The Happenings

ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM
PONY EXPRESS MUSEUM

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Artifacts found during archaeological excavation at the Pony Express Museum.
Photographed by Jackie Lewin

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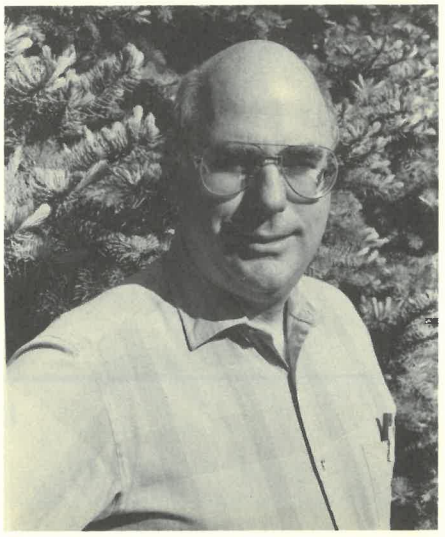
From the Director



DAVID MEAD

Twenty-five years ago, on April 1, 1965, I joined the staff of the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums as curator of natural history. On January 1, 1968, following a search, I was appointed director. Over this 25 years there has been a tremendous number of changes in the staff, exhibits, interpretive programs and management of collections. However, some things never change! Spring around the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums has always been a very busy time. Each year the intensity of activity increases over the preceding year and this year is no exception!

To start with, we have annually performed "spring cleaning" at both museums during March. This is so that we will be fully ready and operational for the switch to summer hours on April 1. It is also on this date that the Pony Express Museum opens for the season. Schools from a hundred mile radius come to see the Pony Express Museum and St. Joseph Museum. Staffing is always a problem during this period as our college staff is not out of school yet, and so a lot of shifting of personnel takes place. We all learn to be fluid in our jobs.

We have made the decision to make the operation at the Pony Express Museum a twelve month one. We will not close at the end of September as we have for the past thirty years. The reason is that the visitor or tourist season is no longer three months but twelve months. There are increasing numbers of mobile retired persons, and these numbers will continue to grow well into the 21st century. Tour operators provide year around travel plans, and we need to be cognizant of their schedules. This decision will mean a significant increase in operational expenses

as additional staff will have to be brought aboard and utility expenses will expand. The greatest effect to the latter will be an increase in electrical usage to keep the exhibits lighted. Heating will not increase too much as we always maintain a stable temperature throughout the year with our climate control.

April is also budget month! I don't really need to say much more about that except that the budgetary process will be complicated somewhat in that two separate budgets will be prepared, one for the St. Joseph Museum and one for the Pony Express Museum. This separation is a result of the long range expansion program that is taking place in and around the Pony Express Museum.

The 130th anniversary of the Pony Express takes place this year. In recognition of this important anniversary, the staff, under the direction of Jackie Lewin, curator of history, put together a comprehensive program of educational aids which are being offered to the schools of St. Joseph. This program is indeed impressive and just one segment of it is going to involve approximately 6,000 students in St. Joseph and Sacramento! I won't go into details as this program is dealt with later on in this issue. We are still in the process of implementing that program which adds to the intensity of the spring.

Therefore, one can see that there is never a dull moment around here. We all seem to work from one self imposed deadline to another, but we are making headway as we can see a lot of objectives and goals being realized. Pam Pritchett, our new administrative secretary of five months, wanted to go to work where there was a challenge and where she could expand her skills. She sure chose the right spot and she's doing a great job!

My only regret is that, with all that is going on, the detail work on the Pony Express story line for the expansion has suffered. We have had to temporarily stop working on it until we get through this "Pony Express Season." We will have to get back on it as soon as we can, hopefully by the end of April. I am really pleased with the staff as they have truly risen to the occasion of this intense period and given of themselves.

This kind of dedication leads me into my last paragraph. Commencing with this issue we will introduce to you, one at a time through a brief biographical sketch and photograph, each of the museum trustees and staff. As director, I am often more visible to the community, but I would not want to tackle the job without the support and talents of the museum trustees and staff. The introductions in future issues will inform the membership about the talented, capable people who surround me and share with me the ongoing challenge of maintaining and operating the museums in a professional manner.

Dick Nolf

CLEO T. MARTIN

The staff and board of trustees were deeply saddened by the death of Cleo Martin on March 10. Cleo was a person who took his responsibility to the museum very seriously. He was first appointed to the city board of directors by Mayor William Bennett in June of 1970. Since that time he had served several terms on that board. In January 1974, he was elected to the incorporated board of trustees. He remained on that board until his death. Cleo was always a very enthusiastic supporter of the St. Joseph Museum and Pony Express Museum. We could count on him to be a part of all board meetings and museum functions. He was not afraid to ask difficult questions in order to explore all facets of an issue. At the same time, he was very quick to seek a common, united direction in board decisions. During the last several years he would come to the meetings carrying his oxygen bottle, being careful to conserve his energy. I always knew I could count on Cleo - that he would be very supportive and that he had the interest of the museum at heart. Cleo will be missed. Our sympathies are extended to his wife, Olive, and his family.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE PONY EXPRESS MUSEUM

by Mike Fisher

During the summer of 1989, a vacant area behind the Pony Express Museum at 914 Penn Street in St. Joseph, Missouri, became the site of an archaeological project. The main purposes of the ongoing investigation are to search for unrecorded descriptive details of the original building and salvage artifacts, if they exist, pertaining to the Pony Express period of occupation.

First known as the Pikes Peak Stables, the building was constructed by Ben Holladay in 1858 to stable horses used in his overland freighting business. For 18 months during 1860-61, the stables serviced horses for the Pony Express. Between 1861 and 1887, numerous renters, lessees and owners utilized the building for a livery stable. The St. Joseph Transfer Company owned the property from 1887 to 1901. During this ownership, the wooden walls of the original stables were replaced with brick. The structure was vacant for a short period of time before the Western Mattress and Excelsior Company bought it in 1903. The mattress and excelsior company sold the building in 1911, and in 1912, the property was deeded to the Voltz Manufacturing Company. This company and the Lee Roofing Company occupied the building until 1933. Several different parties owned the building between 1933 and 1946. During that period, in 1935, the 75th Anniversary of the Pony Express was celebrated. At that time, the Pikes Peak Stables became known as the Pony Express Barn. Two years later, during the Platte Purchase Centennial, a "Pony Express Stables" sign was posted on the building. Realizing the historic significance of the Pony Express Stables, the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce bought the structure in 1946. A year later, the rear of the bricked stables collapsed. In 1950, a foundation was formed by the M.K. Goetz Brewing Co. to fund a stables restoration to commemorate the Pony Express. At that time, 55 feet of the original 125 feet length of the bricked stables were restored. In 1960 the Pony Express Stables building was deeded to the St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express Museum was established. Early in 1989, the St. Joseph Museum Board of Trustees voted to extend the present Pony Express Museum 70 feet, making it the length of the original bricked structure, or 125 feet long.

Since planning was in its earliest stages and actual construction would be somewhat in the future, Rich Nolf, director of the museum, decided that there would be ample time to conduct an archaeological investigation in the vacant area behind the present Pony Express Museum. This area will be covered with cement when the new extension is constructed. Officers

MUSEUM PHOTO FILE

The stables c. 1950, photographed by Lehr Construction Co. prior to restoration.

JACKIE LEWIN

Mike Fisher, dig supervisor, photographs each square at every 4" level.

of the St. Joseph Archaeological Society, a local amateur archaeological group, were approached about doing the investigation. A proposal, which included working two days a week and a week end or two until the project was satisfactorily concluded, was presented at an archaeological society monthly meeting. The challenge was accepted. The project became a joint venture of the St. Joseph Archaeological Society and the St. Joseph Museum with the help of other volunteers from the community. The investigation began the summer of 1989 under the supervision of Michael Fisher. Edward Barlow and Bonnie Watkins became coordinators of the project and Jackie Lewin was chosen to be in charge of the historical research.

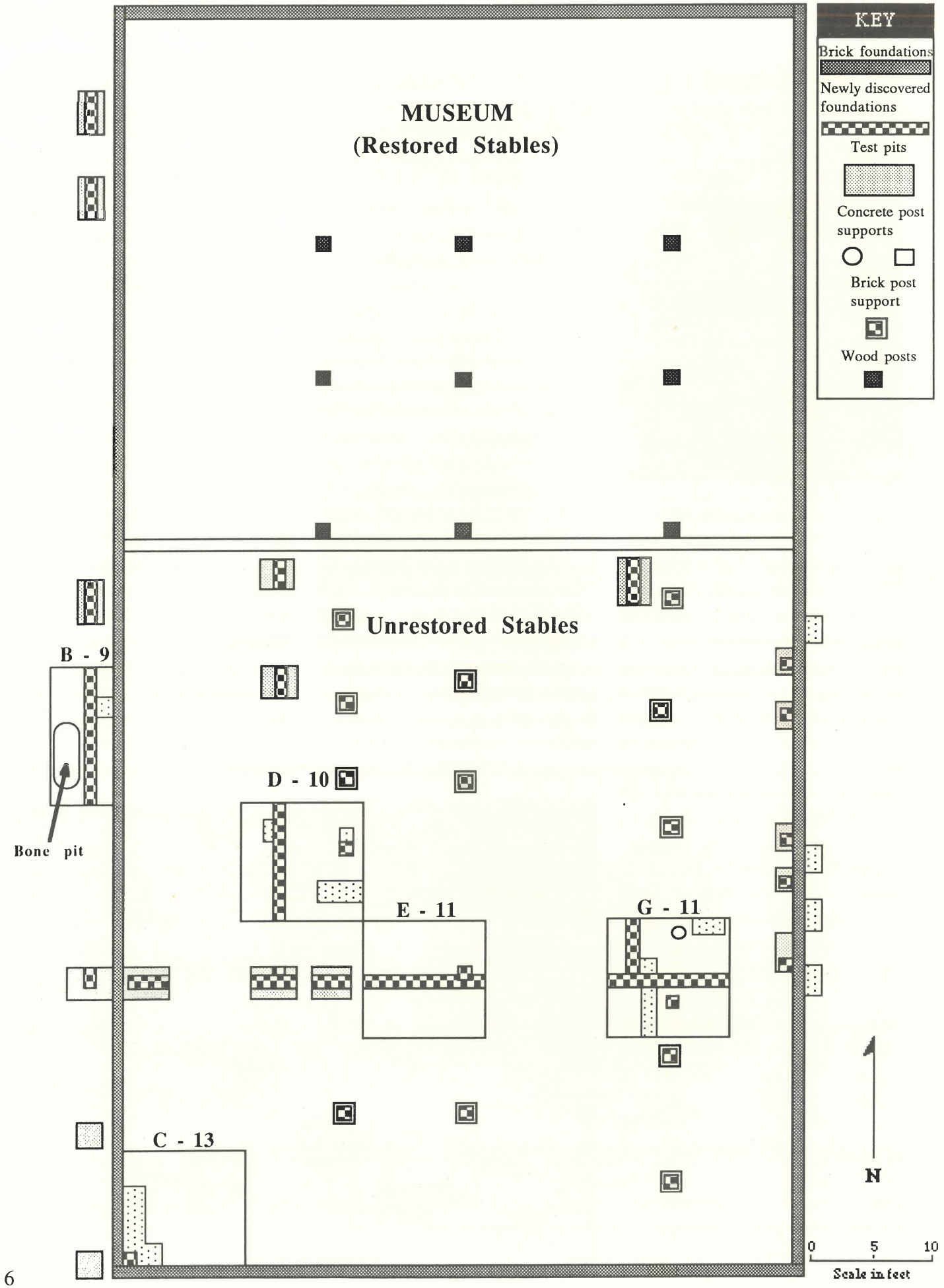
After two large maple trees were removed, the entire vacant area south and west of the present Pony Express Museum (within the property boundaries) was gridded into 68 ten feet by ten feet squares for the purpose of controlling the digging and handling artifacts. Each square was given a letter-number designation, so excavated features and artifacts could be identified, in the future with the area of the yard where they were found.

The first objective of the archaeological investigation was to locate the east, south and west brick foundations of the unrestored portion of the bricked stables. Fortunately, this was fairly easy. Portions of the east and west foundations were visible under the grass and weeds, but this was not so for the south foundation. Since the January 27, 1889, issue of *The St. Joseph Daily Herald* indicated the original stables was 125 feet long and the restored portion of the stables - the present Pony Express Museum - is 55 feet long, it seemed logical to assume that a measurement taken from the south wall of the museum toward the south 70 feet would locate the south foundation. And, it did. The historical records were confirmed. The south foundation was just below the surface. At this point, a decision was made to confine the archaeological excavations to the area surrounded by the newly uncovered east, south and west brick foundations and the museum to the north, because this is the area that will be covered with the new extension.

The first ten feet by ten feet square, C-13 (Fig.1), excavated was the southwest corner where the south foundation joined the west one. Digging here furnished an opportunity to examine the footings and foundations for two walls more thoroughly. This ten feet by ten feet square, as well as all the others, was dug with trowels by levels, four inches at a time, across the entire square. The four inch levels were repeated until undisturbed soil was reached. This procedure provided an opportu-

JACKIE LEWIN

One of the bottles found. Each person excavates with a trowel similar to this one.


MUSEUM
(Restored Stables)
Unrestored Stables
KEY
Brick foundations
Newly discovered foundations
Test pits
Concrete post supports
Brick post support
Wood posts
B - 9
Bone pit
D - 10
E - 11
G - 11
C - 13
N
0
5
10
Scale in feet

JACKIE LEWIN

This is one of the photographs taken of square E-11 after digging down to the 12"-16" depth.

nity to examine the surface after each four inches were removed to see if there was evidence of past activity. It pinpointed more clearly where a feature or artifact was first exposed. This is important for determining time period association for excavated features and artifacts.

Digging the first square was not easy by any means, because the undisturbed soil was buried under approximately two feet of dirt, ashes, cinders, broken bricks, rotted wood, tree roots, broken dishes and glass, one mule shoe, rusty nails and metal fragments. It appeared that the refuse, which was mixed with loess soil, filled in a low area. Possibly, it was deposited there to level the lot before the original stable was built.

Removal of the refuse did not expose the footings , so a trench was dug next to the south and west foundations to locate them. Very substantial four brick step-footings for both foundations were found four feet below the present-day surface. They were both in good shape. It was obvious that the southwest corner foundations of the building were not the cause of the collapse of the rear of the building in 1947.

The next ten feet by ten feet square, D-10 (Fig. 1), excavated was near the west-center of the area. Unlike the first square, cultural materials ran out and undisturbed soil was reached after digging down only 12 inches. About 6 inches below the surface a brick foundation running north and south across the square was discovered. This was totally unexpected. Test excavations revealed that the foundation extended from the museum building, if not from under it, 45 feet to the south where it connected with an east-west foundation.

Besides the brick foundation, a brick post support was found in that square. Three more brick post supports were uncovered, in line, toward the museum building. Before the archaeological investigation closed down in late fall, three rows of posts supports placed in a north-south direction were uncovered within the area confined by the east and west brick foundations. For the most part, they appeared to line up with the posts inside the museum. The supports were approximately 12 inches by 12 inches square and 16 inches tall. They apparently supported posts that held up the upper portion of the building, including a hayloft. A fourth row of post supports was found just inside the east foundation. Some of these post supports could have held temporary posts that shored up the building when the St. Joseph Transfer company replaced the wooden walls of the original stables with brick in 1887-88.

At this point in the archaeological investigation, questions arose regarding the width of the original wooden stables. The 1889 *St. Joseph Daily Herald* stated it was 60 feet wide. Historical records revealed the stable was 58 feet wide after the St. Joseph Transfer Company bricked the walls. The current width of the museum is 58 feet 2 inches. It seemed probable that the approximately 2 feet difference in the widths resulted from bricking the walls. This had to be confirmed.

Even though the original plans did not call for digging outside the brick foundations, it was felt that confirmation of the width of the original wooden stables could be

JACKIE LEWIN

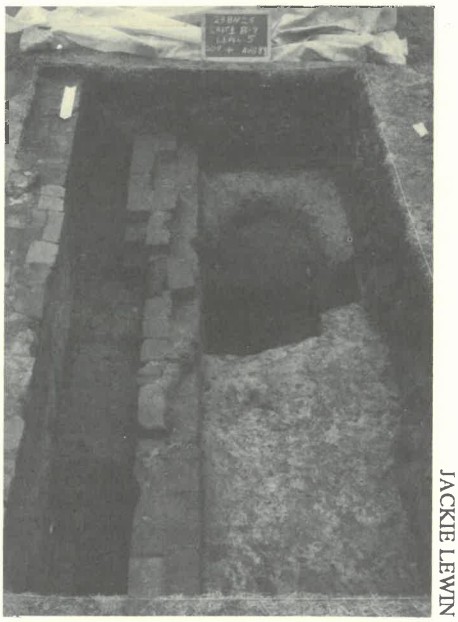
Diggers from left to right are Calvin Lewman, Kathy Reno, Bonnie Watkins, Ed Barlow and Robbie Collins.

found outside of the west foundation of the bricked stables. So, a five feet by ten feet square, B-9 (Fig. 1), was opened up just outside of the west brick foundation. Approximately 14 inches below the surface, another brick foundation was discovered 2 feet from the west foundation. Apparently, when the west wall of the original wooden stables was bricked, the brick foundation and wall were constructed inside the building. Afterwards, the wooden wall was removed. This explained the 2 feet discrepancy in the widths between the wooden stables and the bricked stables.

While the width of the original wooden stables was confirmed at 60 feet, as stated by the 1889 *St. Joseph Daily Herald*, the 125 feet length cited by the same newspaper for the original wooden stables was now questioned. Test excavations revealed that the west foundation for the original stables did not parallel the other west foundation for the bricked stables the full 125 feet. It cornered at 100 feet with the newly discovered east-to-west foundation that was found in the area confined by the foundations of the bricked stables. This was the most significant find thus far, because it suggested that the original wooden stables might have been 100 feet long instead of 125 feet (as historic records revealed) unless an unenclosed shed-type structure attached to the back of the stables made up the additional 25 feet. Much more evidence is needed to verify this supposition.

An area four feet by two feet by one foot deep just west of the wooden stables foundation in square B-9 (Fig. 1), contained animal bones, including the jaw of an animal - possibly a hog. A number of buttons imprinted with "Wood Mfg. Co. St. Joe" were also found. They had a single countersunk hole. It is possible that these buttons could have been used as mattress buttons when the Western Mattress and Excelsior Company occupied the stables in 1903-12.

From this point in the archaeological investigation until the project was closed for the winter, the time was spent searching for more evidence that would clearly explain the purposes of the newly-discovered foundations in the area enclosed by the bricked stable foundations. The distance from the west wooden stable foundation to the north-south foundation that was first discovered in square D-10 (Fig. 1), was 15 feet. Another north-south foundation was found 15 feet from the east foundation in square G-11 (Fig. 1). Like the one on the west side of the excavation area, it also connected with the newly-discovered east-west foundation that was located 45 feet from the museum building.



JACKIE LEWIN

Foundations discovered in square B-9. The one to the right supported the original wooden building.

Two post supports were also uncovered in Square G-11 (Fig. 1). One was a brick post support that lined up in a row of such posts. The other post support was unique in that it was shaped like a keg. Apparently, cement was poured into a wooden keg which served as a form; wood fragments still clung to the cement. This post support was of later vintage than the brick post support. It probably held a post that shored up a crumbling portion of the building.

A layer of asphalt shingle fragments and grit was discovered 8 inches to 12 inches below the surface in square G-11 (Fig. 1). The layer revealed exactly where the level of the floor was when the Lee Roofing Company occupied the building between 1912 and 1933. Eight inches to twelve inches of soil covered the grit. This overburden probably came from the restored portion of the stables when the concrete floor was installed in 1950.

Time ran out for the archaeological project in late fall just after square E-11 (Fig. 1) was excavated to examine the newly-discovered east-west foundation more closely. By this time, four ten feet by ten feet squares, one five feet by ten feet square and 39 test excavations had been completed.

In late November 1989 at Rich Nolf's request, Robert Bray, a renowned historic archaeologist and professor emeritus from the University of Missouri-Columbia, visited the archaeological site and assessed the progress of the project. Consultation with Professor Bray and his advice on how to continue the project when excavating resumes in the spring of 1990 was, and will be, most helpful.

While the width of the original wooden stable was confirmed at 60 feet, the length of the structure was not. Was the length of the original wooden stable 100 feet or 125 feet? If the newly-discovered east-west foundation did not support the south wall of the original wooden stable, what was its purpose? Likewise, what purposes did the two north-south foundations serve? Do the post supports indicate the approximate locations of stalls in the stables? Hopefully, these and many more questions will be answered when the dig resumes in the spring of 1990.

No lab work has been done on the excavated artifacts at this writing. Some of the more numerous artifacts found were rust encrusted square nails, wire nails, wire, bolts, iron fragments, sheet metal, brass or copper tubing, bricks, window glass fragments, broken ceramics, broken bottles and pieces of asphalt shingles. Some of the most appealing, but less frequent finds, included beverage and medicine bottles, horse and mule shoes, buttons, buckles and a small ivory knob with the Star of David engraved on it. As far as could be determined, most of these artifacts did not relate to the Pony Express period. Perhaps there will be more success in this respect during the next session of the dig which will-begin as soon as weather permits .

Each square of an archaeological grid yields its own "bits and pieces" of history. Hopefully, the "bits and pieces" of this dig can be pulled together to provide descriptive details of the Pony Express Stables of 1860-61. That is the ultimate goal of this archaeological investigation.

References:

"Pikes Peak Stables in 1858," *St. Joseph Daily Herald*, January 27, 1889.

St. Joseph News Press, September 20, 1947.

Shoemaker, Floyd C.. "The Pony Express - Commemoration, Stables, and Museum." *Missouri Historical Review 44* (July 1950):343-363.

Nolf, Rich and Lewin, Jacqueline. "The Pony Express Museum." *The Happenings* (March - April 1989):2-4.

Until his retirement in 1986, Michael R. Fisher was a television engineer at KQTV. Mike has been an avocational archaeologist in northwest Missouri since his childhood. For the past 25 years he has served as president of the St. Joseph Archaeological Society. During ten years of that time, he was also president of the Missouri State Archaeological Society.

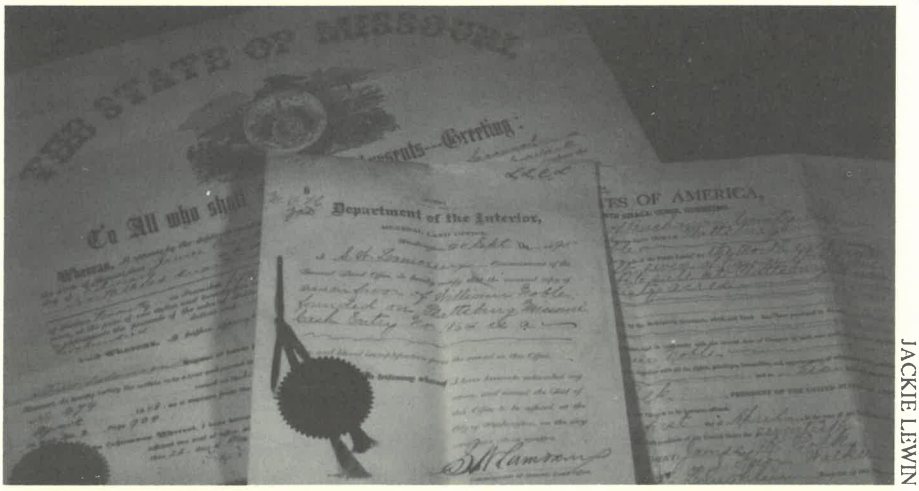
Over the years Mike has served as a consultant to the museum on numerous occasions. His involvement has been particularly invaluable because of his expertise in the field of archaeology.

arti-FACTS

Among the more than 40,000 artifacts held by our museums are several thousand documents. The documents consist of letters, deeds, maps, posters, programs, bills, receipts and newspapers to name just some of the areas of interest. Two of these items are pictured. They are two land grants which were donated to the museum by R. S. Duncan in 1965. These land grants represent the more common type of item found in the document collection.

The first land grant was issued by the State of Missouri on February 17, 1848, to James Crowley of Andrew County. This grant has two attachments. The one on the front, which is visible, was from the Missouri Register of Lands and is dated March 1873. It states that this paper is a "true and correct copy" of the records in the registry office. The attachment on the back regards the registry of this property which took place in Buchanan County, also in March 1873. This artifact has already been accessed, deacidified and encapsulated.

The second land grant was issued by the United States government to William Noble of Buchanan County, Missouri, on April 1, 1846. This document also has an attachment. It is from the Department of the Interior and is dated September 14, 1896. It states that this document is in agreement with the records at the interior department. The seal of the United States Land Office is affixed to the document to make this official. This item is still awaiting encapsulation.



JACKIE LEWIN

These land grants are stored in document storage at the St. Joseph Museum.

These documents are interesting objects which reflect the expansionist period of the United States right in our own backyard. They are also examples of a project in which the museum has been very active the last few years. This project has consisted of the inventory, accession, deacidification and encapsulation of the numerous documents in the museum's collections. This process has been very time-consuming for several reasons. First, each document, regardless of its length, must be read. This does not sound all that difficult, but because all old documents were handwritten - at least in sections - it is. You must first decipher the handwriting before you know what the document is and where it should be placed in storage.

Second, specialized storage had to be constructed for the documents. Third, more documents have been located than were originally thought to be in existence. This, along with the fact that more are being donated every year, has added to our total numbers.

However, the end of this project is literally in sight now. The number of documents that still need to go through the process is very low, probably under 200. All during the project, documents have been brought in by their owners who were seeking advice on conservation. They wanted to know if their items could go through the deacidification and encapsulation procedure. For various reasons (size, unstable ink, etc.), some can and others cannot. The museum will continue to offer this service to a limited number of people, even when all of our artifacts are done. If you are interested in this service, please contact the museum for an estimate of costs.

Bonnie Watkins, Curator of Collections

130 YEARS AGO

April 1990 marks the 130th anniversary of the Pony Express. As in 1990, April 3, 1860 (the starting day for the Pony Express) fell on a Tuesday. Residents of St. Joseph first read of their city being chosen as the eastern terminus in the March 31 issue of *The St. Joseph Weekly West*. The article read: "A rumor, confirming information received by us today, authorizes us to announce the important fact that Messr. Jones, Russell & Co., have determined to make St. Joseph the starting point at this end of their Overland Route. This is a matter of great importance to our city, as it will divert all the business, passengers and freight to this place."[1]

MUSEUM PHOTO FILE

The first rider leaving the stables, as depicted by Charles Hargens.

Another article in that same paper said: "We understand that arrangements are all completed for starting the Pony Express promptly on the 3d of April. The rider and horse for the run out of St.Jo are here, and have been over the ground several times. B.F. Ficklin is expected in by next express, and will be here to start the first horse."[2] On the morning of April 3rd the *St. Joseph Daily Gazette* told its readers: Mr. W. H. Russell, the President of the Central Overland California and Pike's Peak Express Company, and Mr. Majors a Director of the Company, arrived in this city yesterday morning to be present this afternoon to witness the starting of the pony from the office of the Company. The fame of these gentlemen for intelligent enterprise is as wide as the West, and is now about to be associated with a movement which will extend it from one ocean to the other. The first pony will start this afternoon at 5 P.M. precisely. The letters will be received for all points up to 4:30 P.M."

That day was a day of celebration in St. Joseph. Starting time was scheduled for 5 P.M. The city was in holiday attire. Flags waved and bands played for the occasion and it is said that it was "one of the largest crowds of anxious spectators that had ever assembled on the banks of that mighty river."[3]

1. John S. Jones was one of the nine incorporators of the Central Overland California and Pikes Peak Railroad. Jones and William Russell operated the Leavenworth and Pikes Peak Express Company. Alexander Majors and William Waddell were not partners in this. When the Leavenworth and Pikes Peak Express Company began floundering financially, the firm of Russell, Majors and Waddell took over the company in October 1859 under a contract to form a new company which would be called the Central Overland California and Pikes Peak Express Company. This new company became a legal reality on February 13, 1860. It could transport mail, freight and passengers. Since Jones and Russell's company had done some groundwork for the Pony Express in advertising for horses a few days before it was legally terminated, some people, including the newspaper, still referred to the new company as Jones and Russell instead of the Central Overland California and Pikes Peak Express Company.

2. B.F. Ficklin was general superintendent of the route of the Central Overland California and Pike's Peak Express Company.

3. Frank A. Root and William Elsey Connelley, *The Overland Stage to California* (Topeka: Published by the Authors, 1901), p. 109.

Speeches were given outside the Patee House, the first St. Joseph office of the Pony Express. In one, St. Joseph's colorful mayor, Jeff Thompson (later known as the "Swamp Fox of the Confederacy") spoke "setting forth the advantages to be derived by the country generally and our city in particular. Alexander Majors said that the Pony Express was the forerunner of "a more important, and a greater enterprise, which must soon reach its culmination, viz: the construction of the road upon which the tireless iron horse will start on his long overland journey. . ."[4]

In the meantime, the special messenger bringing the letter mail from New York and Washington missed his train connection at Detroit. It looked like he would have a 24 hour delay. However, with the cooperation of the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, a special train consisting of a locomotive and one coach made a record breaking trip from Palmyra, Missouri, to St. Joseph in four hours and fifty-one minutes, an average speed of forty miles an hour over a distance of one hundred and eight miles.[5] The ceremony at the Patee House being completed, the rider waited at the Pikes Peak Stables on Penn Street for the signal that the mail had arrived by train. The *St. Joseph Free Democrat* of April 7 reported, that "All being desirous of preserving a memento of the flying messenger, the little pony was almost robbed of his tail." Therefore, the rider and horse retreated into the stable to await the canon boom. The train finally arrived in St. Joseph at about 5:00 P.M. The mail and telegrams were sorted and placed in the mochila and at 7:15 the canon fired signaling the ferry that the rider was coming. The rider then left the Pikes Peak Stables, thus making it the starting point of that first ride.[6] The rider raced to the express office located where the Holiday Inn sets today. The April 7 *St. Joseph Weekly West* report read: "At quarter past seven o'clock, last evening, the mail was placed by M. Jeff Thompson, on the back of the animal, a fine bay mare, who is to run the first stage of the great through Express from St. Joseph to her sister cities of the Pacific shore. Horse and rider started off amid the loud and continuous cheers of the assembled multitude, all anxious to witness every particular of the inauguration of the greatest enterprises which it has as yet become our pleasant duty, as a public journalist to chronicle."

The first mochila to leave St. Joseph carried around 85 pieces of mail including a message of congratulations from President James Buchanan to Governor John Downey of California, one or two government communications, a number of telegrams, a few bank drafts, numerous business letters and tissue paper issues of the *St. Joseph Gazette, New York Herald and New York Tribune.*

Jackie Lewin, Curator of History

4. *The St. Joseph Weekly West*, April 7, 1860. The newspaper also reported that an election was held on Monday, April 2. Mayor Thompson was not a candidate for reelection and Armstrong Beattie was elected to become the next mayor upon inauguration.

5. *The St. Joseph Weekly West.* April 7, 1860.

6. In 1912 the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) placed a granite monument in Patee Park across from the Pony Express stables designating the site as the starting point in St. Joseph. In 1912 the Voltz Manufacturing and Lee Roofing Company occupied the stables building. The Patee House was occupied by the R.L. McDonald Manufacturing Company and the United States Express Office was a brokerage company. It is felt that the DAR used the signaling by the cannon to indicate the official starting of the Pony Express.

RECENT DONATIONS

First Presbyterian Church - nine metal organ pipes from their dismantled 1876 E. & G. G. Hook pipe organ.

Helen Karkuth—two magazines, *John F. Kennedy Memorial Album*, 1964, and *The Searchfor Jimmy Carter*, 1976.

Nancy Hampton - *The Beehive House*, a pamphlet about Brigham Young's home in Salt Lake City, Utah.

NEW MEMBERS

The St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums are happy to welcome Carol Matt and Wells Fargo Alarm Services of King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, as new members.

We are pleased by their interest in the museum, and we thank them for their support.

WELCOME ABOARD, DR. RUSHIN

DR. DAVID ASHLEY

Dr. Rushin leads a group of students in the college Biology Study Area.

Dr. John Rushin, botanist and Missouri Western State College biology proffessor, was recently elected to the St. Joseph Museum Board of Trustees. Dr. Rushin brings with him over twenty years of experience in science and education.

Dr. Rushin received a B.S. and M.S. in biology at Indiana State University and a Ph.D. in biology at Idaho State University. He taught junior high and high school science courses for nine years and undergraduate courses at Idaho State University for three years. Dr. Rushin's emphasis is in botany and he has published several papers on the subject.

In 1979, Dr. Rushin accepted a teaching position with the biology department at Missouri Western State College. He has taught graduate and undergraduate courses in microbiology, plant physiology, plant systematics, general botany and general biology. He also serves as an instructor in several programs designed to provide instruction and teaching methods for other science teachers. In cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation, Dr. Rushin teaches a summer workshop in conservation education. He is also a lead teacher in the KSAM (Kindergarten through Sixth grade Science and Math) program to teach elementary teachers a curriculum of science activities.

Dr. Rushin is the state director of the Missouri Junior Academy of Science, a statewide program of science competitions for middle and high schools. The academy judges research papers from science students which are finalists from local science fairs.

A key person in the development of the MWSC's Biology Study Area, Dr. Rushin helped develop trails, self-guiding pamphlets and a reestablished native prairie. As chairman of the college Greenbelt Committee, Dr. Rushin has led an effort to develop guidlelines for development or activities on the college grounds.

Dr. Rushin is currently one of four representatives from the college working with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) to develop plans for a biology field station and headquarters office on the college grounds. They are working with architects and MDC officials to design a cooperative facility for both the college biology department and the MDC.

Also involved in many community activities, Dr. Rushin is a member of the Midland Empire Audubon Board of Directors and the Joint Committee for Riverfront Park Development. He frequently leads Audubon field trips and has been involved in developing plans for the Riverfront Park wetland area.

Dr. Rushin is a valuable addition to the St. Joseph Museum Board of Trustees during this period of rapid growth.

David Mead, Curator of Natural History

SHOP TALK

NEW ITEMS IN THE BOOK & GIFT SHOP

A great deal of preparation has gone into the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museum Gift Shops in order to get them ready for spring and summer visitors. In the process of cleaning the storage rooms, I found six copies of the book, *Recollections of a Pioneer*, by J. W. (Watt) Gibson. Watt Gibson and his associates panned for gold in California during the Gold Rush of 1849-50 and later made several trips across the Plains with cattle before the Pony Express and before there was a railroad west of the Missouri River. Squatters were settling in the area known as the Platte Purchase which became a part of the State of Missouri in 1838. Watt's parents settled near Gower in 1839 before much of this area had been surveyed. *Recollections of a Pioneer* was first published in St. Joseph in 1912 by the Press of Nelson-Hanne Printing Company which was located at 107 South Third Street. The book proved to be very popular and the scarcity of available copies prompted Practical Personal Planning, Inc., to reprint the book. It has now been out of print many years, and we are offering the last of our copies to St. Joseph and Pony Express Museum members at $12.00 per copy.

A wide range of new items have arrived for the April opening of the Pony Express Museum beginning with a collection of western pewter sculptures. This collection includes such pieces as "Buffalo Hunter," "Sweet Talk," "Roping" and "The Rescue." This is a moderately priced line of pewter with a distinctive American West flavor. We have also added "Trooper of the Plains" and "Mountain Man" from the Hudson and Chilmark line of fine pewter. Another handsome new item is a glass stein with our own Pony Express logo design etched on the front. The stein is one of many different kinds of items that are specially designed for the Pony Express Museum Shop. One of the most popular of these items is a copy (eight inches by ten inches) of the Pony Express Riders Oath on antiqued parchment paper with a sketch of a Pony Express rider galloping off leaving a cloud of dust behind him. Also along these lines, we have developed a two and one-half feet by two feet poster featuring pictures and brief biographies of eight Pony Express riders. The poster, originally developed for educational purposes, was included in the Pony Express Teacher's Guide that we supplied to area schools during the 130th Anniversary celebration of the famed mail service. The pictures were reproduced from photos in our collection and the information for the biographies came from extensive research by our staff. The poster turned out so well that we decided to offer them in the Pony Express Museum Shop. The riders that are featured include Jack Keetley, John Phillip Koerner, Bronco Charlie Miller, Michael Whalen, Billy Fisher, Johnny Frye, Charles Cliff and Buffalo Bill Cody. This spring, visitors will have a chance to wrap their purchases in "Old West Wrapping Paper" that features the western artwork of Frederick Remington.

As a museum member, you receive a 20% discount on all purchases at both the St. Joseph Museum and Pony Express Museum gift shops.

The St. Joseph Museum Shop now carries a wide variety of activity books that appeal to both children and adults. The children who visit the St. Joseph Museum always seem to enjoy the bright stained glass windows in our building. We have located a publisher who produces stained glass coloring books. With these books, they can create stained glass effects of their own with ease. For adults, the American Indian Cut & Use Stencils offer a wide range of unusual de-

sign ideas. The book includes 58 full-size stencils printed on durable stencil paper to make them handy for such projects as painting tee-shirts or sweatshirts or making costumes or decorative borders. The selection of paper dolls has also been expanded due to their popularity with both children and adults. We have carried Victorian paper dolls for some time, and we have now added paper dolls of various time periods to our collection. The American Family of the Pilgrim Period , the American Family of the Colonial Period, the American Family of the Pioneer Period, the American Family of the Civil War Era and the American Family of the 1890s are among the new titles that are now available. For this collection, noted fashion illustrator Tom Tierney has meticulously researched and rendered four sets of period attire for the entire family including grandparents. The wardrobes are complete from the proper undergarments and shoes to such accessories as bonnets, wide-brimmed hats, muffs, silk handbags, walking sticks, capes and jewelry. The books are printed in full-color on heavy gloss paper and include information on the clothing, current events and customs of the times which make them educational as well as entertaining. Collectors, designers, fashion historians and paper doll fans of all ages who are interested in the clothing and daily activities of people from the bygone eras of American history are bound to find this inexpensive collection a real find. As one visitor put it, "These are so lovely that I may not let my children play with them."

Kathy Reno, Receptionist-Membership

DULCIMER WORKSHOP WAS A SUCCESS

RICHARD NOLF

Allan Macfarlane gives instruction on the mountain dulcimer.

An all day, mountain dulcimer workshop was given by Lawrence Chapman and Allen Macfarlane at the St. Joseph Museum on March 10th. The workshop covered numerous aspects of the instrument, including different tuning styles of the instrument, both right and left handed playing techniques and chords and their various uses. During the course of the workshop, the participants were given "hands-on" experience by learning some common fiddle tunes. Participants were also made aware of additional learning resources available in print, records and audio-cassettes.

The workshop was a complete success, as the maximum registration of 20 was reached. Along with the registrants, there were also some spectators present at the event. Upon request of the registrants, a future workshop along the same lines is in the workings.

Allen MacFarlane and Lawrence Chapman, both from Lawrence, Kansas, have been playing music on the mountain dulcimer for the past ten years. They have played professionally at numerous events throughout the midwest including the Prairie View Festival, Renaissance Festival, Lawrence Independence Days celebration and Fort Scott Good Ol' Days Festival. Both are active members of the Prairie Dulcimer Club in Kansas City where they have shared their knowledge and appreciation of the instrument through workshops and performances. The two usually perform together with their repertoire being composed of American and Scots-Irish traditional music.

Robbie Sipes, Curator of Exhibits

EARTH DAY 1990

April 22, 1990, which will mark the 20th anniversary of Earth Day, will be observed nationwide by various environmental organizations. Earth Day 1970 was the largest organized demonstration in history. More than 20 million people participated in the event that gave birth to the modern American environmental movement. Activities ranged from nature walks to direct action against major polluters. In response to the concern voiced by Earth Day participants, the Environmental Protection Agency was created in 1971. The Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act soon followed.

Many environmental issues are to be the focus of Earth Day 1990. The current issues include acid rain, toxics, recycling, ozone depletion, saving the rainforest, wildlife and habitat preservation, the greenhouse effect and saving old-growth forest in the Pacific Northwest. Environmentalists hope that Earth Day 1990 will mark the renewal of a long-term commitment to building a safe and sustainable planet. The event will emphasize use of renewable energy and recycled resources.

The St. Joseph Museum has hosted two organizational meetings for community-wide Earth Day 1990 Activities. On February 27, representatives from the League of Women Voters, Junior League of St. Joseph, Midland Empire Audubon Society, Parks and Recreation Department and the St. Joseph School District met to form the Earth Day Coalition of St. Joseph. The Coalition is coordinating several events in St. Joseph to occur during April 16 - 29. Events include tree and wildflower plantings, a benefit concert at Krug Park, collection of recyclables and guided nature walks at Missouri Western State College.

For more information on Earth Day 1990, contact Kip Oschwald at 233-6881 or David Mead at the St. Joseph Museum. Interested organizations are invited to participate and may send a delegate to Coalition meetings.

David Mead, Curator of Natural History

MUSEUM NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS

David Mead represented the St. Joseph Museum at the Pony Express Neighborhood Network (P.E.N.N.) meeting, held at the Heartland House on March 15. Donna Ellis, caretaker of Heartland House and president of P.E.N.N., presented a program on the renovation and operation of the historic house followed by a tour of the facility..

It was announced that there will be 2 dumpsters at Patee Park on April 7 for neighborhood clean-up. P.E.N.N. will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt in Patee Park on April 14.

The next P.E.N.N. Meeting will be on April 12, starting at 5:00 p.m. with a trash pick-up in Patee Park. A covered-dish dinner will begin at 6:15 at the church. Members are to bring a covered dish and service, a ham and drinks will be provided.

The monthly meeting of the Museum Hill Neighborhood Association (M.H.N.A.) was held on Wednesday, March 14, 1990, at Barbosa's. Rudy Clark is president of the group.

MHNA is responsible for the revitalization of Smith Park south of Francis Street. After several tasks are finished, the work at the park will be completed. New lights will be installed at the site as soon as weather permits. MHNA members plan to hold a work session to assemble 12 park benches which will be placed in the park.

The next meeting of MHNA will be Wednesday, April 11, 1990. Officers will be elected then.

David Mead, Curator of Natural History
Marilyn Taylor, Curator of Ethnology

130TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

By the time you receive this issue of *The Happenings*, the events of the 130th anniversary celebration will be nearing completion. Many of you will have attended the "Members' Reception" on April 3rd. You were welcomed by Deputy Mayor Gerry Smith. You saw the videos, "The Pony Express," "The Making of the Pony Express Saddle and Mochila" and the "Czechoslovakian Pony Express." You enjoyed the hammered dulcimer and guitar music of Esther Kreek and Charlie Pinzino and toured the archaeological dig at the rear of the Pony Express Museum. You talked with Russ Mooney as he described how a mochila was made and how it was used by the Pony Express riders. You heard a description of what happened on that site 130 years ago that day - the beginning of the Pony Express. Over one hundred members and guests attended the event. The staff hopes that you enjoyed their efforts to commemorate the 130th anniversary of the Pony Express.

Another event took place Sunday, April 8, from 2 P.M. until 6 P.M. As during the members' reception of the previous Tuesday, the three videos were viewed and there was a tour of the archaeological dig. Local archaeologists under the direction of Mike Fisher were at work. Russ Mooney and Richie Masoner demonstrated a mochila exchange with horses in front of the stables. Heidi Hornaday gave a description of the Pony Express school projects sponsored by the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums. Jackie Lewin described the events that took place both during the start of the Pony Express on the site on April 3, 1860, and upon the arrival of the first rider from California on April 13, 1860. State legislators Ed Schellhorn and Truman Wilson attended the event. Representative Schellhorn presented a resolution from the Missouri House of Representatives commemorating the 130th anniversary of the Pony Express. Senator Wilson presented a similar resolution from the Missouri Senate. Entertainment was provided by Allan Macfarlane and Lawrence Chapman on mountain dulcimers and by the Pony Expressmen, barbershop singers. Barbecue sandwiches were available in Patee Park and the Pony Express Neighborhood Network offered soft drinks for sale. It is hoped that it was an educational and enjoyable afternoon for all who visited the Pony Express Museum for the April 8 festivities.

Jackie Lewin, Curator of History

EDUCATIONAL AIDS OFFERED TO ST. JOSEPH SCHOOLS

In the last issue of *The Happenings*, you were given a summary of the programs and activities offered to the St. Joseph public and private schools. These offerings were received enthusiastically by educators. In fact, 17 of the 18 public elementary schools are participating in all or part of the project. In addition, four St. Joseph private schools and one middle school participated. Below is a detailed explanation about the individual activities and the number of participants who took part in each. As you can tell, a majority of St. Joseph school children received special emphasis on the history of the Pony Express during its 130th anniversary.

Pony Express Teacher's Guide Books: 199 elementary teachers requested the guide book which contained maps, posters and instructional activities for students as well as an outline of factual information for the teacher's background information.

Pony Express Traveling Exhibit: 16 schools requested this exhibit which stayed at each participating school for two days. During those two days, the exhibit circulated among a number of classrooms at the school. The four panel exhibit of photos was augmented by several large separate photos and maps. A replica mochila was also included. Each panel had questions for students to answer, and the answers to the questions were in the four cantinas of the mochila.

Making of a Pony Express Saddle and Mochila: 14 schools used this video which actually showed the

students how mail was carried by a Pony Express rider. Each school could keep the video for 2 days.

This was the first video to be produced, directed and filmed by the staff of the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums.

The Pony Express Video: 8 schools requested this video which was offered to middle schools. However, several elementary schools also made a request to view the video. The video, produced by Kaw Valley Films, gives a brief history of the Pony Express.

Story Teller and Musician: Students from 9 schools heard Bob Gasch, story teller, and Esther Kreek, hammered dulcimer player, tell of lifestyles for a Pony Express rider and others who lived around the early 1860s. This was offered for only four days, and during that time, Esther and Bob performed 12 one hour programs. It was completely booked!

Pen Pals From California: This was a massive project to coordinate since 17 schools requested pen pals for grades 4 through 8. This was a total of 1,217 students! Eight Sacramento, California, schools cooperated and provided the number of pen pals needed.

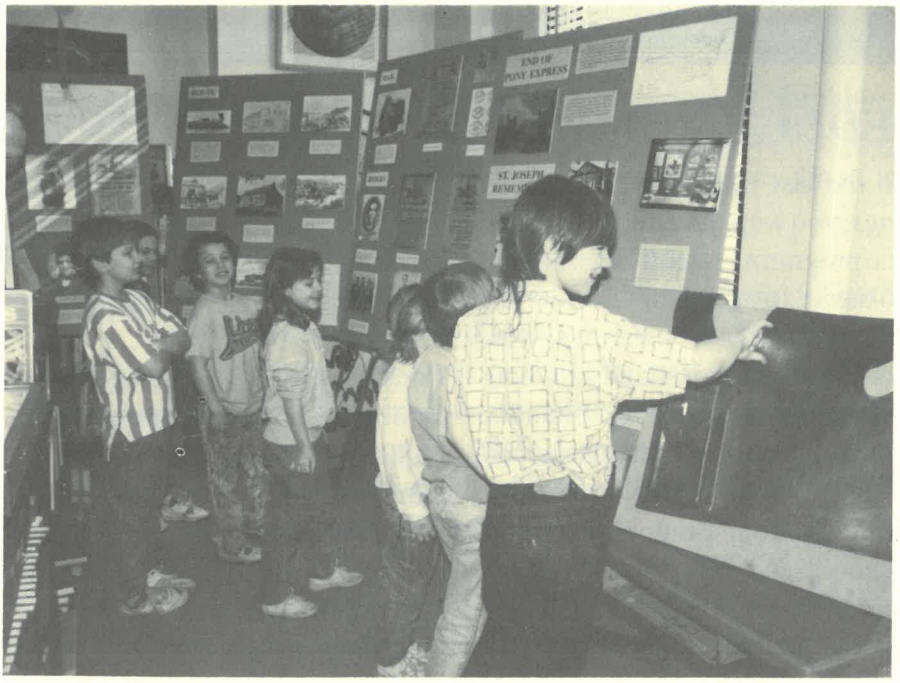
Letters to the Congressmen: 561 students of 6th through 8th grade level participated by writing letters to Missouri congressmen, both representatives and senators. Students wrote to encourage the congressmen to support the passage of the bill, now pending, which would make the California and Pony Express Trails part of the National Historic Trails system administered by the National Park Service.

Letters Addressed to Themselves: 2,891 St. Joseph students in kindergarten through 3rd grade wrote letters or drew pictures which were picked up by a rider and placed in the mochila on their school playground. These letters received a special Pony Express handstamp and a Sacramento, California, postmark and were mailed back to the student.

The Rider Comes Through: This was the highlight of the Pony Express educational program. During the week of April 9 through 12, a rider on horseback visited school playgrounds for a special assembly. Proclamations from Governor John Ashcroft and Mayor Glenda Kelly were read declaring April 3 through 13 as Pony Express Days. Then the letters described above (Pen Pals from California, Letters to Congressmen and the Letters Addressed to Themselves) were picked up, handstamped at the Pony Express Museum and mailed to their destinations. All of the letters were written on tissue paper similar to that used during the Pony Express, 1860-61. This was a total of over 5,100 letters!

The staff was pleased with the response of St. Joseph educators to the project. It is hoped that St. Joseph students will gain knowledge about a period of history that was important to the American West and their own home town.

Jackie Lewin, Curator of History



DAVID MEAD

Students at Lindbergh Elementary School view the Pony Express traveling exhibit, on loan from the museum. The children especially enjoyed the mochila.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 21 — Gateway Chapter, Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA), field trip to Marysville, Kansas. Persons interested in trail sites are invited.

April 28 — Midland Empire Audubon Society (M.E.A.S.) field trip - Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at the west parking lot of Perkins Restaurant at 8:00 A.M.

May 3 — St. Joseph Museum field trip to Swan Lake National Wildlife Area. A detailed itinerary has been mailed to the membership.

May 5 — M.E.A.S. - Squaw Creek Work Day. Meet at 9:00 A.M. at Squaw Creek to help personnel with a variety of projects.

May 8 — Gateway Chapter, OCTA, will meet at 7:00 P.M. at the Pony Express Museum. Charles Martin, Sr., of Omaha, Nebraska, will present a program of slides dealing with the upcoming OCTA national convention to be held in his city in August 1990.

May 12 — M.E.A.S. - 4th Annual BIRD-A-THON. Members will have obtained pledges in the previous weeks. The amount collected will be determined by the total number of species sighted by teams, birding from sunrise to sunset, on this day.

May 22 — M.E.A.S. program - Dr. John Rushin will present a program on "Grasslands and Prairies" at 7:00 P.M. on the MWSC campus in the Learning Resource Center, Room 111. On May 26th, Dr. Rushin will lead a field trip to the prairies in McCormick Wildlife Area and near Tarkio.

June 17 — Czechoslovakian Pony Express riders arrive with the National Pony Express Association's annual re-ride. Arrival time in St. Joseph will be 2:00 P.M. in the afternoon. Watch the next *Happenings* for further details of events to be held at the Pony Express Museum.

Pam Pritchett, Administrative Secretary

BECOME A MUSEUM MEMBER!

The St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express Museum are cultural institutions established for the purpose of preserving our history. We strive to provide top quality interpretive exhibits, preserve our priceless collections and act as an educational resource for our community and beyond. Our goals are to keep abreast of current exhibit techniques, provide educational programs for youth and continue our work in the areas of collection and research. To succeed, we need you. You can contribute through a donation of your time (**as a volunteer**), your membership donation (**monetary contribution**) or materially (**adding to our collections**). Together, we make the St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express Museum institutions we can all be proud of.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP:

Members of the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums have the benefits of receiving the museum publications, free admission, museum gift shop discounts, discounts on museum sponsored field trips and the opportunity to attend "Members Only" events such as exhibit openings, autograph sessions and tours of storage areas. Membership contributions are tax deductible on itemized returns.

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

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I wish to make the following membership donation:

__$2500 Benefactor
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__$ 15 Associate

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

ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM
11th and Charles Streets
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501

I wish to help materially. I have a (Historic)(Ethnological)(Scientific) material contribution which I would like you to consider.

I wish to help by pledging to donate___hrs. per week.

I prefer____ (time) on _____(day of week).

Please call me at _____(phone #) at_____(time of day).

NOTE: If you have questions or wish to volunteer, please call the St. Joseph Museum at 232-8471 and ask for the coordinator of volunteers.