



# Happenings

December 2000/January/February 2001

## FROM the DIRECTOR

capabilities for exhibit, program, and research purposes.

### 2. INFRASTRUCTURE:

Simultaneously, I commenced to build an infrastructure and expand the curatorial staff that would be responsible for the major disciplines of the collections and the museum operations. Some of the original people are still with me: Marilyn, 29; Jackie, 28 and Nancy, 29 years. Others joined later: Kathy, 15; Robbie, 14; Sarah, 10; Susan, 8 and Carol, 7 years respectively. Patsy, Mildred and Andy have less than 4 years. Some former staff have retired, others have left for different positions, and we lost Bonnie to cancer after 21 years with the museum.

### 3. INTERPRETATION:

This infrastructure made possible a significant expansion of the interpretative role of the museum through many forms of programs and exhibits. I love to sit in meetings with the staff where I can listen to, and be a part of, the creative dialogue that takes place when searching for new programs and interpretive ideas. Then, to watch the ideas take form and be implemented is very heart warming and fulfilling. Some examples are Prairie View Festival, Storyliving, "Touch the Past" and "They Passed This Way," OCTA '88, *St. Joe Road*, Children's Day, Christmas Lighting Ceremony, and so many, many more, too many to name. We have an excellent record of successful firsts. The focus has always been on meeting the needs of the collections, the museum, and the public we serve.

### 4. ACCREDITATION:

In 1971 the American Association of Museums (AAM), implemented an accreditation program to highlight those museums who exemplified the highest and proper museum management techniques. I made application that first year, and we were subsequently accredited in 1972. We were two museums, (SJM & XPM), of the first 64 museums in the country to be accredited, and the first in Missouri. We have since gone through two successive reaccreditations, which illustrates the level of professionalism we have maintained over the past 30 years.

### 5. XPM EXPANSION:

Because of the high quality museum management we consistently maintained, we were in an excellent position to seize the opportunity to implement and facilitate the \$2,000,000 expansion at the Pony Express Museum, making it into the world class facility that it is. That simply would not have been possible without the staff of the St. Joseph Museum.

Collections care, staff infrastructure, interpretation, accreditation and the Pony Express expansion have been my contributions. From these have been many, many positive experiences and a few negative ones, but the positives far outweigh the negatives. The real highlight for me, and the glue that has made all of this possible and enjoyable, is the staff that surrounds me. It has been a wonderful experience to work with them and to be a part of the serendipitous creativity that shows itself in

so many ways. I will dearly miss that daily interaction and that will be my major loss in retirement.

Since my announcement of retiring I am continually being asked what I'm going to do. Having been here over 36 years, people assume I don't have another life! My response is fivefold.

- There is a long list of "honey dos."
- I have an equally long list of "I wanna dos."
- I am very actively involved in the Presbyterian Church on the local and Presbytery level.
- I am turning my energies towards Habitat for Humanity where I worked on the 2000 Harmony House and will be able to work on the 2001 Harmony House. In addition I was elected to the board of Habitat.
- My wife Donna, who is still employed full time, and I will visit our children and grandchildren more frequently. Gretchen and her family live in California, Missouri. Hans and his family live in Portland, Oregon, and Rachel and her family live in Baltimore, Maryland. There is a lot of pretty country between Portland and Baltimore!

I have already registered to ride my mountain bike in the Oregon MS 150 and will also register for the Missouri MS 150.



## EVENTS

### GROUND LEVEL LIGHTING

During the past couple of years as I contemplated retirement, I thought of those things that I wanted completed before my retirement. One was a high quality heat pump system and another was ground level lighting for the building.

After the lengthy installation of this state of the art, zone controlled heat pump system, someone asked me what my next project was. I told of my desire to light the building with a warm, soft "wash" from High Pressure Sodium (HPS) lights. Art Warner, who was one of the technical advisors on the heat pump project, said he would see what he could do. It wasn't long before Art reported back that St. Joseph Light & Power (SJL&P) had approved his request for HPS lights for the museum. We also applied for, and received, the SJL&P Friendly Foliage Grant for the shrubbery around the lights. Art then contacted Scott Sprague of Sprague Excavating, and Scott agreed to do the trenching for the underground electrical at no cost to the museum.



*West facade of the museum highlighted by the ground level lighting.*

Everything seemed to fall together at one time, and with the weather's cooperation, the whole system, including the shrubbery, was installed a week before the Christmas Lighting Ceremony. We owe a great big "THANK YOU" to: St. Joseph Light & Power for the HPS lights and for the Friendly Foliage Grant; Moffet Nursery for discounting the shrubbery to fit the grant; Sprague Excavating for the trenching; St. Joseph Electric for

discounting the electrical supplies; Mark Poese for donating technical advice and time to help hookup the lights; and Art Warner for his continual encouragement and wonderfully resourceful support throughout the project.

We are really pleased with the outcome. This classic building will now be highly visible all through the year and not just during the holiday season.

### RECENT DONATIONS TO THE COLLECTIONS

**As You Like It** - A carousel horse from Lake Contrary.

**Edward George Borgens, Jr. and family** - Two Lutheran bibles, several documents, photos, and artifacts from the Wenz, Schwaderer, and Zunkel families.

**Tom Crews** - Serving bowl with print of Pony Express Rider in center, "Historical American - The Pony Express 1860" made by Homer Laughlin China Co., 1928-1950.

**Lee and Margaret Elder** - A 1970s "Easy Bake" oven and several Valentine cards from the early 1900s.

*... continued on page 7*

## FOCUS on COLLECTIONS

Telephones were first used in St. Joseph in 1877. However, very few people had them. When the St. Joseph Telephone Company was organized in 1879, it had 150 subscribers. A competitor, Western Union Telegraph Company, also offered telephone service in 1879 with another 150 subscribers.

Late in 1879 the two companies were absorbed into the National Bell Telephone Company. By 1893 another telephone service was organized - the Citizens Telephone Company. Several years ago a telephone "book" from this company was donated to St. Joseph Museum by the late Guy Chesnut. The book dates from approximately 1900.

With a wood backing and heavy cardboard pages, it was designed to hang on the wall next to the telephone. The second page reads, "To call give crank three quick turns. When talking speak with lips as close as possible and directly into transmitter. When through talking hang receiver small end up and give three quick turns." Rates were listed as \$40 per year for businesses and \$30 per year for home use.



*The above picture shows the telephone book open to the listing for Hauck Milling Company.*

*Recent Donations continued from page 5.*

**Clark and Nancy Hampton** - *USA Today* and *St. Joseph News-Press* newspapers dated November 8, 2000, covering the November 2000 presidential election. Also donated were a gold metal picture frame from the early 1900s and two "Barbie" dolls in case with accessories.

**Harold Keck** - A book about the history of Rosecrans Field, St. Joseph, Missouri, published by the Army and Navy Publishing Company of Louisiana in 1940.

**Jacqueline Lewin** - *St. Joseph News-Press*, November 8, 2000, "Bush Triumphs - Texas governor wins Florida and the presidency," 1960s woman's coat, 1950s "Brownie" camera, 1950s transistor radio, "Dancin Dina" wooden puppet, President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy plate, and 1970s contact lens case, necktie, and necklace, several buttons, pamphlets, and bumper stickers from the 2000 presidential campaign.

**Martha Oetzel** - A Union Defenders Certificate which certifies that Private John Anderson enlisted as a volunteer in Company D, Regiment of Infantry, August 6, 1861.

**Elouise Slocum** - A metal tatting shuttle.

**Clare Welsh** - A 1927 photo of St. Joseph city councilmen along with other city employees taken inside City Hall. Also donated were several city ordinance books, annual budgets, and financial reports.

**Morris Werner** - Several books about the Oregon Trail and historic sites in the United States.

## EVENTS

### Lighting Ceremony

The fifth annual Lighting Ceremony was held Thursday, November 30, 2000. More than 530 people attended the delightful event that lasted from 6 to 8 p.m. This year's theme, the "Sounds of Christmas," was evident throughout the evening, beginning with the oohs and ahs from the crowd as the hundreds of white lights that outline the museum were turned on for the first time this holiday season. Kelsey Drake, a Humboldt student, was chosen from the crowd to pull the switch. As guests entered the building to the glorious music of the Community Chorus Quartet, they were enchanted by the decorations in the front hall and many other areas of the building.



*Volunteer Greg Sekula (on the right) shows the Victorian music box to three interested visitors.*



*Kelsey Drake throws the switch to light the building for the first time during the Holiday Season.*

A temporary exhibit of musical instruments from the collections complemented the theme. "Silent Night" was played on the melodeon (a small, organ-piano combination) during the evening. Other sounds of Christmas came from a gramophone, an Edison Victrola, and a 19th century music box. Bell necklaces made by each child that attended added to the evening's festivity.

Other activities included a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and carriage rides. Personalized ornaments and hot chocolate and cookies were also available for everyone. The evening would not have been possible without the support of volunteers Dorothy Pettijohn, Doug Hines, Nancy Hampton, June Swift, Wayne Taylor, and Museum Hill Neigh-

borhood Association members Bob and Karen Farrell, Ted Hauser, Tom and Ginny Rinderknecht, Nancy Sandehn, Greg and Robyn Sekula, and Del and Joyce Sutherland. Thank you to all the volunteers and everyone else who came to the event.



*June Swift, Carol Wills (behind June), and Nancy Hampton keep busy serving cookies and hot chocolate to visitors.*

# MEMBERSHIP

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Barlow  
 Bill's Saddlery  
 Mrs. William G. Brown  
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 June Swift  
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 Charles H. Taylor Memorial Trust  
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## Business Partnerships

Anthony G. Drummond, CLU  
 Midwest Mobile Radio Service, Inc.

## Donations

FirstStar Bank  
 Nancy and Clark Hampton  
 Allan H. Lowenberg

## Memorials

*In Memory of Gladys Nolf:*  
 Mary Elizabeth Banks  
 Keith and JoAnne Hemingway  
 Dr. and Mrs. George T. Hopkins  
 Mrs. Harold Rundell  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Turnipseed

*In Memory of Owen Nolf:*  
 Dr. and Mrs. George T. Hopkins

*In Memory of Roy E. Coy:*  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jim Lehr  
 Katherine M. Nelson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Nolf  
 Mrs. Sally Smith, Mrs. Judy  
 Smith, and Kacee Smith  
 Heaton-Bowman Smith Chapel  
 June M. Swift

## In Honor:

*Of Richard A. Nolf*  
 Dr. and Mrs. George T. Hopkins

*Memberships and donations received  
 after January 31 will be recognized in the  
 next issue.*

My gift is in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

My gift is in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Gift amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ My check made payable to the St. Joseph Museum is enclosed.

\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_ American Express

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please clip out and return to:*

**St. Joseph Museum**  
**PO Box 128**  
**St. Joseph, MO 64502-0128**



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## CALENDAR of EVENTS

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|                           |                |                     |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| <b>Tuesday, March 6</b>   | St. Joe Road   | Holiday Inn, 7 p.m. |
| <b>Friday, April 13</b>   | Good Friday    | Museum open 9-5     |
| <b>Sunday, April 15</b>   | Easter         | Museum open 1-5     |
| <b>Saturday, April 28</b> | Children's Day | Museum open 10-3    |
| <b>Monday, May 28</b>     | Memorial Day   | Museum open 1-5     |

For more information call the St. Joseph Museum at 232-8471.

**Upholding the trust—safeguarding St. Joseph's past for future generations.**

Since 1927, the St. Joseph Museum has been entrusted with its community's heritage. It is the museum's mission to uphold this trust by caring for the items that have been given into its custody. Using these collections, the St. Joseph Museum serves the public by educating through exhibits and programs; promoting research; and encouraging the appreciation and understanding of St. Joseph's heritage.



**St. Joseph Museum**  
1100 Charles Street, PO Box 128  
St. Joseph, Missouri 64502-0128  
**Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.**  
**Sundays & Holidays 1-5 p.m.**

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