

The Happenings

December 1992

STAFF ART EXHIBIT

St. Joseph Museum

Pony Express Museum

"THEY PASSED THIS WAY"

In 1984, the St. Joseph Museum and I released a recording of the music of the Oregon Trail titled "Touch the Past." The recording was accompanied by a trail diary. Little did we know how successful and long lasting this project would be. "Touch the Past" is in many schools across the country and is being used as resource material in the study of the Oregon Trail. It is carried in gift shops along the Oregon Trail and the arch in St. Louis.



Esther Kreek

I am now in the process of recording a companion piece to "Touch the Past" titled "They Passed This Way." This project deals with the ethnic groups that passed through this area in the 1850s. In the accompanying booklet, I write as though I am running a trading post. As the travelers come to the store to buy or trade, they tell me where they came from, where they are going, and about their customs, food and music. A musical recording will feature hammered dulcimer, guitar, banjo, fiddle, bagpipes, mountain dulcimer, flute, and vocals, some in French and German. Nine ethnic groups will be included: English, Irish, Scottish, French, German, Dutch, Jewish, Black and Native American.

In the course of this research, I have met with many interesting people to gather the necessary information including Jim McKinney of the Potawatami tribe; Dr. Adolph Schroeder, a German professor at the University of Missouri, Columbia; Steve Goslin, a Scottish piper; Rabbi Jeffrey Glickman of Temple Adath Joseph; Dutch dancers; and the people at the Black Archives. For the cover, Charles Goslin, a retired Hallmark artist, has done a beautiful watercolor depicting a steamboat, trading post, wagon and tepees.

As I did with "Touch the Past," I am developing a living history program based on this recording. I have performed "Touch the Past" program many times for schools, historical societies, churches, civic groups, etc. from Texas to Minnesota and California to Maryland.

The release date is set for February. The recording will be finished by the end of November. We will mix in December and then work will begin on the booklet. The music, words, chords and bibliography will be included in the booklet.

Esther Kreek

A special showing of art produced by staff members of the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums was held the evening of Friday, November 13, for members and their guests.

A large oil painting by Rhonda Clem greeted visitors entering the Wyeth Room on second floor of the St. Joseph Museum where art by nine staff members lined the walls. She also displayed several other works in various media, including pastels, prints and color photographs.

Color photographs were also displayed by Sarah Elder, Chris Fisher and Jackie Lewin. Carol Combs showed two charming oil landscapes and a still life in oil.

A glass case contained pottery by David Mead and Rich Nolf as well as a copper bowl created by Rich. David had several other prints and computer generated artworks as well.

Robbie Sipes showed several of his delightful bird paintings, including his most recent production, a charming chickadee.

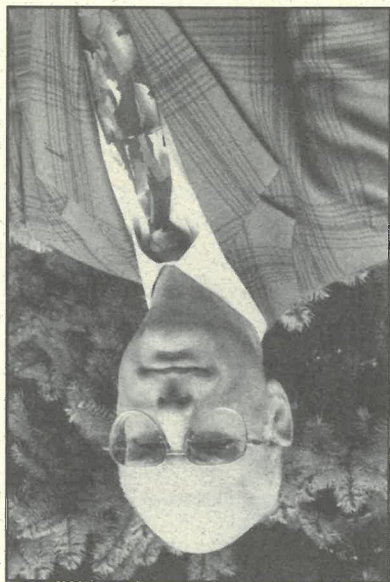
Scott's black and white picture of Mount Rushmore greeted guests who entered the front door of the museum. He had another black and white photo of "Devil's Tower".

Rhonda Clem



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Those people who know me well are aware that I have a particular fondness for the music of John Denver. Certain staff members, especially the "rock-ers," give me a hard time about this, but that's okay as it's only in fun. I usually have a John Denver tape playing while I'm getting ready for work and will play it for two or three weeks at a time. My wife, Donna, combats that with her NPR (National Public Radio) station turned up equally loud! It would drive the neighbors crazy if they could hear. However, the point of this is not to share with you my idiosyncrasies, but to introduce my subject for this issue of *The Happenings*.



David Mead

The particular tape I am playing now is one that Donna gave me a year ago on our 30th anniversary. No, I haven't played it for a solid year! On it, John Denver sings "The Gift You Are." This phrase is repeated several times throughout the song. Almost immediately after first hearing it, I was captured by the message. "The gift you are" is something I have thought about a lot. I am a person that believes very strongly that God works through people. So when I think of the phrase, "the gift you are," I think of one giving oneself. I know that each one of the staff members is a gift to me and the museum, likewise with the trustees of both the St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express Museum. This is verified when I reflect on the progress of the \$1.7 million capital campaign for Phase One of The Pony Express National Memorial, as well as the continued sustaining support to the St. Joseph Museum. I know that each of you is a gift.

So during this holiday season, I keep coming back to "the gift you are" as a personal thing. I keep asking myself how can I be a gift to someone and how can I give of myself? I am a very "people-oriented" person. I appreciate those around me, within both my immediate family and my extended family. I consider the museum staff to be a close part of my extended family. People are extremely important.

During this holiday season, may each of you receive the gift of other people as I have received "the gift of you." Give yourself and peace will indeed be with each one of you. May you have a very meaningful holiday season.

ST. JOSEPH & PONY EXPRESS MUSEUM

STAFF

PROGRAM

Rich Nolf.....Director

Jackie Lewin.....Curator of History

Martilyn Taylor.....Curator of Ethnology

Robbie Stipes.....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

Gail Rose.....Executive Secretary

Susan Noland.....Bookkeeper

Scott Koch.....Exhibits Technician

Sarah Elder.....Research Assistant

Rhonda Clem.....Graphic Artist

June Swift.....Secretary

Margaret Hiatt.....Librarian

Mary Knab.....Staff Assistant

Eric Robison.....Staff Assistant

Mike Dyer.....Staff Assistant

Chris Fisher.....Staff Assistant

Avis Baisell.....Receptionist

Lanell Mead.....Receptionist

Ken Paulman.....Receptionist

Carole Combs.....Receptionist

Camille Grable.....Receptionist

Barbi Edwards.....Receptionist

David Rich.....Receptionist

ADJUNCT

Mike Fisher.....Archaeological Research Associate

Jim Feagins.....Archaeological Research Associate

Russ Mooney.....Saddle & Tack Consultant

Mary Helen Burrowes.....Publications Consultant

Rich Nolf

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT WORKSHOP

Fourteen young artists participated in the 2nd annual Victorian Christmas Ornament Workshop Saturday, November 14, at the St. Joseph Museum. Mary Helen Stuber was the volunteer coordinator for the ornament workshop. She was assisted by four senior art students from Central High School. The students were Ronald Flanagan, Aaron Schwarz, Kyle Hume and Devon Crie. We are very grateful to them for all their assistance. This is a museum project that definitely requires volunteers to be successful.

The ornaments made during the workshop will be used to decorate the Christmas tree at the Missouri Governor's Mansion. The 70 foot tree will be decorated with ornaments made by children from all over Missouri. The tree will be on view to the public during December at the Christmas tour sponsored by Missouri's First Family. Missouri Mansion Preservation, Inc., began this program six years ago. The organization is a non-partisan, tax-exempt organization that raises private funds for the mansion's continuing restoration and preservation.

This year the children participating at the St. Joseph Museum enjoyed games that were popular with children of the Victorian era. The museum provided treats, and the children had the opportunity to make four different ornaments. One of their creations was theirs to keep for their own Christmas trees. Each child also received a booklet published by Missouri Mansion Preservation, Inc. The booklet includes historical background on American Christmas trees during the Victorian era and tells about the origin of the designs of the ornaments they made this year. The booklet also includes the directions and materials needed to make the ornaments at home.



Reva Rocha

The children participating this year were Joel Nelson, Holly Reno, Cheyenne Foster, Abby Brown, Christy Irion, Shannon Baker, Angela Hake, Katie Watkins, Amanda Crockett, Emmie Hoyt, Ryan Nadolski, Kristin Nadolski, Michele Young and Becky Lewin. (Not listed in order of appearance.)

PONY EXPRESS, INC. FUNDING UPDATE

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

Biozyme
Robert J. Brown Lumber Company

Butchart Flowers, Inc.

Robin Carolus

Commerce Bank

Cool Crest Garden Golf

Jim & Karen Graves

James E. Josedale

Louise Kimberlin

Kiwanis Club of St. Joseph

Carol Jean Laurent

David Liechti

Edson R. & Phyllis Marsh

Edson Marsh Construction

News-Press & Gazette

Pope, Nichols & Hicks

Janice H. Pray

Quaker Oats Company

Quaker Oats Foundation

Research Seeds, Inc.

Rotary Club of South Side St. Joseph

Savings of America

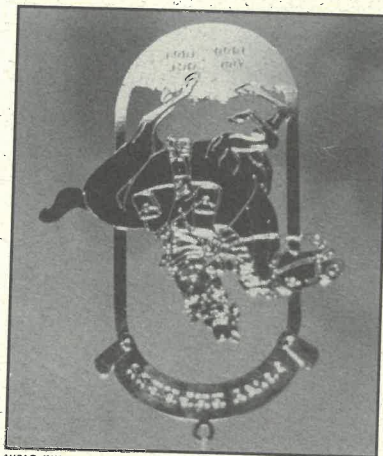
St. Joseph Host Lions Club

John & Diane Watson

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON TOURISM

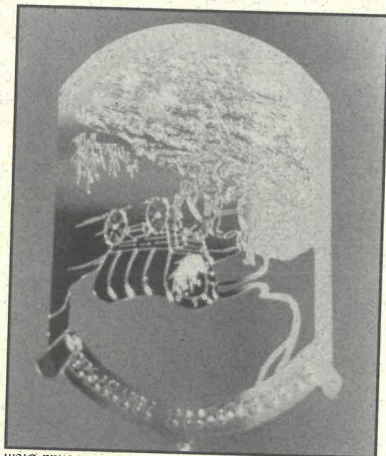
On November 16 and 17, Dick Deshon, Mignon Deshon, Rich Nolf, Sandy Taylor and Heidi Hornaday traveled to Tan-Tar-A resort to attend the 1992 Governor's Conference on Tourism. The topic of this year's conference was "marketing in tough times."

Dick Deshon was the featured speaker at the Missouri Tourism Commission meeting on the 17th. He presented the plans for the Pony Express National Memorial to the Commissioners and an audience of approximately 50 tourism industry representatives.



Rhonda Clem

As you decorate for the coming season, you might want to consider ornaments with a local history flavor. The St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums have two locally produced ornaments that would be perfect for your own home or as a gift. A favorite of the museum staff is the commemorative Pony Express medal-lion, designed by Lynn Chapman, that is accompanied by a gift card with the history of the Pony Express. The card was designed by local artist Cindy Weaver. Cindy is also responsible for the design of an ornament that depicts St. Joseph as one of the portals along the Missouri River for westward expansion. This ornament, too, is packaged with a beautifully illustrated gift card that includes background information on the importance of St. Joseph's role in the development of the west. Both ornaments are finished in goldtone metal and are ready to be hung or mailed to someone special. These ornaments are a project of our local YWCA, and we are proud to be able to carry them in our museum stores.



Rhonda Clem

SENATOR DANFORTH VISITS THE PONY EXPRESS MUSEUM

Pony Express, Inc., trustees and staff welcomed United States Senator John C. Danforth to the Pony Express Museum on October 16. The Senator was accompanied by his Kansas City assistant, Rachael Bode Steele, and long-time St. Joseph friends, Lee and Judy Schuster.

Bob Simpson guided Senator Danforth and his guests on a tour of the museum. Dick Deshon shared the vision of the Pony Express the group went next door to Bill's Saddlery where Senator Danforth visited with Russ Mooney about saddle-making. The Senator owns horses and enjoys riding.



Senator Danforth (right) and Lee Schuster listen as Bob Simpson discusses the national significance of the Pony Express.

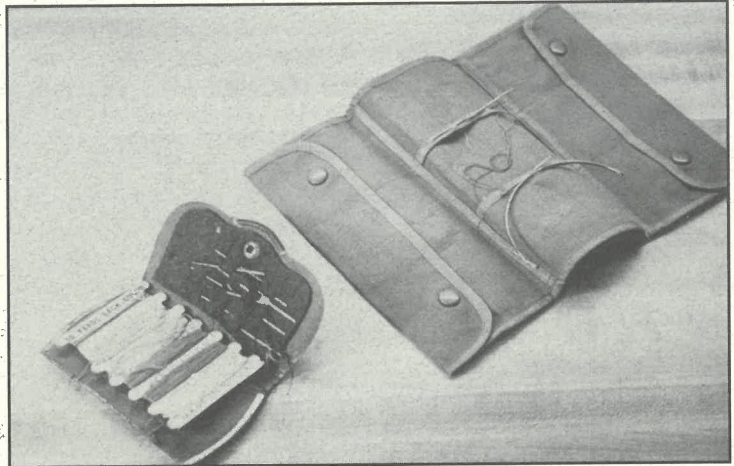
Rhonda Clem

RECENT DONATIONS

William M. Wyeth III - a 1907 check for \$12.60 on the Wyeth Saddlery Co. — St. Joseph, Mo., at that time a part of the Wyeth hardware conglomerate.

Benjamin B. Frazer - items from the estate of Ann E. Frazer, sister of the donor, including (pictured) two military sewing kits circa WWII, an 1840 Bible and an 1866-67 receipt book later used as a scrapbook.

Rhonda Clem



Rhonda Clem



Ray Owen - an arm patch with a Pony Express design, created by the donor for the Boy Scout "Utah Lake District - Spring Camporee 1992."

NEW AND REINSTATED MEMBERS

The board of trustees and staff of both the St. Joseph and Pony Express Museums would like to welcome the following new and reinstated members. We very much appreciate their interest and support.

Rosemary Ingle
Charlene Haley
Robert Bunn

MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ New member ☐ Renewal ☐ Gift

Your Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____

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

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____

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

Membership level:

— \$1000.00	Patron	— \$100.00	Donor
— 500.00	Fellow	— 50.00	Subscribing
— 250.00	Sponsor	— 25.00	Sustaining

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS DECEMBER

5,6 - Midland Empire Audubon Society Eagle Days at Squaw Creek.

12 - Squaw Creek/Bob Brown Wildlife Area field trip sponsored by Midland Empire Audubon Society. For more information contact Larry Lade, 232-6125.

19 - Midland Empire Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count.

24, 25 - Both museums closed

28 - St. Joseph Archaeological Society Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Bank of St. Joseph, Faraon St. and Woodbine Road (basement). For more information call Mike Fisher, society president, 232-5738.

31, Jan 1 - Both museums closed.

Oregon California Trails Association, Gateway Chapter - no meeting in December.

For more museum information call 232-8471

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St. Joseph Museum

1100 Charles Street

St. Joseph, Missouri 64501-2874

Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.

Sundays 1-5 p.m.

Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day

New Years Eve, New Years Day

Pony Express Museum

914 Penn Street, P.O. Box 244

St. Joseph, Missouri 64502-0244

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