopsy did not address.

Starrs hopes to determine whether the bullet that killed James left his head, whether both Bob Ford and his brother Charles

fired their guns, and to learn the caliber of the bullet and the angle from which it was fired.

Through measurements taken at the James home in May, Starrs will present a computerized reconstruction of the crime scene of the house, which was then at 1318 Lafayette St.

If the court rules the body may be exhumed after 113 years, such activities would probably take place in late July. James is buried with other family members in Mount Olivet Cemetery at Kearney, Mo.

"We would first carefully remove the headstones," Starrs told the *News-Press* this week. "I don't want anybody around. There would be no viewing of the skeletal remains, and nothing would be opened at the grave site."

He said exhumation of the metal coffin from the grave would take place in a tent with sides that would ensure privacy. The coffin would be moved by hoarse to the Kansas City Regional Crime Lab where scientific equipment is available.

Various tests on tissue from the body in the grave will take place at laboratories in Pennsylvania, Florida and Kansas, as well as Kansas City. Several descendants of Jesse James have volunteered to give a sample of blood for comparative DNA testing.

Once the studies and tests have been completed, the body would be reburied in the cemetery, and the gravestones reinstalled. The entire procedure would be done at no cost to taxpayers.

Starrs acknowledges that some people want James' grave left un-

disturbed, but he feels the study has scientific value.

"If that's the theory, you wouldn't have archaeology as science today," Starrs points out. "That's the way we learn of ancient civilizations."

After the shooting in St. Joseph on April 3, 1882, James' body was taken by train to his hometown, Kearney, Mo., on April 6, 1882, and buried in the backyard of his mother's farm that afternoon.

About 20 years later when his mother, Zerelda Samuel, was too old to live on the farm, she had the body exhumed and moved to the town cemetery to be buried beside Jesse's wife, Zee, who died in 1900.

Records indicate the second burial was in a metal coffin something that Starrs believes would make it easy to locate with a magnetometer.

He said the metal coffin would also help ensure that the body is in reasonably good condition.

DNA testing could prove Jesse's fate

By GARY CHILCOTE 1-18-95
News-Press Special Correspondent

Outlaw Jesse James was gunned down in St. Joseph on April 3, 1882.

That's what the history books say. But for almost 113 years, stories have persisted that someone else was killed at 1318 Lafayette St. and buried in James' grave at Kearney, Mo.

Jesse James historian Emmett Hctor, of Plattsmouth, Neb., has proposed solving the question once and for all by conducting DNA tests on James' buried remains.

Hctor has received a pledge of support from a top researcher specializing in DNA, the genetic thread of life that identifies one human being from another.

James E. Starrs, professor of law and forensic sciences at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., has agreed to offer his help in determining whether it was James or an impostor who was gunned down by fellow gang member Bob Ford in St. Joseph.

Starrs is a consultant to Cellmark
(OVER) Please see DNA/Page 2A



James

lion annual profit. The Rams projected to lose \$6 million playing Anaheim this past season.

"Today is a great day for this community," St. Louis mayor Freeman Bosley Jr. said at the news conference at which the move was made official. "For the last nine months, we have been working around the clock trying to bring NFL football to St. Louis."

If the league approves, pro football will return to the city for the first time since 1987, when the Cardinals left for Ari-

Please see St. Louis/Page 2A

■ Cheering fans watch as owner of Rams makes move official. Sports/1B

DNA testing could prove Jesse James' fate

Continued from page 1A

Diagnostics, the firm undertaking the DNA analysis in the O.J. Simpson murder trial in California.

"I am most intrigued by your project and its designs," Starrs wrote to Hooctor recently. "My particular scientific forte is in the area of DNA, or more generally, molecular biology."

He said recent tests have shown that DNA can be extracted from ancient human hair.

long-deceased famous ancestors.

In the case of Jesse James, a great-grandson, Superior Court Judge James Ross of California, is so convinced Jesse was killed in St. Joseph that he has agreed to grant permission for the tests.

But Ross, and other surviving blood relatives, also would have to submit personally to similar tests in order to provide comparative information for the DNA found in the remains in James' writers insist that James' own death, substituting body of a former gang member Charlie Bigelow, to get off his tail.

2, Buchanan County officials admitted the public to view body at Sidenfaden Underneath and Messanie streets, answer any doubts that man was James. Photos taken of the dead man.

Over the years, many imposters claimed to be James. The last was J. Frank Dalton of Lawton, Okla., who turned up in 1948 and who died in 1951. He insisted James' family, and even Missouri Gov. Thomas Crittenden, took part in the alleged conspiracy to switch bodies.

Ross may be a direct descendant and a spokesman for the James family, but there are other relatives, including great-grandchildren, who aren't as thrilled with the idea and could provide legal roadblocks to a DNA test.

"I do hope that something can be worked out, since your project clearly has merit and would be a most challenging scientific venture in the new field of DNA matching," Starrs wrote to Hooctor.

Starrs is publisher of the *Scientific Sleuthing Review* and is

helping investigate whether explorer Meriwether Lewis was murdered or committed suicide.

Starrs took part in the exhumation of Dr. Carl A. Weiss Sr. in 1991. Weiss was believed to have been the killer in 1935 of Huey Long, a Louisiana governor seeking the Democratic presidential nomination.

Hooctor still must come up with thousands of dollars to pay for the very expensive DNA research needed to establish the identity of someone such as Jesse James. It might even mean exhuming other deceased James relatives to obtain comparative DNA.

choking, and this incredible horror just swept through me. I think that I may have a panic disorder, and want to know more about it.

A: Panic Disorder afflicts an estimated 1.7 million Americans. It is characterized by sudden, unpredictable attacks of overwhelming anxiety that have no apparent relation to the surrounding circumstances. Psychiatrists diagnose panic disorder when a person has suffered four attacks within one month, with at least four of the following symptoms:

- Health palpitations (racing, pounding, or fluttering)
- Tightness, pain, or discomfort in the chest
- Shortness of breath or feelings of smothering
- Choking
- Faintness or dizziness
- Trembling
- Numbness or tingling sensations
- Sweating
- Hot flashes or chills

• Nausea or abdominal distress

Scientist hunting for coffin of Jesse

By GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent

7-7-95

The metal coffin in which Jesse James was buried at Kearney, Mo., in 1902 should be easy to locate, James Starrs said Thursday after preliminary tests at Mount Olivet Cemetery.

The balding, 65-year-old forensic sciences professor from George Washington University spent Thursday morning electronically probing the James family plot with a portable magnetometer.

"There's a definite dip in the measurements where Jesse's body is supposed to be, so I think it won't be a big problem finding his grave," Starrs said.

To be sure they don't probe the wrong grave site, Starrs has a newspaper photo of the coffin before it was buried in 1902. He promised the Clay County court Thursday the exhumation will be done inside a tent to discourage on-lookers.

"There's a small shopping center just across the street, so we will need police to provide 24-hour security and crowd control," Starrs said.

Initial digging will be with a backhoe, but only a few inches of earth will be removed at a time.

Tombstones that might be disrupted by the excavation will be removed, stored and returned once the tests are completed.

Starrs said he expects to find the body in relatively good condition despite the 113 years since James' death.

90 days needed for testing

He said tests on bones take about 60 days, and DNA testing could take even longer. He requested 90 days for testing to allow for backup tests if necessary before the body is reburied.

After the court hearing, David Weinberg, national director of litigation services for Engineering Animation Inc., showed a video his company prepared as part of Starr's recreation of the death scene.

A video model of the Jesse James Home is shown to scale and may be viewed from all directions including from above the ceiling. Model figures indicate where Jesse James was standing when he was shot.

Starrs said the computer model will help establish whether the Ford brothers were telling the truth when they told how they gunned down the outlaw on April 3, 1882, in St. Joseph.

The tests will take months to complete, but Starrs said a target date for a preliminary announcement will be Sept. 24 when the annual meeting of the James-Younger Gang is held in Lexington, Ky.

He said the Discovery Channel is bidding for exclusive rights for a TV documentary, but that it would not mean the local press would be excluded. He also assured that there will be no public photos of James' body.

"Over my dead body, will I permit it to show up in the National Enquirer," Starrs pledged. He said the 1902 coffin in which James is buried will probably not be reused, but that it would go back into the grave along with a new coffin containing the remains.

Possible war bullet found in James' grave

Metal plaque, black amethyst also are found with the bones.

By KELLY GARBUS
Staff Writer

A .36-caliber slug found in Jesse James' grave may have caused a chest wound the outlaw got at the end of the Civil War, a forensic firearms specialist said Wednesday.

Exhumations at the Mount Olivet Cemetery ended late Wednesday morning in Kearney. James' great-granddaughter, Betty Barr, dumped in the first shovelful of dirt as the grave was closed back up until the remains are returned for reburial.

Researchers later in the day held what may be their last press conference for a month or more, while they work to analyze the remains. An interim report on the findings is expected to be presented in September at the James-Younger Gangs' National Conference in Louisville, Ky.

"We have divided the labor for the future," said project leader James E. Starrs.

Starrs said bone fragments will be given to Michael Finnegan, an anthropology professor who oversaw excavations at the grave, for preparation and analysis at Kansas State University.

Starrs said he would take glass, fabric and other non-bone items, like the casket handles, back to George Washington University in Washington, D.C., for analysis.

Starrs said it is possible that other specialists will be consulted for a variety of analyses.

DNA testing will be performed at Penn State Uni-

See **.36-CALIBER, C-8, Col. 1**



FRED BLOCHER/The Star

Betty Barr, a great-granddaughter of Jesse James, ceremonially ended the exhumation of his Mount Olivet grave Wednesday.

There's no refuge from people with cu



In a culture driven by fads, I predict we are witnessing the start of a ghoulish new frenzy: exhuming the famous dead.

It's going to be a kind of free-for-all scavenger hunt — scientists and amateurs with shovels, jostling at the graveyard gates, reporters and TV crews panting at their heels.

Who's that in Elvis' coffin? Was it John Lennon they buried, or some impostor? Is Warren Harding really dead, or, for that matter, was he ever really alive? Was it James Dean who perished in the car accident? How can we be sure?

Call in the DNA experts, and roll back the headstone, boys.

Let's dig that sucker up!

For reasons not immediately obvious to persons of balanced mind, all this will be treated as big national and international news.

Correspondents for the supermarket tabloids and all the other important press will be assembled at the grave site, recording every jubilant cry of the excavators.

"Got a tibia here!"

"Got a cuff link!"

"Got part of a molar!"

At the start, this macabre zeal for disentanglement will focus on celebrities, but it won't stop there. Even we ordinary folks won't be safe.

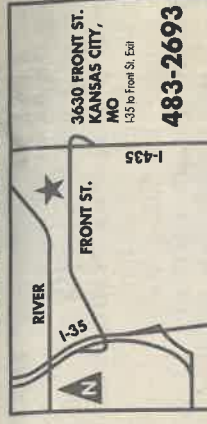
All sorts of claimants will get in on the act — jilted suitors, wanting back the rings and diamond brooches the departed took with them to the next world; adoptees, willing to pry open as many coffins as it takes to find their true kin; bag people claiming to be the last living heir of the slain czar.

It will be ashes to ashes, dust to dust...and dust straight to the forensics laboratory. Before this thing runs its course, the cemeteries of America

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rious minds, shovels

will be cratered like the surface of the moon.

Graveside ceremonies will no longer end with the words, "Rest in eternal peace." The best any honest preacher will be able to say is, "*Rest until they come for you.*"

And they could come for you at any time.

I used to think that, if it ever became necessary to pass on, it would be nice to have one's ashes scattered over some north-country lake, on whose waters one had found, in life, unsurpassed tranquility and release from the brutal heat of the Midwestern summers.

But then, you can be sure, some cousin-by-marriage — four times removed, whose name you didn't even know — would show up there with a court order and a gang of contractors.

He'd be after the genetic evidence that, even in death, you or your heirs were somehow legally liable for his astigmatism and mental defects.

And they would drain the lake. And spoil the fishing for everyone.

And I say it's just not worth it. When I go, I'm leaving instructions to drop me off somewhere in Guatemala, and burn the map.

.36-caliber slug found in Jesse James' grave

Continued from C-1

versity.

In a press conference at the Kansas City Regional Crime Lab, researchers Wednesday evening displayed the .36-caliber slug, a corroded plaque from the casket and what may be a black amethyst from an ornamental stick pen.

An X-ray of the coffin plaque revealed some ornamental borders and what appeared to be the letters A, R and S. Starrs said it probably once read "At Rest."

John C. Cayton, with the crime lab, will continue to analyze the bullet, which he said probably was fired from an 1851 Navy Colt handgun.

Using a replica of the Colt, Cayton explained how markings on the bullet were consistent with loading procedures in which the lead ball is pressed down into the chamber with a built-in ramrod.

"The .36-caliber did not appear to hit anything," Cayton said, referring to bone that could disfigure the slug. "It could have lodged in soft tissue."

Cayton also displayed a .38-caliber slug taken from James' original grave, located on the James farm. James was moved into the town's cemetery in 1902.

The old burial site on the farm was excavated in 1978 to see if anything had been left behind. The bullet, a tooth and small parts of the back of the skull were discovered.

testing was not available.

Those remains were returned to the farm and buried in a Tupperware container. Researchers are attempting to obtain those as well.

"The more material we have the better we can operate," Finnegan said, adding that it would be nice to rebury all the remains together.

Cayton said the .38-caliber slug showed damage consistent with having hit a bone.

Starrs said they can't say for sure that it was the slug that killed James or that it even has a connection to James.

Some historians believe Bob Ford used a larger caliber such as a Colt .45 to fatally shoot James in the back of the head.

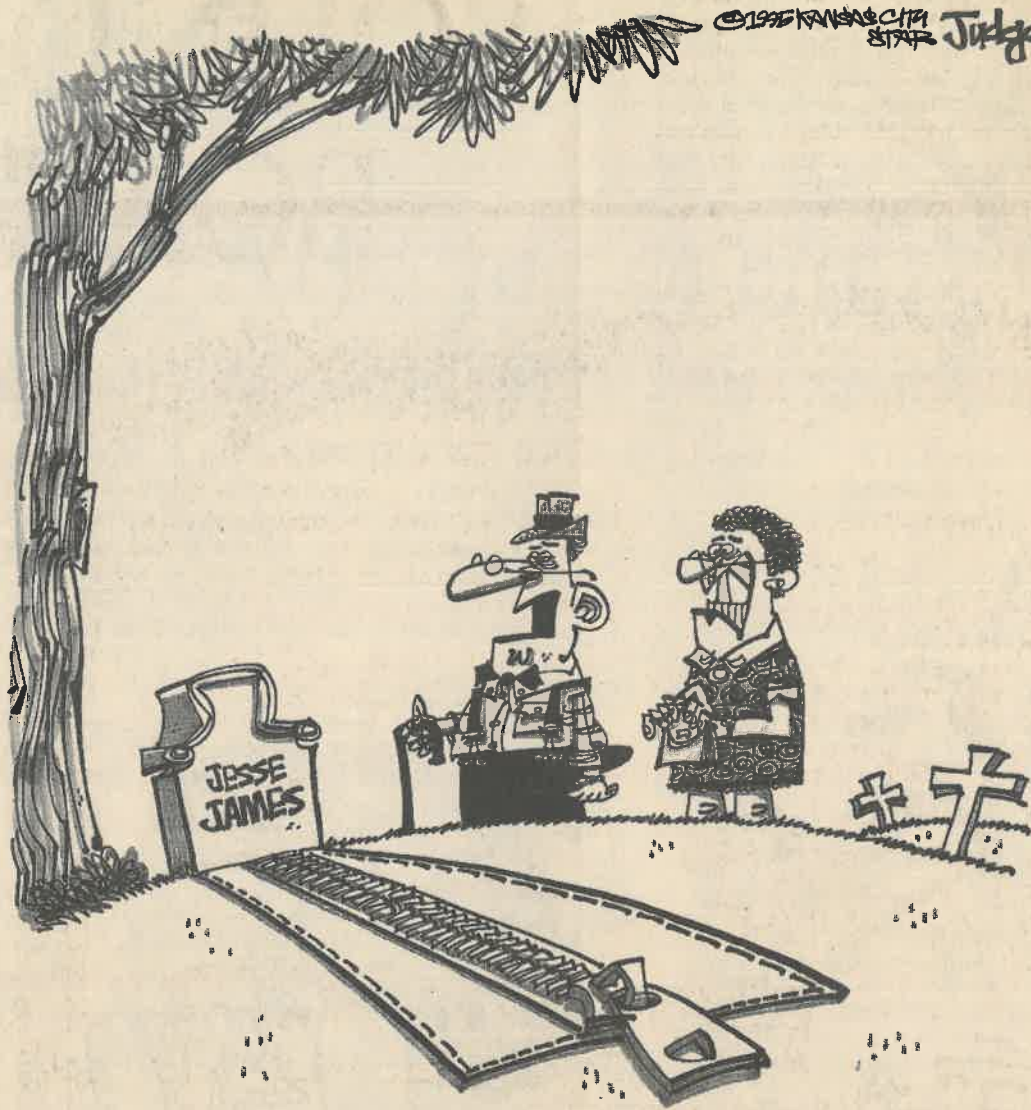
Also completed Wednesday was a rough sketch of the grave site depicting a rough layout of the bones.

According to a report in the June 30, 1902, edition of *The Kansas City Times*, James' remains were gently dumped into a new coffin.

"As it fell (the corpse) collapsed utterly. The ribs sank in, the hands fell apart, the trousers flattened out, the stocking-shod feet shrank to nothing."

The new coffin was described simply as a box that was "too short for the body, the bones of the feet were doubled back."

Nearly all of the project expenses are covered through volunteer efforts, Finnegan said. He said he and Starrs also said for



"WELL, NOW WE KNOW WHY IT DOESN'T SAY 'REST IN PEACE!'"

James' great-grandson alleges bigotry

Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. —

Jesse James may be back in his grave, but a dispute about a college's refusal to host the outlaw's funeral is very much alive.

James' great-grandson, James R. Ross, accused two officials of William Jewell College of "discriminatory and bigoted acts" in withdrawing permission for the

funeral to be held in the school's chapel.

Ross, a retired California judge, said in a Monday letter to college president Christian Sizemore and chaplain Jerry Cain that they went too far in applying a school policy against inflammatory racial symbols to the obscure Missouri Confederate battle flag.

He also noted that Jesse James'

father, the Rev. Robert James, was a co-founder of the Baptist college at Liberty.

"He undoubtedly turned over in his grave with your discriminatory and bigoted acts,"

Ross wrote.

The William Jewell president's office said Tuesday that Sizemore and Cain were unavailable for comment.

Thanatopsis

Jesse James will be buried — again — today in Kearney, Mo.

In death as in life, Mr. James has proven to be the most controversial of characters. Reporters from around the world flocked to Kearney this summer to watch his body exhumed.

Ostensibly, the exhumation was ordered in an effort to determine once and for all whether the grave held the real Jesse James or a clever impostor. But the scene quickly took on a circus atmosphere with a plethora of side-shows. It was not a pretty sight.

Preliminary DNA testing has confirmed what officials of that day always said: It was Jesse James.

Still, the controversy continued right up to this morning as the Sons of Confederate Veterans

draped a Rebel flag on Mr. James' coffin. The only direct descendant has objected. William Jewell College officials declined to hold the services as originally planned because the flag is a racially inflammatory symbol.

So be it.

Mr. James, if he were in position to hear all this, might even enjoy this flutter of attention. It is a rare personality who can generate so much attention and so many headlines so many years after going to the grave.

And plenty — from T-shirt vendors to would-be relatives hawking books — have prospered from this sudden flicker of interest.

But it is time for the circus tent to fold. The show is over. Even Mr. James deserves a moment of peace to be buried.

It is time to let him rest.

A.M. report

Nation

Parents foot bill for black, white proms

WRIGHTSVILLE, Ga. — Students at a central Georgia high school held separate proms for whites and blacks this year, maintaining a dying practice in the rural South.

"It's always been like that," said Carla Rachels, 17, a Johnson County High School senior who helped organize Friday night's whites-only prom. "We don't see it as a big deal." Parents paid for the separate proms.

Taylor County, another rural area 90 miles west of Wrightsville, held an integrated prom last year, but added a separate whites-only prom this year.

Man falls overboard from cruise ship

GULFPORT, Miss. — Search and rescue teams swept the

not visited by the president, take the day off and make up the work on Saturday, use one of their vacation days, or take an unpaid day off.

Exhumed remains may belong to Jesse James

NEODESHA, Kan. — Authorities have exhumed the remains of a Kansas farmer who died in 1935 in an effort to determine if he could have been the legendary outlaw Jesse James.

As about two dozen people watched Saturday, Wichita State University anthropologist and criminal justice professor Peer Moore-Jansen oversaw the removal of Jeremiah James' remains. Samples of hair, bones and teeth will be obtained for DNA analysis.

Some historians believe it's possible the outlaw faked his own death in 1882, although others believe James was killed by a fellow bandit who wanted to collect a \$10,000 reward.

James was among the most notorious Old West outlaws, his exploits sensationalized in dime novels. With his brother Frank, James was a member of the feared Quantrill's Raiders during the Civil War. After the war, he joined with other former Confederates to rob banks and trains.



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Remains Exhumed in Search for Jesse James

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As about two dozen people watched Saturday, Wichita State University anthropologist and criminal justice professor Peer Moore-Jansen oversaw the removal of Jeremiah James' remains. Samples of hair, bones and teeth will be obtained for DNA analysis.

The observers included family members and cowboy re-enactors who wanted to honor the outlaw's legacy.

Some historians believe it's possible the outlaw faked his own death in 1882, although others believe James was killed by a fellow bandit who wanted to collect a \$10,000 reward.

Bill Kurtis, who is documenting the exhumation and DNA analysis for the History Channel, said the story is good even if Jeremiah James does not turn out to be Jesse James - since 120 years later family and historians still can't agree on how and when the outlaw died.

"So, was Jesse James shot in the back of the head by the cowardly Bob Ford, as conventional wisdom has led us to believe?" he asked. "The truth is, we still don't know for sure. Which leads us to explore other theories as they emerge."

Nancy Haviland, a great-granddaughter of Jeremiah, initially opposed the exhumation, but changed her mind when the family was assured the grave site would be restored by Memorial Day.

Nevertheless, she remains skeptical. Her 99-year-old aunt remembers Jeremiah James for his sparkling brown eyes; Jesse James had blue eyes. The Jeremiah James she knows about was born in 1847, a farmer who lived into his late 80s and whose wife died less than two months before him.

"I love American history," said Chuck James, a descendant of Jeremiah. "If this isn't him, then there are other avenues to pursue."

There have been several other attempts in recent years to identify Jesse James' real burial site, including an exhumation of the wrong body in 2000, when searchers were hoping to prove that Jesse Frank Dalton of Granbury, Texas, was Jesse James.

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05/11/03 15:54

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Jesse's mysterious death continues to ring the ca

The killing of Jesse James, St. Joseph's most famous and infamous citizen, on April 3, 1882, was not a simple shot to the brain. Instead, the slaying was a violent murder that included not only a bullet into the brain, but a vicious beating of his head with revolver butts to make certain that the outlaw was really dead.



By FRED SLATER
Timely Observations
Emeritus

When the James body was exhumed at Kearney, Mo., in mid-July, the recovered remains included shattered pieces of skull. Saw marks on the skull indicated an autopsy of the outlaw had been conducted. That is corroborated by the account of a postmortem contained in "Life and Times of Frank and Jesse James," published in 1882, the year of Jesse's death.

The book also knocks the story about the "bullet hole" in the James house here into a cocked hat, as the book states the fatal ball did not leave Jesse's head until the missile was removed by a doctor.

According to the book, the autopsy was conducted under the direction of Dr. George C. Catlett, then superintendent of the lunatic asylum in St. Joseph, and Dr. J.W. Heddens, the Buchanan County coroner. They were assisted by Dr. Jacob Geiger, then a young surgeon. The post-mortem was performed on the night following the killing.

In reply to questions asked after the autopsy, Dr. Catlett said:

"In the first place, we found that the reports about the shooting were all wrong. The bullet, which killed the man, did not go clear through his head.

"The boys (the Fords) must have clubbed the man with their revolvers, after the ball went into his head, for the cut on the side of his head was made with the trigger (many early revolvers lacked trigger guards) of a revolver and not by a bullet.

"All the officers thought the bullet must have gone clear through his head into the wall or ceiling of the room. It never went there at all, and they need not look for it.

"We have it all safe and sound, and took it out of his head.

"I will tell you now how it was. When Jesse James was shot, he was only partially turned away from the boys, and the ball went in sideways, at one side of the head, back of the right ear, and then lodged just under the skin behind the left (ear), and that is where we found it.

"The skull was badly shattered; more so than any I have seen in several years. It was all torn to pieces, the bullet passing through the brain."

Dr. Catlett marveled at the brain, saying, "The brain was a most remarkable one, and showed the great will power, earnestness and determination of the man. It also showed thought and courage, and in most men would have accomplished great things.

"There was not a wound of any kind on the back of the head, except that made by the bullet which killed the man; all re-

ports to the contrary."

This account indicates that the bullet at hole shown to tourists at the Jesse James home, just south of the Patee House Museum at 12th and Penn streets, is not genuine, as the bullet did not leave Jesse's head. The restored house, by the way, is minus at least one room that existed when Jesse and his family lived in the residence. The "bullet hole" is a figment of someone's moneymaking imagination of years ago.

Some St. Joseph residents also recall that, years ago, when the house was privately owned, residents sold blood-stained splinters from the floor to visitors for a quarter. Naturally, a supply of old floorboards and of chicken blood was kept on hand to meet the demand for souvenirs.

But the 1882 book does raise two important questions:

First, what happened to the bullet?
Second, what happened to Jesse's brain?

Seeking an answer to the questions, we asked Mrs. H.E. Peterson, the great-grandniece of Dr. Geiger and the pri-

LETTERS TO Writer proud to push Jesse off front page

A sudden Sunday rain shower, which drove me to seek shelter under the 22nd Street overpass at Corby Pond, and the inventive genius of your photographer—himself protecting his pet "assault"—combined to remove Jesse James from the front page, even after retired City Editor Harold Slater had sought to revive Jesse James in the earlier Sunday edition.

Whether the editorial page realized it or not, by pointing out ex-reporter Slater's Democratic background, one reader got the impression that there is something even deadlier than Jesse James, namely the Democratic Party, once the spokesman for the common man only to have surrendered to the bottom of the barrel that President Clinton's overt liberalism that shows infants and

e's mysterious death continues to ring the cash regi

Jesse James, St. Joseph's and infamous citizen, on he playing was a violent



BY FRED SLATER
Timely Observations
Emeritus

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LETTERS TO
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widow of a well-known St. atrician, whether Dr. Geig talked about the disposition She said he had never d brain or the bullet.

The James exhumation attention in Europe whe known as the "American F Several years ago Jim McCord of St. Joseph, whi Ireland, came across "The Tavern" in a small village. was not open that day.

We phoned the operators and learned it was founded tant James relative who h problems and had fled to Isle.

Last week we received a Eileen O'Sullivan, who had the operators of the tavern. brother and his wife ran the cent years but tired of pub l have the place up for sale.

The Jesse James Tavern is town of Asdee in County Ker written the O'Sullivans and a price sought. Thus far, no ans

Jesse's 3rd funeral planned today in Kearney

By GARY CHILCOTE / 0-26-95
News-Press Special Correspondent

KEARNEY, Mo. — All that remains of the body of Jesse James arrived at the Fry Funeral Home in Kearney about 9 p.m. Friday to be transferred to a coffin for the outlaw's third funeral — 113 years after his death.

Professor James Starrs, the man who exhumed the body in July, brought the remains back from Manhattan, Kan., for today's funeral.

From the governor's wife to a U.S. marshal, the array of guests shows that in the 113 years since his death, "Jesse James has become a Missouri historical icon," said Robert L. Hawkins III, lead

organizer of the funeral.

The closed coffin will be available for public viewing from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. today at the Fry Funeral Home.

Then the body will be moved to the Knights of Columbus Hall a mile north for the 1 p.m. funeral. Seating is limited to 500.

After the 30-minute service, the body will be taken by horse-drawn hearse to Mount Olivet Cemetery two miles away.

At the cemetery, only family members and the news media will be permitted on the grounds, although the burial can be viewed from a shopping center across the street.

All six of Mr. James' grandchildren will attend the funeral.

Mr. James was killed in St. Joseph on April 3, 1882, and buried on his mother's farm near Kearney.

In 1902, the body was moved to the town cemetery in Kearney, where it was exhumed last summer.

Friday night Mr. Starrs, a forensic scientist, said the body would have been in much better shape if it had been left at the James Farm.

At the location on Mount Olivet, soil conditions were such that the body parts buried in town were in much poorer condition.

Mr. Starrs told the family members at the funeral home Friday night of progress on the DNA testing of the body.

He reported that good DNA results were found in two teeth

from the skull.

He said the DNA contained mutations that make it unique with only a few individuals. The DNA will now be compared with known James relatives who now reside in Oklahoma.

"It takes a lot of time to do the mitochondrial DNA testing because so much of it must be done by hand, not computer," he said.

The coffin, made of polished poplar wood, had a brass plate on the top that stated simply "Jesse James, 1847 - 1882."

At the cemetery, the coffin will be placed into a fiberglass vault before being lowered into the grave beside Mr. James' wife's grave.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Jesse given hero's send-off

More than 600 attend 3rd burial of famous outlaw

By MIKE SHERRY

News-Press Staff Writer

KEARNEY, Mo. — A villain maybe, but 113 years after his assassination, Jesse James was remembered Saturday as a man with a cause.

"I think it was a very dignified, religious ceremony," said Diane Fairchild, one of Mr. James' six great-grandchildren.

"I am very pleased," she added, "that he was honored as a soldier and for his family values — and not merely identified as an outlaw."

Mrs. Fairchild's comments came at the end of a long day that started at 8 a.m. with a viewing of the coffin at Fry Funeral Home and ended at about 4:30 p.m. after a news conference with the six great-grandchildren.

In between, there was a 40-minute service at the Knights of Columbus Community Center, from which the coffin was taken in a white, horse-drawn hearse to Mount Olivet Cemetery.

A brief graveside ceremony included an eight-gun salute by members of a re-enactment group serving as honor guards.

The poplar casket, in which was a box containing Mr. James' remains, was draped with six Confederate battle flags — one for each of the great-grandchildren.

Saturday marked the third burial of Mr. James, a man who has proven to be remarkably mobile since being killed on April 3, 1882, in St. Joseph.

He was originally buried on the James Farm in Clay County, but in 1902 he was moved to Mount Olivet Cemetery.

He was dug up again in July by a team of scientists seeking positive identification of Mr. James through DNA testing.

A barbarous soul to some, St. Joseph's favorite outlaw was given a hero's send-off Saturday.



Staff photos by PEGGY BARR

Re-enactors lead a funeral procession through Kearney, Mo., on Saturday as the body of Jesse James was carried by

horse-drawn carriage to Mount Olivet Cemetery to be buried for the third time.

Fascination, history attract crowd to funeral

By MIKE SHERRY

News-Press Staff Writer

KEARNEY, Mo. — Let the poor man rest, for God's sake.

As Jesse James was once

The crowd that eventually swelled to more than 600 gathered early for the service at the Knights of Columbus Community Center.

Jim Johnson, a music writer

from Warren, Mo., said that





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Staff photos by PEGGY BAIR

Fascination, history attract crowd to funeral

By MIKE SHERRY
News-Press Staff Writer
KEARNEY, Mo. — Let the poor man rest, for God's sake.

As Jesse James was once again buried Saturday, his supporters said they hoped it could be the last time.

After all, it was his third in-terment since being shot in St. Joseph more than a century ago.

"Hopefully this is the charm the third time is the charm," said JoAnn Byland, who drove the 5½ hours from Carrollton, Ill. with her husband for the event.

"I think they should just put him back and leave him there," added 18-year-old Derek Johnson, who traveled from Raytown, Mo., with his dad, Ken.

The crowd that eventually swelled to more than 600 gathered early for the service at the Knights of Columbus Community Center.

Jim Johnson, a music writer from Warsaw, Mo., stood at the head of the line, about an hour and a half before the ceremony began.

He had already been there for two hours.

The only question to ask such a man — who was standing in the brisk shadows of the hall — was why.

Because really, this wasn't exactly the Super Bowl or the seventh game of the World Series.

"I just wanted to be here for the wake and the funeral," was his simple response.

Please see **Crowd/Page 10A**

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A barbarous soul to some, St. Joseph's favorite outlaw was given a hero's send-off Saturday.

Speakers chose to remember his passionate fighting for the South during the Civil War instead of his lawbreaking ways.

More than 600 people packed the Knights of Columbus hall to sing hymns and listen to the rousing words of Charles E. Baker, chaplain-in-chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the group that organized the day's events.

"Is God's grace great enough to save Jesse James?" the big, bearded Dr. Baker asked during his sermon. "Of course God's grace is great enough to save Jesse James."

Robert L. Hawkins, past commander-in-chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans,

Please see **Jesse/Page 10A**



Diane Fairchild, great-granddaughter of Jesse James, wipes away tears at Mr. James' memorial service. Mrs. Fairchild said she was relieved to put Mr. James to rest.

in Massachusetts seek re-election ARTOWN, Mass. — U.S. Studds, a Democrat in announced Satur- seek re-election

to move
 Studds
 the

suits filed by their families against
 O.J. Simpson, attorney Johnnie
 Cochran Jr. said Saturday.
 Cochran hinted in a speech at
 Harvard University that the
 wrongful death lawsuits would be
 more than reruns of the nine-
 month trial that ended in Simp-
 son's acquittal on Oct. 3.
 "There's so much information
 that the public hasn't heard about
 yet that I think will be very rele-
 vant in the whole civil back-
 ground," Cochran told reporters
 after speaking to an audience of
 students.
 "I'm going to be the victims,
 background becomes
 in a civil lawsuit. It
 criminal case."

to focus
 abilities
 news

and lowers the crossing gate at the inter-
 section. It's also supposed to start the cycle
 that changes the traffic light to green for ve-
 hicles in the crossing area.

As the train went by, as you could
 see the bus bouncing," said Jim Homola, who
 was sitting in his pickup truck behind the bus
 and across the tracks.

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The Prudential
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Jesse
 Continued from Page 1A
 eulogized Mr. James as
 "one of us."
 Mr. Hawkins continued,
 "He was one among many,
 one family among a people,
 linked to the soil of old Mis-
 souri."
 It was time, he said, to
 rebury one of Missouri's
 "most remarkable sons" in
 the soil of the state "he
 loved and defended."
 The service struck a chord
 with the congregation.
 "It was a funeral and not a
 controversial issue — the
 way it should have been,"
 said Roger Harris of Kear-
 ney.
 "I loved it; I thought it
 was great," said Jim Hodges
 of St. Joseph. "It was almost
 like losing a friend."

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1995

RESEARCH SPECIAL
 WEIGHT LOSS SPECIAL

Jesse's hairs headed for testing

10-11-95

By GARY CHILCOTE
News-Press Special Correspondent

Sample will provide another source of DNA

A sample of hair found in the original grave of Jesse James on his mother's farm near Kearney, Mo., has been sent to James E. Starrs for DNA tests, according to Betty Barr, the famous outlaw's great granddaughter.

The hair was discovered in 1978 when Clay County officials dug into the original grave where Mr. James was buried in 1882 after his death in St. Joseph.

Mr. Starrs, the forensic scientist who exhumed the body of Mr. James last July, said the hair will provide an independent source of DNA to match against DNA found

in Mr. James' grave.

The outlaw's body was moved from the Kearney farm to Mount Olivet Cemetery in Kearney in 1902, but the original coffin came apart and apparently some body parts were not moved. It was in this grave that the hair sample was found.

"The first thing I will do Tuesday is to test to determine if the hair is animal or human," Mr. Starrs told the *News-Press* on Monday night. "Then we can go ahead with the other tests, for drugs or medicines, and DNA."

He said the independent hair

sample from a source other than the grave he exhumed at Kearney last summer will help establish whether the body in the grave is actually Jesse James.

Betty Barr sent the hair sample to Mr. Starrs after it was turned over to her last week by Clay County officials who insisted on a court order to remove it from the James farm.

The hair was described as about a dozen individual hairs, approximately 1 inch long. Included in the small plastic bag were a few small particles believed to be hair follicles. It is in

these that scientists hope to extract the owner's DNA.

Mr. Starrs said a model of the reconstructed skull found in the grave last summer is being cast at a laboratory in Fort Collins, Colo. The skull replica will allow researchers to continue studying the outlaw even after his remains are reburied on Oct. 28.

"We are also having a cast made of some of the teeth found in the grave," Mr. Starrs said.

His final report on Jesse James and the DNA tests will be made Feb. 23 at the annual meeting of the Academy of Forensic Scien-

tists in Nashville, Tenn.

Meantime, Mr. Starrs scheduled to be one of eight speakers when the remains are reburied in Kearney on Oct. 28.

That morning the remains will be in a modern, closed coffin the Fry Funeral Home in Kearney from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Then the remains will be moved to a chapel on the campus of William Jewell College at Liberty, Mo. for a minute service.

Mr. James' father, the Rev. Robert James, was one of the founders of William Jewell College, before his death in California in 1850.

The coffin will be returned to Kearney for reburial in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Jesse James N-P 11-1-95

It was only fitting that the Knights of Columbus in Kearney, Mo., would provide the hall for the final funeral of Jesse James. As far as I've been able to determine, Jesse never killed a Catholic bank president in any of his robberies, nor did he ever hold up a train except those with Protestant conductors.

Jesse James AP/10-23-95

I can't help thinking these thoughts. Nowhere but in the U.S.A. would a reputed criminal be dug up 100 years after his death to prove that it was him. Jesse James was known as an outlaw whenever he died, wherever he died. And since we're so utterly offended with the man's politics, why don't we find a more respectable person to bury who would deserve the Christian burial we so desperately want to perform? This wasn't exactly the opening of a mystery package. Good grief!

Preliminary tests of hair underscore Jesse James link

By GARY CHILCOTE 10-18-95

News-Press Special Correspondent

Preliminary tests on the hair that came from Jesse James' original grave on the farm at Kearney, Mo., indicates it could be from the body of Jesse James.

In Washington, D.C., James E. Starrs, professor of law and forensic sciences for George Washington University, said the hair sample will be taken to Pennsylvania State University for DNA tests this week.

The hair was turned over by Clay County officials two weeks ago to provide additional DNA samples to help establish that Jesse James was indeed killed in St. Joseph on April 3, 1882.

Preliminary tests show the hair was caucasian and chestnut brown.

A researcher in Starr's office in Washington said it also appears to have been dyed, with a clear break in the color.

It is known that Mr. James sometimes dyed his hair as part of his disguise, and a bottle of hair coloring was reported found at his home after his death.

There were also reports that

Mr. James sometimes used shoe polish to color his hair.

Meanwhile, plans for a funeral service Oct. 28 to rebury the remains of the famous outlaw appeared to be falling apart this week.

William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., has insisted that no Confederate flag be displayed on the coffin at the college chapel, but Robert Hawkin, an attorney and official of the Sons of the Confederacy, has declined to sign the agreement.

James family members are now unsure whether a memorial service can be held, since the Kearney, Mo., churches where Mr. James is to be reburied have declined to permit such a service.

Mr. Starrs exhumed the body of Mr. James on July 17, 18 and 19 after receiving approval from Circuit Court Judge Victor Ford in Clay County.

Under the court order, the remains are to reburied at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Kearney not later than Oct. 31.

All other details for the funeral service, which would be the third for Mr. James in the past 113 years, are now up in the air.

Jesse James

Editor, *St. Joseph News-Press*:

I want to thank the Timely Observations column for the splendid support of the efforts of those of us who fought the long and agonizing war in the Pacific, and to comment briefly on the Jesse Woodson James story in the January 18, 1995, *News-Press*.

When Bob Ford murdered Jesse Woodson James at 1318 Lafayette St., St. Joseph, on April 3, 1882, he used a pistol Jesse had given Ford as a birthday gift.

Following funeral services, Jesse's body was taken to the James' family farm and buried not far from the dwelling. Years later, the body was exhumed and reburied in the cemetery at Kearney, Mo. I have learned this was a very unpleasant and arduous task due to decomposition of coffin and body.

My great-grandmother was a first cousin of Frank and Jesse James, and I have a complete record of births and deaths of the James family going back to Logan County, Ky., when John James married Mary Poor in 1807. These records of mine were taken from the James family Bible.

Making DNA tests of the body at this late stage borders on the ridiculous.

JESSE EARL CARMICHAEL

Pickering, Mo.

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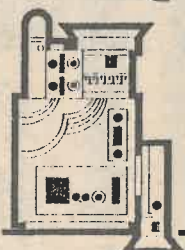
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ME

ST. JOSEPH

Hair may have yie

By GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent

LEXINGTON, Ky. — The three-day exhumation of Jesse James this summer could have been avoided if the James Farm in Kearney, Mo., would have allowed tests of hair samples at the farm.

James E. Starrs, the scientist in charge of the dig, told James-Younger Gang his-

bly's defense commis-

torians Friday that hair found at the original gravesite would have yielded the necessary materials for mitochondrial DNA tests.

"There is a sizable quantity of hair at the James Farm," Mr. Starrs said, "and the dig might not have been necessary if it had been made available to us."

Mr. Starrs said he was disappointed with items found in the buried Tup-

perware container from the James Farm and nothing was there to the DNA test.

He said Judge Victor authorized the original cent order in Clay County remains of Mr. James on Oct. 28.

According to Mr.

TRO

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

100 years ago: Four days have elapsed since any St. Joseph man was killed by rumor.

50 years ago: The sixth annual Buchanan County 4-H Club show drew a large crowd.

10 years ago: Drenching weekend rains are making it difficult for farmers to harvest. Missouri Extension analyst Elbert Turner said, but the rain did no actual damage.

4A

SATURDAY
SEPT. 23, 1995

City Desk,
Julie Buzbee
271-6380

NEWS-PRESS

ided James' clues

at was unearthed at week ago and that yield materials for

or Howard, who au-

xhumation, in a re-
ounty said that all
s will be buried to-
Starrs, that order

would also apply to the hair samples.

James R. Ross, a retired superior court judge from California and great-grandson of Jesse James, said he is extremely disappointed the James Farm is uncooperative.

"I am pleased that Professor Starrs has confirmed what my family has always said the last 60 years, that Jesse James was killed in St. Joseph," Mr. Ross said.

He said that while he disagrees with the Clay County ownership of the hair, he feels they have a legal claim to it.

"I'm certainly disappointed by their lack of cooperation with this entire scientific investigation," Mr. Ross said. "It appears local politics is involved."

John Hartman, who oversees the James Farm as Clay County parks director, could not be reached for comment Friday evening.



1845-1995

St. Joseph News

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1995

St. Joseph

IT'S STILL JESSE

Preliminary findings

By GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent



File photo

Jesse James' body was strapped to a board and propped up for R. Uhlman, a St. Joseph photographer, who sold copies of this popular print as souvenirs.

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Final DNA tests aren't in, but James E. Starrs told James-Younger Gang historians here Friday what the people of St. Joseph have believed for 113 years — that Jesse James was probably killed in St. Joseph.

The forensic scientist who exhumed the grave of Mr. James last summer reported:

- A partially reconstructed skull reveals signs of a large bullet hole below the right ear, consistent with the James story.

- The remains are of a medium-height male between 30 and 40 years of age. Bob Ford is believed to have shot the 34-year-old Mr. James behind the right ear at 1318 Lafayette St. Mr. James stood between 5 feet 8 inches and 5 feet 10 inches tall.

"There are many indications that it is the body of Jesse James," Mr. Starrs told a packed banquet hall of about 200 people Friday afternoon. "Nothing we have found up to this point is inconsistent with it being the great outlaw."

The professor of law and forensic sciences for George Washington University

in Washington, D.C., is still under way. The body was found in the grave.

The complete DNA report was announced Feb. 23 at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Scientists.

Mr. Starrs, a forensic scientist, acknowledged the report even with his findings. "I do not know if there will be more tests," he said. "I do not know if there will be more tests," he said. "I do not know if there will be more tests," he said.

"We know it's not Elvis," Mr. Starrs joked. "I do not know if there will be more tests," he said. "I do not know if there will be more tests," he said.

Newspaper and television stations from around the world were here for the event. The world were here for the event. The world were here for the event.

A Canadian television station was here for an interview. The scientist told the world.

The scientist told the world.

-Press

Missouri

75° 5 SECTIONS

E, BY JEHOVAH!

gs keep St. Joseph legend intact

C., said DNA tests are on two molar teeth

NA results will be an-
n Nashville, Tenn., at
ng of the American
n-

research before the dig started and showed video of measurements taken at the James home in St. Joseph.

His findings showed that Mr. James was buried in his second grave in 1902 in a pine coffin with ash handles — not the metal coffin reported in news accounts at the time.

Jesse James was originally buried on his mother's farm outside Kearney, Mo., in 1882 but was moved to the town cemetery in 1902 when his mother was no longer living at the farm.

Mr. Starrs showed slides of cotton fabric, a .36-caliber bullet and a deteriorating button found in the

tack Mr. James was wearing in his famous death photo.

"He had a laceration near the left eye, but we have not yet found an exit wound," Mr. Starrs said. "The Jesse James home in St. Joseph may have to change its slogan, 'See the BulletHole.'"

He said dental tests on teeth sent to Colorado indicated Mr. James apparently chewed a rather low-grade tobacco, causing serious damage to his teeth.

There were four gold fillings found in the teeth, and Mr. Starrs said they will probably be buried with the rest of the remains when Mr. James is reburied on Oct. 28.

The forensics team is examining the reconstructed skull for possible signs of a second bullet wound. Mr. Starrs suggested that Charles Ford may not have been truthful when he said he did not fire at Jesse James.

Slides of the exhumation showed the skeletal outline in the soil even after all

About the headline

When *The Daily Gazette* in St. Joseph reported the murder of Jesse James in 1882, the headline read: "Jesse, By Jehovah," reflecting the community's amazement and excitement.

Now that his body has been definitively identified, the newspaper can say it again. The story of the demise of Mr. James, "the notorious desperado," will forever belong to St. Joseph.

or the event. The room
s, plus photographers
sters.

vision crew was wait-
ew with Mr. Starrs af-

aced his six months of

grave.

One mystery surfaced: Why were the remains were found in an anatomically correct relationship but lying face down in the grave?

Starrs showed slides of a small piece of jewelry that appeared to be the tie

Please see **Jesse/Page 9A**

■ Access to hair may have curtailed exhumation, **Page 4A.**

Continued from Page 1A

bone fragments could reveal traces of lead from a bullet that passed through the body.

Other bones are being tested at the University of Florida for trace residue of drugs, perhaps opium or a derivative.

Mr. Starrs said such medicines were legal in Mr. James' day, and he could have been taking the medication because of various bullet wounds in his body.

"I love a good historical mystery and I hope my research helps alert the country in using mitochondrial DNA in current crime investigations," Mr. Starrs said in explaining his reasons for the exhumation.

He said at Nashville all of the scientists who have taken part in the investigation will tell of their findings at the meeting of forensic scientists.

Among those will be Dr. Michael Finnegan, anthropologist at Kansas State University in Manhattan, where the bones are still being studied. Today, Mr. Starrs heads for home in Washington, D.C., but Dr. Gerald Lee, Clay County medical examiner and co-chairman of the exhumation, will arrive to participate and tour James sites in the Lexington area.

The recoverable remains had been removed.

Mr. Starrs showed a reconstructed model of the Jesse James home in St. Joseph using computer animation. The model includes action showing how Bob and Charles Ford fired the fatal shot while Mr. James stood on a chair to straighten or dust a picture.

"We used the term straighten, since 'real men' in those days probably didn't dust pictures," he said.

The DNA tests will compare the remains with two living relatives who descended from Mr. James' mother, Zerelda, through the female lineage.

Mitochondrial DNA is the type that is passed only through the female side of the family.

Tested were Robert Jackson and Mark Nikkel, both of Oklahoma, who can inherit this special DNA but can't pass it on.

Mr. Starrs said he is still checking their ancestral records to be sure they can trace their relationship back to Mrs. James' mother.

Still under review are X-rays taken at the Regional Crime Lab in Kansas City, where tests of

Professor will air Jesse tests today

Members of family, news media gather

By GARY CHILCOTE 9-22-95
News-Press Special Correspondent

LEXINGTON, Ky. — The true identity of the body buried in Jesse James' grave is expected to be revealed here today when Professor James E. Starrs gives his preliminary reports on DNA tests.

The George Washington University professor of law and forensic sciences will announce his first findings since exhuming the body of Mr. James in July.

The occasion is the annual meeting of the James-Younger Gang. Jesse James experts from all over the United States have gathered here for the event.

Mr. Starrs arrived during the afternoon to look at exhibits and meet historians and relatives, but gave no hint of his big announcement.

On the program this morning will be Judy Reis of St. Louis. She is a great-grandniece of Ed O'Kelly, the man who killed James' assassin, Bob Ford. Mrs. Reis has written a book about her famous ancestor.

Also here is Clifford Samuel, whose grandfather was a brother of Reuben Samuel, Mr. Jesse's stepfather. Clifford Samuel lives in Springdale, Ark.

"We will be swamped by news media from all over the world on Friday," Mr. Steele said.

Already here are Blane Hardin from *The Washington Post*, Stan Carmack from KCTV in Kansas City, *USA Today*, *The Kansas City Star* and local television stations from Lexington.

Mr. Starrs will deliver his final report next February in Nashville at an annual meeting of forensic scientists.

■ Youngster gets into trouble over official dig T-shirt, **Page 9A.**

CD-ROM will show Jesse dig

Scientist to share findings Friday

By GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent

The life and death of outlaw Jesse James, and his exhumation at Kearney, Mo., this summer for DNA tests, will soon become an interactive video available on CD-ROM.

James E. Starrs, the George Washington University forensic science professor who exhumed the grave this summer, was in St. Joseph on Sunday to gather additional photography for the new video.

"We want to make this an educational experience for both young people and adults," Mr. Starrs said of the latest effort. "I think this will be an interesting way to involve people in the fascinating story of Jesse James."

Handling the video photography is Mitchell Calhoun of Odyssey Productions in Beltsville, Md. He recorded scenes in the Jesse James Home on Sunday and photographed Mr. Starrs taking measurements for an animated computer model of the house where the outlaw was killed.

Photos for comparison

Mr. Starrs took photos of Bob and Charles Ford to assure that the computer characters resembled the two men who were convicted of killing Jesse James.

"We envision this as a learning experience where questions will be asked and the viewer will choose right or wrong answers," Mr. Starrs said.

While in St. Joseph, Mr. Starrs also copied details of a death photo of Mr. James that appears to show a small tiepin the outlaw was wearing the day he was killed.

Remains of a similar pin were found in the chest area of the grave during the exhumation last summer, possibly offering photographic evidence that the body in the grave was that of the person killed in St. Joseph.

Mr. Calhoun said it will take about six months to produce the interactive video on CD-ROM once the final results are in. On Friday, Mr. Starrs will reveal his

Is it Jesse? Professor to say Friday

9-21-95

By GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent

James E. Starrs will announce to the world Friday his preliminary findings after exhuming the body of outlaw Jesse James in July at Kearney, Mo.

The professor of law and forensic sciences at George Washington University in Washington,

D.C., has cautioned that eight weeks didn't allow much time for a detailed study of the remains.

Mr. Starrs' talk on the preliminary results is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Friday in Lexington, Ky., at the annual meeting of the James-Younger Gang.

Phillip Steele, president of the James-Younger Gang of historians, relatives and researchers, said people from all over the

United States have registered, including Mr. James' great-grandson, Judge James Ross of California.

"About every news media in the world plans to be in Lexington on Friday to cover the announcement," Mr. Steele said. "I think we filled up the Continental Inn weeks ago."

A primary goal was to use DNA testing to establish whether the

body in the grave at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Kearney was really that of the famous outlaw.

Other tests of the new autopsy would determine the caliber of the bullet that killed Jesse James, the angle at which the bullet was fired and whether the bullet passed through Mr. James' head.

The bones of Mr. James had to

be put will reveal, but he told the News-Press that much work remains to be done, even though

the remains were exhumed from the grave this summer.

He said it will give additional

Please see **Jesse/Page 7A**

FUJI SILK BLOUSE
 of 100% fuji silk with snap-in
 pads, French seams and back
 black, chamois, hunter, ivory,
 red. Misses 6-16.

• The Rig



esse

Continued from Page 4A

ry for several weeks at the
 ected Kansas State University
 laboratory of Dr. Michael Fin-
 negan, anthropologist, before
 they could be handled.

Mr. Starrs was in Manhattan,
 Kan., on Tuesday for one final in-
 spection of the bones with Dr.
 Finnegan before heading to
 Lexington for his presentation.

During a visit to the Jesse
 James Home on Sunday, Mr.
 Starrs gave no hint what his re-
 port will reveal, but he told the
News-Press that much work re-
 mains to be done, even though

the body will be reburied at
 Kearney at the town cemetery on
 Oct. 28.

Last Friday, the Clay County
 Commission obtained a court or-
 der authorizing the removal of
 three small bones believed to be
 from the body of Mr. James
 buried at the James Farm. The
 bones had been removed from the
 original 1882 gravesite at the farm
 in 1978.

Mr. Starrs said he now has
 those bones, including a ver-
 tebrae and a toe bone, and will
 conduct DNA tests on those to
 compare with the remains that
 were exhumed from the grave
 this summer.

He said it will give additional

information in the study to estab-
 lish the body is that of Mr. James,
 but won't come in time to use that
 information at Lexington.

He cautioned that only a "very
 preliminary" report can be pre-
 pared in time for the Lexington
 meeting.

Mr. Starrs will deliver his final,
 technical report Feb. 23 at a na-
 tional meeting of forensic scien-
 tists in Nashville, Tenn.

Boy who helped at James dig punished for trying to prove it

By GARY CHILCOTE 9-22-95

News-Press Special Correspondent

Fame can be fleeting.

Last summer when Professor James Starrs exhumed the remains of Jesse James at Kearney, Mo., he allowed his grandson, Willie, to take part on July 17, Willie's 10th birthday, as news cameras zoomed in on the young worker.

When Willie recently resumed classes at a Washington, D.C., suburb, his new teacher mentioned Jesse James the first day of school. Willie volunteered that he was there and helped his grandfather dig up the famous outlaw.

Willie was disappointed when

no one believed him. So the next day, he wore his official T-shirt commemorating the event to school, complete with a smoking gun, as proof of his role in the exhumation.

But he didn't get to show the shirt to his teacher or fellow classmates. He was given a one-day suspension for walking into the school while wearing a T-shirt featuring a gun.

The next day Mr. Starrs, a professor of law and forensic sciences at George Washington University, offered to wear his T-shirt to school and explain that Willie did, indeed, take part in the dig.

Apparently fearing further problems, Willie declined the offer.

Bones thought to be Jesse's unearthed

9-16-95

BY GARY CHILCOTE
News-Press Special Correspondent

Clay County officials unearthed three small bones believed to be from outlaw Jesse James early Friday evening at the outlaw's original grave on the James Farm near Kearney, Mo.

A vertebrae, a toe bone and a fossil-looking bone are to be turned over to James E. Starrs for possible DNA tests and reburial with the rest of the body of Mr. James late next month.

The Clay County Commission obtained a court order Friday from Circuit Judge Victor Howard for the removal of the body parts. The commission had earlier refused to allow the remains to be exhumed without such

an order.

The bones were buried in a small Tupperware container at the site of Mr. James' original grave in the backyard of the family home near Kearney.

The outlaw's body had been moved in 1902 to Mount Olivet Cemetery in Kearney, and the old, rotting coffin was tossed back and reburied.

Apparently a few body parts from Mr. James were also left in the original gravesite. The old grave was excavated in 1978 when Milton Perry was Clay County historic sites director, and the human parts found.

Mr. Perry reburied the body parts in 1982 at the original gravesite.

Members of the Clay County Com-

mission took part in the dig Friday evening after the James Farm closed to visitors.

Betty Barr, great-granddaughter of Mr. James, was the only relative present for the search. She said it took about 1½ hours to locate the four-inch-square Tupperware container.

"It was a disappointment," Miss Barr said. "The vertebrae was in pretty good shape. There were two small medicine bottles. The one containing the toe bone had some water in it."

She said there was no sign of any hair or teeth, which had been reported to have been exhumed during the 1978 dig at the James Farm.

Please see **Bones/Page 9A**

also visit Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kan., where Dr. Michael Finnegan is doing research on the bones removed from the grave of Mr. James last summer.

James last summer. moved from the grave of Mr. doing research on the bones re- where Dr. Michael Finnegan is versity in Manhattan, Kan., will also visit Kansas State Uni- Home museum at St. Joseph. He information from the Jesse James Starrs plans to collect additional While in the Kansas City area, ngton, Ky.

James-Younger Gang at Lexi- es the annual meeting of the the exhumation when he address- the DNA tests and other details of make his preliminary report on Next Friday, Mr. Starrs will gloves.

the container while wearing County parks director, opened present. John Hartman, Clay reporters and James historians only a few county officials, print carried out on short notice with The Friday evening dig was the newly unearthed parts.

Starrs should be allowed to test California. Miss Barr said Mr. great grandchild, James Ross of attorney who represents another Mr. Hawkins is a Jefferson City

Starrs said. Hawkins will be productive," Mr. ing with Betty Barr and Robert area Saturday and hope my meet- "I will be in the Kansas City parts.

him to conduct DNA tests on the ter declining all summer to allow ahead with the bone removal af- County Commission had gone expressed surprise that the Clay D.C., Friday evening, Mr. Starrs At his home at Washington, outlaw.

mainstays are those of the famous tests for further proof that the re- autopsy on the body, and DNA was an effort to conduct a new The dig on July 17, 18 and 19 Kearney cemetery.

grave of Jesse James at the mission last July to exhumate the ington, D.C., received court per- Washington University in Wash- forensic sciences at George Mr. Starrs, professor of law and

grave. cated in another area of the small plastic box was finally lo- es nothing had been located. The ployee when at a depth of 10 feet work to a park department. The County commission began the dig, but turned

Continued from page 1
"In your opinion sir, is that an imprint?" Clark asked.
"No, it's not an imprint or a shoeprint," Bodziak said.

SHOPS
Hallmark
attend our
S.A.T.

at times. **Manufacturer recalling Encor pacemaker leads**

WASHINGTON — Doctors were told Friday not to implant in heart patients the type of pace- maker wire that has broken in- side the chests of five people. All the patients recovered, and who already has the wire who risky heart sur- manufacturer said.

the crime scene walkway. William Bodziak contradicted testimony from defense expert Henry Lee, who said a parallel line bloodstain could have been a shoeprint different from those prosecutors linked to Simpson. "Based on your analysis of all of the evidence, including Dr. Lee's photographs, is there any evidence that more than one set of bloody shoe prints were left at leading."

Bodziak disputed critical part of Lee's scene appeared to be a shoeprint and that other stains had patterns, but weren't shoeprints.

"In your opinion sir, is that an imprint?" Clark asked.
"No, it's not an imprint or a shoeprint," Bodziak said.

Hearing to focus on body of Jesse

By GARY CHILCOTE 7-10-95
News-Press Special Correspondent

The man who exhumed the body of Jesse James in July will return to court in Liberty, Mo., next week to challenge a Clay County request to rebury parts of the dead outlaw.

Dr. James E. Starrs, professor of law and forensic sciences at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., was authorized to exhume the remains of Jesse James that were buried in 1902 at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Kearney, Mo.

A few small bones and other parts that were left behind in Mr. James' original grave in 1882 at the James Farm near Kearney had been dug up in 1978, then reburied in a Tupperware container.

All summer, Dr. Starrs and his forensic science team wanted to test those remains for DNA as well as the bones removed from the town cemetery. Officials at the James Farm insisted a court order was needed.

Then, last week, the Clay County Commission filed a petition to have the Tupperware parts turned over to James family members for reburial, but not for Starrs and his team to examine.

"I will be back in Judge Victor Howard's court at Liberty, Mo., this coming week for a hearing," Dr. Starrs told the *News-Press* by telephone from his home near Washington.

Jesse James' family disputes details

8-24-95

By GARY CHILCOTE
News-Press Special Correspondent

Relatives of Jesse James were not consulted before alleged details of the outlaw's third and final funeral were announced by Kansas City news media Wednesday, according to the great granddaughter of Mr. James.

"Nothing has been worked out at this point," Betty Barr told the *News-Press*. "Funerals are normally planned by relatives of the deceased. *The Kansas City Star* didn't bother to call me before running the story."

The remains of Jesse James were exhumed last month to

permit DNA tests and other autopsy studies to verify that the body is that of the infamous outlaw and to resolve other details of his life and death.

The *Star*'s story on Wednesday said Phillip Steele of Springdale, Ark., president of the James-Younger Gang, has proposed reenacting the original funeral after Jesse James was killed at St. Joseph on April 3, 1882.

The outlaw was buried a second time in 1902 when the remains were moved from the family farm outside Kearney, Mo., to the town cemetery.

Mr. Steele had suggested a funeral procession extending from the Kearney depot and ending at

Mount Olivet Cemetery in St. Joseph, with the body transferred by a horse-drawn hearse. Songs and psalms used at the original funeral would be repeated.

The *Star* story quoted Steve Pierce of Heaton-Bowman-Smith & Sidenfaden Chapel in St. Joseph as saying that the funeral home would donate a coffin to rebury Mr. James. The original coffin for Jesse James was purchased from Sidenfaden Funeral Parlor in 1882.

Miss Barr of Overland Park, Kan., is one of five great-grandchildren who are direct descendants of Mr. James. In California, another great-grandchild, James Ross, a retired Superior

Court judge, has other ideas about how to rebury Jesse James. He has asked Robert Hawkins of Jefferson City, Mo., to handle the funeral details without the consent of either Miss Barr or Mr. Steele.

Mr. Hawkins told Miss Barr the funeral will be handled by Sons of the Confederacy, that he would select the pallbearers, and that the group already has ordered a custom-made pine casket.

Mr. Hawkins wants the funeral service at a Kearney church, not at the cemetery, and says it would be more appropriate to haul the body in a horse-drawn wagon instead of a horse-drawn hearse.

Miss Barr says she and Mr.

s of reburial plans

Ross need to have another talk to work out a satisfactory agreement on how to rebury their great-grandfather. Miss Barr and her mother, Thelma Barr, the widow of one of Mr. James' grandsons, are the only James relatives in the Kansas City area.

Even the date of the funeral is in dispute. Dr. James E. Starrs, professor of law and forensic sciences at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., wants the reburial to take place on Saturday, Oct. 28.

Dr. Starrs is the man who put together the exhumation plan and who appeared in court to obtain approval for the DNA tests. Judge Victor Howard of Clay

County, in authorizing the exhumation, gave Dr. Starrs until Oct. 31 to have the remains reburied.

"The reburial, it is hoped, will occur on Saturday, Oct. 28," Dr. Starrs told the *News-Press* recently. "Any later would give the reburial the macabre look of a Halloween ceremonial. Any earlier date would detract from our taking all the time allowed to settle the DNA question."

Mr. Hawkins has other ideas, though. He told Miss Barr there is an important Sons of the Confederacy meeting on Oct. 28, and has proposed instead an Oct. 21 date for the funeral.



Club Or Your Dillard's Charge.
10 A.M. - 9:30 P.M.

Setting Jesse James' record straight

THERE'S A LOT of Jesse James bashing going on right now by people concerned about his "Confederate hero's" funeral staged by the Sons of the Confederacy on Oct. 28 in Kearney, Mo.

Count me among those who were disturbed by the honor guard dressed in gray Confederate uniforms, the six Confederate flags on the coffin (Six Flags over

BY GARY

CHILCOTE

Between the Lines

Jesse James?) and the eight-gun salute.

I considered it an honor to serve as one of the eight "historian" pallbearers selected by Betty Barr, a great granddaughter of the world-famous outlaw, to help rebury him.

But it was obvious another great grandchild from California had taken command of the funeral details. In 1882, after Jesse James was shot in St. Joseph, the original funeral was held at a church in Kearney.

There were no Confederate uniforms, honor guards nor gun salutes. The war had been over 17 years, and a simple religious service was conducted for the wayward son of a Baptist minister.

HISTORIANS from the James-Younger Gang, a national research group, have found little evidence that Mr. James was really a Confederate. He was a guerilla, fighting for the pro-slavery side in the ruffian border wars in Missouri and Kansas.

We're talking about a murderer, a bank and train robber who may have learned to kill during the Civil War, but who wouldn't give up this way of life when others returned to their homes after the war.

TODAY WE WOULD CALL Mr. James a "mass killer" and try to explain his strange behavior as "post-traumatic stress" brought on by mistreatment during the war years.

Any military record of Jesse James is sketchy at best, although strings probably were pulled a few years ago when Milton Perry obtained a government-issued Confederate tombstone.

Jesse James was 17 when the war ended. Those who cite his "war record" usually talk about the writings of John Newman Edwards, Mr. James' personal friend and press agent, known for his flowery writings.

The shocking Centralia, Mo., massacre of a couple dozen unarmed Union soldiers traveling by train has been turned into the "battle of Centralia."

Edwards was once an editor of the *St. Joseph Gazette* and was a good writer when he was sober, or perhaps when he was drunk. His embellishments of Jesse James' exploits helped create the aura that fascinated readers.

Jesse James had some good traits. He was apparently a good father, religious in his own way, and those today who trace their ancestry to him are hard-

working, upstanding citizens I am proud to call my friends.

But grown men parading around in Civil War uniforms to give a cold-blooded killer a war hero's burial doesn't set well with those really familiar with his life. We know he was responsible for the deaths of at least 17 men.

So why do we promote the Jesse James Home in St. Joseph?

WE TRY NOT TO GLORIFY the man, but he is an important part of our history. Almost 25,000 people a year come from all over the world to see where this outlaw lived for 100 days before his death.

We have an obligation to preserve the home for future generations and to tell the story of his life as accurately as possible. That's why we worked closely with Professor James Starrs in the exhumation and DNA tests.

And that's why we will be in Nashville on Feb. 23, when he announces the final results of the DNA tests.

At this point, Mr. Starrs warns the results could still "go either way," and will promise only a yes-or-no answer, not a maybe.

If it turns out that it's not Jesse James in the grave, then St. Joseph will have the house where Jesse James was not killed.

Gary Chilcote is a special correspondent for the *News-Press* and noted St. Joseph historian.



■ JOETOWN

By PRESTON FILBERT

Features Editor

17-72-95 Jesse pales in comparison to real heroes

It sits in my bathroom still — a testament to my poor housekeeping habits as well as a nagging reminder of something I was uncomfortable with and still dislike.

It's the front page of the Oct. 29, 1995 News-Press, and it reads "Jesse given hero's send-off."

I rolled my eyes when I read the story two weeks ago. I roll my eyes now.

Jesse James as war hero, draped in the Stars and Bars.

It's a mantle that ill fits the poor wretch.

Never mind what Jesse did as a member of Missouri's guerrilla outfits during our Civil War. War is awful and awful things are done. But when war is over, civilization — desperately trying to put the awful things behind it — usually forgives and forgets.

What bothers me is that Jesse never let the war go.

Some folks found — and still find — that tenacious hatred admirable, but it is that distinction between him and his betters that makes me believe that he should never be considered a war hero.

By his betters I mean all those tens of thousands of Confederate officers and soldiers who, having lost their bid for their own country, quietly returned to their daily lives as farmers and merchants in the re-United States.

One doesn't hear for in

stance, of Robert E. Lee running around the countryside robbing people and shooting folks because "the war made him do it." He became a college president, reportedly did a good job, and died some five years after surrendering at Appomattox.

If Lee is a special case — the exalted gentleman war hero, admired even in the North — then what about the thousands of Southern privates from North Carolina to Missouri who lived their postwar lives in peace — even when the triumphant Union government was denying them some basic rights immediately after the war?

They endured and earned their rest.

And then there's Jesse James.

Maybe the war made him crazy. He certainly wouldn't have been the first or last man driven mad by the horrors of human slaughter. But madness doesn't make a fellow great. Pathetic, yes; but no hero.

Or maybe he and his cohorts just couldn't stand giving up the life of itinerant warriors to go back to the humdrum, hard-scrabble life of farmers and merchants.

At any rate, any glory that Jesse earned as a Southern fighter was wiped away by his subsequent career as robber and murderer. And the ignominy of his demise here in St. Joseph in no way compares with the deaths of his betters on the battlefields of the war. Or with the quiet deaths of veterans both North and South in the years that followed.

So.

I've gotten that off my chest, and Jesse is dead and buried and reburied and reburied.

Now I can finish cleaning the house, and finally send that newspaper to the recycling bin where it belongs.

Preston Filbert's column appears every Sunday in the Metro section.

IT'S YOUR CALL

271-8687

Jesse James

I'm glad to see a truthful piece in the paper, Preston Filbert's article on Jesse James. That's the first truthful one I've seen yet. I know more about it because my ancestors were neighbors to Jesse James. Old Mrs. James was as mean as they come and when she went to the store to buy anything, she just went with a shotgun; she never paid for anything. Jesse James was a half wit, which is the reason his brother went with him everywhere he went; I know that for a fact.

James rites won't be held at college

Staff and Wire Reports

10-21-95

Three U.S. presidents have spoken in the William Jewell College chapel, and Luciano Pavarotti sang there.

But the third and final funeral of Jesse James, whose father, The Rev. Robert James, co-founded the college a century and a half ago, won't be held there. Plans to hold services for the famous outlaw at the Liberty, Mo., school were shelved Friday.

Organizers said school officials backed out of the deal when funeral organizer Robert Hawkins insisted on a Confederate flag on Mr. James' coffin to commemorate his Confederate past.

Mr. Hawkins is an attorney hired by Judge James Ross, a retired Superior Court judge in California, to make plans for the reburial of Mr. James.

The funeral is still scheduled for Oct. 28, however. Organizers accepted an offer from the Knights of Columbus in Kearney, Mo., to use their 500-seat community hall for the funeral.

'Racially inflammatory symbol'

William Jewell chaplain Jerry Cain said Friday that the dark blue Missouri Confederate battle flag, while not resembling the more familiar and controversial "Stars and Bars," was still judged by school officials to be a "racially inflammatory symbol."

The Rev. Cain said college officials, including President Christian Sizemore, agreed that school policy equated Confederate flags with Nazi uniforms and Ku Klux Klan attire.

But Mr. Hawkins decried the school's position as "ignorance, historical cleansing and political correctness masquerading as sensitivity."

From his home in Washington, D.C., James E. Starrs, the forensic scientist who exhumed Mr. James for DNA tests last July, said he is staying out of any dis-

arker color. Jesse James reportedly dyed his hair as a part of disguise to avoid being caught. The hair sample was very inactive. We had plenty to work and it showed signs of fun-tunneling, indicating it had in a grave for some time and not just a keepsake from the ly."

at the dispute of how to hold a ectful reburial of the ex- ed remains without creating rcus atmosphere still divides James family members.

earney churches were report- o have denied use of their fa- es for a funeral, just as Wil- Jewell College did.

an inside funeral is held, a e area is needed because of public interest and the media will cover the event.

ne use of the Confederate flag

Please see James/Page 3A

James

Continued from Page 1A

"I plan to carry out my part of

put among family members.

the deal with the Clay County

Court and bury the remains on

Oct. 28, even if I have to take my

own shovel to do it," Mr. Starrs

said.

On Thursday, he took the small

hair sample that was turned over

by the James Farm for DNA tests

at the University of Pennsylvania.

"The hair near the roots was

very light, almost blond," Mr.

Starrs said of the sample found at

the original grave site on the

James Farm near Kearney.

There was a definite color

change above the root, indicating

the hair had probably been dyed

a darker color. Jesse James re-

portedly dyed his hair as a part of

a disguise to avoid being caught.

"The hair sample was very in-

formative. We had plenty to work

with, and it showed signs of fun-

gal tunneling, indicating it had

been in a grave for some time and

was not just a keepsake from the

family."

But the dispute of how to hold a

respectful reburial of the ex-

humed remains without creating

a circus atmosphere still divides

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the public interest and the media

that will cover the event.

The use of the Confederate flag

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1995

5 LB. BAG U.S. #1
RUSSETT

Exhumation of James resurrects old claims

SUNDAY, JULY 23, 1995

By THOMAS S. WATSON
Associated Press Writer

The opening of Jesse James' grave at Kearney, Mo., could produce enough evidence to reinforce the generally accepted account of the outlaw's death or prompt historians to reconsider claims that were given little credence in the past.

If the exhumation of the outlaw's remains shows a single bullet to the back of the head killed the outlaw, history will likely prevail and Bob Ford will continue to be recognized as James' assassin.

Any other findings will send historians back to the drawing board and reconsideration of James impersonators, including one that a late historian said was from Louisville, Ky.

Claims in the years after the reported death of James that he was still alive and the dead man was someone else have never been substantiated.

The story that most consider the trigger for a bevy of theories that the man shot in St. Joseph on April 3, 1882, was someone other than James appeared in a May

Please see James/Page 2A

n, aided by his wife, had written numerous articles for newspapers. He was also the author of a section of the memoirs of former Missouri Gov. Thomas S. Bland called "Outlawry in Missouri."

Perhaps the clincher was Dalton's request to take a portable unit to the cave to ex-

amine Dalton's lungs because he was reported to have suffered a collapsed lung as the result of a bullet wound.

The request was denied.

Dalton, who died in 1951, may have been born in Jefferson, Ky., on April 17, 1844, Dalton wrote. He believed that his real name was Jesse W. Dalton but that he was not the

33, an Illinois man, John Dalton claimed he was really James and made the circuit of carnivals. His sister signed an affidavit, verified that her brother was perpetrating a hoax.

There were other fakes and a skeleton that was displayed in the front window of a Kenmore store with a sign that said "Jesse James were those of the in-Missourian."

World War II, U.S. Marine Akim confronted an 80-year-old man who was preparing to stage as Jesse James.

"You Jesse James?" Akim

the stranger replied that Akim pulled a yellowed paper from his pocket.

"Here a warrant for your arrest," he said. "It charges you with robbery of the Bank of Columbia in 1872 and the murder of cashier R.A.C. Martin."

The man began turning pale as the marshal continued.

"But on the off-chance you just may not be Jesse James, I'm giving you 10 minutes to get out of town."

"Marshal," the man replied, "I can beat that with five minutes to spare."

ly. He didn't even know that the full name of James' brother, Frank, was Alexander Franklin James, Breihan noted.

But Dalton knew many details of the robberies attributed to the James gang, which astounded some of the reporters who interviewed him.

Breihan said that was because

Actor Tom Arnold

SUNDAY, JULY 23, 1995

Dalton, aided by his wife, had written numerous articles for newspapers. He was also the author of a section of the memoirs of former Missouri Gov. Thomas Crittenden called "Outlawry in Missouri."

Perhaps the clincher was Breihan's request to take a portable X-ray unit to the cave to examine Dalton's lungs because James was reported to have suffered a collapsed lung as the result of a bullet wound.

The request was denied. Dalton, who died in 1951, may have been born in Jefferson County, Ky., on April 17, 1844, Breihan wrote. He believed that Dalton's real name was Jesse W. James, but that he was not the outlaw.

In 1933, an Illinois man, John James, claimed he was really Jesse James and made the circuit of fairs and carnivals. His sister finally signed an affidavit, verifying that her brother was perpetuating a hoax.

There were other fakes and even a skeleton that was displayed in the front window of a Kentucky store with a sign that said the remains were those of the infamous Missouri man.

Before World War II, U.S. Marshal Evan Akin confronted an 80-year-old man who was preparing to go on stage as Jesse James. "Are you Jesse James?" Akin asked.

When the stranger replied that he was, Akin pulled a yellowed piece of paper from his pocket. "I have here a warrant for your arrest," he said. "It charges you with robbery of the Bank of Columbia in 1872 and the murder of cashier R.A.C. Martin."

The man began turning pale as the marshal continued. "But on the off-chance you just may not be Jesse James, I'm giving you 10 minutes to get out of town."

"Marshal," the man replied, "I can beat that with five minutes to spare."

Continued from Page 1A

James

Reporters Frank O. Hall and Lindsey H. Whitten interviewed an elderly man who had been living under the name J. Frank Dalton in a home for old-age pensioners in Austin, Texas, after Dalton claimed he was really Jesse James.

The story was entitled, "Jesse James Rides Again."

Dalton was put on exhibition until the James family obtained a restraining order. He then left Oklahoma and was managed by Orvus Lee Howk, who took him unencumbered to New York for media exposure, according to an expose of Dalton written in 1971 by the late St. Louis western historian Carl W. Breihan.

A gang member named Charlie Bigelow was the man killed by Ford as part of a plot that would allow Jesse James to begin a new life, went the story being told by Dalton.

The New York media didn't respond as well as Dalton's backers had believed they would and the claim in St. Joseph.

Dalton's career was finally taken over by Les Dill and Rudy Turilli, the operators of Meramec Caverns at Stanton, Mo. By 1950, Dalton, claiming to be 102, was on display at the cave and while many tourists were impressed, historians were not.

The inability of Dalton to correctly recite the James family tree discredited him rather quickly. He didn't even know that the full name of James' brother, Frank, was Alexander Franklin James, Breihan noted.

But Dalton knew many details of the robberies attributed to the James gang, which astounded some of the reporters who interviewed him.

Breihan said that was because



1845-1995

St. Joseph News-1

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 1995

St. Joseph, Missouri

Plea for Jesse's exh

By GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent

More than 113 years after Jesse James was killed in St. Joseph in 1882, a Clay County Circuit Court judge will be asked next week to approve the exhuming of the dead outlaw's body for a new autopsy and DNA tests.

If approved, the tests could answer questions that have lingered almost since James was buried in the back yard of his mother's farm near Kearney, Mo.:

DNA tests could end 113 y

- Was it really Jesse James killed in St. Joseph April 3, 1882?
 - What caliber bullet was fired?
 - Did both Bob and Charles Ford fire their guns?
 - Did the bullet leave James' head?
- James E. Starrs, professor of law and forensic sciences at George Washington University in

Washington, D.C., heads a team of scientists poised to conduct the tests if court approval is granted. James was exhumed by the family in 1902, when his mother, Zerelda Samuel, was too old to live on the family farm. The body was moved to Mount Olivet Cemetery in Kearney, where it remains today.

"We have learned that Jesse was reburied in a casket," Starrs said last night. "That should be easily located by a tometer, and it should be in good shape." Starrs visited the site in St. Joseph last week. He proposed an autopsy, but no public re-

test for the AIDS virus. he- adduce a law

Press



50- 3 SECTIONS

Information near ears of questions

in 1902 in a metal
rs said Monday
ould mean it could
ted with a magne-
at the body should
be."

d the James Home
last month during
search for the pro-
He explained that
ord exists of the

autopsy that was conducted in
Buchanan County the night of
James' death. Newspaper ac-
counts of the autopsy are the only
record.

Starrs took detailed measure-
ments of the James Home and
planned to construct a computer
model to use for comparison
against evidence acquired from
the autopsy. Helping with the

study was George C. Stephens,
professor of structural geology
for George Washington Universi-
ty.

"The DNA tests could solve
once and for all the question of
whether Jesse James was killed
in St. Joseph," Starrs said. "We
would compare any DNA samples
we obtained with known rela-
tives."

One descendant of James is Su-
perior Court Judge James Ross of
California, a great grandson. But

Please see **Jesse/Page 2A**

g that in USSS, President Clinton's drug czar,

be built. The three parcels,
ing U.S. Highway 75 north of
a, are not part of the origi-
c and Fox reservation, but
st land owned by the tribe.
it land is off-reservation
ly acquired by a tribe.
proposed sites for the
in the other compacts are
original reservation land.
Legislative Coordinating
l apparently was wary of
impact's provision that
allow the Sac and Fox to
a casino on trust land,
than on its northeast
reservation.
takers have been con-
that allowing a tribe to
casino on trust land would
cedent, and a tribe might
to construct a casino on
id in an urban area.
Legislature had earlier
down the Sac and Fox
because of the trust land



Major's dare accepted by right-winger

Associated Press
LONDON

Prime Minister John Major wanted a leadership test and on Monday he got it: with a right-wing member of his own Cabinet.

Redwood, a standard opponent of closer integration with the European Community, announced that he will lead a right-wing group for leadership of the party.

Major and the pound sterling are being forced to be more flexible in their economic policies, he said.



Redwood

Redwood, an admiral in the House of Commons, announced he was resigning as Major's Welsh Secretary.

following our policies for so long," the prime minister said.

With a member of the 22-member Cabinet broken loose, the way opened for other heavyweight contenders to jump in the race.

Redwood, an admiral in the House of Commons, and Newt Gingrich, a House Speaker, are among the named contenders.

The cause of his intellectual and chilly manner, he said, was a candidate for the Welsh Secretary.

esse

Continued from Page 1A

ing Ross would not help, Starrs said.

DNA can be traced from one generation to another only through direct female lineage, according to Starrs, who has been involved in a number of such celebrity exhumation tests.

"In the male, the DNA is in the tail of the sperm," Starrs said. "Once the sperm penetrates the egg, the tail drops off, and any DNA that is passed on comes from the female."

A great granddaughter of James, Betty Barr of Kansas City, isn't so sure the tests should be conducted, but told the News-Press that if the body is exhumed, she plans to be present.

Her mother, Thelma Barr, takes a dim view of a new autopsy.

"We already know he was killed in St. Joseph," Thelma Barr said, "so what's the point?"

She is the widow of James' grandson, Lawrence Barr, but is not a direct blood relative.

Starrs said he will have a number of descendants of James'

sister supporting the exhumation, and they will also authorize blood samples to offer matching DNA samples against James' DNA.

Starrs said the research on one of the world's most famous outlaws is for scientific purposes, and he doesn't want it turned into a media show.

"We hope things will be serious and somber," Starrs said. "We want to resolve the proposed autopsy in the court, not in the public forum."

In 1978, when Milton Perry was director of historic sites for Clay County, the old location of James' grave on the Clay County James Farm, was excavated, and a few samples of bone and hair were obtained, along with a tooth.

Starrs said those materials, which were later reburied, were not sufficient to allow DNA tests. When testing hair, the follicle is needed, not just a hair sample.

In 1882, after James' death, the body was put on public view at Sidentfaden Funeral Parlor at 4th and Messanie St. to help convince the people of St. Joseph that it was James who was killed here.

The body was even tied to a board and propped up for death photos that showed signs of the



Starrs



Stephens

fatal wound.

The 1882 autopsy was conducted by Buchanan County Coroner James Heddens, but his report has long been missing from the Buchanan County Courthouse records.

Another question that could be answered by the exhumation is whether James was buried without his brain, without the knowledge of his strong-willed mother.

There is considerable evidence that the dead man's brain was removed for study by Heddens and two St. Joseph physicians who assisted him, Dr. Jacob Geiger and Dr. George Catlett, superintendent of St. Joseph State Hospital.

Jesse James lies moldering in his grave —

The shameless reprobate probably would get a laugh over today's shenanigans.

Quick, answer this: "Who's buried in Jesse James' grave?"

And no, it's not a trick question designed to hood-wink you and a loved one into a free trip for two to tour waterfront property in south Missouri available at zero percent financing on a lake that's not yet built.

Instead, it's been the \$64,000 question — ever since the day the town of Kearney in Clay County was descended upon by a team of forensic scientists and hordes of media people sent to record the unearthing of America's most famous outlaw.



Although I believe that in this case, the fine line between scientific discovery and downright ghouliness has been not only crossed but also stomped all over, far be it from me to protest such shenanigans, for one basic reason.

Whether he's the guy they just dug up or whether he's buried someplace else, Jesse James absolutely must be in his element. I remember when I interviewed Milt Perry, who before his death in 1991 was for years Clay County superintendent of historic sites, at the James Farm in 1986.

"Jesse recognized the power of the press," Perry said. When the James gang robbed the train at Gads Hill, "he handed the conductor a sheet of paper and told him to give it to the newspapers. He'd written his own headline: *The Most Daring Robbery on Record*. In effect, it was a press release. He'd left a blank for them to fill in the amount of money taken!"

Further, Perry added, Jesse often wrote formal disclaimers that were hand delivered to the newspapers by his mother, Zerelda. The hombre who staged the first daylight bank robbery in the country and once robbed the Kansas City Fair of \$10,000 wasn't exactly publicity shy.

Perry had concluded that it was Jesse's fascination with newspapers (he subscribed to three) coupled with his flair for the dramatic that had made this wayward son of a Baptist preacher an American folk hero in his own time. Quite a feat, when you consider that he was a known thief and murderer.

So there's quite possibly no individual in the history of time who'd be more eager than Jesse James to have his bones rummaged through while cameras roll, computer keyboards click and satellites beam every last detail around the globe. The only pity is that he can't issue his

own press release from beyond. Faithful readers of this column not wait months for results of ing of what's left of the bad guy the whereabouts of the *real* Jesse because I know the answer. The Jesse James can be found in the tographs and letters and pages family's Bible on exhibit in a room near Kearney, reached by I 35, Missouri 92 and Jesse James Road.

Although he eluded the law all his lifetime, the real Jesse James has been captured by historians in the dirt. His firearms, boots, wallet, spur, countless other artifacts that belong to him, brother Frank and other real Jesse James and the painful Civil War piece of American history represents can be found in every crack and crevice of the simple dirt-floored

no more

the grave. cabin/farmhouse where he was born in 1847. It's on the National Register of Historic Places and is among the few examples left standing of homes of common people of that era.

In front of the farmhouse is the outlaw's original grave site. His mother had him buried there after he was killed (reportedly killed? killed at least as dead as Elvis?) in 1882 in his home in St. Joseph by a former member of his gang. In 1902 the body would be moved to Mount Olivet Cemetery, site of the recent motion. But at the time of Jesse's death, the strong-willed Zerelda James insisted that her son be laid to rest where she could watch over him. She feared that grave robbers and souvenir hunters would disturb Jesse's remains.

Imagine that.

Marti Murphy is a contributing columnist to FYI on Mondays. She writes from her home in Kansas City, North.

Feels so good.

Barry White makes a rare appearance in Kansas City.

Page 6.



Facial fitness

New videotapes demonstrate exercises that supposedly make the face look younger and wrinkle-free.

See Health and Fitness on Page 3.

T I O N

A buried treasure

Mysteries are the spice of life.

They catch our fancy. They trigger debate. If curiosity killed the cat, at least it wasn't bored.

And so a request to dig up the body of Jesse James triggers mixed emotions. Sure, a natural curiosity begs that James E. Starrs, professor of law and forensic science at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., get a chance to run DNA test on the remains.

It would be an exciting way to answer a number of questions: Was it really Jesse who was shot to death in St. Joseph on April 3, 1882? Did both Bob and Charles Ford fire their guns?

Did a bullet actually leave Jesse's head and make the famous hole that every tourist looks for even though some scavenger ripped off the board years ago?

Ah, sweet mysteries.

But before we jump to quickly to unraveling them, let's think

about the consequences.

Chances are, Starrs will find what everyone expects — Jesse James was murdered that April day. After all, the evidence — including a picture of a dead James laid out on a board — weighs heavily that way. All that would be lost then is some of that mystery. Gone would be the periodic stories speculating about what really. Gone would be the occasional old coot who claims to be or have ridden with Jesse after he escaped.

But what if Starrs find out that Jesse didn't die from a shot fired by that dirty little coward who shot Mr. Howard? St. Joseph would be exposed for a scam that lasted 113 years. Psyches could be marred. Tourism could collapse.

A Clay County judge will decide this week whether Jesse should be exhumed. For the sake of mystery, the judge should let poor Jesse rest.



■ NEWTON'S LAW

By **KEN NEWTON**

City editor

N-P 1-3-96

A lot on tap for St. Joe in Newton's '96

Every newspaper runs a compilation in December of the top news stories of the previous 12 months. You've seen them in recent days.

Here are leads you'll see next December when the top stories of 1996 are reviewed:

DIGGERS' HEAVEN,

JESSE'S HELL: Because of the international exposure and economic impact produced by 1995's exhumation and reburial of famed outlaw Jesse James, the Clay County Commission voted to repeat the activity on an annual basis.

The commission hopes to attract hundreds of tourists to the county for Jesse Days, a summer festival whose events will include the "Junior James Dig," a youth activity in which children vie for prizes for excavating gunshot victims.

EARS TO YOU: Former

DNA may prove corpse is James'

Conference in February could lay controversy to rest

By GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent

It has been six months since the remains of outlaw Jesse James were unearthed in the Kearney, Mo., cemetery last July, but actual comparison of the DNA found in those bones won't take place until later this month.

Jim Starrs, the forensic scientist from George Washington University who exhumed the remains, reported late last week that despite the poor condition of the body found in the grave, "the DNA sequence is in fine shape."

That's the mitochondrial DNA footprint that Jesse James inherited from his mother. Only this week will the arduous task of comparing the DNA from the grave with a similar DNA sample from donor Bob Jackson begin. Mr. Jackson is an Oklahoma City attorney who is a great-great-grand nephew of Jesse James. He traces his lineage through the female side of the family back to Jesse's mother, Mrs. Zerelda Samuel.

The nature of mitochondrial DNA is that it is inherited from a person's mother, but only females can pass it on to their offspring.

If the bones in the grave have the same DNA as that of Bob Jackson, then the tests would prove that it was indeed Jesse James who was killed in St. Joseph on

April 3, 1882.

Mr. Starrs told the *News-Press* that he plans to go to the University of Pennsylvania this week to take part in the process of actually matching the DNA of the two men.

Even then, the outcome won't be announced until Feb. 23 in Nashville, Tenn., when Mr. Starrs addresses the annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Scientists.

"I won't be able to reveal the results until then," Mr. Starrs said.

Those attending the five-day conference will have to wait until the last day for the important announcement, and sit through a morning of expert testimony about the exhumation.

In Nashville, Mr. Starrs will kick off the

morning with a 15-minute talk called, "Jesse died for his sins, or did he?"

Then he will keep forensic scientists and the news media on the edge of their chairs until noon, when he will finally announce whether the body was that of Jesse James.

Between times, Michael Finnegan, anthropologist from Kansas State University, will report on his findings after studying the bones found in the grave. The program will include extensive slides of the work.

George Stephens, geologist from George Washington University, will tell of the soil conditions and other details involving the geology of the grave at Kearney, Mo.

John Cayton, forensic firearms expert from the Kansas City Regional Crime Lab,

Please see DNA/Page 4A

Ardelle Smith
Excelsior Springs, Mo.
Wayne A. Suddith
Dawn, Mo.

also was preceded in
 others, Richard and
 a sister, Mary
 M. Blue
 Dean,
 Fields,
 and

being held on \$50,000 bond in the
 Cape Girardeau County Jail. Au-
 thorities allege he stole electrical
 and mechanical schematics and
 other information from Procter &
 Gamble and tried to sell the doc-
 uments to Kimberly-Clark Co.
 Goings thought he was meeting
 a Kimberly-Clark representative
 Wednesday on the parking lot of a
 motel in Miner, but he actually
 an FBI agent involved in a sting
 operation. Photos and a descrip-
 tion of Procter & Gamble's
 diaper-producing process, Goings
 was arrested by FBI agents and
 officers with the Miner

side the Procter & Gamble
 north of Cape Girardeau
 taking the documents and
 said Goings contacted Kim-
 Clark Co. and offered to sell
 documents.

But instead of meeting Go-
 Clark officials called the FBI and
 agents set up the meeting.
 Procter & Gamble produces
 Pampers and Luvs diapers at its
 Cape Girardeau plant. Kimberly-
 Clark, based in Dallas, produces
 Huggies diapers and is a major
 competitor of P&G.

A spokesman for Cincinnati-
 based Procter & Gamble said only
 that Goings wasn't a company
 employee.

Children die after falling ice on rural pond

The pond is in a wooded area
 near Thompson, about 2
 miles southeast of Central
 Mo.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1998

DNA

Continued from Page 3A

will report on the bullet that was
 found in the grave. The bullet
 isn't believed to be the one that
 killed Jesse James.

Mitchell Calhoun will report on
 an interactive video he is prepar-
 ing concerning the outlaw's
 death, and there will be a report
 on teeth found in the grave and
 on the reconstruction of the skull
 that was found in 30 pieces.

The night before the big an-
 nouncement, Mr. Starrs will at-
 tend a cocktail party where he
 will have the artifacts from the
 grave on display. These were non-
 human remains found in the
 grave and include a small tie pin,
 shreds of cloth, coffin handles,
 pieces of wood, the bullet, and a
 fragmented viewing glass from
 the coffin. Mr. Starrs said the ar-
 tifacts will eventually be re-
 turned to family members.

With Mr. Starrs on the platform
 the day of the announcement will
 be Dr. Gerald Lee, Clay County
 medical examiner, whose cooper-
 ation made the exhumation possi-
 ble.

After the big announcement at
 the conference, Mr. Starrs plans
 to meet with the news media to
 answer questions.

Members of the James-Younger
 Gang of historians who helped re-
 search Mr. James' life and death
 will also be present in Nashville
 for the announcement.

venture store
then reported
consumers a
use who

THURSDAY

FEB. 1, 1996

*City Editor,
Ken Newton
271-8583*

Jesse's kin have DNA, will travel

2 relatives ready to continue quest

By GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent

ST. JOSEPH — Oklahoma City attorney Robert Jackson is convinced his great-great-uncle, Jesse James, is buried in the grave at Kearney, Mo.

But just in case DNA tests prove otherwise, Mr. Jackson and his nephew, Mark Nikkel, are willing to go to other Jesse James "burial sites" to establish where the famous outlaw is buried.

The two blood relatives of Jesse James were in St. Joseph over the weekend to take part in a documentary for Arts & Entertainment Network called, "Jesse James — Who Lies There?"

It is DNA from Mr. Jackson and Mr. Nikkel that James E. Starrs is using to help establish that the outlaw was killed in St. Joseph April 3, 1882.

The two men trace their family tree through female lineage to Mr. James' mother, Zerelda Samuel, and without their mitochondrial DNA there would have been no reason to exhume the body of Mr. James last summer.

"My prediction is that the DNA will match," Mr. Jackson said during the interview at the Jesse James Home in St. Joseph Saturday. "I have no knowledge of advance results, but there is an awful good case made for it to be Jesse in that grave."

Mr. Jackson's nephew, Mark Nikkel, said he enjoys the attention gained from being related to

in the grave at Kearney, Mo., is that of Jesse James, they will still be related to the outlaw even if the DNA proves it isn't Jesse James.

"I'd like to say, in the event the DNA is not conclusive, or that it isn't Jesse James, I certainly would be willing to go to anywhere to do the tests, and Mark would do the same. If it isn't Kearney, then perhaps that's Jesse James in Texas, or New Mexico, or wherever."

He referred to various people who have turned up since 1882 claiming to be Jesse James, and are now buried in other parts of the country.

"We would go at my expense if these claimants are sincere," Mr. Jackson said.

During two days of filming at the Jesse James Home, Golden Gate Productions shot about 20 scenes during a reenactment of the shooting of Jesse James, including scenes at the blacksmith shop and the bank exhibit at the State House Museum.

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"We would go at my expense if these claimants are sincere," Mr. Jackson said.

During two days of filming at the Jesse James Home, Golden Gate Productions shot about 20 scenes during a reenactment of the shooting of Jesse James, including scenes at the blacksmith shop and the bank exhibit at Patee House Museum.

"Jesse's son was a lawyer, his great-grandson was a superior court judge, and his great grand-nephew is an attorney," Mr. Davis noted.

Mr. Jackson acknowledged that people at the Oklahoma City Courthouse now kid him about his ancestor.

"I am a criminal defense lawyer, but I don't condone the actions of Jesse James," Mr. Jackson said. "I'm not ashamed of that part of my past."

Both he and Mark Nikkel plan to be in Nashville, Tenn., on Feb. 23 when Mr. Starrs announces the final DNA results.

"It's like arguing a case in court," Mr. Jackson said. "I realize there are some people who will never accept the results whatever they come up with."

And even though Mr. Jackson and Mr. Nikkel believe the body

Continued from Page 1B

Willie Burtch
Chula, Mo.
Golda Kier
Albany, Mo.
Donald L. Ray

Almost certain it's him

Findings on Jesse James hinge on word 'reasonable'

By GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — In death as in life, Jesse James continues to elude the authorities, with James E. Starrs announcing in Nashville on Friday only that "with a reasonable degree of scientific certainty" Mr. James was killed in St. Joseph.

The professor of law and forensic sciences told a packed auditorium at Opryland Hotel that all scientific evidence points to the body exhumed from the grave at Kearney, Mo., last summer as being that of the famous outlaw.

Perhaps the best evidence came from Dr. Mark Stoneking of the University of Pennsylvania, who reported the mitochondrial DNA tests "did not exclude" Mr. James.

That meant that DNA samples from Bob Jackson and Mark Nikkel of Oklahoma City, distant relatives of Mr. James, compared favorably with the DNA extracted from the grave of the outlaw.

Judge James R. Ross, a great-grandson of Mr. James from Fullerton, Calif., said he was pleased with the reports and felt it resolved the questions about Mr. James' death.

But the news reporters pressed for more definite answers, something the scientists were reluctant to give.

Mr. Starrs exhumed the body of Mr. James on July 17 after family members approved it as a way to stop claims by would-be James relatives.

But not entirely addressed in the 11 reports by forensic experts were:

- The question of the bullet hole in the James Home in St. Joseph.
- The type and caliber of the weapon that killed Mr. James.
- Whether it was definitely Mr. James who was shot in St. Joseph on April 3, 1882.

Please see Jesse/Page 6A

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said an exam-samples revealed colored hair had arker color. His-James used shoe his hair as a dis-

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possibly caused bullet. He found the forehead.

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ded the ques-Dr. Finnegan dy offered a de-certainty that studied were

could have been the wound Mr. James received near Lexington, Mo., near the end of the Civil War.

Walter Rowe said an examination of hair samples revealed the short, light-colored hair had been dyed a darker color. His- torians say Mr. James used shoe polish to color his hair as a disguise.

Dr. Michael Finnegan, anthropologist from the University of Kansas, said the skull showed evidence of a gunshot wound behind the right ear, matching news stories at the time of the death. He said it was possibly caused by a .45-caliber bullet. He found no exit wound in the forehead.

But in later questioning, Dr. Finnegan acknowledged the bullet could have gone out through the eye to leave a wound similar to that visible in the death photo. He said the facial portion of the skull is missing.

X-ray studies of the bones revealed a small square pin found in the area of Mr. James' necktie. Thursday night at a special reception, Mr. Starrs displayed the artifacts from the grave including that pin.

Dr. Duayne Dillon told of studying examples of handwriting believed to be that of Mr. James, and by J. Frank Dalton, who claimed to be Mr. James in the late 1940s.

"In a side-by-side letter comparison, all the writing from the 1800s came from one person, but nothing matches the writing from J. Frank Dalton," Dr. Dillon said.

During a press conference after the session, Charlie Gilmore, a radio personality from Dothan, Ala., reflected the audience reaction by telling Mr. Starrs he didn't know what to tell his listeners.

Starrs sidestepped the question, but he and Dr. Finnegan agreed that the study offered a degree of scientific certainty that the remains they studied were those of Mr. James.

Out of 13 scientific analyses conducted from the exhumation, 12 results were consistent with it being the body of Mr. James.

The only "inconclusive" report came from Dr. Bruce Goldberger from the University of Florida. He reported no traces were found of morphine, codeine or cocaine, drugs Mr. James had been rumored to use in combating bullet wounds and malaria.

"The tests would only yield results in his last three months," Dr. Goldberger said. He described opium use in the 1870s and 1880s as "the Tylenol of the time."

Teeth yielded by the skeletal remains that were exhumed last summer showed considerable wear, indicating the owner probably used a low-grade chewing tobacco, according to Dr. John McDowell from the University of Colorado.

"He had no cavities, but was suffering from periodontal disease," Dr. McDowell told the standing-room-only crowd. He said the skeleton revealed an upper front tooth had been missing long before his death, and offered a sketch of a grinning outlaw to suggest that may be why there are no smiling photos of Mr. James.

Other teeth had gold leaf fillings, a process still in use in some places today.

John Cayton of Stewartsville, Mo., firearms expert from the Kansas City Regional Crime Lab, suggested a .36-caliber slug found in a dig at the James Farm near Kearney, Mo., in 1978 could be the fatal bullet.

Most reports said Mr. James was killed by either a .45-caliber Colt or a .44-caliber Smith & Wesson. Mr. Cayton said a .36-caliber bullet found in the grave last summer came from an 1851 Navy Colt cap-and-ball weapon, and

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Jesse's what?

I can imagine the joy that reigned in some quarters upon the discovery that Jesse James' body was buried in Jesse James' grave. So, doesn't this significant event deserve a literate headline?

"Almost certain it's him." The News-Press knows better!

3-2-96

MARILYN MUTTI
Hopkins, Mo.

Finally! World will learn about Jesse today

BY GARY CHILCOTE *N-P* 2-23-96
News-Press Special Correspondent

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The long-awaited DNA results on outlaw Jesse James will be announced in Nashville, Tenn., today at the Opryland Hotel where the American Academy of Forensic Sciences is holding its annual meeting.

James E. Starrs is scheduled to announce at noon whether the body of the man killed in St. Joseph April 3, 1882, was Jesse James.

Mr. Starrs, a professor of law and forensic sciences at George Washington University, exhumed the body of Mr. James in July at Kearney, Mo., to conduct DNA tests.

Those results will be revealed after a series of presentations by members of his scientific team.

The announcement is expected to either put to rest claims that Jesse James lived to a ripe old age or establish scientific evidence that

the body in the grave was not Jesse James. News media from around the world will be on hand for the final outcome this morning.

Jesse James' great grandson, retired Superior Court Judge James Ross, who flew here from Fullerton, Calif., admitted he was nervous as the final day arrived.

"If it's not Jesse James, then just who am I," Mr. Ross said.

Mr. Starrs assured him he would still be related to Jesse James, but that the body in the grave might not be his great-grandfather.

Thursday evening, artifacts removed from the grave during last summer's exhumation were on public display for the first time.

The items, including a .36-caliber bullet, the remains of a tie pin, pieces of wood and cloth, and coffin handles.

The artifacts will be turned over to Dr. Gerald Lee, Clay County medical examiner, to be returned to Missouri and given to Mr. James' relatives.

Mr. Starrs told of problems hand-carrying the casting of the skull found in the grave to Nashville.

He said the box was too large for under-the-seat or overhead luggage compartments, and that the stewardess insisted he couldn't hold it in his lap even if it was Mr. James' skull.

He resolved the problem by cutting down the size of the box.

More than a dozen Jesse James historians from all over the country converged on the convention for today's announcement.

Mr. Starrs gave no clues on the DNA results and claimed he would not receive the results himself until Thursday night.

He said that even after the announcement, more tests will be conducted at two U.S. laboratories on two remaining hairs removed from the James farm dig of 1978.

"We want to establish whether the body in the grave used any opium or other drugs to fight malaria or as painkillers," he said.

Car dealer devotes life to Jesse

By CHRISTOPHER WILLS
Associated Press

PRINCETON, Ill. — Lee Pollock was born a century too late. The Old West was long gone by the time he came along.

So Pollock is doing his best to recapture the past, one piece at a time. He has built one of the nation's best collections of Jesse

James material, from books to guns owned by the famous robber when he died.

"It's just a love affair, a love affair with the Old West," Pollock said. "Jesse James is an icon. No matter what you think of him, he's bigger than that."

His collection extends from the big items — rare photos, holsters, revolvers — to minutia only distantly connected to the robber.

He proudly displays the program from James' sister-in-law's college commencement and headlines about the mental problems of James' son.

Key parts of the collection are kept safely in a bank vault, but Pollock does more than just hoard items for his own amusement. He takes the collection on tour to gun shows and museums around the country.

Pollock, a used-car dealer and broker, grew up with the Hollywood myths presented by such cowboy stars as Hopalong Cassidy and Gene Autry.

Then, 10 years ago, he stopped by the James family farm in Missouri and encountered real Western history. He found it just as exciting.

Pollock was fascinated by the story of Jesse James, who rode

se James lore

with a violent band of Confederate guerrillas during the Civil War and then robbed trains and banks from 1866 to 1882 with his brother Frank.

He studied the James brothers and joined groups of James aficionados. And he realized a wealth of James collectibles were scattered around the country.

Pollock set out to track down those items — and the facts be-

hind the legends.

Jesse James clearly appeals to the rogue in Pollock, 49. He calls him a hero and patriot for his service in the Civil War. Pollock sometimes sounds like the cover of a paperback Western.

"It's about honor and loyalty and passion," he said. "It was bold, and it was daring. They robbed the institutions that nobody liked — banks and railroads."

MU debated

curators are "really responsive to what the public wants."

Russell quickly sought to reassure the panel that the curators didn't have a single point of view on admissions. And he personally stays in touch with Missouri through town-hall-style visits to some two dozen communities each year.

The curators are determined, Russell said, to "not become a bastion of arrogant irrelevance."

"I really don't know where they are going to come down," he replied.

Still leery, Lybver said Russell should bring the curators to the Statehouse.

"We can have a talk with them," the senator said.

"Be fine, they'd love to do that," Russell told Lybver.

Gov. Mel Carnahan has recommended a \$17.6 million increase in the university system's

Moment of truth nearing in Jesse James inquiry

ARY CHILCOTE 2-19-96
Press Special Correspondent

see James — the Houdini of news' will be back in the news week when James E. Starrs reveals the results of his tests on the body of the man April 3, 1982, in St. Joseph. professor of law and forensics at George Washington University will announce NA results at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Knoxville, Tenn.

"The theme will be the elusive nature of Jesse James during his lifetime," Mr. Starrs said Friday from his office in Washington, D.C. "We will show whether he was equally elusive in death, with a Houdini poster capturing the identity of Jesse James."

Mr. Starrs has been equally elusive himself, contending that even he will not have the final word on the DNA tests until next Thursday night.

"It's still a cliffhanger, and we won't know until we get our e-mail next Thursday night," Mr.

Starrs claims, not even tipping off ahead of time the six great-grandchildren of Jesse James.

The announcement will come at noon Friday in the Grand Old Nashville following preliminary

**Stars**

humation and study of the body found in the grave of Jesse James in July.

Dr. Michael Finnigan, anthropologist from Kansas State University, will report on what he found while examining the bones recovered from the grave.

Dr. George Stephens will report on soil conditions in the grave, and John Cayton, firearms expert for the Kansas City Regional Crime Lab, will tell about the bullet that was found.

Other reports will deal with teeth, reconstruction of the shat-

tered skull, and computer reenactments of the shooting. Mr. Starrs will have a court stenographer on hand to keep a record of the entire report.

James Ross, a great-grandson of the famous outlaw, will come from California to learn the results. He is a retired superior court judge.

Betty Barr, a great granddaughter from Kansas City, will be unable to attend, but more than a dozen members of the

Please see James/Page 7A

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 the Caribbean. Offer valid through
 March 15, 1996. Prior sales excluded.

James

Continued from Page 1A

James-Younger Gang of his-
 tians and would-be James rela-
 tives will gather in Nashville for
 the event.

"I'm convinced that it was my
 great-grandfather in that grave,"
 Ms. Barr said. "If it turns out not
 to be, I will still be his great-
 granddaughter, and we will be in-
 terested in finding where he real-
 ly is buried then."

Mr. Starrs acknowledges that
 "marketing opportunities will be
 there," and he plans to have T-
 shirts for sale.

The quest for Jesse James' DNA began more than a year ago when Emmett Hctor of Plattsmouth, Neb., contacted Mr. Starrs.

rs about exhuming the famous outlaw's body.

On May 19, Mr. Starrs and George Stephens, an archaeologist from George Washington University, visited the Jesse James Home in St. Joseph researching to see if there was sufficient evidence to proceed with the study.

Then in early July, Mr. Starrs obtained a court order from Clay County authorizing an investigation into the 1882 death of Jesse James. One goal was to bring a stop to imposters claiming to be related to the outlaw.

On Thursday morning, Mr. Starrs will lead a bus tour of Jesse James' sites in Nashville where the outlaw lived with his wife, and where his two children were born.

Radio personality Charlie Gilmore from Dothan, Ala., will be there. He wrote and recorded a popular song called, "Jesse Was a Helluva Man."

On Thursday evening at a reception honoring the forensic scientist, Mr. Starrs will unveil to the guests for the first time a replica of the skull found in the grave.

Also shown will be artifacts that were in the grave, but not reburied with the body last Oct. 28 in Kearney. These include samples of wood and cloth, a .36-caliber bullet, a tie pin, coffin handles, the deteriorated breast plate from the coffin, and a but-
 ton.

Producer visits to plan James movie

ST. JOSEPH NEWS-PRESS

3-11-76

s-Press Staff Report

here's a new Jesse James movie in the works and it looks like Tom Cruise will cast in the title role as the famous outlaw.

The Warner Brothers movie won't be filmed in St. Joseph, but right Brooks, executive producer for Delta Corp., of Scottsdale, Ariz., was in St. Joseph on Sunday with Elaine Melton doing research for the film.

We plan to be as authentic as possibly can," Mr. Brooks said while inspecting the Jesse James home and Patee House Museum Sunday morning. "I know there have been a lot of inaccuracies in previous Jesse James movies."

He visited the site at 1318 Lafayette where the famous outlaw was hanged down by Bob Ford on April 3, 1882, to get a feel for the neighborhood. Mr. Brooks said while viewing 1882 photographs of the site, he wants to film the action on the crest of a similar

He has been researching the

story of Mr. James and checking with historians to determine how to accurately portray the man.

"We will do most of the filming in California, but we have an area out there with rolling hills similar to the Midwest around St. Joseph," Mr. Brooks said.

One reason for the California location is that an appropriate vintage train is available for railroad train robberies, and there is a nearby Western town set.

Prominently featured will be the James-Younger Gang's robbery of the Northfield, Minn., bank in September 1876, when everyone but Frank and Jesse James were either killed, wounded or captured.

"We haven't determined exactly yet how Frank and Jesse escaped from town that day," Mr. Brooks said. "We are considering smuggling them out of town in the back of a wagon."

He said Mr. Cruise will need to grow a beard for the movie, but Mr. Brooks hasn't decided yet in

which scenes the beard will be needed.

Jesse James often grew a beard then shaved it off to help change his disguise.

Mr. Brooks plans to begin filming the movie in June. The names of other cast members have not yet been announced.

"There is a lot of interest in Jesse James right now, and we think this is a good time to produce the first accurate movie on the famous outlaw," Mr. Brooks said.

He acknowledged that unlike Jesse James documentaries that must stick with the facts, commercial movies are intended to be entertaining, but he wants few embellishments.

"There are so many fascinating parts to the Jesse James story that we don't need much Hollywood hype to make it into a good movie," he said.

Mr. Brooks, chief executive officer of Delta Corp., served as a producer for television shows "Dallas" and "Falcon Crest."

Expert: Notion that outlaw lived past 1882 is 'rank poppycock'

By GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent

The mitochondrial DNA found in the grave of Jesse James last summer not only matched exactly with relatives still living in Oklahoma City, Okla., but was the first such DNA found in the Northern European population.

That's the word from James E. Starrs, professor of law and forensic sciences who exhorted the dead outlaw's body last summer to conduct DNA tests for positive identification. Results of the tests were announced recently in Nashville, Tenn.

"Jesse James may have out-Pinkertoned the Pinkertons

during his life, but he could not outfox or outrun science after his death," Mr. Starrs said of his forensic science team that examined the remains.

Expanding on the three-hour report delivered Feb. 23 before the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Mr. Starrs said recently the DNA tests by Dr. Mark Stoneking from Pennsylvania State University tipped the scales decisively to prove that Jesse James was killed in St. Joseph on April 3, 1882.

The DNA tests compared samples obtained from Bob Jackson and Mark Nikkel of

Please see Expert/Page 3B

Expert

Continued from Page 1B

Oklahoma City, descendants of Jesse James' sister, Susan Laven-
a, with DNA obtained from two
molars exhumed from the grave.

"The match resulted from a
comparison of a unique sequence
of base pairs which the teeth and
the living relatives exactly
shared," Mr. Starrs explained.

"The sequence was so singular
that it was the first time it had
been encountered in the entire
mitochondrial DNA data base for
the Northern European popula-

tion."

Mr. Starrs said evidence found
in the grave is sufficient to refute
any claims by people who think
the famous outlaw staged his own
death and lived well beyond 1882.

Starrs said the exhumation was
"a total, smashing and in-
contestable success," and that the
scientists "accomplished every-
thing we set our scientific minds
and hearts to do and then some."

He said the conclusion supports
the view that Jesse James died
April 3, 1882, in St. Joseph when
he was shot in the head by a sin-
gle bullet.

"The claims of those who say
that someone else died in Jesse's
place and that Jesse lived on to fa-
ther additional children are
worse than nonsense," Mr. Starrs
said. "They are rank poppycock
in light of our scientific findings."

The forensic scientist said the
fatal bullet fired by Bob Ford en-
tered behind the right ear, and
that no exit wound was found. He

said a video animation by Engi-
neering Animation Inc. suggested
an eye wound was caused by his
head striking the hard floor after
the shooting.

He said the .36-caliber bullet
found in the grave probably
caused the chest wound that Mr.
James received in 1865 when at-
tempting to surrender near
Lexington, Mo., at the end of the
Civil War.

The bullet had been fired from
an 1851 Navy Colt cap-and-ball
pistol, a type commonly used by
Union officers, and helped con-
firm the grave that was exhumed
last July was that of Jesse James.

The bullet that caused Mr.
James' death wasn't found, and

there is still speculation that he
died from a .44, .45- or .38-caliber
bullet.

Dr. John McDowell, a dentist
from the University of Colorado,
reported that Mr. James' teeth
showed surprising wear caused
by poor-quality chewing tobacco.
He had several gold-leaf fillings,
an expensive procedure in that
day.

"Dr. McDowell suggested that
Jesse's not having posed for any
photographs with a smile on his
face could be explained by his
lack of an upper incisor (front
tooth) which would have produc-
ed a rather unsightly gap-toothed
smile," Mr. Starrs said.

4-8-96

Parts of film to be set in St. Joseph

Warner Brothers
plans movie on Jesse

GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent

The new Jesse James movie to be filmed by Warner Brothers this summer will include scenes shot in St. Joseph and Northwest Missouri, according to Dwight Brooks, executive producer for Delta Corp.

Most of the show will be filmed in California where we have stage trains and stage coaches

available," Mr. Brooks said recently during an all-day visit to St. Joseph.

There will be a second production unit, though, that will come to St. Joseph and Kearney, Mo., to record certain scenes for the movie. He said they add authenticity and help create more interest in the movie.

Mr. Brooks and his wife, Donna, chief writer for the production, were excited after viewing the interior of the 1859 Missouri Valley Trust Co. at Fourth and Felix streets.

"We could film a bank robbery

in here using the original bank fixtures and not have to build a bank on the set," Mr. Brooks told Stan Hall, a representative of the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce whose office is located in the former bank.

At the Jesse James Home, Mr. Brooks and his wife went over historical details about the James story to ensure accuracy.

"We want this to be a very factual movie," Mrs. Brooks said. "Of course, it is for entertainment and not a documentary, so we plan to work into the outlaw's daily routine a few funny or hu-

man interest scenes."

Mr. Brooks brought along photos of test explosions and fires already carried out by stunt men to determine how to recreate the explosion in a fireplace at the James Farm at Kearney that killed Jesse James' brother.

He said the cast will be announced in the next three weeks as soon as studio authorities complete negotiations for the actors. He is considering using Tyron Power Jr. in the role of Frank James.

His father, the late movie star Tyron Power, shared top honors

with Henry Fonda in the original 1938 Jesse James movie filmed in Pineville, Mo.

Mr. Brooks said the second production unit to be brought here will involve about 20 people instead of the usual 60 needed on a regular set. He also will bring along needed actors and stunt men.

He hopes to film at the original James Farm at Kearney if he is allowed to rebuild a barn that once stood on the property.

Please see **Movie/Part**

local factories spring up to take at least the initial steps toward turning hemp into paper, fabric, fuel and many other things. Rural Kentucky blossoms.

Blocking this vision are laws against marijuana that hurt what she considers a completely different crop. She thinks at least there should be test plots to show what hemp can do in Kentucky soil.

"This is like standing in front of a closed door," she said. "Why not open it and let some light in?"

Glenn belongs to the recently formed North American Industrial Hemp Council, which pushes for research on the crop. It grew out of meetings arranged by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer

Hard to get high on hemp

Andy Graves, a Fayette County farmer who is president of the Kentucky Hemp Growers Cooperative Association, said trying to get high by smoking industrial hemp would be like trying to get drunk by drinking non-alcoholic beer.

Just as non-alcoholic beer has a tiny bit of alcohol in it, industrial hemp has .3 percent or less of tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the psychoactive ingredient that produces a high. Potent marijuana can have 10 percent or more.

The two even grow differently. The marijuana grower wants a bushy plant with plenty of THC-laden buds. The hemp farmer

and become law.

• A hemp bill in the Kentucky Legislature appeared to pass. But state agriculture director John Saunders said the legislature might attempt to study the feasibility of growing the crop.

• Last month, hemp activists, acting with the blessing of leaders of the Navajo Nation, planted seeds on a reservation in Arizona.

The seeds should be sprouting now, and Christine Bohling, a spokeswoman for the Coalition for Hemp Awareness, said there is nothing the federal government can do about it on tribal land.

Although only a small amount was planted, Bohling said more seeds will go into the ground.

Harold V. Jackson
Ronald J. Wilson Sr.

ST. JOSEPH
V. Jackson

...The reason for doing this is to make sure more farmers can grow the land," Kellen said. But critics fear the bill would allow corporate farming. "Essentially, we can have our own corporate farm group acting as a rural advocate," she said. She said the new law can help about a provision allowing non-farm investors to buy into cooperatives.

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'Jesse was resting in pieces'

OCT. 20 - 76

Professor offers anecdotes about outlaw's exhumation

BY DARREL HUBER
St. Joseph News-Press

There's no doubt the bones found in a Kearney, Mo. grave 15 months ago belonged to the outlaw Jesse James, said James E. Starrs, professor of forensic science at George Washington University.

Mr. Starrs, in charge of the controversial exhumation of James, was in St. Joseph on Saturday night to report on the DNA results from that exhumation.

He spoke at a fund-raising dinner at Patee House Museum, sponsored by the Pony Express Historical Association.

He told the crowd of 130 about

surprises and humorous anecdotes from the exhumation and he showed videotapes and slides of the event, along with a cast of the outlaw's skull.

"In retrospect, if those people at the James Farm near Kearney would have given us some of the hair samples, all of the rest of this would not have been necessary," Mr. Starrs said.

The hair samples were dyed and records indicate Jesse James did dye his hair, he said. But when Mr. Starrs didn't have access to the hair or bone samples, the exhumation became necessary.

"People were always asking why I was tampering, why I was digging in graves, why I didn't let the man rest in peace," Mr. Starrs said. "Well, we ended up finding that Jesse was resting in pieces."

One aspect not widely known, he said, is that the project would never have been completed if the viewing plate hadn't been includ-

ed in the second burial of Jesse James in 1902.

"That glass, popular in the day, protected bones and teeth from decay," Mr. Starrs said. "And Jesse had gold fillings in his teeth, which were exceedingly expensive in those days."

That led to another discovery: The outlaw was missing an upper central incisor, which is why there are no pictures of a smiling Jesse James. It would have been a gapped-tooth smile, he said.

There were many other surprises, Mr. Starrs said, including securing permission and blood samples from descendants, obtaining judges' approvals and even worrying about going to court in the wrong county.

"But putting together all this evidence has convinced me the grave was that of Jesse James," he said. "I had some minute reservations earlier, but I know more now, and that was Jesse."

Judge denies motion to open D

Relatives of Jesse James request examination of buried remains

By GARY CHILCOTE
Special Correspondent

J. Frank Dalton, the man who claimed to be Jesse James before his death in 1951 at age 104, won't be exhumed anytime soon for DNA tests.

A county court judge in Granbury, Texas, has denied a

motion to exhume Dalton's buried remains. Judge Don Cleveland issued the order on Nov. 1, but declined to comment on his reasons for the denial.

Relatives of Dalton filed the request on Sept. 23. Burleigh Dale James, Jesse Coal James and Charles A. James wanted DNA tests on Dalton to establish whether the man could be Jesse James.

James E. Starrs, a George Washington University professor, already has announced that the body he exhumed at Kearney, Mo.,

in July 1995, was that of the dead outlaw. He said DNA results established it was Jesse James with a 99.7 percent certainty.

Under Texas law, a court order is not required to exhume a body, as long as there is consent from the cemetery association, the plot owner and closest relatives.

However, in their exhumation request, the plaintiffs stated that Dr. Harold Gill-King, the North Texas University forensic pathologist they planned to use, required such a court order to protect him and the university

against possible lawsuits.

Texas law also makes reference to a requirement showing necessity or compelling reason for disinterment.

Waggoner Carr, an Austin, Texas, attorney for Dale, Jesse and Charles James, said he had not received a copy of the ruling, but suggested the judge simply may have ruled that the court has no jurisdiction since the court order isn't required.

"The law already said he can be exhumed, so this is not necessari-

alton grave

ly the end of things," said Mr. Carr, a former Texas attorney general.

He said the Granbury Chamber of Commerce was interested in the outcome because of the tourist potential of having Jesse James' grave in Texas.

In Purcell, Okla., used car dealer Bud Hardcastle said he also was interested in the case, on behalf of Vencil Simmons, alias Jesse James. He claims the three James brothers in Texas are not really relatives to the outlaw

Jesse James.

"J. Frank Dalton became Jesse James in 1947," Mr. Hardcastle said. "I think he's really Jesse, but I want to know the truth."

Both Mr. Carr and Mr. Hardcastle indicated the case will be appealed in some form.

Mr. Hardcastle said he planned to hire a new attorney before proceeding.

But for now, the remains of J. Frank Dalton will remain undisturbed in the grave marked Jesse James in Granbury, Texas.

with her husband, who was in the military. Mrs. Oliver was a homemaker and a gardener.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Claude Lee and Ellen Winburn; and a brother, Robert C.

Additional survivors: two sisters, Maxine Whallon, Topeka, Kan., and Betty Bryant, Overland Park, Kan.; 26 nieces and nephews; 34 great-nieces and nephews; and two great-great nieces and nephews.

Service: 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Vaughn Funeral Home, Weston. Burial: Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, Weston. Family visitation: 6:30 to 7:30 Monday at the funeral home.

Mary B. Stock

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. — Mary B. (Hoge) Stock, 61, Overland Park, died Friday, Nov. 22, 1996, at her home.

For eight years during the 1970s, Mrs. Stock was involved in the community theater in Kansas City.

She and her husband were active in the Y Promenaders, St. Joseph, and helped start the Topeka Plus workshop for square dancing in 1978. They were members of various square-dancing clubs around the area.

Mrs. Williamson was a member of the United Methodist Church, Troy.

Preceding Mrs. Williamson in death were her parents, James P. and Cora McNulty; a sister, Ruth McNulty; two brothers, James P. and Ramon A.; and a granddaughter.

Additional survivors: a daughter, Patricia W. Dill, Troy; two sons, Michael C., Raymore, Mo.; Robert E., Kansas City; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

Service: 11 a.m. Wednesday, Harman-Rohde Funeral Home, Troy. Burial: Mount Olive Cemetery, Troy. Visitation: after noon Monday.

Photo resembling Jesse James found in Texas

*Computer checking
its authenticity*

N-P 12-31-96
Associated Press

NEW BRAUNFELS, Texas — An image of outlaw Jesse James has again appeared in Texas.

Joyce Webb Tate found a picture with the name of the notorious outlaw written across the back, hidden behind a portrait of an Indian she purchased at an estate sale in the 1970s.

Ms. Tate liked the frame, not the portrait, and was surprised to find an early picture of the bank robber tucked behind it when she removed the photo from its frame last year.

After mentioning her find to a friend, Ms. Tate found out the friend's son, Martin DeMasters, was a big James fan.

A few days later, in the spring, Ms. Tate gave what might be the 20th known surviving picture of the outlaw to DeMasters.

The picture's authenticity is being checked by a computer that compares a known photo of James with the image, looking for factors such as the

width of the face, the width between the eyes, the length between the chin and mouth and other measurements.

"If it is Jesse James, it is one of the best pictures I've ever seen of him," DeMasters said. "His eyes are so intense and they just follow you everywhere. It's incredible."

Houston gallery owner John Cleary has identified the paper the picture is printed on as "potato chip paper," so named for the way it flakes apart.

That paper was made 120 to 125 years ago in Chicago, a time James was known to be in Chicago, said Tim Gibson, a Canyon Lake photo studio owner working with DeMasters.

"If the picture had not been protected by the picture of the Indian, it would have been ruined," Gibson said.

If the photo is authenticated, Gibson and DeMasters hope to profit by selling a limited number of prints.

The discovery comes after DNA tests on remains exhumed from James' grave in Kearney, Mo., in July 1995 contradicted claims that the bank robber had staged his death and moved to Texas, later dying there of old age.

Festival recalls world's most famous outlaw

When the residents of Kearney, Mo., began hosting an annual event to celebrate their neighborliness, they decided to name the festival after their most unsavory neighbor—Jesse James.

Though James robbed banks, served as a Confederate guerrilla during the Civil War and even committed murder, his legend as the most famous American outlaw is woven into the fabric of Kearney, where he was born and raised. Even President Harry S. Truman once compared him to Robin Hood.

Hero or villain, Kearney celebrates his memory every year with its Jesse James Festival, a four-day event big enough to match James' legacy. This year's festival will be held Sept. 19–22 with a carnival, parade, barbecue cook-off, mud volleyball, horseshoe pitching contest, rodeo and more than 100 arts and crafts booths.



A re-enactor at the Jesse James Farm and Museum. /Jesse James Festival photo

Near the festival grounds, fair-goers also can take time to visit the Jesse James Farm & Museum, where James was born and raised. A portion of the home dates to 1822 and is one of the oldest continually inhabited dwellings between western Missouri and California. The museum on the grounds features a vast collection of James family artifacts.

Kearney is located just north of Liberty, Mo. For festival details, call (816) 968-9680.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1996

MIDWEST MOTORIST
(AAA MAG.)

Jesse James NP 10-6-96

I'm calling from Atchison, Kan. This is about Jesse James.

Now someone in Oklahoma says he's buried down there. I (don't) think he's buried down there.

I think they're all mistaken. I think he's buried in my back yard here in Atchison because there was a big sunflower in my garden that I didn't plant there.

I think Jesse had some big Missouri sunflower seeds in his pocket when they buried him and one of them just now came up.

I'm really not concerned about Jesse. Wherever he is, he's pretty apt to stay there.

I'm far more concerned about the living. The political corruption referred to by Fred Slater in Friday morning's *News-Press* and the downward spiral of our nation's morality and sense of values.

St. Joseph family has links to outlaws

*Cousins investigate
ancestors' gunfight with
Frank and Jesse James*

N-P 1-20-97

By GARY CHILCOTE
Special Correspondent

Jesse and Frank James are blamed for many deaths during their outlaw years after the end of the Civil War, but a pair of St. Joseph cousins have special reason to follow each revelation about the outlaw gang.

Their great-great-grandfather, Salmon G. Bigelow, and his brother, John Bigelow, were slain by Frank and Jesse James in the Bigelow home in Clay County on June 25, 1864 — and they have the documentation to prove it.

"My great-great-grandfather, Salmon Bigelow, was shot by Frank James, and his brother, John, was killed by Jesse James," said Betty McIntosh, 515 Parker Road. "Frank and Jesse were riding with Fletcher Taylor's guerrillas and went to the home to arrest the men."

She and her cousin, William M. Meade, recently have been researching what happened to their ancestors.

When Mr. Bigelow and his brother resisted, the gang gunned them down. The same books that tell of the shooting also tell of alleged atrocities that Mr.

Some others remember a little 12-year-old daughter following us and bewailing the death of her papa and wailing and praying that would become of us for killing of her poor father."

Mrs. McIntosh says the 12-year-old was Elizabeth (Libby) Bigelow, who later became her great-grandmother.

Salmon Bigelow was 43 when he was killed, and his original Clay County tombstone is still standing, as is his brother's.

In another twist of fate, Clay County records list Salmon and John Bigelow as school teachers, when they weren't fighting a war. And according to the county historical society, Salmon Bigelow was the school teacher of Jesse James. Jesse, who was reared in Clay County, was 18 when the Bigelows were killed.

Recently, Mrs. McIntosh came into possession of a letter that was sent to her great-grandmother, Libby Bigelow, who had wit-

nessed her father's killing. The letter was written by a cousin, Bette Borgmier, in April 1882 shortly after Jesse James was killed in St. Joseph.

"Jesse James was killed at St. Joseph, Mo., on last Monday by a young man by the name of Bob Ford, assisted by his brother Frank (actually Charles) Ford.

"They got \$50,000 reward. Him and his family were living at St. Joe. These Ford boys pretended to be friends of his and stayed there at his house until they saw they could not take him alive so they killed him.

"The old lady Samuels had him buried right in front of her door."

WHEN TITO ARRIVES AT BERNAS HOUSE TO APOLOGIZE, HE GETS THE SURPRISE OF HIS LIFE

I...I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES!

IT'S REMARKABLE WHAT A NEW COAT OF PAINT CAN DO...COME IN, TITO!

I JUST KEEP W WHEN MY CARRI TURN INTO A PL



woodman@caribsurf.com

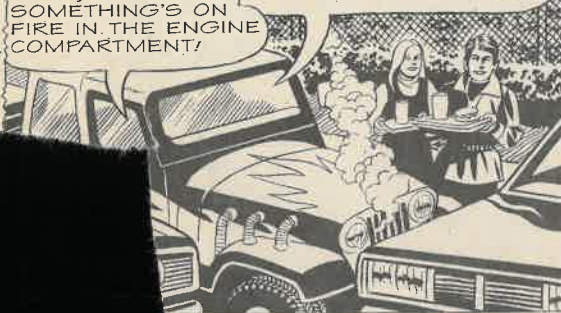
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Judge Parker

AFTER MARK SMELLS SOMETHING BURNING, GRAY SMOKE BEGINS TO COME FROM UNDER THE

WE HAVE TO PULL OVER, NED... SOMETHING'S ON FIRE IN THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT!

I CAN'T GO ANYWHERE...WE'RE BLOCKED IN!



Please see St. Joseph/Page B3

one furious rush. Frank James guerrillas ended the combat with bursting down doors and breaking away all obstructions, the "Taylor ordered a charge. arm. Jesse James painfully in the left was also wounded slightly, and to shoot through a window. Castle stood up in the saddle and sought (Cummins) lost his horse as he horse killed. James Commons John Hope was wounded and his cool, dangerous athletic men. much, and they were otherwise "The house sheltered them. bled — fought to the death. ers — unsupported and outnum- fight began instantly. The broth- "Peremptorily resisting this, a within," the book states. part of the brothers who were demanded a surrender on the dwelling house about noon and "Taylor surrounded their rillas, or Warfare of the Border." killings in his book, "Noted Guer- Gazette and an editorial defender once the editor of the St. Joseph Jonathan Newman Edwards, pro-South sympathizers. County earned them the hatred of the guerrilla border wars in Clay tenant. Their rough ways during his brother John was a lieu- of Missouri's 48th Regiment, and Union as a captain of Company H Salmon Bigelow served the occurrences." outrages are of almost daily death. Daily the Confederate sol- below here is to be marked for tration in some of the counties. "To be in favor of the Adminis- the Bigelow deaths and notes that the pro-Union newspaper tells of Weekly Herald of June 30, 1864, In an editorial in the St. Joseph commit. Bigelow had ordered his men to

Please see St. Joseph/Page B3

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Joseph family has links to outlaws

from Page B1

Killed Capt. Bigelow at the head of
a flight of steps, and Jesse James,
wounded as he was, followed the
lieutenant into a lumber room
and shot him there, defending
himself desperately with a piece
of bedstead."

Some historians believe this
was the battle that cost Jesse
James the tip of his left middle
finger.

Guerrilla Jim Cummins, in his
own life story, offers this version
of what happened:

"After dismemberment of his
company, Capt. Bigelow returned
to his home. Some of our South-
ern people whom this man had
treated so brutally went to his
home to arrest him. Capt.
Bigelow's brother was there.
They offered resistance and in the
fight that ensued both of the
brothers were killed.

"I was an eyewitness to the
killing of these men, and with

some others remember a little 12-
year-old daughter following us
and bewailing the death of her
papa and wailing and praying
what would become of us for
killing of her poor father."

Mrs. McIntosh says the 12-year-
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at his house until they saw they
could not take him alive so they
killed him.

"The old lady Samuels had him
buried right in front of her door."

Mock trial to decide Jesse's burial site

N-P 7-17-96
By GARY CHILCOTE

News-Press Special Correspondent

Outlaw Jesse James was never captured or tried before he was gunned down in St. Joseph on April 3, 1882. And he never heard of Disney World.

But 114 years after his death, the American Bar Association plans "The Trial of Jesse James: High Tech Meets the Wild West" in a mock legal program at Walt Disney World's Dolphin Hotel in Orlando, Fla.

The Aug. 4 event is a part of the annual meeting of the American Bar Association and will include some of the major players in last summer's exhumation of Jesse James.

"The title may be a little misleading," acknowledged program chairman Carl Roberts, an attorney from Philadelphia, Pa. "We're talking about who has the bragging rights to Jesse James."

The scenario will be a mock civil dispute between the Chamber of Commerce of Kearney, Mo., and

the Chamber of Commerce at Granbury, Texas, over which has the legal right to claim it has the grave of Jesse James.

The trial touches on the question of whether Jesse James died in St. Joseph in 1882 at the hands of assassin Bob Ford; or that he faked his death and lived until 1951 posing as J. Frank Dalton.

The man killed in St. Joseph in 1882 was buried in Kearney, while the 104-year-old Dalton is buried in Granbury at a grave that also lists him as Jesse James.

"There will be no jury and no verdict and no objections to the technical evidence," Mr. Roberts said. "The purpose is to offer, in an entertaining fashion, how technical evidence may be used in the courtroom."

Professor James Starrs, the man who exhumed the James grave last summer, will be an expert witness who will bring along some of his high-tech work to show how it can be used in a courtroom, Mr. Roberts said.

Trial' will finally solve mystery of James' death

10-8-96
GARY CHILCOTE
Press Special Correspondent

ORLANDO, Fla. — Jesse James finally getting his day in court. A feature attraction today of the American Bar Association's annual meeting at Walt Disney World will be the mock "Trial of Jesse James — High-Tech Meets Wild West."

The legal question is whether James really died in St. Joseph on April 3, 1882, or whether he lived on to age 104 and

was buried in Texas under the name J. Frank Dalton.

In the mock trial, the Chamber of Commerce at Kearney, Mo., is suing the Chamber of Commerce of Granbury, Tex., over which city is really the outlaw's burial site.

There will be no jury and no verdict. The trial will demonstrate to the nation's lawyers the use of computer technology and scientific evidence.

James Starrs, professor of law and forensic sciences at George Washington University, will be a

prime witness for the Missouri plaintiffs.

He is the man who exhumed the grave of Jesse James last summer in Kearney, and has since declared that DNA tests prove the body was that of Jesse James.

Testifying for the James relatives will be James Ross, great-grandson of Jesse James and a retired superior court judge from Fullerton, Calif.

A witness for the defense will be Waggoner Carr, former Texas attorney general and the lawyer for

the family of the late J. Frank Dalton.

While St. Joseph isn't a direct party in the "lawsuit," the program will include an animated video summary with footage of the James home, film clips of Mr. James' life and death and animated reconstruction by computer of the James killing.

David Weinberg of Engineering Animation Inc. will show the attorneys how the three-dimensional James home animation can be used to recreate a crime scene.

Mr. Starrs also will offer forensic reconstructions of the remains of Jesse James.

The body that was exhumed in July 1995 was reburied in the Kearney, Mo., cemetery on Oct. 28.

Thousands of lawyers from all over the world are in Orlando for the annual bar association meeting, but none are registered from St. Joseph.

Officials might exhume 2nd grave marked 'Jesse James'

By GARY CHILCOTE

Special Correspondent

N-P 9-24-96

Last summer's exhumation of the grave of Jesse James in Kearney, Mo., for DNA tests brought a final report that scientists are 99.7 percent sure the famous outlaw was killed in St. Joseph in 1882.

California Judge James R. Ross, a great-grandson of Mr.

James, approved the exhumation to put a stop to claims that Mr. James faked his death and lived on to 1951 as J. Frank Dalton.

But in Granbury, Texas, Monday, another chapter in the James story opened with a court plea to exhume J. Frank Dalton's grave for similar DNA tests. Mr. Dalton is buried in Granbury in a

Please see Officials/Page A6

probability of whether this man could be Jesse James, and to finally put the matter to rest," Judge Cleveland said following the hearing.

He gave Mr. Barto two weeks to file briefs to support his arguments for an exhumation, with a decision to be based on Texas law, the Texas Legislature and rulings of appellate court.

"It is important to preserve the

to exhume the Kearney grave in July 1995.

In that case, it was a matter of a violent or suspicious death that lacked scientific investigation at the time. Jesse James was shot in St. Joseph April 3, 1882.

In Granbury, Judge Cleveland said he will rule about a week after Mr. Barto files his court briefs.

Officials might exhume grave

Continued from Page A1

dignity and sanctity of the final

resting place," Judge Cleveland

told the *News-Press* by telephone.

In the court, he wants two

issues proved: the first is that the

plaintiffs, Jesse James IV and his

two brothers, are indeed related

to J. Frank Dalton.

The second is whether the man

buried in Granbury is actually

the famous outlaw.

Texas law is different from

Missouri, where Mr. Starrs

received approval of Circuit

Judge Victor Ford at Liberty, Mo.,

to exhume the Kearney grave in

July 1995.

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grave marked "Jesse James."

Hood County Judge Don

Cleveland ruled following a two-

hour hearing Monday afternoon

that attorney Jan Barto must

prove a "compelling need or rea-

son" to open Mr. Dalton's grave.

Relatives claiming to be the

grandsons of J. Frank Dalton

brought the court action in

response to last summer's

Kearney, Mo., exhumation by

forensic scientist James Starrs of

George Washington University.

"We want to determine the

probability of whether this man

could be Jesse James, and to final-

ly put the matter to rest," Judge

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"It is important to preserve the

of the La Verna issue, the
tells us, without charity, we
not enter heaven. Also, judge
not, or we will be judged. This
Last atoned for his sins and I'm

occurred. You can't blame the
city or the driveway or the own-
ers of the house, the builders of
the driveway. It was an accident.
these people died tragically

Proponents of theory Jesse faked death push exhumation plan

DNA tests proposed for J. Frank Dalton if judge backs step

By GARY CHILCOTE

Special Correspondent

AP 10-4-96

Forensic scientist James Starrs says he's already proven that Jesse James was killed in St. Joseph in 1882

and scoffs at a plan to exhume another body in Texas.

But those who claim Jesse faked his death, and lived on to age 104 under the name of J. Frank Dalton, are moving ahead with plans to exhume that body, which was buried in Granbury, Texas, in 1951.

"I think it's him, but I want to know the truth," Dalton enthusiast Bud Hardcastle said this week. The Purcell, Okla.,

used car dealer is spearheading the move to exhume Dalton's grave this autumn.

"We've already showed Jesse was killed in St. Joseph," Mr. Starrs said. "If it turns out that Frank Dalton's DNA also matches, then what? Does that mean there were two Jesse James?"

Mr. Hardcastle plans to compare Mr. Dalton's DNA with that of Oklahoma City attorney

Robert Jackson, the same Jesse James relative used last year by Mr. Starrs, who is a forensic scientist at George Washington University.

"We'll use the same man and either prove right or wrong," Mr. Hardcastle said.

DNA tests from the exhumation of the Jesse James grave at Kearney, Mo., already have shown a 99.7 percent chance the famous outlaw was really

killed in St. Joseph in 1882.

In Granbury, Judge Don Cleveland has given Dalton relatives two weeks to submit a brief before he rules on the request for an exhumation.

To help Mr. Cleveland make an informed decision, Mr. Starrs said he is forwarding to the judge a copy of his findings from February that showed a 99.7 percent chance that Jesse was killed in St. Joseph in 1882.

Exhumation seeks proof of 'real' Jesse James

St. Jos. X/-P Texas court orders procedure at request of 2 of James' grandsons

By MATT CURRY
Associated Press

GRANBURY, Texas — A court-ordered exhumation at a Texas cemetery was conducted Tuesday at the urging of those who believe legendary outlaw Jesse

James pulled off his greatest feat by faking his own death in Missouri and living to a ripe old age of 104.

Bud Hardcastle, a Purcell, Okla., used car salesman and amateur historian, said he hopes DNA testing by an anthropologist from the University of California at Davis will prove that J. Frank Dalton was really James. Hood County Judge Linda Steen earlier this year ordered

the exhumation of the man known as Dalton, who was buried in Granbury on Aug. 15, 1951.

Attorney Steven J. Reid of Granbury said the testing is being done at the request of two of James' grandsons, identified as Jesse Quannah James and Charles A. James.

"This is certainly a historic day, a historic moment," Reid said. "We hope it's an opportunity to provide some additional

information on the life and legend of Jesse James. It is the belief of family members I represent and Mr. Hardcastle that Jesse James is buried here."

But Elizabeth Gilliam Beckett, who operates the Jesse James Museum in Kearney, Mo., said the men identified as family members are not direct descendants of James.

Please see **Exhumation**/Page A3

Anthropologists a
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as Jesse

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Exhumation seeks proof of 'real' Jesse

Anthropology student James Tyler looks up for instructions as Erich Fisher continues working on the exhumation of the supposed casket of J. Frank Dalton, also known as Jesse James in Grandbury, Texas, Tuesday.

Associated Press



Continued from Page A1

Historical documents show James was shot in the back by Bob Ford, a member of his own gang, on April 3, 1882, in St. Joseph. Others say the veteran of the Confederate guerrilla band Quantrill's Raiders faked his death in Missouri to elude authorities and lived under the name of Dalton to avoid detection.

Dalton moved to Grandbury in 1951 — the last year of his life — telling some residents he was really the famous bank robber James. The legend flourished on the account of the late Hood County Sheriff Oran C. Baker, who believed him.

Baker said he examined Dalton's body at his death and "counted 32 bullet holes from his forehead to his knees." The body buried as James in Missouri in 1882 also was exhumed, in 1995. Scientists who examined those remains later said the body most likely

She insisted James is buried in Missouri, not Texas. Besides the DNA testing of remains from the Missouri grave, handwriting analysis done in the 1980s also show that Dalton wasn't James, she said.

"We know where the real Jesse is buried, up here in Kearney," she said.

A backhoe removed about a foot of dirt covering the Grandbury gravesite Tuesday morning, beginning the slow process of identifying and unearthing the redwood casket that contained the remains of Dalton.

The excavation was expected to last until late Tuesday and possibly continue Wednesday. DNA results aren't expected for about three months. Hardesty said the exhumation culminated years of

1/65

Columbia 92/68

Jefferson City 93/69

IN THE AIR

35

0 50 80 100 150

0-50: Good; 50-85: Moderate; 85-100: Moderately Unhealthy; 100+: Unhealthy

Provided by Mid America Regional Council

Low

Normal

High

Low

Normal

High

Statistics are for St. Joseph

24 hours ending 7 p.m. yesterday

Month to date

Year to date

Source: Rosecrans Memorial Airport

Precipitation

Normal

4.62

12.08

River Bulletin

Flood Stage

Missouri River

Omaha

Nebraska City

Rulo

St. Joseph

Atchison

Kansas City

Platte River

Agency River

29 ft

18 ft

17 ft

17 ft

22 ft

20 ft

20 ft

Current Stage

N.A.

11.50 ft.

10.70 ft.

10.01 ft.

N.A.

13.31 ft.

5.96 ft.

3.38 ft.

29,500 cfs.