

The Happenings

March 1993

St. Joseph Museum

Pony Express Museum

Welcome To ...

... the Pony Express National Memorial. On April 3rd, the newly refurbished Pony Express Museum will not only have its Grand Opening, but it will also have a new volunteer program.

The Pony Express National Memorial will have volunteer interpreters in costume to help convey the Pony Express story to the visitors. A training program is being developed to prepare our volunteers with the necessary information needed to interpret the exhibits and answer questions about the Pony Express.

Two sessions of three hours each are being designed to educate our volunteers so they can enhance the Pony Express experience for the visitors. Topics that will be covered at the training sessions include general information on the Pony Express and lifestyles and customs of 1859-1861. Guidance on what it takes to be an interpreter will also be provided. Several curators from the St. Joseph Museum will be on hand to offer information on these topics. We will also be using our videos and, of course, the new exhibits at the stables.

Anyone who is interested in becoming an interpreter, please contact Mignon DeShon at 233-9370 or Sarah Elder at 232-8471.



David Mead

STUDENTS AND THE SESQUICENTENNIAL

Pershing first graders study St. Joseph's history during the town's 150th anniversary. Using the traveling exhibit developed by the St. Joseph Museum, the students of Trish Steinbecker are learning about the beginnings of their town. Linda Burgess is the student teacher. A teacher's guide was also put together by the museum staff. The guide includes an outline of St. Joseph's history, pictures, spelling lists, math problems and survey information.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The grand opening of the Pony Express National Memorial is set for **April 3, 1993**. Festivities will commence in the morning and continue throughout the day. Your continuing support is making this dream a reality. We hope you will plan to join us for what promises to be the most exciting event in St. Joseph since Johnny Fry galloped from the Stables 133 years ago.

ST. JOSEPH & PONY EXPRESS MUSEUM STAFF

PROGRAM

Rich Nolf 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 Hornaday Curator of Development
 Reva Fish-Rocha Public Relations Coordinator
 Sandy Taylor Curator of Special Projects/
 Campaign Coordinator

SUPPORT

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 Susan Noland Bookkeeper
 Scott Koch Exhibits Technician
 Sarah Elder Research Assistant
 Clint Sims Graphic Artist
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ADJUNCT

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 Jim Feagins Archaeological Research Associate
 Russ Mooney Saddle & Tack Consultant
 Mary Helen Burrowes Publications Consultant

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FROM THE DIRECTOR...

Several weeks ago, a meeting was called so the curatorial staff could review our field trip plans for the year. The purpose of the meeting was to select sites to visit this summer. For a number of years, we have offered three field trips each year to the membership and the community at large.

One of the curators had picked up on a comment I had made some weeks earlier at WAG (week-at-a-glance) regarding the field trips. I think I had finished a statement with "...if we have them?"

So, in this meeting, I was confronted with what did I mean by that statement. I proceeded to explain that with the amount of time necessary to plan, reconnoiter and publicize each field trip, I didn't see how we could do that and complete the Pony Express National Memorial. After all, we were not taking on any extra duties until May 1. (Our concluding event connected with the grand opening will be on April 14 with the world premiere of a play written by a well-known New York playwright. The last two weeks of April are reserved for staff recovery.) Not so, said the rest of the curators. We have to have three field trips. Our membership expects them, and we have an obligation to fulfill. O.K., we'll have them, but where do we go?

After a discussion, the three trips were planned, and I'm really pleased by the schedule. The first one in June will be to the Henry Doory Zoo in Omaha where the spectacular recreation of a tropical rain forest has just been completed. Several staff members have seen it and highly recommend the experience.

The other two trips tie in beautifully with St. Joseph's sesquicentennial. One will be on July 26, the anniversary of the town's 150th birthday. This will be a specialized, historical tour of St. Joseph!

The last one of the season will be in September when we will follow the "St. Joe Road" and will offer the participants a guided tour led by Jackie Lewin and Marilyn Taylor. Last year they authored a book on that emigrant trail out of St. Joseph. All three of these trips will take a minimum amount of time to plan and reconnoiter since the staff is very familiar with the subject matter.

As director, it gave me a great deal of pleasure to watch the interaction of the staff and the way they rose to the occasion. I just have a real warm feeling about the people that I work with - they are dedicated. That's why we have a great museum and why we are able to offer such good programs.

Come join us on these field trips. A special announcement on the dates and other specifics will be mailed first to the membership. This is a deliberate incentive to encourage you to maintain your membership. Later the information will be published in the St. Joseph News Press and St. Joseph Telegraph.

Ed Miller

MUSEUM STAFF SEES RARE BIRDS

Area birders are having a record-setting good time this year. Birds from as far away as the arctic tundra and the desert southwest are visiting Northwest Missouri.

On January 15, a single black-throated sparrow was spotted near Skidmore by Dr. David Easterla and Kirby Goslee, both of Maryville. The black-bibbed, white-eyebrowed sparrow had never before been recorded in Missouri.

Earlier that same day a flock of 82 snow buntings, sparrow-like birds of the arctic tundra, flew into Missouri and into the record books. Although snow buntings have been seen in the state before, they had never been seen in such high numbers. First spotted by Kirby Goslee, the birds stayed in the area long enough for him to make a few phone calls to other birders.

One of those calls was to David Mead, curator of natural history at the museum. David informed Chris Fisher of the sightings and the two were off and running. Being a lifelong birder and veteran of many "bird chases," it took Chris no time at all to pack his binoculars and spotting scope (and David) into the pickup and head north to see these unusual birds. They were fortunate enough to find the black-throated sparrow and snow buntings, which were birds for both of them to add to their life lists.

Another hotline call to the museum told of the sighting of 15 long-eared owls on a farm north of Savannah. Regular winter migrants, these owls are nocturnal and seldom seen. Their resemblance to the larger, more common great-horned owl is another reason that the long-eared owls are not often reported being seen, except by experienced birders.

If these unusual sightings are any indication, 1993 is going to be a very good birding year.



The long-eared owl perched in a tree near Bolckow, Missouri. Photo by David Mead.

NEW AND REINSTATED MEMBERS

The St. Joseph and Pony Express Museum staff and board of trustees welcome Wendell E. Koerner of St. Joseph and Merrill A. Ritter of Indianapolis, Indiana, as new members.

We are all very grateful for their interest in the future of the museums and we appreciate their generous support.

Stanley Harrison Returns Home

On April 14, 1993, Stanley Harrison, director of the Stanley Harrison Acting Studio, New York, will return to his hometown for a WORLD PREMIERE BENEFIT APPEARANCE for the Pony Express National Memorial. A delightful comedy, "Collections," written by William K. Powers will be presented at the Ice House Theatre.

Mr. Harrison is a graduate of Central High School, '52; St. Joseph Junior College; Allegheny College, B.A. in theater; and Yale School of Drama, M.F.A. He has studied and worked with the directors of the National Theatres of Norway and Denmark. He will be accompanied by Ms. Joie Jacobsen who has recently appeared at the Wynn Handman Studio, New York; The Julliard School; and Barnet Studio in London.

Mr. Harrison and Ms. Jacobsen will be directing an acting workshop at Missouri Western State College, April 5-9. Dr. William K. Powers and his wife, Dr. Marla Powers, will present a program for local elementary teachers and Missouri Western State College elementary education majors on April 16.

We are fortunate to have Stanley Harrison, Joie Jacobsen, William Powers, and Marla Powers coming to St. Joseph. We are pleased to offer this series of programs to our community.



Eleven participants from St. Joseph hotels/motels and museums completed the first customer service workshop, "Tourism and You." Held in January at Ramada Inn, this half-day workshop was a great beginning.

Some of the topics for the training included the "ladder of success" by Bill Grace, Galvin's; a tour of the city led by Marilyn Taylor, St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums; and a panel presentation. The panelists representing the community included: Mayor Glenda Kelly; Mary Brock, Allied Arts; David Shinneman, McDonald's; Clyde Weeks, Central Station Mall; and Stan Harris, Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art.

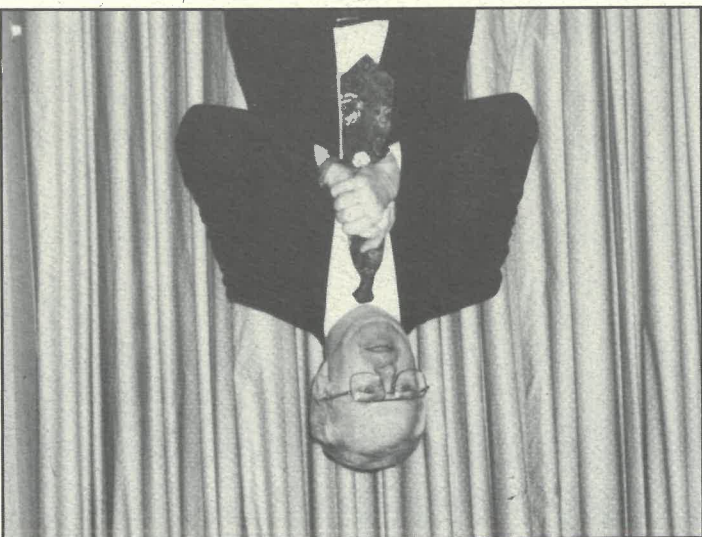
The evaluations were very positive. One comment that came through loud and clear was we want more... more on "how to deal with the customer" and more time on the tour. Future workshops have been expanded to incorporate these ideas.

With the assistance of Carol Roever, Business and Economics Department and the Continuing Education Department of Missouri Western State College, the ENCE will be a six-hour training workshop. The morning session will focus on customer service as it relates to business and day-to-day issues and the afternoon session will be devoted to learning more about St. Joseph.

The development of this program began with the commitment of several community leaders who are interested in customer service excellence, tourism and the growth of St. Joseph. These individuals have given countless hours and support through hosting workshops, giving presentations and networking in the community. They include: Chris Bryant, Ramada Inn; Don Paton, Holiday Inn; Bill Grace, Galvin's; Kerry Strahm, Chamber of Commerce; and Marilyn Taylor, Kathy Reno and Reva Rocha, St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums.

The goals of the committee are to have each participant that goes through the training: 1) know they are important to their business and community as agents of

Bill Bassitt, Chamber of Commerce president, discusses the value of excellent customer service as a consumer and through the eyes of the business and community.



Reva Rocha

excellent customer service and goodwill, and 2) have the resources to provide "exceptional" customer service. The next training dates are March 9 and 30. These are open to anyone who works in customer service. The cost per participant is \$5. If you want more information, please call Reva Rocha at the St. Joseph Museum, 232-8471.



Reva Rocha

Using role playing, Teresa Fankhauser, Ice House Theatre, co-creator, discusses issues workers face in dealing face-to-face with the customer.

STAFF NEWS

Mary Packard Knab, research assistant and gift shop employee at the museum for five years, graduated in December 1992 from Missouri Western State College with a Bachelor of Arts in history. She is applying her talents at the museum in the researching of the Pony Express.

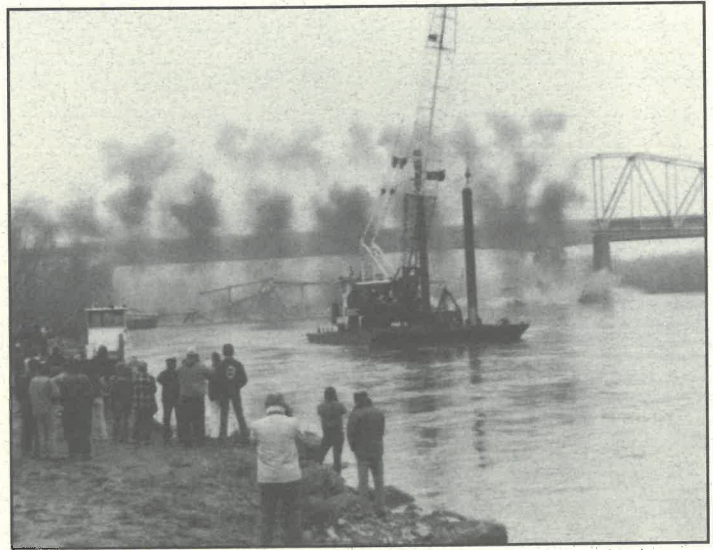
While applying for jobs in the legal field, Mike Dyer did a variety of projects at the museum after his graduation from law school at the University of Missouri at Columbia last year. Mike found a job in Jefferson City at the Department of Social Services Legal Division. He will serve as administrative hearing officer for the department.



Mary Packard Knab, recent graduate of Missouri Western State College, working on encapsulating documents. Recently, she has been surveying the literature on the Pony Express in order to compile a more accurate list of riders.



Mike Dyer is shown in the process of building collection storage cabinets. Collections is only one area that will miss his willingness to help out on any project.



After completion of new, dual bridges, half of the 1929 Pony Express Bridge was blown up in February 1984. The other half was removed in March. This and other photos of St. Joseph's past will be on display in the museum's Mini-Gallery. Photo courtesy of Lee Elder.

SESQUICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of St. Joseph, Missouri. On July 26, 1843, Joseph Robidoux accepted the town plat designed by Frederick Smith, and St. Joseph became a city in the State of Missouri.

To commemorate this historic event, the St. Joseph Museum will have a new exhibit in the Mini-Gallery on the second floor which will open April 1. This exhibit will consist of photographs showing the various businesses that have come and gone in St. Joseph since the 1850s. Many of you will recognize the names of the businesses, but you may not have known how long those businesses had been here.

This exhibit should bring back a bit of history to most of you, and we hope you enjoy it.

DONATIONS

Louis E. Westheimer—a packet of information on St. Joseph, the Pony Express and Westheimer ancestors. Similar packets were given to each family that attended the Westheimer Family Reunion in Cincinnati in July 1992.

Ramona Young—notes which eventually became sections of Mabel Loving's book, *The Pony Express Rides On*. The notes were discovered in a desk the donor bought at an auction.

The portraits depicted in Thomas McKenney and James Hall's *History of the Indian Tribes of North America* record the faces of Native Americans when the tribes represented a strong force for the government to reckon with. The portraits stand as unique ethnological and artistic records. The St. Joseph Museum is fortunate to have lithographic reproductions of many of these portraits in our collection. Acquired by the museum as part of the Harry L. George collection, the lithographs are one of the most popular permanent exhibits on display. Now, the Athenaeum of Philadelphia and Dover Publications of New York have jointly published 24 of these impressive full-color illustrations in an 8" by 10" postcard book that has made a wonderful addition to our museum store.

Thomas L. McKenney (1785-1859) was appointed Superintendent of Indian Trade by President James Madison. During his political life, McKenney hired American portrait painter Charles Bird King to paint the portraits of the Native American delegations that were going to Washington to negotiate and sign treaties. The collection continued to grow for many years. After he was forced to resign from government service in 1830, McKenney worked on a book that would incorporate lithographic reproductions of the Native Americans' portraits. This project was his primary interest for the rest of his life. With a text by James Hall (1793-1868), the work, featuring 120 portraits, was published in three volumes between 1836 and 1844.

Although McKenney never received the profits for the project that he had anticipated, his work assumed great importance in American Indian studies largely because of the exquisite portraits. Each portrait depicts in detail the type of costume the subject wore, usually a blend of Native American and European cultures. The gorgets and peace medals that were often worn were coveted gifts given by the government. Collectors still eagerly seek out the handsome plates used in the original publication. The original portraits that McKenney commissioned were given



MAHASKAH THE ELDER (also known as White Cloud), chief of the Iowa. This painting is on exhibit on the first floor of the St. Joseph Museum.

to the Smithsonian Institution in 1858. Replicas in oil still were destroyed in a fire in 1865. Many of them survive in museum collections around the country.

The St. Joseph Museum exhibits a number of the lithographs that are reproduced in this new publication. One is the portrait of Mahaskah the Elder, chief of the Iowa, at the time of his visit to Washington in 1824. Historians speculate that Mahaskah wears a slight frown in this portrait due to the fact that he had recently broken his arm in an accident, and he was in some pain at the time of the sitting. In any case, the portrait and our reproduced lithographs seem to grab the attention of almost every visitor. The biographies provided with each lithograph are the kind of personal stories that are very enjoyable to read.

An informative text and brief biography of each subject is also included in the new postcard book, making it a truly educational and affordable alternative to collecting each reproduction.

PONY EXPRESS, INC. FUNDING UPDATE

Pony Express, Inc., gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, businesses and organizations for their generous contributions.

Clarence E. Blake
Mr. & Mrs. James Bocell
Flora G. Fulton
Heartland Health System
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Latta
Carol Jean Laurent
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Rayman
Merrill A. Ritter
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Schreiber
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Cindy Weaver
Wilsey Foods, Inc.
Stephen & Barbara Wurtzler

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

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Membership level:

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___ 500.00	Fellow	___ 50.00	Subscribing
___ 250.00	Sponsor	___ 25.00	Sustaining

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

Enclosed is a check for:
\$ _____

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

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

Help Establish The National Memorial

Capital Campaign Levels of Giving
One time gift or three year pledge

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\$10,000	Principals
\$ 5,000	Partners
\$ 1,000	Patrons
\$ 100	Donors

For more information contact: Sandy Taylor 816/233-9370

Re-Create History and Reduce Your Taxes by 50%

The Pony Express Museum Restoration and Expansion Project is an authorized Missouri Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) Project.

Any person, firm or corporation in business in the State of Missouri is eligible to receive a NAP tax credit of up to 50% of the amount donated to the museum project.

Contributions of real estate, materials and equipment, stock, and personal time may qualify for tax credits, as well as cash donations.

The Pony Express National Memorial 1993 Pledge Card

Yes, I would like to help establish the National Memorial by making a tax-deductible capital contribution.

Name _____

Business _____

Address _____

____ Please send me information about the Missouri NAP tax credits.

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I would like to pledge \$ _____ I am enclosing today \$ _____

Balance to be paid _____ quarterly
_____ semi-annually _____ annually

Signature of Donor/Contact Person _____ (As it should appear on our contributor's list)

Make checks payable to Pony Express, Inc. - A National Memorial, P.O. Box 244, St. Joseph, Missouri, 64502-0244

Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 9	YOU ARE THE DIFFERENCE, customer service workshop for all front line employees. Call 232-8471 for more information.	April 5-9	Stanley Harrison Acting Workshop at Missouri Western State College. Call 233-0676 for more details.
March 13-15	Midland Empire Audubon Society – Spring Conference, Kearney, Nebraska.	April 13	Midland Empire Audubon Society “Prairie Chicken Trip.”
March 20	Midland Empire Audubon Society “Search for Woodcocks”.	April 14	Pony Express National Memorial benefit performance of “Collections,” a comedy by playwright William K. Powers. Presented by Stanley Harrison and Joie Jacobsen. Ice House Theatre.
March 13	Oregon-California Trails Association – Gateway Chapter field trip to Doniphan County, Kansas trail sites. For details call Larry Bunse, 1-378-3165.	April 16	William K. Powers, PhD., and Marla Powers, PhD., will be meeting with local elementary teachers and education majors from Missouri Western State College to give advice on setting up a unit on Native Americans.
March 29	St. Joseph Archaeological Society meeting, 7:30 p.m., Bank of St. Joseph (basement), Faraon St. and Woodbine Road. For more information call Mike Fisher, society president, 232-5738.	April 17	Midland Empire Audubon Society “Corby Grove Workday.”
March 30	YOU ARE THE DIFFERENCE, customer service workshop for all front line employees. Call 232-8471 for more information.	April 24	Midland Empire Audubon Society “Squaw Creek Workday.”
April 3	Pony Express National Memorial grand opening celebration.	April 26	St. Joseph Archaeological Society meeting.

For more museum information call 232-8471

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Sundays 1-5 p.m.

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