

The Happenings

April 1992

St. Joseph Museum

Pony Express Museum

SUSAN BLAKELY LENDS SUPPORT TO THE PONY EXPRESS MUSEUM PROJECT



Susan Blakely and her husband, Stephen Jaffe, came to St. Joseph the weekend of March 14 and 15 to tape segments of an eight minute video that will be used in the national marketing campaign for the Pony Express National Memorial. The weekend events began Saturday afternoon at a press conference with Susan's actual taping taking place on Sunday, March 15. Susan became involved in this project after her cousin,

Cindy Weaver, sent her a copy of the Pony Express National Memorial case statement and video script. Sensing the professionalism of this organization, having a deep interest in the historical development of this area and realizing the value of this project, Susan and Stephen, agreed to help.

Susan's roots are deeply tied to the rolling farmlands of northwest Missouri. In 1837 (the year after the Platte Purchase Treaty was signed), Michael Karns, Susan's great, great, great-grandfather, brought his family into the newly opened territory. The family settled near present day Agency, Missouri. This was before Buchanan County was formed and Blacksnake Hills was only a few log cabins. Later Michael Karns moved his family to the present-day Ebenezer Church area and his sons began preempting the land. On part of this original Karns family homestead Susan and Landis Karns, Susan Blakely's grandparents, built a farm home. Because Susan's father was an army man she dubbed this her "only home that never moved."

WYETH LION EXHIBIT TO OPEN

The Wyeth Exhibit housed on the second floor of The St. Joseph Museum, will feature the history of the 1922 African expedition, the Lion, the Wyeth family and the Wyeth Company. The exhibit is planned for early May.

The exhibit will include some very interesting features, one of which is the miniature saddle once displayed at the Universal Exposition in St. Louis Missouri. This saddle was awarded a Grand Prize. The exquisite detail of this saddle shows the work of a true craftsman.



Watch for further details in the May issue of *The Happenings*.

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COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS AND ENVELOPES

This spring the museum was able to purchase the entire inventory of commemorative Pony Express envelopes with stamps, known as "First Day Covers," from a company that locates rare stamps. The stamps include the 3 cent stamp which was issued in 1940 and the 4 cent stamp that was issued in 1960.



The Post Office issued a 3 cent commemorative stamp on April 3, 1940, marking the 80th anniversary of the beginning of the Pony Express. Postmaster James A. Farley came from Washington, D.C., to St. Joseph to officially open the sale of the stamp. Special envelopes with designs commemorating the Pony Express anniversary were prepared by philatelists and sent to St. Joseph. The envelopes also went on sale on April 3, 1940. Additionally in April 1940, the St. Joseph Post Office and the Pony Express Statue were dedicated.

In 1960, for the 100th anniversary of the Pony Express, the Post Office issued a 4 cent stamp and another "First Day Cover." These went on sale in Sacramento and St. Joseph on July 19, 1960. July 19 was the date set by the Pony Express Centennial Commission as the start of the anniversary ride of the trail.

Thirteen different cover designs were reserved for the collections. Nine were postmarked April 3, 1940; four were postmarked July 19, 1960. While there are many other envelopes and covers in the collections, none of the new additions are duplicates of those already accessed. After deacidification and encapsulation, they will be put into storage. Finding these covers with their stamps and postmarks intact is quite a discovery. Everyone knew that some existed, but few realized the variety involved. It is amazing to think duplications of the commemorative covers and stamps will be available for purchase, in limited quantity, at the Pony Express Museum. They are "truly" a find for those who collect Pony Express items.

PONY EXPRESS, INC., FUNDING UPDATE

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

John and Carol Burns
Virginia Galbraith
James and Karen Graves

As of March 16, 1992

PLEASE NOTE FIELD TRIP DATE CHANGES

There has been a delay for the field trip to the Kansas City area which was scheduled for this April. Because of the tremendous numbers of school groups taking field trips to the Kansas City Museum and the Streamboat Arabia it was decided to postpone the trip until September 11. "The Land of Oz" trip will now be on October 15.

Please mark your calendars with these changes and keep reading "The Happenings" for further details.

(The trip to the 19th century Nebraska frontier is still scheduled for June 9 and 10.)

NEW AND REINSTATED MEMBERS

The board of trustees and staff of both the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums would like to welcome Arthur King Peters of New York, New York, and Carol Willis of Upland, California, as new members. We appreciate their interest in the museums and we are very grateful for their support.

Unless otherwise specified, memberships are divided equally between St. Joseph Museum and Pony Express Museum.

Just a Reminder!
JOIN OUR CELEBRATION!

APRIL 3, 1992

PONY EXPRESS 132nd ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

"Record Ride for the Pony Express"

You Were There Series, 1912

CBS News production

Special showings every hour

Gravemarkers will designate sites where Pony Express riders are buried in St. Joseph:

James Brink - Mount Auburn Cemetery, 3137 Beck Road
Charles Cliff - Mount Mora Cemetery, 824 Mount Mora Road
John Phillip Koerner - Ashland Cemetery, 2324 Ashland Avenue
Michael Whalen - Ashland Cemetery, 2324 Ashland Avenue

Free admission

Free poster of "Pony Express Riders"
given to first 100 families



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please Print

☐ New member ☐ Renewal ☐ Gift

Your Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____

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

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____

Membership level:

____ \$1000.00 Patron
____ 500.00 Fellow
____ 250.00 Sponsor
____ 25.00 Sustaining
____ Donor
____ Subscribing

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

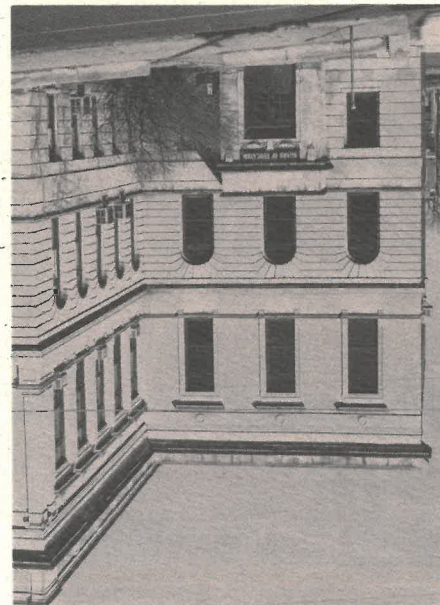
RECENT DONATIONS

William L. Hunt Stamp Company - One "First Day Cover" from the 1940 Pony Express Ride commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Pony Express. Another cover dating from 1960 which was used in the 1860-1960 Centennial Ride. (See photographs and story on page 2)

Jerry and Jacqueline Lewin - a video entitled, Historic Oregon City - 1844, telling about the end of the Oregon Trail and the beginning of Oregon History.

Cultural Resource Report #6 - a report, which was compiled by staff member Jim Feagins, of an archaeological survey done at two sites in Johnson County, Kansas.

Cultural Resource Report #7 - a report, compiled by Jim Feagins, of the archaeological survey done in Jackson County, Missouri, at several sites.



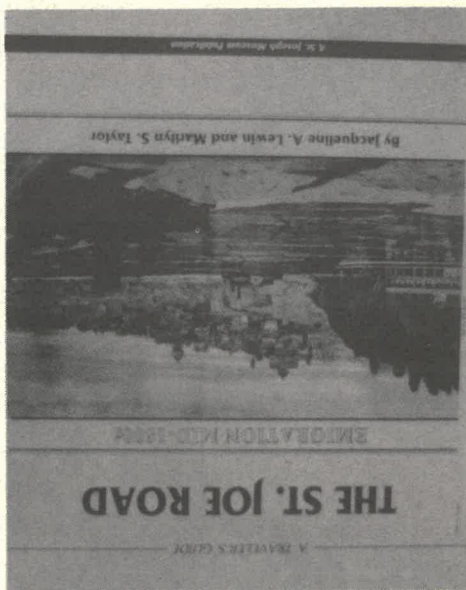
DID YOU KNOW?

The St. Joseph Museum was founded in 1926 as the Children's Museum by Miss Orrel M. Andrews and her Natural Science Club of the St. Joseph Junior College. The first exhibits were in a section of the Public Library building at 9th and Felix Streets. The board of Education sign now covers the original enscribed Museum sign.

"ST. JOE ROAD" TO PUBLISHER

Jackie Lewin, Curator of History, and Marilyn Taylor, Curator of Ethnology, have completed their work on "THE ST. JOE ROAD" and it has been sent to the printer. This modern day travel guide enables the reader to retrace the road used by emigrants to California during the mid-19th century.

Members will receive a complimentary copy later this spring. It will also be available in the museum shop.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 4 - Audubon Society - Bluffwood State Forest

April 11 - Audubon Society - Pony Express Wildlife Area

April 14 - Audubon Society - "Missouri Caves" by Jerry Vineyard. 7:00 p.m. at Missouri Western State College, Learning Resource Center, Room 102.

April 3, 4 and 5 - Missouri State Archaeological Society Annual Meeting - Holiday Inn

For more information call Mike Fisher, 232-5738.

April 27 - St. Joseph Archaeological Society meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Bank of St. Joseph, Woodbine and Faraon Streets. For information regarding the meeting call Mike Fisher 232-5738.

For museum and Audubon Society information call 232-8471

MUSEUM HOURS

St. Joseph Museum
Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.
Sundays and Easter 1-5 p.m.

Pony Express Museum
Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.
Sundays and Easter 1-5 p.m.

Field Trip Schedules have been changed. See Page 2 for details

Printed on Recycled Paper

St. Joseph Museum
1100 Charles Street
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501-2874

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. JOSEPH, MO
PERMIT NO. 40

GLADYS E. NOLF
4820 OAK CREST HILL ROAD SE
IOWA CITY, IA 52240

Pony Express Museum
914 Penn Street, P.O. Box 244
St. Joseph, Missouri 64502-0244

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