

# The Happenings

July 1992

St. Joseph Museum

Pony Express Museum

## ST. JOSEPH PLANNING FOR SESQUICENTENNIAL

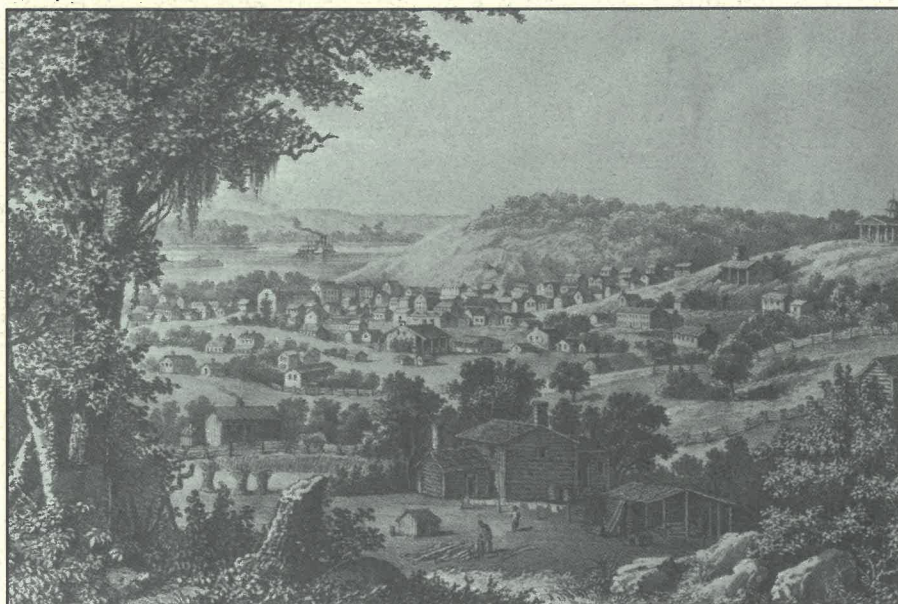
July 26, 1993, marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of St. Joseph. On that date, in 1843, 16 years after Joseph Robidoux first established his trading post on the future site of the town, he had St. Joseph platted and recorded with the state. St. Joseph officially became a town.

The city has formed a committee to coordinate the commemoration of the event and the festivities. Three members of the St. Joseph Museum staff, Rich Nolf, Jackie Lewin and Reva Rocha, serve on the Sesquicentennial Committee. Bob Simpson is the chairman and there are currently 17 members.

Two of the contributions that the St. Joseph Museum plans to make to the commemoration of the sesquicentennial are a photo exhibit of St. Joseph businesses through the years and a teacher's guide of the early years of St. Joseph which will be distributed to the city's elementary teachers. David Mead, curator of natural history, is designing the logo which will be used by any business or organization wishing to commemorate the sesquicentennial. Other groups within the city will also sponsor activities. Details of the Sesquicentennial Committee's plans will be released soon.

-Jackie Lewin

St. Joseph Museum Archives



## KIDS HONORED AT PARTY

Fifteen shining stars were honored at a video party on June 4 at the Pony Express Museum. The "actors" helped in making the Pony Express National Memorial video by portraying young visitors.

Jackie Lewin



Julie Hornaday, Aaryn Carpenter, Jessica Taylor, Jared Noland, and Amy Rose enjoy pizza, pop and cake provided by the law firm of Watkins, Boulware, Lucas, Miner, Murphy and Taylor.

Mignon DeShon, video committee chairperson, welcomed the young people and guests. She thanked the young participants and stressed the importance of their work in the video. Sandy Taylor, special events coordinator, recognized Tom Watkins, Pony Express trustee, who represented his law firm. She then acknowledged the work of the video committee comprised of Mignon DeShon, Carol Moya and Bob Simpson. Heidi Hornaday, curator of development, told a charming folk story about Pony Express rider, Johnny Fry.

Tim Lamar, producer/director from Video Post, spoke about the process of making a video. He said that he

Continued on page 5

# FROM THE DIRECTOR...

About ten years ago, when one of the local lumber yards went out of business, I happened to be at the right spot at the right time. I purchased a substantial amount of redwood which included long 2 x 12's and 2 x 4's. This material was obtained at a vastly reduced price, saving the museum considerable money. I knew that this lumber would be needed down the line to replace the exterior steps leading to the second floor of the carriage house. Redwood is one of the preferred choices for outside construction.

The last time the steps had been replaced was during a major remodeling and renovation project done in 1965. Since then, minor repairs and maintenance have been ongoing. The steps should probably have been completely replaced several years ago, but due to other pressures, we kept putting the job off. After all, the steps were used frequently each day, and we would have been handicapped without them. (This borders on the story of the old man and the leak in his roof: when it rained he couldn't fix it and when it wasn't raining he didn't need to fix it.)

From left, Mike Dyer, Robbie Sipes and Chris Fisher.



Anyway, last month several of the guys on staff, led by Mike Dyer, tore out the old steps and put in the new, using the "bargain" redwood purchased and saved for the project. With the cooperative spirit demonstrated by all involved, it didn't take nearly as long as we had anticipated.

Mike did a great job coordinating and leading. He is our "transient carpenter" as he is between school and his first professional job. Mike worked his way through college and law school as a carpenter and just recently passed the bar exam. We are fortunate to have found each other. He has aided the museums greatly since his arrival, and we have provided him with work! At this point he has his resume out and is seeking professional employment. We will miss Mike when he leaves us. In the meantime - thank you, Mike, for a job well done!

## ST. JOSEPH & PONY EXPRESS MUSEUM

### STAFF

### PROGRAM

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

### SUPPORT

- Gail Rose.....Executive Secretary
- Susan Noland.....Bookkeeper
- Chris Fisher.....Building Supervisor
- Scott Koch.....Exhibits Technician
- Sarah Elder.....Research Assistant
- Rhonda Clem.....Graphic Artist
- June Swift.....Secretary
- Melissa McClellan.....Secretary
- Margaret Hatt.....Librarian
- Mary Packard.....Staff Assistant
- Eric Robison.....Staff Assistant
- Mike Dyer.....Staff Assistant
- Avis Baisell.....Receptionist
- Lanell Mead.....Receptionist
- Kem Paulman.....Receptionist
- Carole Combs.....Receptionist
- Camille Grable.....Receptionist
- Barbi Edwards.....Receptionist

### ADJUNCT

- Mike Fisher.....Archaeological Research Associate
- Jim Feagins.....Archaeological Research Associate
- Russ Mooney.....Saddle & Tack Consultant
- Mary Helen Burrowes.....Publications Consultant

DEAR FRIENDS:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Pony Express National Memorial, I would like to thank everyone who helped to make the video project such a huge success.

The video is the result of the expenditure of time and talents by so many people. At the core of all the activities were the staffs of both the St. Joseph and the Pony Express Museums. The saying, "all for one and one for all," could have been written about this group of people. They are a team in the best sense of the word. Those of us who helped are very aware of the staffs' dedication to our project. This includes all of the "behind-the-scenes" people.

Many trustees also gave of themselves. Between the staffs and trustees, our stars received star treatment. Actress Susan Blakely, producer Steve Jaffe, (Susan's husband), and Dr. William Fisher were impressed with the professionalism and friendliness they encountered in St. Joseph. They, along with Walter Cronkite, Richie Masoner, Casey, (Russ Mooney's horse), and the young participants were all important parts of the video.

The generosity of the Holiday Inn, Polsky Motors, Cotter Travel Associates, Bill's Saddlery, Bob Fay's TV Appliances-Video, Galvin's, Southwest Bell Mobile Systems, Missouri Western State College, and the St. Joseph School District helped make our stars' stay in St. Joseph a memorable one. Gary Rosenthal's gift of Stetson Hats was a highlight for everyone. Tim Lamar and Mike Wunsch of Video Post joined our team and added their talents to the project. Their excitement grew along with our own, and I know we now have two more ambassadors for the Pony Express.

The preservation of our past is an important part of our country's future. We need to be reminded of the determination of our forefathers which led them to accomplish that which was seemingly impossible. Although our world has come a long way since the 1860s there are still new frontiers that their dreams, too, can come true.

Thank you to everyone for helping make our dream of the Pony Express video come true. This step brings us closer to the restoration and expansion of the Pony Express Museum.

Thank you!  
Mignon Deshon  
Video Committee Chairperson

## SHOP TALK

The St. Joseph and Pony Express Museum shops have sold seventy-five copies of *The St. Joe Road* this spring. The Patrice Press has also agreed to market the book for us in their wholesale and retail catalogs. The Patrice Press is a publishing company that specializes in books of an historic nature such as *The Oregon Trail Revisited*. They have included *The St. Joe Road* in their spring flyer and the first case of books has been shipped to them to fill their orders.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ New member ☐ Renewal ☐ Gift

Enclosed is a check for: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership level:

|         |           |             |          |
|---------|-----------|-------------|----------|
| Patron  | \$1000.00 | Donor       | \$100.00 |
| Fellow  | 500.00    | Subscribing | 25.00    |
| Sponsor | 250.00    | Sustaining  | 25.00    |

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

## PNY EXPRESS, INC. FUNDING UPDATE

Pony Express, Inc., gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, businesses and organizations for their generous contributions to the Pony Express Museum Restoration and Expansion Project:

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Bunse  
North Belt K-Mart

### TRIBUTE

Robert L. Simpson  
in honor of Simon Rositzky

Ron and Sandy Taylor  
in memory of Natalie Murdoch

As of June 10, 1992

## RECENT DONATIONS

**Raymond A. Majors** — a book which he authored, *It Pleases Me...The Majors Connection*. Majors is a descendent of Alexander Majors, one of the men who started the Pony Express.

**Clark and Nancy Hampton** — a book entitled *Indian Blankets and Their Makers*, written by George W. James.

**Stanley Novak** — two program-booklets of the *One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary...Queen of the Apostles Parish*, compiled by Larry E. Hager. This ceremony took place October 13, 1985.

**Mary Helen Burrowes** — an overnight suitcase which originally belonged to Katherine Mary Neipp, 1865-1951, which contains a twelve-piece matching set of hair brush, mirror, nail file, shoe brush, shoe button hook, and various bottles with matching lids, one of which was used for a toothbrush. The case is especially nice because it has special holders for each of the twelve pieces sewn into its lining.

**Cultural Resource Report #8** — an archaeological survey of the proposed St. Joseph landfill expansion area, executed by Jim D. Feagins in January 1992.

Bonnie Watkins

## RENOVATION OF

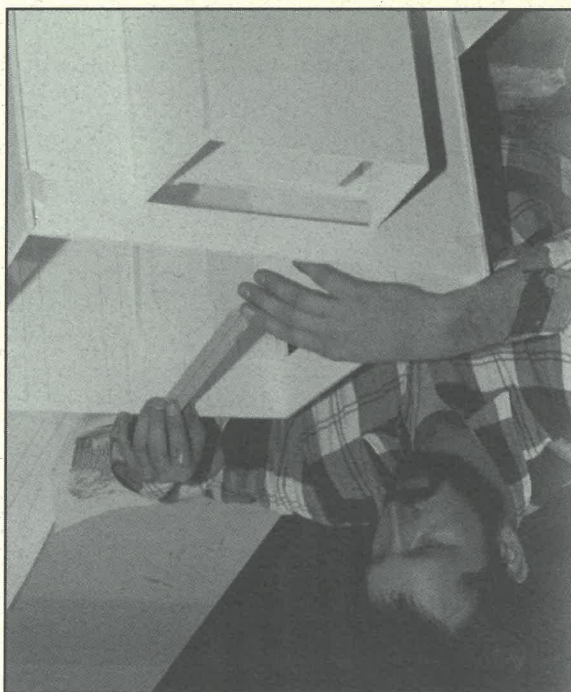
## VICTORIAN

## ROOM

A new exhibit room on the second floor of the St. Joseph Museum is now in preparation. This new room will give a brief history of St. Joseph's Golden Years from 1880 to 1900. Exhibits will illustrate business growth and the wealth that accompanied the growth. Fashions, architecture and the arts will also be featured through the use of artifacts from the museum's collections.

The Victorian Era Room is a continuation of the chronological history exhibits on second floor which began with the years just prior to the settlement of the Blacksnake Hills area by Joseph Robidoux.

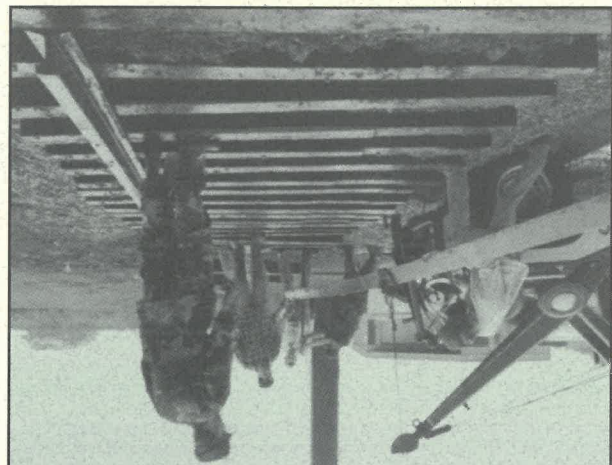
*Detailed exhibit plans have been designed by Scott Koch, exhibits technician. He will begin rough construction soon. The expected completion date for the new exhibit room is late summer.*



Jackie Lewin

A new caboose information center is being constructed in Cameron. Missouri with the help of local volunteers. The track laying crew was composed of Museum staff from Patee House and St. Joseph Museum with volunteers from the Air National Guard, 139th TAG. Crew foremen were Gary Chilcote, director of Patee House Museum and George Richmond, president of the Pony Express Region Tourism Board. Representing the St. Joseph Museum were David Mead, Chris Fisher, Mike Dyer, Eric Robison and Scott Koch.

Photo Courtesy of Gary Chilcote



*Museum staff and volunteers laid tracks behind the McDonald's restaurant at Cameron, soon to be the new home for a caboose tourist information center.*

-David Mead

-Jackie Lewin/Scott Koch

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**July 8 - "Pony Express Traveling Exhibit"** presented by Jackie Lewin, Curator of History, for the River Bluffs Regional Library at Washington Park. 1:30 p.m.

**July 13 - "Live Snakes Traveling Exhibit"** presented by David Mead, Curator of Natural History, for the River Bluffs Regional Library - Central. 2:00 p.m.

**July 14 - "Live Snakes Traveling Exhibit"** presented by David Mead, Curator of Natural History, for the River Bluffs Regional Library - Belt-Rolling Hills. 10:00 a.m. and Bluffs Regional Library - Carnegie. 1:00 P.M.

**July 15 - "Live Snakes Traveling Exhibit"** presented by David Mead, Curator of Natural History, for the River Bluffs Regional Library - Washington Park. 1:30 p.m.

**Oregon-California Trails Association-Gateway Chapter -** next meeting in September.

**St. Joseph Archaeological Society -** next meeting in September.

For more information call 232-8471

**St. Joseph Museum**  
1100 Charles Street  
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501-2874  
**Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.**  
**Sundays 1-5 p.m.**

**Pony Express Museum**  
914 Penn Street, P.O. Box 244  
St. Joseph, Missouri 64502-0244  
**Monday through Saturday 9-6 p.m.**  
**Sundays 1-6 p.m.**

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Simon Rositzky ..... Vice-President  
Robert S. Siemens ..... Treasurer  
Nancy H. Hampton ..... Secretary  
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William A. Brunner .....  
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