

HAPPENINGS

November/December 1995

St. Joseph Museum

Pony Express National Memorial

St. Joseph Museum LIGHTING CEREMONY

Clint Sims

The St. Joseph Museum held a Lighting Ceremony and Open House on November 30, 1995. Over 530 people attended. The event, which aired live on KQTV, kicked off with a count-down to pulling the switch that lit the building with over a thousand white Christmas lights. Jeremy Allen, a seven-year-old from Stewartsville, Missouri, was selected from the audience to pull the switch. He did a wonderful job.

The evening was highlighted by numerous holiday activities. Santa and Mrs. Claus were located in the "North Pole" where children lined up to receive a holiday ring and tell Santa about their "Wish List." Sawnya Kernes, dressed as an elf, greeted visitors. (Of course she helped Santa and Mrs. Claus when needed.) Rich Nolf was dressed in Charles Dickens attire complete with a top hat and tails. (Some children thought he was the Monopoly man.) The unveiling of the Victorian Room was also a smashing hit. Mary Knab, dressed in period clothing, answered questions about the room and also explained how the room was restored.



A crowd fills the front hall immediately after the outdoor lighting ceremony.



Waiting to see Santa and Mrs. Claus at the North Pole.



Jeremy Allen's smile shows how pleased he is to have been chosen to pull the switch.

Story continued on page 10

ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM & PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL MEMORIAL STAFF

PROGRAM

Rich Nolf Director
 Jackie Lewin Curator, PENM
 Marilyn Taylor Curator of Ethnology
 Carol Willis Curator of Collections
 David Mead Curator of Natural History
 Robbie Sipes Curator of Exhibits
 Sarah Elder Curator of History
 Kathy Reno Museum Shop Manager
 Clint Sims Graphic Artist
 Dee Phillips Director of Marketing & PR

SUPPORT

Susan Noland Bookkeeper
 Sawnya Kernes Secretary
 June Swift Secretary
 Scott Koch Exhibits Technician
 Chad Lawhon Exhibits Technician
 Dale Brizendine Maintenance Technician
 Albert Bingham Maintenance Technician
 Mary Knab Research Assistant
 Kern Mills Curatorial Assistant/Receptionist
 Georgia Brooks Receptionist
 Lori Calloway Receptionist
 Jerome Goolsby Receptionist
 Marlene Green Receptionist
 Marys Haugle Receptionist
 Helen Matthews Receptionist
 Allana Smith Curatorial Assistant/Receptionist
 Amy Glogner Receptionist
 Leonard Elliott Receptionist

HAPPENINGS is published by the

St. Joseph Museum, Inc.,
 and Pony Express, Inc.,
 not-for-profit corporations,
 P.O. Box 128, 1100 Charles Street
 St. Joseph, Missouri, 64502-0128
 (816) 232-8471
 Fax: (816) 232-8482.
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FROM THE DIRECTOR

My wife, Donna, has often commented to our children and others about the enjoyment I receive from my work - in fact, so much that I have difficulty separating profession from avocation. As I was sitting down and thinking about an article for this issue of the "Happenings," I was



Rich Nolf

are an outstanding and talented group.

On November 7, June Swift, Marilyn Taylor, and I had an opportunity to bring back some pleasant memories of people we

met at the museum. We traveled to Billings, Missouri, which is just south and west of Springfield, to visit Harry and Mildred Kloppeburg. Those of you who have been members for some time will recall the name Kloppeburg. Harry Kloppeburg was an artisan at Prairie View Festival held from 1979 - 1990. Harry is one of those people with exceptional, intuitive mechanical skills. One of his favorite interests is steam engines, and it was a steam

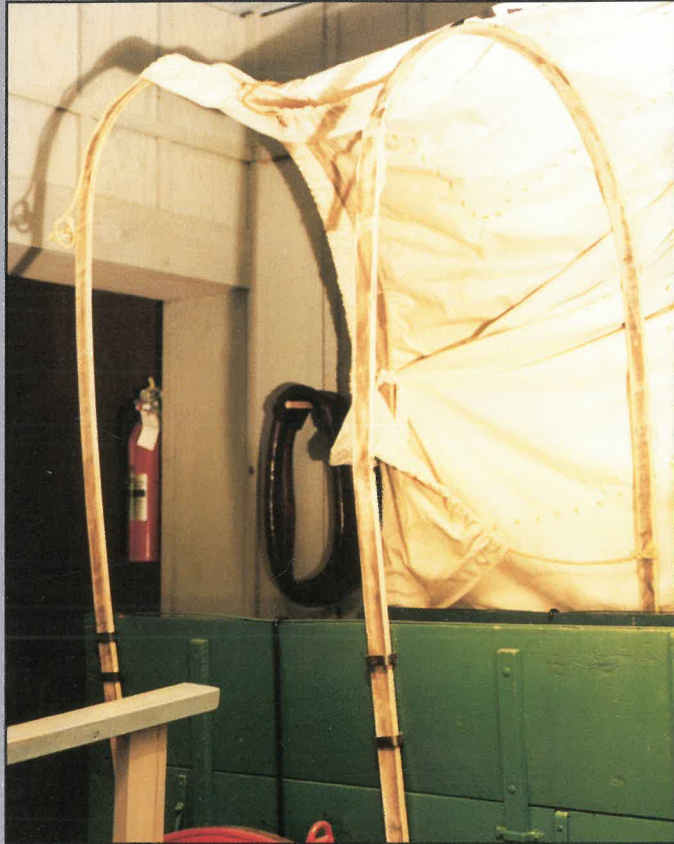
lath that he brought to St. Joseph and the Prairie View Festival. He would put on a wonderful show for those standing around and watching. I can still remember the wood chips flying and the "toot" of his steam whistle when he had a head of steam built up to start the day. The Prairie View Festival era was a time in which we made many acquaintances and many friends.

Our trip to Billings was not solely to remember those delightful days, but also to pick up a set of hand-made hickory bows for the covered wagon on the second floor of the St. Joseph Museum. The bows that were used to begin with were borrowed from Harry a number of years ago. We felt that we needed some of our own, so we asked Harry to make them for us. Harry is an expert woodsman. He knows the different species of trees, when to cut them, when to split them, and how to work the wood.

While at Harry and Mildred's home, we talked about old times and toured Harry's own museum filled with different kinds of vehicles he has built, both steam and gasoline powered. All of the steam engines, which he has built from scratch, have been used various times at festivals and parades. To me, the most phenomenal piece that Harry has is a 1/2 scale threshing machine which he has used often for threshing wheat.

The Kloppenburgs are two of the many individuals that I have become acquainted with over the years. I have found that my

Clint Sims



The new wagon bows in place. They have not been trimmed to the proper length yet.

life, and the life of the museum, is enriched so much by these acquaintances. As we create new programs and involve new people, our museum family grows and grows. It is truly a blessing.

Rich Noel

VALDRIGHIS DONATE SHAFER BRONZE

Last November 4, the staff and board of the Pony Express National Memorial hosted a reception to honor John and Carol Valdrighi of Omaha, Nebraska, who presented a Gus Shafer bronze to the museum's collections. Upon an earlier visit to the memorial, the Valdrighis noted that several bronzes were on exhibit, including "Changing Horses" by Gus Shafer, but they did not see one like their bronze, "The Pony Express." They inquired as to whether the museum might like to receive their bronze as a donation. It was a wonderful offer which the staff and board quickly accepted.

"The Pony Express" is on exhibit in the entry of the museum. Gus Shafer, born in Kansas and now deceased, is a well-known Western artist. His work is displayed in numerous museums and the Pony Express National Memorial is pleased by the generous donation of the Valdrighis.



Clint Sims

John and Carol Valdrighi speak of their interest in Western art during the ceremony to honor their donation of "The Pony Express" bronze.



Clint Sims

PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Decorated for The Holidays

Staff, board, and volunteers gathered for an evening of fun during the annual "Hanging of the Green" at the Pony Express National Memorial. White lights and fresh green wreaths and garlands were hung on the museum's exterior. A new addition to this year's decorations was a lighted metal cutout of a pony express rider which was placed on the roof of the building. A special thank you to Norma and Dan Gallagher, Charlie Alberts of Seaman and Schuske Metal Works, and Cal Bibens of Midland Steel for their work in making the metal cutout.



Jackie Lewin

Linden Black, Kit Carson, and Dick DeShon make wreaths and garland to hang outside the Pony Express National Memorial.

PONY EXPRESS CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL

Clint Sims

Nearly 400 people braved the below freezing temperatures on Saturday, December 9, to celebrate the Christmas season at the Pony Express National Memorial. The focus of this year's event was children. Carnival games such as igloo golf, pin the tail on the reindeer, gum drop fishing, snowmen bowling, and Christmas tree bean bag toss offered a variety of ways for participants to win prizes. Face painting, cookie decorating, and Christmas crafts also were enjoyed by the children. Both adults and children ate barbecue brisket, ham sandwiches, and huge brownies. Entertainment included puppeteer Eleanor Thomas with Harry the Christmas Bear and David Mead, curator of natural history at the St. Joseph Museum, with mounted animals one might see along the Pony Express Trail. The closing event was a reading of "The Night Before Christmas" by Director Rich Nolf. 



Decorating gingerbread men is a hit with many children. Joyce Rochambeau was one of several volunteers who helped with the crafts.

Clint Sims



Eleanor Thomas entertains children with puppet Harry the Christmas Bear and leads the children in singing Christmas carols.

L. to R.; Kailee DeShon and Sarah Hegarty cheer for a bowler.

Clint Sims



Clint Sims



Right; Dennis Riche helps children play igloo golf.

A special thank you to the following volunteers who helped make the Christmas Carnival a success:

Pat Benedict	Norma Gallagher	Joel Nelson
Gann Benedict	Dan Gallagher	Jan Pray
Georgia Brooks	Marcelene Green	Pud Ransdell
Jeanie Burnham	Nancy Hampton	Dennis Riche
Katie Burns	Clark Hampton	Joyce Rochambeau
Kit Carson	Sarah Hegarty	Sharon Schultz
Mignon DeShon	Lois Heimsoth	Nancy Siemens
Dick DeShon	Carole King	Jean Sweet
Kailee DeShon	Rebecca Lewin	Eleanor Thomas
Leonard Elliott	Jerry Lewin	Kristi Waller
Susan Fay	Sara Liechti	David Waller
Kim Felker	Megan Liechti	Jill Waller
Karen Foley	Carol Mullican	Lauren Wickham
John Foley		

MYSTERY DINNER BENEFIT

Photos by Jackie Lewin

FOR THE PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL MEMORIAL

On Saturday, November 18, Dick and Mignon DeShon and Clark and Nancy Hampton hosted a mystery dinner benefit for the Pony Express National Memorial. One hundred and twenty people enjoyed an evening at the Ice House Theatre and helped solve the mystery of who murdered John Brown at Lizzie King's bordello. The characters in the farce, written



Murphy Spair (Rich Nolf) visits with Sylvia Einbender (Nancy Hampton) and Ima Payne (Mignon DeShon).

by Sharon Tootle, were an unlikely collection of people from 1930 St. Joseph played by volunteers from 1990 St. Joseph. The spontaneity of the amateur actors added to the hilarity of the play.

The evening was a total success and raised over \$11,000 for the museum. In addition to Sharon Tootle, thank yous go to Harold Slater, Erich Uhlhorn, and Teresa Fankhauser for their help with the production.



Jonathan McClain, as a newsboy, sells "extras" of the St. Joseph Gazette which detail the events of the murder and tell about the suspects.



David Oliver as the "man in the black shirt" insists that he is innocent of the murder while "Judge" Tom Watkins listens to his testimony.



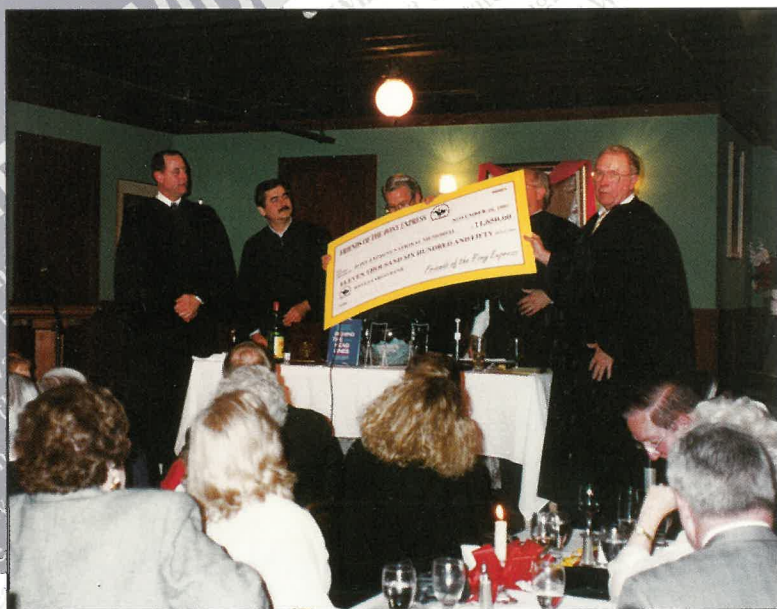
L. to R. : Diamond Tooth (Diane Acuff), Lizzie King (Karen Foley), and Ima Payne (Mignon DeShon) talk before the murder occurred. Central High School principal Calla Varner (Carol Mullican) looks on in disapproval.



Enjoying the evening are Charlene Slater, Dick Rochambeau, Joyce Rochambeau, and Bob Slater.



Sharon Tootle, writer and director of the play, "Murder at Tales West," and Nancy Hampton enjoy one of many moments of laughter during the rehearsal.



President Dick DeShon and trustees Tom Watkins, Tim Burtner, and Bob Simpson display a large check symbolizing the donations received from the dinner.

VICTORIAN ROOM COMPLETED

The southeast corner of the room "before." The picture below shows the finished area.

Photos by Clint Sims



The bay window on the west side of the room features a pair of Eastlake chairs.



Southeast corner of the room showing the new wall paper and the grill over the window. A "Gone with the Wind" lamp can be seen on the bedside table.

Book case/ secretary with Victorian objects d'art.



Detail of the desk top showing a tussy nussy, a Victorian bouquet.



Our sincere thanks to Donna Nill, who with her husband Charlie owns the Krug-Nill mansion. Donna was our consultant for the authenticity of the Victorian room. Staff members did most of the work in the room. They refinished the woodwork, painted the trim, made the grills over the windows, hung the wallpaper, laid out and painted the ceiling design, and made the drapes.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT WORKSHOP

Photos by Clint Sims



Sarah Elder helps make a wreath. Sarah, who is Curator of History, coordinated the workshop.

On Wednesday, December 20, 1995, the St. Joseph Museum hosted its fifth annual Children's Christmas Ornament Workshop. Twenty-two children, ranging in age from 7 to 12 years, attended the event. Each student made four ornaments, giving one to the museum to hang on the Children's Tree in the Touch & Go Room. The ornaments made included a green wreath, a Santa tinsel ornament, and a clothespin angel. After the workshop, parents and grandparents were invited to join the children at a reception where cookies and hot chocolate were served.



L. to R.: Samantha Church, Chloe Church, Katie Farrell, Ellen Wann, and Jennifer Kryskowski concentrate on finishing their projects.



Carlie Babcock's completed Santa tinsel ornament lies next to the Christmas wreath she is working on.

EARL MAY NURSERY DONATES FLOWERS

Clint Sims

Next spring will bring a burst of color to the grounds of the Pony Express National Memorial. Staff and volunteers have been busy planting tulips and daffodils. Ken Braithwait, manager of Earl May Nursery, is to be especially thanked for the generous donation of 500 tulip bulbs. This donation is very helpful in efforts to beautify the area around the memorial and Leah Spratt Park.



L. to R.: Chad Lawhon, Scott Koch, and Dick DeShon prepare the ground before planting the tulip and daffodil bulbs.

SHOP TALK

The St. Joseph Museum store now has a new collection of Cherokee baskets for sale. The baskets are woven by Native American artist Ramona Lassie of Cherokee, North Carolina. The type of basket she has made for the shop is a traditional style that was used for a special food when an elder, chief, or medicine man was visiting.



Chris Sims

The baskets are woven from both maple and white oak. The various colors are created by natural dyes. Walnut bark is used to darken the strips of wood. Blood root and yellow root are used to dye wood strips orange and yellow.

An addition to both the St. Joseph Museum store and the Pony Express National Memorial store is a newly published cookbook, *Pure Prairie: Farm Fresh and Wildly Delicious Foods from the Prairie*. For those who support the concept of "eating from the land," this cookbook will prove to be a delight. Author Judith Fertig will tempt you with cuisine unique to our region. Enjoy the easy-to-prepare gourmet recipes using native fruits, mushrooms, grains, nuts, and game. Begin with "Corn Fritters with Warm Spiced Honey" or "Prairie Tapenade." Delight dinner guests by serving this hearty main course menu of "Apple Smoked Turkey with Jack o' Lantern Compote and



Chris Sims

Baked Hominy." Brew some strong black decaf and set out the "Black Walnut Fancy Cake" to end a prairie perfect meal. *Pure Prairie* takes you not only on a culinary tour but also a literary journey with quotes from prairie authors Willa Cather and Laura Ingalls Wilder. Fertig has included historical notes as well as quotes from western emigrants and explorers who discovered new foods and ways to prepare them during their travels.

In addition to over 115 recipes, *Pure Prairie* also provides an extensive source guide for obtaining a variety of regional ingredients. Judith Fertig, whose culinary training began in Europe, earned 2nd place in the Best Cookbook category from the Mid-America Publishers Association for her new cookbook. *Pure Prairie* was also featured in the 1995 fall edition of Better Homes & Gardens Cookbook Club. *Pure Prairie* is published by Two Lane Press in Kansas City, Missouri, where Fertig now lives after spending several years in London, England.

Story continued from cover

Four-year-old Spencer Schmitter won the Guess the Glow contest by estimating that there were 1,562 lights on the outside of the museum. The actual number of lights was 1,628. He won a \$100 savings

bond courtesy of Nodaway Valley Bank for guessing nearest to the actual number of lights. Other highlights included hot chocolate and Christmas cookies which were served to everyone who attended.

RECENT DONATIONS TO THE COLLECTIONS

St. Joseph Museum

Clark and Nancy Hampton - "Gala Farewell to the Robidoux" ticket dated Thursday, January 29, 1976 that was for admission to the farewell dinner of the Hotel Robidoux before it was closed permanently; a book of matches from the "Robidoux Motor Hotel," St. Joseph, Missouri; the program for a dinner held in the Hotel Robidoux with a drawing of the hotel on the front by artist Paul N. Norton; a booklet, *A Tribute to Hotel Robidoux*, by Frank S. Popplewell, Professor Emeritus, Missouri Western State College that includes the history of the hotel and famous visitors. All of the above items were from 1976. Also donated were three books, *The Sacred Pipe* by Joseph Epes Brown; *Black Elk Speaks* by John G. Neihardt; and *Dress Clothing of the Plains Indians* by Ronald P. Koch.

James F. Gouge - beautifully beaded, brown crepe dress from the 1920s worn by Mrs. Minerva Gouge, mother of Hardin E. Gouge, formerly of St. Joseph. The donor is a grandson of Mrs. Gouge.

Dick and Mignon DeShon - a group photograph taken in 1914 of "Moila Patrol Day" at Clifton Forest, summer residence of Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan D. Richardson.

Charles Turpen - Several issues of area newspapers including the *Savannah Reporter*, *Andrew County Democrat*, and *St. Joseph Gazette*.

Gerald Digenan - a 1897 St. Joseph city directory.

Pony Express National Memorial

Bobby Sipes - water pump and hand saw. Both items are on exhibit at the Pony Express National Memorial.

John and Carol Valdrighi - L.E. "Gus" Shafer bronze sculpture titled "Pony Express" which is number eight of a limited edition of twelve.

TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN THE FUTURE !

Take an active part in keeping the
past alive for the future !

Join the

PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL MEMORIAL

and the **ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM**

Please indicate how you wish your
contribution to be directed.

☐ **Both, 50% SJM and 50% PENM**

Make check payable to either the St. Joseph
Museum or Pony Express, Inc.

☐ **St. Joseph Museum**

Make check payable to St. Joseph Museum

☐ **Pony Express National Memorial**

Make check payable to Pony Express, Inc.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Please check the membership category you wish.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| ☐ | \$1000.00 | Patron |
| ☐ | 500.00 | Fellow |
| ☐ | 250.00 | Sponsor |
| ☐ | 100.00 | Donor |
| ☐ | 50.00 | Subscribing |
| ☐ | 25.00 | Sustaining |

Your contribution provides a one-year membership for
you and your immediate family. A majority of your
membership contribution is tax deductible under current
tax legislation for charitable contributions.

For processing please send to:

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

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Gladys Nolf	Herb Woodbury
Mrs. Charles Hoover	Mrs. Francis Smith
The Deli (Richard Rosenthal)	Barbara Leaverton
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fitzpatrick	Linda Weyer
Gertrude Wylie	Herb Gross
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Wurtzler	Billy P. Miller
Jane and Gerald Thompson	Ross and Jana Marshall
George Richmond	Virginia Galbraith
J. Bruce Clark	Bradley Trust
Margaret Juda	Dr. and Mrs. Robert Stuber
Ed Barlow	Olive Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Slater	Donna Jean Boyer
H. H. Broadhead	Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fay
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Robaska	Steven K. Olson
Joseph Gray	William P. Mytton
Esther Kreek	J. S. and Kathleen Missman
Karamaneh Oschwald	George Roth
Webb Stevenson	Frank Flynn
Herbert Iffert	Dr. John Hoehner
Marie Fulkerson	Bills Saddlery
Jane Meriwether	Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Schmidt
Allan Lowenberg	J. M. Ford
Missouri American Water Co.	Phyllis Preator
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wellenkoetter	Jeanne Patterson
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Spurgat	Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Oehmcke
Ned Kirkham	Charles Taylor Trust
Mr. and Mrs. Myron Unzicker	Hillyard Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Billy Miller	Richard DeShon
Dr. and Mrs. G. T. Carpenter	William Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Rex DeShon	Stephanie Francis
Delia Lamb	Constance Saxton
	Tom Watkins

GIFTS

From Rex and Louise DeShon
in honor of
Dick and Mignon DeShon

St. Joseph Museum

1100 Charles Street, P.O. Box 128
St. Joseph, Missouri 64502-0128
Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.
Sunday & Holidays 1-5 p.m.

Pony Express National Memorial

914 Penn Street, P.O. Box 244
St. Joseph, Missouri 64502-0244
Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.
Sundays 1-5 p.m.

MEMORIALS

From Karen and John Foley
in memory of
Virginia Riche

From Dick DeShon
a Washington Hawthorne tree to be planted at the
Pony Express National Memorial
in memory of Brenda Anne Lewis

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 28 - The Gateway Chapter of OCTA will attend a play at 2:00 p.m. at the Coterie Theatre in Kansas City, Missouri. For more information call Mary Knab at 232-8471.

January 29 - The St. Joseph Archaeological Society will meet at 7:30 in the community room of the Pony Express National Memorial located at 914 Penn Street.

February 26 - The St. Joseph Archaeological Society will meet at 7:30 in the community room of the Pony Express National Memorial.

March 12 - Annual Gateway Chapter of OCTA Pioneer Dinner at 6:30 in the community room of the Pony Express National Memorial.

March 22 & 23 - Mid-year board meeting of OCTA. An OCTA trail marker will be placed at Riverfront Park on March 22, at 3:00 p.m. For more information call Jackie Lewin at the Pony Express National Memorial at 279-5059.

March 29 & 30 - Eighteenth Annual Flint Hills Archaeological Conference. The conference will be held in the community room of the Pony Express National Memorial

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