The Happenings

St. Joseph Museums, Inc.
January/February/March 2008

Volunteers Honored

Volunteers are very special people! They have played a major role in the success of the St. Joseph Museums, Inc., over the last year. Literally thousands of hours have been donated by volunteers, which immensely increases the amount of services the Museums can offer to the community. Volunteers work in several areas according to their interests and skills. Some volunteer at the Museums one or more times a week and others volunteer for special events or on an as-needed basis. On December 13, these volunteers were honored at a holiday luncheon. The St. Joseph Museums, Inc., volunteers who donated a significant number of hours during 2007 are as follows :

Above, l to r: Mary Helen Stuber, Carol Matt, Jerry Lewin, John Atkinson, Beth Courter, Nancy Hampton, Dorothy Smith, Becky Callaway, Cathey Bossert, Suzanne Bradley.

Above: Cathey Bossert and Carol Matt work on decorating the Mansion.

Left: Mary Helen Stuber at Nature's Noel workshop for children.

Archival Collection
Marilyn Bryan
Nancy Hampton
Sandra Hamilton
Jacque McNeiley
Dorothy Smith
Kay Temps

Research
Suzanne Lehr

Artifact Collection
John Atkinson
Janette Dunlap
Mike Fisher

Special Events
Carol Almanza
Beth Berry
Nancy Bechtold
Pat Benedict
Cathey Bossert
Ed Bossert
Sarah Buck
Merry Burtner
Becky Callaway
Beth Courter
Loraine Grier
Merlyn Hughes
Sharon Kosek
Jerry Lewin
Donna Long
Carol Matt
Janice Paulman
Karen Planalp
Larry Reno
Sharon Ruhnke
Carla Saverino
Mary Helen Stuber
Janet Sourk
Sharon Svuba
Diane Waddell
Sue Wagner
Erin Willoughby

If you would like to join these people in their commitment to the St. Joseph Museums, Inc., and would enjoy working with these fun volunteers, please contact the office of the Museum. We need your help and support!

William Henry Jones Left His Mark on St. Joseph

Many people in St. Joseph today are not aware of the numerous contributions to the community made by William Henry Jones. One of these contributions was serving as the first representative of the Black community to the St. Joseph City Council.

William Henry Jones was born a slave on October 12, 1854, in Plattsburg, Missouri. His father was Logan Jones, but his mother's name is unknown. After the Civil War, he was freed and came to St. Joseph where he attended school. He later attended Lincoln Institute in St. Louis for five years. The school for black students, founded by Black Civil War soldiers of the 62nd and 65th Colored Infantry, was just a couple of years old when Jones attended. In a Board of Education report, the school had "no thermometer to indicate temperature, no stove or fuel, many windows were broken and the room, was indifferent and uncomfortably cold." However, even under these conditions, the school was producing very competent graduates. Today, the Lincoln Institute is known as Lincoln University. Upon graduation in 1876, at age 22, William Jones came to live permanently in St. Joseph. From 1877 to 1917 he taught in the St. Joseph School System. His responsibilities included serving as principal of the Colored High School at 18th and Angelique Streets. In 1904, the school was renamed Bartlett High School. The *St. Joseph Herald* of October 11, 1895, describes Jones: "Besides the executive management of the entire school, he devotes his personal attention to geometry and trigonometry, and as his forte is mathematics, also teaches two classes in algebra."

In April 1886, William Jones was elected to the St. Joseph City Council as a representative of the Fourth Ward. Jones ran as a Democrat, although his obituary said he was a Republican at some point in his life. He served until April 1888. It was not until the 1970s, when John Lucas was elected to the Council, that another Black man served.

Jones, who during his life in St. Joseph was referred to as "Professor Jones," lived until 1927. His wife, Alice Olivia Armstrong Jones, preceded him in death. Both are buried in Mount Mora Cemetery.

St. Joseph's Black community has many citizens who contributed greatly to the development of the city The Black Archives Museum is searching for additional materials to aid researchers in their study of the Black community. The life of William Henry Jones is one of the stories to be preserved and retold with pride.

Green, Dr. Lorenzo J, Antonia Holland & Gary Kremer. "The Role of the Negro in Missouri History 1719-1970." W.E.B. DuBois Learning Center. 12 Dec. 2007 <http:/www.duboislc.org/MissouriBlacks/p04_reconstruction.html>

"Negro Leader, W.H. Jones, Dead." *St. Joseph Gazette.* June 22, 1927.

"Colored Schools." *St. Joseph Herald.* October 11, 1895.

Mount Mora research files of St. Joseph Museums, Inc., Research Associate Suzanne Lehr.

St. Joseph Museums Staff and Trustees

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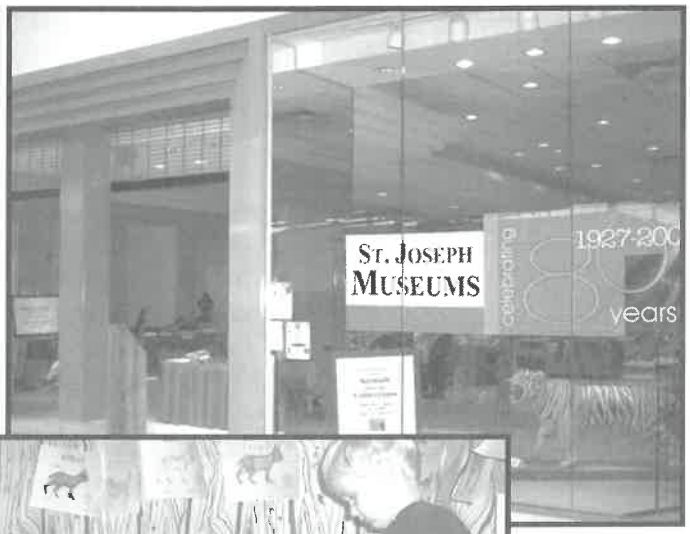
Museum at the Mall



The St. Joseph Museums, Inc., presented "Animals from the Collections" at the East Hills Shopping Center from October 15 through November 27. Approximately 1,000 visitors viewed this natural history exhibition, which included exotic specimens from African and Asian safaris as well as large mammals and birds from the Lewis & Clark Expedition through the Northwest. Director of Education, Amy Grier, and the Museum Junior Advisory Board were on hand to share information with the public about the natural history specimens. Natural history coloring sheets were also made available for children along with other activities during their visit to the free exhibit.

Nature's Noel

In December, the St. Joseph Museums, Inc., presented "Nature's Noel," a winter craft workshop for children, which featured projects to engage children in wildlife preservation. Forty students registered to take part in the event, which was held at the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion. The students made bird feeders, nesting bags, pine cone wreaths, and other treats for wildlife during the workshop.

Plains Indian Shield Workshop

The St. Joseph Museums, Inc., hosted two Plains Indian Shield Make-it and Take-it workshops for children at the East Hills Shopping Mall in November. Twenty students participated in the workshop where they learned about the meaning behind some of the symbols used by the Plains Indians.

Book Review

Ruling over Monarchs, Giants, & Stars: Umpiring in the Negro Leagues and Beyond **by Bob Motley with Byron Motley, (Sports Publishing, 2007) 217 pp., Index, ISBN 9781596702363**

Born in Autaugaville, Alabama, in 1923, Bob Motley chronicles his exciting and interesting life as a professional athlete. As an umpire in the Negro American League in the 1940s and 1950s, his story runs the gauntlet from working with top-flight professional baseball players to the racism of the Ku Klux Klan.

His birth in the heart of "Jim Crow territory," with all the restraints of segregation and prejudice, could not hold back his physical ability, positive attitude, and intellect, which powered him to be the best in his selected profession. The segregation of baseball had forced premier African-American athletes into the formation of the exclusively black Negro American League. In 1947, Jackie Robinson broke the 80-year color barrier when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers. He was followed by men like Elston Howard, Satchel Paige, and Willie Mays who turned the all-white Big Leagues on their ear. Great black players who had been concentrated in the Black Leagues took the country by storm and elevated the game of baseball to greater heights.

Motley umpired them all. His autobiography not only chronicles that story, but his story of success, in spite of unbelievable odds, with fortitude, personal discipline, patience, and guts. Having grown up playing ball with anyone who could swing a bat, I always wondered why such talent should be separated and thereby limited. My black high school teammates and I, although just two or three years from "integration," never gave that separation a thought when we took the field. Bob Motley, in this book, shows us what great a victory has been won by all Americans.

Even if Motley had not been with the Kansas City Monarchs, if he had not personally known Buck O'Neal, Roy Campanella, Hank Aaron, Joe Black, or Cool Papa Bell, his story is that of a man who is in my personal Hall of Fame.

Book Review by James A. Lehr

New and Renewed Members

September 22, 2007, to December 20, 2007

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Calendar of Events

February 2 - Super Science Saturday 2008, Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, 11th & Charles, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Science educators from Missouri Western State University, local high schools, & Heartland Regional Health-care will present interactive experiments for students of all ages. Admission is $3 for adults and $1.50 for students. Please call 816.232.8471 for more information.

February 7 - Black Archives Hall of Fame Induction, Black Archives Museum, 3406 Frederick Avenue, 5 to 7 p.m. - Two new inductees will be added to the Black Archives Museum Hall of Fame, which showcases the achievements of St. Joseph's Black community. Bob Motley, the author of *Ruling over Monarchs, Giants, & Stars: Umpiring in the Negro Leagues and Beyond* will be the featured speaker. Admission is free. Please call 816.232.8471 for more information. **(See page 7 for a review of Bob Motley's new book on his experiences as an umpire in the Negro League.)**

February 17 - African Heritage Workshop, Black Archives Museum, 3406 Frederick Ave., 1 to 4 p.m. - Students 5 to 10 years of age will explore the natural and cultural history of Africa through storytelling, tasting indigenous foods, and working on traditional African arts and crafts projects. The fee is $6 for museum members and $8 for non-members. Pre-paid reservations are required. Please call 816.232.8471 for more information or to make a reservation.

March 4 & 11 - "Treasures from the Collections" - St. Joseph Museum, 3406 Frederick Ave., 7 p.m. - Museum curators will present a different selection of fascinating artifacts each evening and share the history behind each item.Admission is free and refreshments will be available. Please call 816.232.8471 for more information.

March 5 to April 5 - "Stories in the Stitches" Quilt Exhibition - Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, 11th & Charles - In honor of Women's History Month, the St. Joseph Museums, Inc., will host a quilt exhibition featuring over forty quilts by area women representing traditional patterns as well as the newest design trends. The exhibition will include the history of the pattern or the story behind each design. **The exhibition will be open during regular Mansion hours.** Admission is $3 for adults and $1.50 for students. Please call 816.232.8471 for more information.

St. Joseph Museum
Glore Psychiatric Museum
Black Archives Museum
3406 Frederick, P.O. Box 8096
St. Joseph, Missouri 64508
Monday through Saturday 10-5 p.m.
Sunday 1-5 p.m.

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St. Joseph, Missouri 64508
Call 816.232.8471 for Winter Schedule

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