

## New museum guards Missouri's role in the Civil War

**T**here is perhaps no better place to locate a Civil War museum than in a military installation that not only prepared soldiers for the war, but continues to serve as the final resting place for thousands of them.

After more than a decade of planning, fund-raising, and construction, the Missouri Civil War Museum opened this summer in south St. Louis County at Jefferson Barracks Historic Site, which is among the oldest military posts in the country. The museum is located in what was the Post Exchange Building, which was completed in 1905 and used as an athletic

and activity center for soldiers at first and later as a barracks.

The 16,000-square-foot building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, had been abandoned for nearly 60 years before the restoration began in 2003.

With a focus on Missouri's role in the Civil War, the museum features a collection of artifacts from the war, as well as from all eras of Jefferson Barracks. Visitors will see letters,

**The new museum features a collection of artifacts and exhibits.**

Missouri Civil War Museum photo

weapons, uniforms, and even a mounted horse because the post was a major cavalry base.

Established in 1826 as the country's first "Infantry School of Practice," Jefferson Barracks was a major military installation until its deactivation in 1946.

It served as a gathering point for troops and supplies for all

conflicts from the Mexican War through World War II.

At one time or another, more than 200 Civil War generals served at the post. And the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery was established in 1863 and is the final resting place for 16,000 Civil War soldiers from the Union and Confederacy.

Located at 222 Worth Road, the museum is open 9 a.m.–5 p.m. daily. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and \$5 for children 5–12. ●

For more details, call (314) 845-1861, or visit [www.mcwm.org](http://www.mcwm.org).



# Deep Roots in St. Louis County

The Seeger family has kept us on the road for 100 years.

## THE EARLY YEARS

In 1912, St. Louis County was made up of a dozen towns separated by farms and forests, and connected to the City of St. Louis and to each other by railroads and streetcars that stretched all the way out to Creve Coeur Lake. But the most popular form of transportation was on dirt roads and still had four hooves. That was the year George Jacob Seeger opened his blacksmith shop at 12833 Olive Street Road.

The metropolitan area was the fourth largest in the US at that time, and St. Louis County was growing by leaps and bounds, increasing population more than 70% over 1900. Yet it was still the second leading county in the state of Missouri in production of farm crops. Creve Coeur was known far and wide for the quality of its soil and its productivity in agriculture and horticulture.

As the community progressed, so did the Seeger family, serving the farming community by selling tractors and farm implements that were quickly replacing horsepower. With his son George M. Seeger joining him in the business, George J. Seeger and Son was one of the first authorized McCormick-Deering farm equipment dealers, and did a booming business from that first building built in 1912. In 1933 a new facility was built and the family business continued to grow. When McCormick-Deering became part of International Harvester, the Seegers' business grew again.



1912 BLACKSMITH SHOP

## THE MOVE INTO AUTOMOBILES

With its growing population, St. Louis County began to more importantly rely on and gradually improve its roads – dirt roads were treated with oil to keep down dust and were upgraded over the years to gravel, rock and asphalt. Farm wagons and carriages soon gave way to the phenomenon sweeping America – the automobile.

At the turn of the 20th century the automobile was primarily a toy for the rich. But with mass production and increasing wages automobiles became more affordable and accessible to the middle class. The automobile greatly accelerated the outward expansion of population and businesses from the city into St. Louis County, enabling people to live in suburbs and work in the city by commuting.

As the community changed from agricultural to more residential, The Seegers responded to serve those needs. Golf carts and lawn and garden equipment replaced the tractors. In addition to selling cars and trucks from International Harvester, the Seegers sold Nash, DeSoto, Hudson and Chevrolet cars, although they were not a franchised dealer for those brands. In those early days, when most automobile dealers were located in the City of St. Louis, Seeger's location in the suburbs enabled them to serve suburban drivers close to home.

By December 1969, George W. (Zeke) Seeger was steering the family operation in a new direction. Toyota, a new car line that was gaining popularity in California, caught his attention. Soon his younger brother Tom, who was on active military duty in Vietnam, received a letter from their mother. "Dad and Zeke took on Toyota," she wrote. Tom wrote back, "What is Toyota?" That year the 1933 building was refurbished to accommodate a new Toyota showroom and service facility.

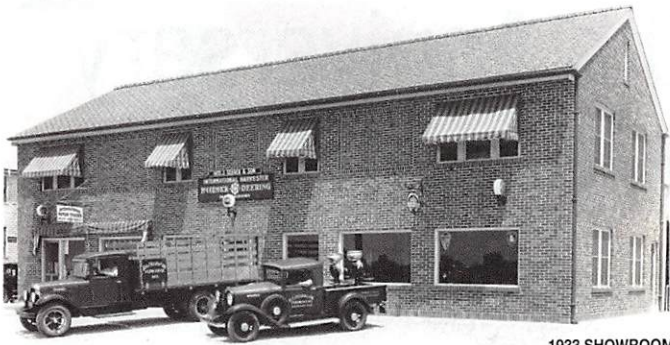
By 1973 Tom was president of Seeger Toyota. As the nation faced a gas crisis, Toyota's popularity grew and in 1975 the brand became the best selling import in the US. And in 1979 a new facility was built to accommodate the growth. While



INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER BUILDING



MCCORMICK-DEERING TRACTORS



1933 SHOWROOM



TODAY: ANDY SEEGER AND CHRISTINE SEEGER



THE SHOP WITH TRACTOR AND TRUCKS



1970'S FIRST TOYOTA SHOWROOM

the oil embargo may have provided a spark, the Seeger family's relentless pursuit of customer satisfaction provided the dealership's growth. At one point, Seeger Toyota was ranked 44th largest Toyota dealer in the nation. They are the oldest Toyota dealer in Missouri.

Continuing the century-long commitment to the local community instead of moving or adding other locations, the Seeger dealership remains at its long-time address. And while other St. Louis dealer groups have added as many as fifteen different car brands to their mix, Seeger has remained focused on Toyota. "This family business has flourished because each generation made the commitment," stated Tom.

### THE SEEGER COMMITMENT CONTINUES

Today the Seeger family is still actively involved every day on-site at the same location where they have been serving the community for 100 years. General Manager and fourth generation family member Andy Seeger says he appreciates the opportunity to carry on the legacy. Many of their 100-plus employees have been with the Seegers for decades and share the

commitment to serving customers. "We are big enough to serve you and small enough to know you," Andy said.

Just as in times past the Seeger family knew that they held a farmer's livelihood in their hands as long as his tractor was in for service, Andy Seeger says it's no different today. "We know if we treat customers right, success will follow, and the more successful we are the more we can give back to the community that has supported us," he added.

Tom, Andy, and Christine Seeger (also on the management team), are proud of the quality and reliability that define Toyota, and are pleased that many Toyota models are built in America and contain high content of American-made parts. For instance, the 2012 Camry (gasoline version) is built in Georgetown, Kentucky and boasts a market-leading 92% North American sourced parts. Adding Toyota's Scion franchise in 2003 introduced another niche of drivers to the family's brand of service.

Tom, Andy, and Christine agree that success takes care of itself when a good product is sold at a fair price and service is delivered ethically and morally. That principle is why Seeger Toyota Scion has been one of only three car dealers to earn the Better Business Bureau's Coveted Torch Award during the last 15 years. The award recognizes superior commitment to consumer standards.

Customers can now take advantage of service loaners, and guests can book their appointments for maintenance or repair online in real-time with a program that shows open time slots. Additionally, Tom noted that customers appreciate time-saving tools available for comparison shopping and vehicle maintenance history on the updated website.

But there is also something deeper with the Seegers – their commitment to not just make a sale now, but to be "your car company forever." This is evident in the value they put on customer relationships they have built through generations of Seegers and generations of their customer families. They know that long-term success means providing value, care and serving customers with integrity.


Seeger Toyota has both new and pre-owned vehicles for purchase, and they can customize vehicles with mobility equipment and other accessories. Their state-of-the-art service department offers state safety and emissions inspections, oil changes and more complex services, such as an engine overhaul. Their quiet, comfortable waiting area provides cable TV, Internet access, complimentary beverages and snacks. If your service takes more than 2 hours, they provide a courtesy car to use at no charge.

Seeger's yearlong Century Celebration in 2012 is currently offering free financing on all new Avalon, Corolla, Highlander, Rav4, Sienna and Tundra models. For complete details, you can see sales manager Tim Douglas. And for more information, you can visit in person, online at [www.seegertoyota.com](http://www.seegertoyota.com) or call them at 314-434-5000. **clm**

## RESTORING THE REGION'S HERITAGE



At the Boonesfield Village site in Defiance on Tuesday, restoration manager Adam Marty takes a break from working at the Flanders Callaway House, which was built around 1812 by Daniel Boone's daughter Jemima and her husband Flanders, originally in the village of La Charette, near Marthasville in Warren County. "Back then this was a huge house," Marty said. The home should be open to the public early next year. Robert Cohen | Post-Dispatch

 **Watch**

[STLtoday.com/multimedia](http://STLtoday.com/multimedia)  
View video of Adam Marty  
restoring log houses.

You have reached the cached page for <http://danielboonehome.com/>

Below is a snapshot of the Web page as it appeared on 10/1/2012. This is the version of the page that was used for ranking your search results. The page may have changed since it was last cached. To see what might have changed (without the highlights), [go to the current page.](#)

You searched for: **boone home missouri** We have highlighted matching words that appear in the page below.

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## Historic Daniel Boone Home & Heritage Center

On the National Register of Historic Places

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Home | History | Tours | Volunteer | Educational Programs | Membership | Boone Fellows | Weddings | Photos

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"Nature here was a series of wonders, and a fund of delight."

*Daniel Boone*

### Upcoming Events

- Sept. 15-16: Pioneer Days
- Oct. 20: Halloween, Spirits of the Past
- Dec. 7-8, 14-15: Candlelight Tour

[click for full calendar](#)

### News & Announcements

The Historic Daniel Boone Home is participating in McDonald's Roadtrip Rewards Program.

[Learn More](#)

## Welcome to the Historic Daniel Boone Home & Heritage Center

### Bringing History to Life...

Step into history at the Historic Daniel **Boone Home** and Heritage Center. The Daniel **Boone Home** is nestled upon the rolling hills of wine country and overlooks the Femme Osage Valley. This beautiful setting represents life in the early 1800's from its adventures to its lifelong struggles. The **Boone Home** brings the legacy of Daniel **Boone** to life. Within the thick limestone walls, stories of a daring man offer a glimpse into family matters, risky adventures, and hard fought battles.

Today the Daniel **Boone Home** overlooks the village which is a simulated town comprised of over a dozen 19th century buildings. Each building has been moved to the site from within 50 miles of the local area. Buildings such as the general store, school house, and grist mill offer a peek into life on the **Missouri** frontier.

The Historic Daniel **Boone Home** and Heritage Center is owned and operated by Lindenwood University. The site's mission is to provide a center for fully integrated learning on all education levels; to preserve and protect the historic structures, collections, and natural resources that comprise the facility; and to interpret the early American frontier experience in **Missouri** as exemplified by the **Boone** family and their contemporaries.



The Daniel **Boone Home** & Heritage Center    1868 Highway F    Defiance, **MO** 63341  
A Lindenwood University Campus

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ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY

Rampification of RPA Effort to Gain Access to  
Newspaper Archive - especially re <sup>△</sup>OBITUARIES  
2008 - 2009 - with help of Jenna Lane Lynch

The project began by going to <sup>△</sup>St Louis County  
Library (see file for my card No) which led  
me to <sup>△</sup>St Charles County Library (see file for  
my card No). This led to access to  
<sup>△</sup>NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE.COM and to News Bank, Inc  
- Hence a linkage to interesting <sup>△</sup>Internet source

The end result is that you get to download  
obituaries for free - with Jenna's help this led  
to downloading data from many NC Newspapers  
and the addition of about 3,000 sheets to my  
Profile System.

One presumes the same approach would  
allow one to find other kinds of articles in  
Newspaper Archives.

OBITUARIES FROM NEWSBANK, INC  
SPECIAL SUBJECT

Obtaining obituaries from this archive source requires a subscription. The St Charles, MO County Library has a subscription but St Louis County, MO Library does not. However, given that I have a St Louis County Library membership it can be honored by St Charles County Library.

In the spring of 2008 Jenna Upchurch worked for me and downloaded numerous obituaries from North Carolina Newspapers. Then we returned to complete this project starting on 1 JUN 2009. I needed my St Charles County Library card number but could not find it - so went there and for \$3 got a new number. So as of 1 JUN 2009 my numbers are

Library Card Numbers:

St. Charles - 900 555 5114

St. Louis - 0023024409

During June & July 2009 an adjustment in the complete the obituary downloads from the NC Newspapers and to prove same

See also Geographical file for St Charles Co, MO Library File

How To get to Newsbank:

- Go to [youranswerplace.org](http://youranswerplace.org)
- Click on electronic resources
- Click on alphabetical
- Click on "N"
- Click on Newsbank (in Remote Access)
- Type in code and last name (login) - that will bring you to newsbank
- Click on America's Obituaries... (1st link)
- Click on NC
- Click on the Newspaper

# Roots researchers will get own home

Genealogy craze leading to center in Chesterfield.



PHOTO BY SARAH CONARD

Ruth Ann Hager (right) helps Pat and Bill Roth of Pittsburgh locate cemetery records from the 1870s in the genealogy collection at the St. Louis County Public Library headquarters in Ladue. The Roths were researching the ancestry of Bill's father.

BY STEPHEN DEERE • sdeere@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8116

**CHESTERFIELD** • One of her ancestors fought alongside Daniel Boone in the Revolutionary War.

Another was a famous Indian chief in New York in the 1600s. Yet another was a clockmaker from Switzerland who came to Baltimore in 1794.

"I still have hopes that one of his clocks will be in a store somewhere," said Joyce Loving, an avid genealogist and the special-collections manager at St. Louis County Library headquarters in Ladue.

Loving was put in charge of the library's genealogical records in 1998. Back then, her department consisted of a single desk on the library's fourth floor.

Today, she oversees a staff of 12, and the department boasts more than 50,000 books, 850 periodicals and 18,000 rolls of microfilm. Parts of the collection are on each of the headquarters' five floors.

But soon the collection will get a place of its own, the latest sign of how genealogy research has boomed in recent years.

The St. Louis County Library Foundation is designing a 60,000-square-foot Family Heritage Center in Chesterfield at the corner of Wild Horse Creek and Baxter roads, with the goal of opening it in 2012.

It will be one of just five free-standing genealogy libraries in the country. The others are in Houston, Independence, Mo., Boston and Salt Lake City, long considered the mecca of genealogical research.

"We will be on a very short list," said Ann Fleming, treasurer of the St. Louis Genealogical Society. "It's a real coup."

The foundation, a nonprofit that raises money for the library, started talking about plans for a new genealogy library a couple of years ago. The foundation approached Louis Sachs, of Sachs Properties, about buying six acres of his Downtown Chesterfield development.

But the idea so enthralled Sachs that he donated the land for the center, said Kathy Higgins, president of Sachs Properties. Higgins said her boss, a longtime benefactor of the arts, has also sought to preserve the region's history, naming streets and developments after settlers such as Justus Post and August Hill.

Because the center is still in the design phase, officials say they don't have precise cost estimates yet. Jim Bogart, the foundation's manager, said all of the money for the new library will be raised privately. The foundation began its fundraising effort earlier this month. It hopes to break ground on the Heritage Center sometime this year.

Sachs Properties may contribute to the construction costs, Higgins said.

"It was the perfect fit," Higgins said.

## A GROWING HOBBY

Fueled by the Internet, social media sites that allow relatives to reconnect, and retiring baby boomers with newly found free time, genealogy is quickly becoming one of the nation's most popular hobbies. It's even the subject of a reality television show on NBC, "Who Do You Think You Are?"



Online databases now allow people to perform in a few hours the kind of research that used to take months.

Paul Nauta, spokesman for the website familysearch.org, said the site receives about 10 million hits

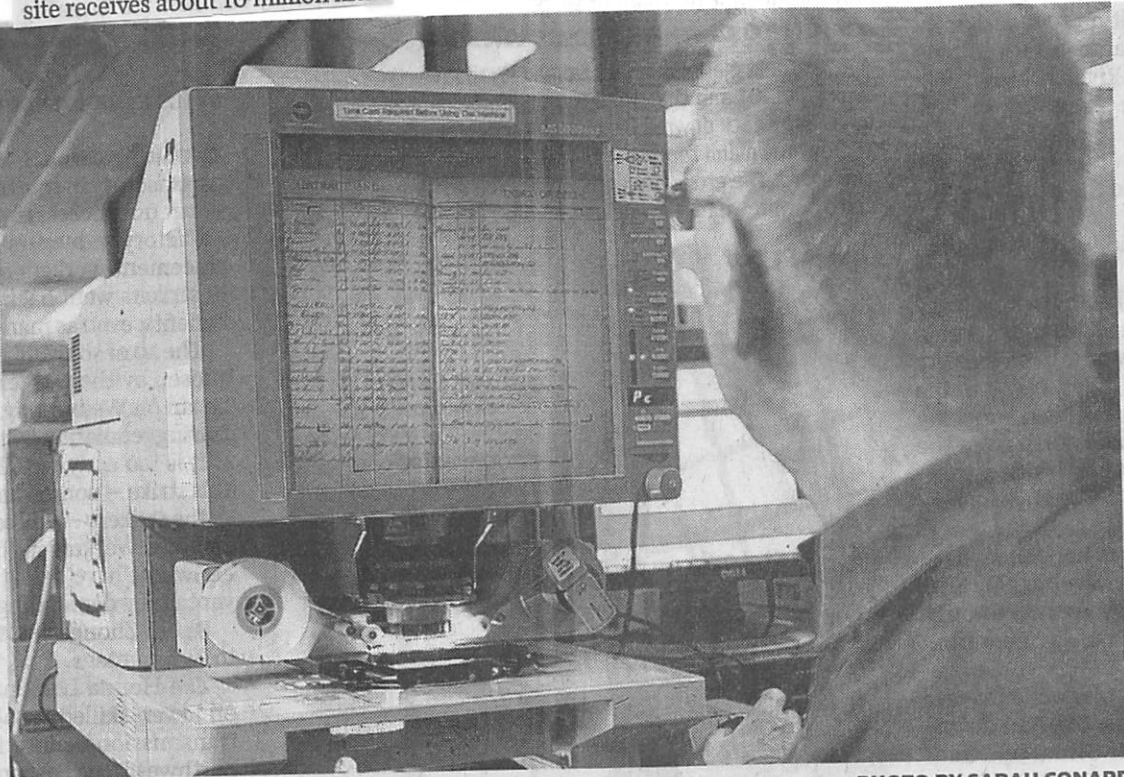


PHOTO BY SARAH CONARD

Dan Vornberg of University City looks up land transfers from the 1880s in the genealogy collection at the St. Louis County Public Library headquarters in Ladue. A genealogical center is being built in Chesterfield.

a day, and the number is growing. The site is owned by the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

"We see no end in sight," Nauta said of the boom in family research.

Despite all the information online, Nauta said, only about 7 percent of genealogical records can be found on the Internet.

"Just because you do a search online and don't find what you're looking for, don't make the mistake of thinking it doesn't exist," he said.

And local libraries are repositories of all kinds of vital information that has yet to be put online, such as church, estate and cemetery records, family histories, city directories, periodicals and immigration and naturalization records. The county library here even has a collection of more than a 100 "Yizkor" books memorializing Jewish communities destroyed in the Holocaust.

Plus, Nauta said, libraries that specialize in genealogy often offer something the Internet can't: dedicated staff to help mentor people just starting out.

Most genealogists have en-

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

• St. Louis County Library Special Collections Department  
[www.slcl.org/branches/hq/sc/](http://www.slcl.org/branches/hq/sc/) or 314-994-3300

• St. Louis Genealogical Society  
[www.stlgs.org](http://www.stlgs.org) or 314-647-8547

countered a life-altering event, such as a death in the family, which causes them to ask questions about where they come from, Nauta said. The average age of a family researcher is between 45 and 75, he said.

For Joyce Parke, of Troy, Ill., that event occurred when her husband's grandmother moved in more than 30 years ago and often told stories about her relatives. Parke became fascinated and eventually traced one of her lines to the 1700s in Jamestown, Va.

"It's the fun of the search," Parke said.

One night last week, Parke waited outside the St. Louis County Library's auditorium to hear a lecture on military records from the world wars at a meeting of the St. Louis Genealogical Society. She had just returned from

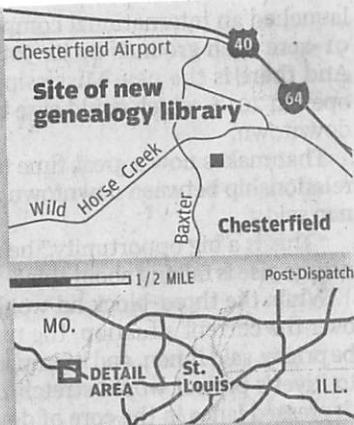
Memphis, where she was looking up information about her father's family. Her quest to fill in her family tree has taken her all over the country to look at court, land, criminal and other records.

"I devote a lot of time to it," she said.

#### CONNECTION TO HISTORY

For almost a decade, Bill and Pat Roth have traveled to St. Louis from Pittsburgh to research the German ancestry of Bill's father. Last week, they pored over microfilm in the county library's special-collections department. His father's family spent some time in the area, and many old German records are still here.

At the library, Bill Roth once found records from St. Marcus United Church of Christ docu-



menting the birth and marriage of his great-grandparents.

Over the years, he has put together a family tree with more than 3,000 names. Still, Roth can't answer some key questions, such as why his ancestors left Europe.

"Germany had a lot of political unrest during the middle of the 1800s," Roth said. "A lot of them took off for better opportunities. I wish I could have talked to them to find out what exactly made them pick up and leave."

Roth's desire to recreate his heritage took him as far away as Germany, to a small village north of Frankfurt. There, he said, he met long-lost relatives and visited homes where his forefathers lived. Loving said it's the connection family researchers feel to history that keeps them digging. With a new building, she'll have more space to collect thousands of more records to help others enjoy learning about their past.

Loving herself understands the draw. When she learned one of her ancestors fought at the Battle of Blue Licks in Kentucky with Daniel Boone, she read all about the fight. The battle was one of the last of the Revolutionary War. In fact, the war had already ended, but word hadn't yet reached the soldiers.

A few years ago, Loving and her husband traveled to Kentucky to watch a re-enactment.

"My ancestor knew Daniel Boone," she said. "I just think that's really exciting."

# Area Attractions For Families

By PAUL WAGMAN

Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

If you're interested in history. You can go back to about A.D. 1000. If you like flowers, you can look at them in one of the most unusual greenhouses in the country; in the city's other big greenhouse you can get married. If you like sea lions or beer or caves or rides down the sleepy river, you've come to the right place.

St. Louis has more attractions for family than most persons realize, even those who have lived here for a long time. They offer a variety of services, a wealth of things to do and see and more than a smattering of fun and information.

Among the area's outstanding family attractions are the following, which are listed in no particular order:

**GRANT'S FARM** — Ulysses S. Grant was a long way from the presidency when he was a down-and-out farmer in St. Louis County. He was 33 and penniless when his father-in-law, who didn't think much of him, set aside 80 acres of his estate for him.

In the pioneer tradition, Grant and his neighbors built a log cabin on the property, which Grant named "Hardscrabble House." It still stands on the farm, about one mile south of its original site. Grant raised corn and wheat on the property, but not enough to make a decent living and in 1858 he had to become a real estate man in St. Louis. He failed at that, too, but the Civil War changed his fortunes.

The farm is now owned by August A. Busch Jr., and Anheuser-Busch, Inc., operates tours on the 261-acre estate, which is at Gravois and Grant Roads in south St. Louis County.

After boarding a miniature train on tires, you move along winding roads past Grant Lake, home of swans, ducks and geese, to the Bauernhof. This is a combination stable, garage and barn, and it's the heart of the farm. Old road coaches, carts and sleighs are kept here, along with some performing animals — elephants, macaws and cockatoos. Near the Bauernhof,

## Families

children may feed baby deer, lamb and goats. The famous Clydesdale horses are also kept at the farm and are on view to visitors.

Tours of the farm are free. The 1974 season opens April 16 and lasts through Oct. 15. The farm is closed on Sundays, Mondays and legal holidays. Reservations are needed in the busy months of June through August.

**JEWEL BOX** — Six times a year this greenhouse in Forest Park is decked out with a different display of flowers raised in the city greenhouses in the park. Built in 1936 under the Works Progress Administration, the Jewel Box was the first greenhouse in the country without a glass roof, and many

architects thought its designer was mad. But the designer didn't want hailstones tearing through the roof so he made it out of metal and said enough light would come in through the sides if the building were tall. He was right.

The Jewel Box has been a popular place to get married. For those just interested in a visit, though, admission is a quarter, except between 9 a.m. and noon on Mondays and Tuesdays, when it's free. It's free all the time for kids short enough to walk in under the turnstile.

Near the Jewel Box are two other attractions. The clock of flowers was planted as a Korean War Memorial. And about 1000 feet to the east is the gate to historic Vandeventer Place. Moved to the park in 1950, the massive stone entrance way is one of the few reminders of the street that was once one of the city's most fashionable.

**MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN'S ARBORETUM AND NATURE RESERVE** — Back in the 1920s, air pollution in St. Louis was growing so bad that it seemed the only way to save the plants at Shaw's Garden was to move them to the country. The garden acquired about 1650 acres near Gray Summit in 1925 and moved its prized orchid collection to them.

The pollution was eventually reduced, and the orchids moved back, but the St. Louis area now has the 2200-acre Arboretum to go with Shaw's Garden.

**LAKE SCHOOL** is a one-room school house with double desks, pot-bellied stove and 45 star flag. All eight grades worked in this one room. At Coeur de Ville Drive, Creve Coeur. Open Sundays, June through September 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admission free. Phone 878-3142.

**LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE** is another one-room schoolhouse at 450 Brooke Lane, Hazelwood. Open by appointment only. Phone 721-1589.

**THE LOG CABIN** is an authentic pioneer dwelling saved and restored by its owners, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Clester. It is furnished with period household wares, many of them hand-hewn. The cabin's cellar is an antique shop; proceeds go to the Salvation Army. Open Fridays only, May through December 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission free. Phone 291-4653.

**PAYNE-GENTRY HOUSE** is a delightfully restored Victorian cottage with doctor's office attached at 4211 Fee Fee Road, Bridgeton. Open Sundays noon to 5 p.m. Admission free. Phone 191-4653.

**SAPPINGTON HOUSE** is a Federal charmer built in 1808. Many visitors want to move right in. Child's room has dolls, cradles, miniature furniture. There is a gift shop and restaurant. At 1015 South Sappington Road, Sappington. Open Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. Admission: adults 50 cents, children 25 cents. Phone 966-4700.

**TAILLE DE NOYER** is a fur-trader's log cabin that grew into a Greek Revival mansion. A museum and country store occupy the basement. At 1891 North Florissant Road, Florissant. Open Wednesday through Saturday 1 to 4 p.m., Sunday noon to 5 p.m., closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Admission 50 cents, children 25 cents.

**WOODLAND TRAILS**, suitable for short walks or day-long hikes, wind past an oak-hickory forest, limestone bluffs and the Meramec River. Meadows bloom with wild flowers. With reservations, adult groups can get guided tours. If you're not a walker, the Wilderness Wagon will carry you on an hour-long tour.

**THE ADMIRAL** — Now this is a boat. Built in 1940 in St. Louis, its design is based on the streamlined, look that was in vogue then for locomotives.

The biggest riverboat in the world, the Admiral is something of an institution in St. Louis. Taking one of its cruises 20 miles down the Mississippi River and back has been on the "must list" during summer vacation for three generations of children.

Cruises on the Admiral start on Memorial Day and continue through Labor Day. There are morning and evening trips. There is dancing in the immense ball room, narrated sightseeing, sunbathing, and a whole nother world on the lower deck of coin-operated amusements.

**MERAMEC CAVERNS** — This place is huge and old. Branching out underground like a tree, 26 miles of passageway have been mapped, and it's difficult to say how much hasn't. The cave took 30,000,000 years to form after it was "born" 100,000,000 years ago. The cave is full of fascinating formations like the "stage curtain" — which is 70 feet high and 35 feet thick.

During the Civil War the cave was used as a station on the Underground Railroad. Evidence seems to indicate that Jesse James later used it as a hide-out.

The cavern is open every day. Tours, which last about 80 minutes, are \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children five years to 11. The cave is 65 miles southwest of St. Louis on Interstate 44, near Stanton.

**ST. LOUIS ZOO** — Spread across 83 acres in Forest-Park, the zoo is one of the best in the country, and is probably the best in terms of entertainment: its chimpanzee, elephant and bear shows are superb.

The Zoo Line railroad gives you a narrated tour for 50 cents. For a quarter, you can have a great time at the Charles H. Valen. Children's Zoo, where some of the zoo's young animals are kept. You can pet and feed some.

The zoo is open 365 days a year, but the shows don't begin this year until May 11. Call 781-0500 to find out exact times.

**CAHOKIA MOUNDS STATE PARK** — Between about A.D. 1000 and A.D. 1200 the largest Indian community in what is now the United States was centered in Cahokia Mounds State Park. Thirty to forty thousand persons lived there; the community was large enough to have suburbs, among which was downtown St. Louis. It was probably the cultural and economic hub of the eastern two thirds of what is

now the United States. The time about 1100 the mounds disappeared for unknown reasons.

The outstanding feature of the park is Mound 17, which was the site of a temple. The mound is the biggest prehistoric earthen mound in the world; its base is bigger than that of the Great Pyramid of Cheops.

Today the main activity at the park is climbing the remaining mounds. But there's a museum to visit and tours are available as well. The park is in Illinois just south of I-70, six miles east of the Poplar Street Bridge.

**ANHEUSER-BUSCH** — The world's largest brewer has its main brewer's plant in St. Louis, capable of producing 100,000 barrels of beer a year. Tours take you through the brew house, the lab building for Clydesdales, and a bottling facility. The voice of Ed McMahon, recorded on tape, explains the brewing and bottling processes. In the hospitality room, you have about 20 minutes to drink as much beer as you want.

The interior of the brew house is spectacular, so are the figures decorating the older buildings, the complex is a National Landmark. Call 577-2626 for information on the tours, which are free of charge.

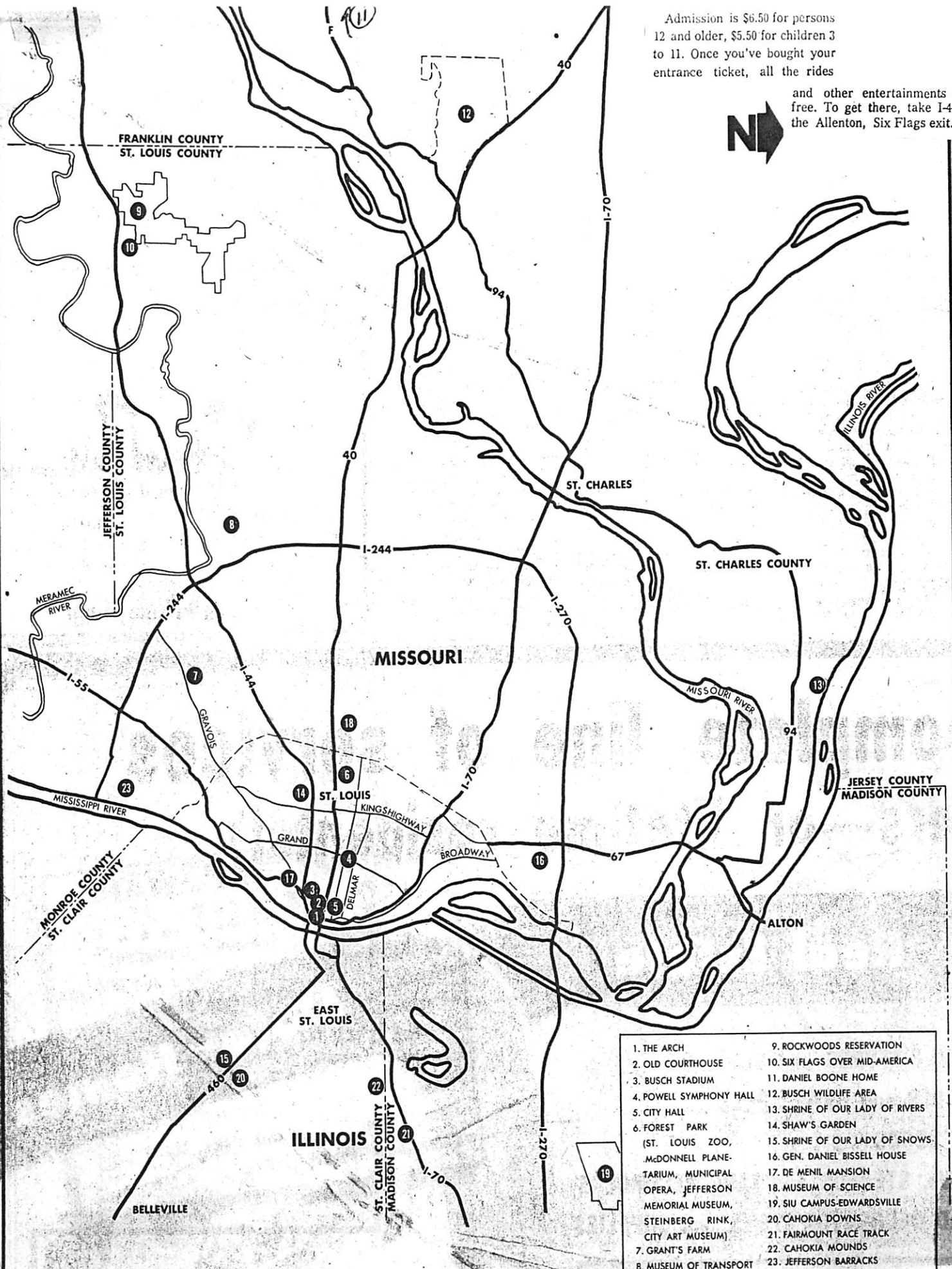
**NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS** — The heart of this 200-acre shrine is a lovely outdoor altar at the base of a huge amphitheater. Outdoor devotional sites in garden areas include a copy of the Lourdes Grotto in France. There is a motel on the grounds for overnight visitors. The shrine is on highway 460 near Belleville.

**SIX FLAGS OVER M.D. AMERICA** — Opened in June 1971, this entertainment center drew 1.5 million visitors last year, a spokesman for the company says. Six Flags features more than 50 rides, as well as shows and featured attractions including performers like Doc Severinsen and Helen Reddy.

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Admission is \$6.50 for persons 12 and older, \$5.50 for children 3 to 11. Once you've bought your entrance ticket, all the rides

and other entertainments are free. To get there, take I-44 the Allenton, Six Flags exit.



- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. THE ARCH   | 9. ROCKWOODS RESERVATION         |
| 2. OLD COURTHOUSE   | 10. SIX FLAGS OVER MID-AMERICA   |
| 3. BUSCH STADIUM  | 11. DANIEL BOONE HOME            |
| 4. POWELL SYMPHONY HALL   | 12. BUSCH WILDLIFE AREA          |
| 5. CITY HALL  | 13. SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF RIVERS |
| 6. FOREST PARK<br>(ST. LOUIS ZOO,<br>MCDONNELL PLANE-<br>TARIUM, MUNICIPAL<br>OPERA, JEFFERSON<br>MEMORIAL MUSEUM,<br>STEINBERG RINK,<br>CITY ART MUSEUM) | 14. SHAW'S GARDEN                |
| 7. GRANT'S FARM   | 15. SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF SNOWS  |
| 8. MUSEUM OF TRANSPORT  | 16. GEN. DANIEL BISSELL HOUSE    |
|   | 17. DE MENIL MANSION             |
|   | 18. MUSEUM OF SCIENCE            |
|   | 19. SIU CAMPUS-EDWARDSVILLE      |
|   | 20. CAHOKIA DOWNS                |
|   | 21. FAIRMOUNT RACE TRACK         |
|   | 22. CAHOKIA MOUNDS               |
|   | 23. JEFFERSON BARRACKS           |

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH SAT 18 JAN 1997 ST. LOUIS, MO

■ The new Mormon temple here will be open to the public for three weeks this spring. After May 17, it will close forever to non-Mormons.

By Patricia Rice  
Post-Dispatch Religion Writer

For three weeks this spring, St. Louis Mormons will open the doors of their new St. Louis Missouri Temple to the public.

"We hope as many as 200,000 people take tours," said Jean H. Mathews, a Mormon spokeswoman and a former state representative from Florissant. Tickets are required.

It's a one-time only invitation.

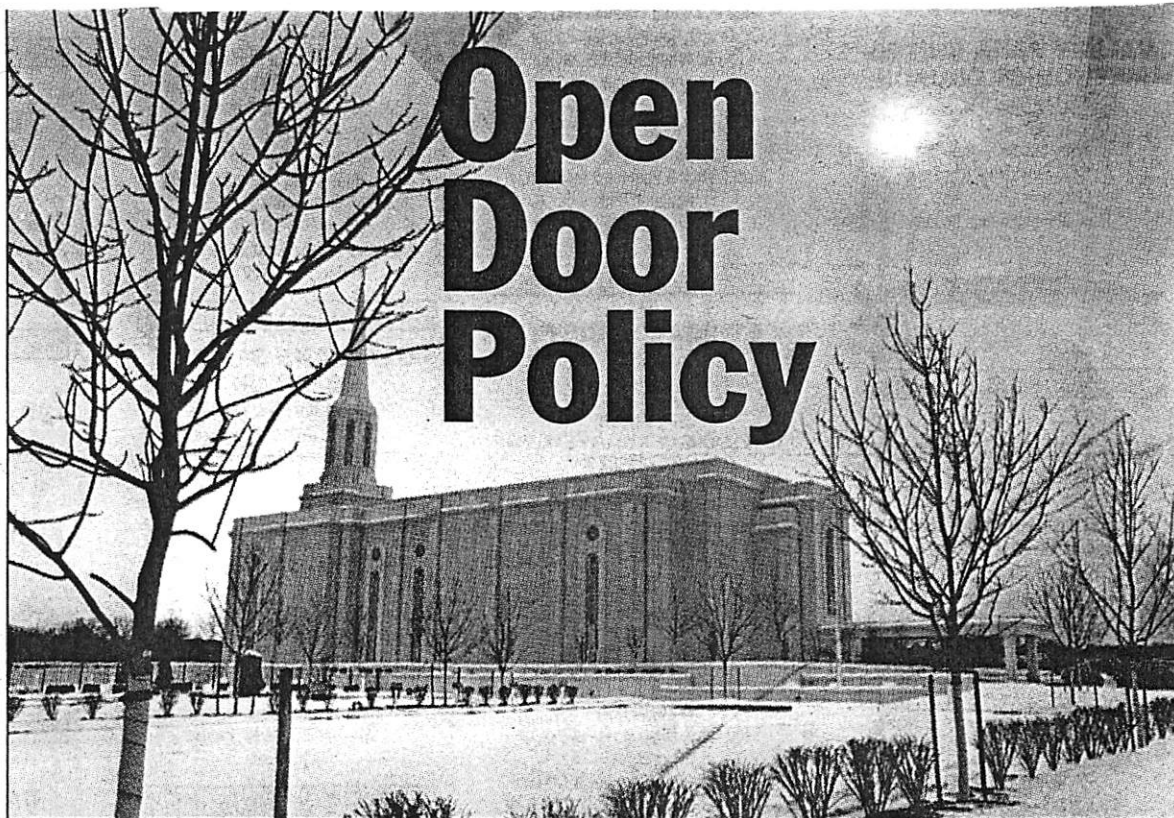
Doors will open to the public April 26, then close forever to non-Mormons on May 17. Once a Mormon temple is formally dedicated, only Mormons with special recommendations by their bishops may enter. For instance, non-Mormons may not attend weddings at the temple.

The gleaming white, marble-faced temple has become a landmark just north of Highway 40 (Interstate 64) and west of Interstate 270. The temple is the first Mormon temple in Missouri.

In 1958, about 2,000 Mormons were in the state; today, 12,000 live in the St. Louis area alone. The temple will also serve about 80,000 additional Mormons, including those in Missouri, Kansas, southern Indiana, Southern Illinois, western Kentucky and western Tennessee.

The temple will be formally dedicated June 1-3. The building will become the 50th operating temple in the world. The building cost more than \$18 million.

Temples are the most sacred buildings to



Larry Williams/Post-Dispatch

The St. Louis Missouri Temple just north of Highway 40 and west of Interstate 270.

Mormons, who use them only for special activities — not for Sunday worship. According to Mormon theology, marriage ceremonies conducted in a temple are eternal in nature. Families whose members are joined in temple ceremonies — called ordinances — will remain united throughout eternity, Mormons believe.

Mormons from ages 12 to 18 will spend weeks in the temple baptistery performing "proxy baptisms" on the dead.

In April, people with tickets will be led through many of the 100 rooms in the 58,749-square-foot building. The culmination of the tour will be the celestial room with a 24-foot, domed ceiling. Visitors can walk only on plastic runners that lightly adhere to the golden, hand-sculpted Wilton carpeting. Women in high heels must wear booties to

prevent the heels from puncturing the plastic. "It would cost \$1 million to replace the carpeting," Mathews said.

Tours will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, and from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays. Temples are closed on Sundays. In addition to the temple's 240 parking spaces, two neighboring churches and several business will open parking lots to visitors. Buses will shuttle visitors from lots to the temple.

When requesting tickets, state the number of tickets desired, dates preferred and whether you prefer day or evening. Include name, address and phone number. Large groups may reserve a specific hour. Tickets may be ordered by calling (314) 838-6257, or by writing to: St. Louis Temple Committee, 510 Maryville College Drive, Suite 210, St. Louis, Mo., 63141. Tickets will be mailed in March.

# Restoration Of Museum Houses Nears End

By TONI FLANNERY

Two new museum houses in this area are in late stages of restoration. The Hawken House, just off Rock Hill Road at the entrance to Southwest Park, Webster Groves, was dedicated recently. In Florissant, the exterior of the Archambault House and its outbuildings—a summer kitchen and a privy—are restored. Work on the interior is about to get under way.

Both houses are late Greek Revival style with subtle hints of early Victorian. Both were built about mid-nineteenth century as private dwellings.

The Hawken House is a two-story, L-shaped building of natural red brick with white trim. A two-story gallery runs the length of the ell. A modest two-column front portico shelters the first-floor entrance and an upper porch. The most prominent features on this side are a heavily bracketed cornice and a pediment that carries the cornice around the porch structure. (The porch, like the one originally on the house, replaces an iron balcony that an

owner put on early in this century.) There are light windows at the doors on both levels of the porch.

A historic museum is being built in the basement where height was added when the house was moved from its original site off Big Bend Boulevard west of Grant Road. When completed the museum will be part of regular tours of the house and grounds. An herb garden is near the kitchen door. Webster Groves garden clubs will be responsible for additional plantings.

William Bodley Lane was restoration architect.

Webster Groves bought the structure for \$3500 from the Church of the Open Door, which planned to demolish it for a parking lot. Forty-six thousand dollars was raised in private subscriptions. The amount was matched by a federal Historic Preservation Grant, the first in Missouri.

Christopher Hawken, son of the maker of a rifle much favored by American pioneers, built the house on a 100-acre site near Big Bend and Grant

roads with the help of slave labor. Bricks were made of clay from a pond on the property. Hawken's descendants lived in the house until 1912.

The city holds title, and the house museum will be maintained and operated by the Webster Groves Historical Society. It is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Florissant's red brick Archambault House, at St. Denis and Jefferson streets, has double "Baltimore-type" chimneys, dark green shutters at the windows and simple wooden lintels. The trim is "light creme." Colors correspond with a master color plan for historic structures in Florissant. W. Philip Cotton Jr., restoration architect for the two-story house, said the colors are like those he found by scraping many layers of paint from the house.

A \$20,000 federal grant (HUD) was matched by funds raised by Old Florissant Inc. Almost all of it has been put

into restoring the outside, and it is estimated that an additional \$15,000 will be needed for mechanical work alone on the interior (electricity was the only modern utility in the house), even though most of the labor is volunteer.

Auguste Archambault was one of Florissant's early fur traders—a respected mountain man who fought in the Mexican War. About 1900 his property was transferred to the Keeven family. Maggie Keeven kept it as her home until her death in the 1960s.

Florissant bought the property from the St. Louis Archdiocese, which had acquired it in 1968 through the probate court. The church had intended to put a convent on the site.

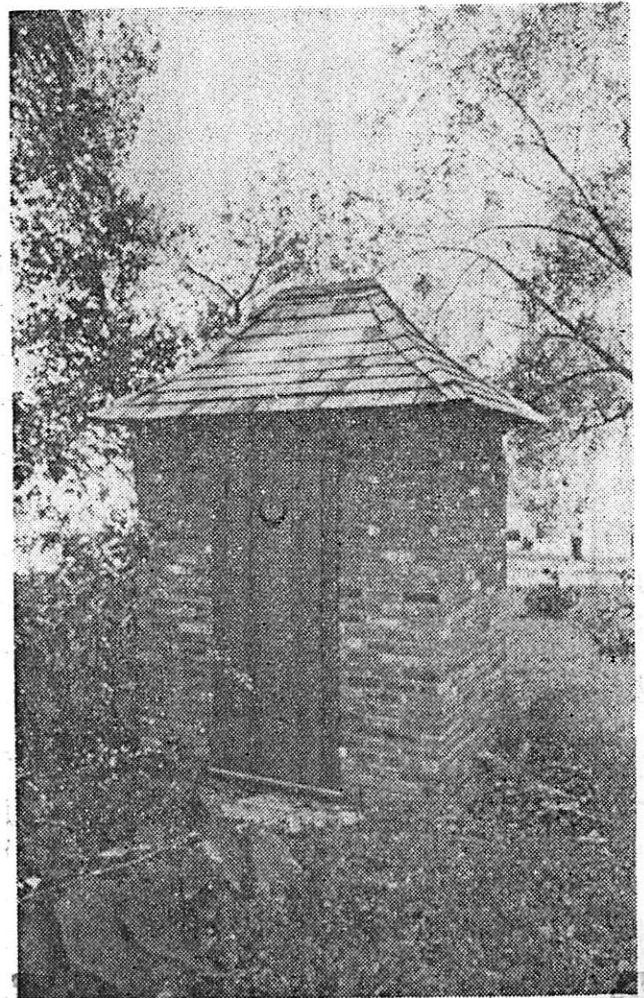
Volunteers have been maintaining the grounds. A small garden is laid out near the restored summer kitchen and there is a patch of tansy near the brick privy (with the French Renaissance roof) at the back of the property. A well house is yet to be restored.

ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH

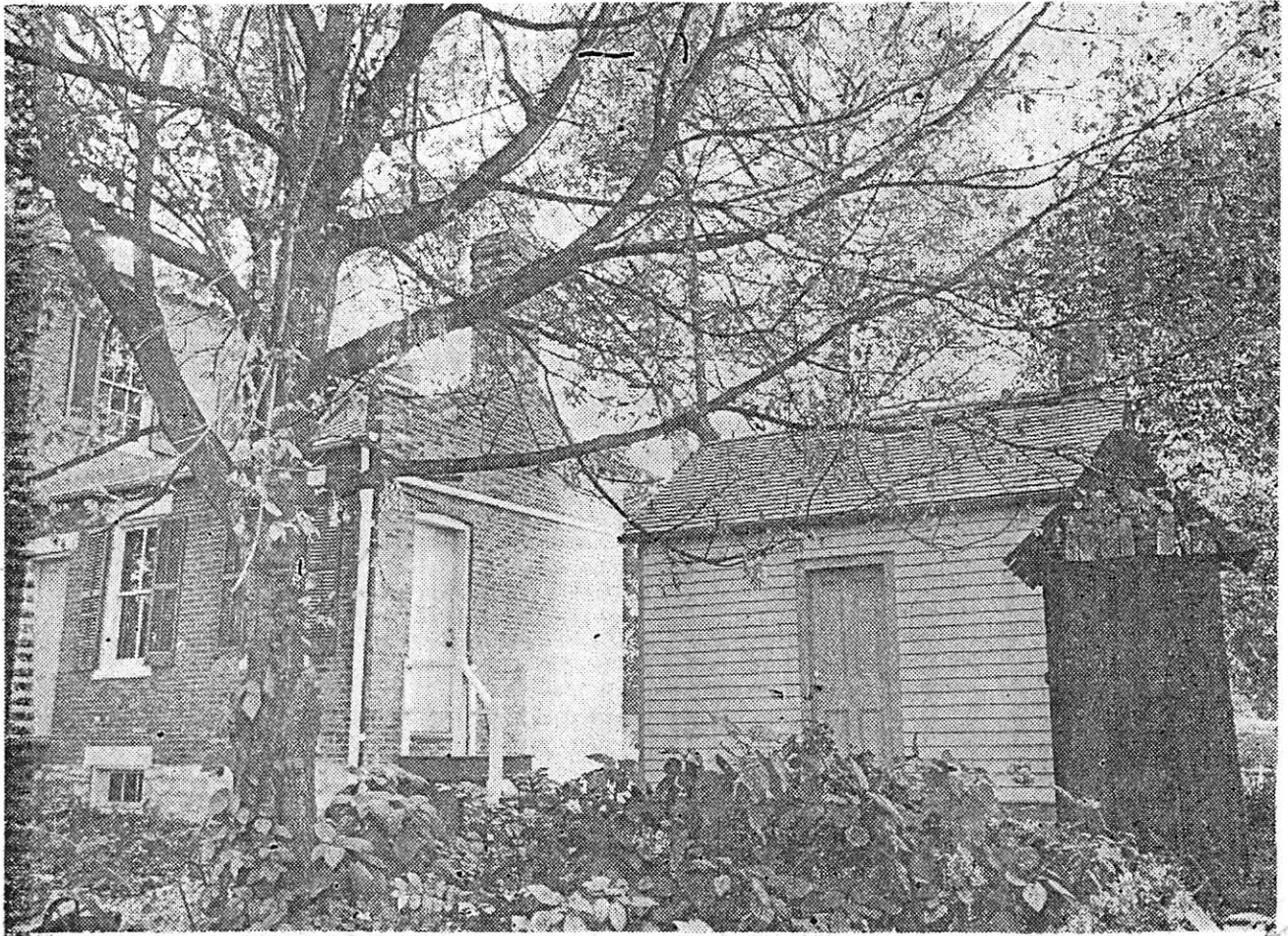
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HAWKEN HOUSE - WEBSTER GROVES, MO

ARCHAMBAULT HOUSE - FLORISSANT, MO

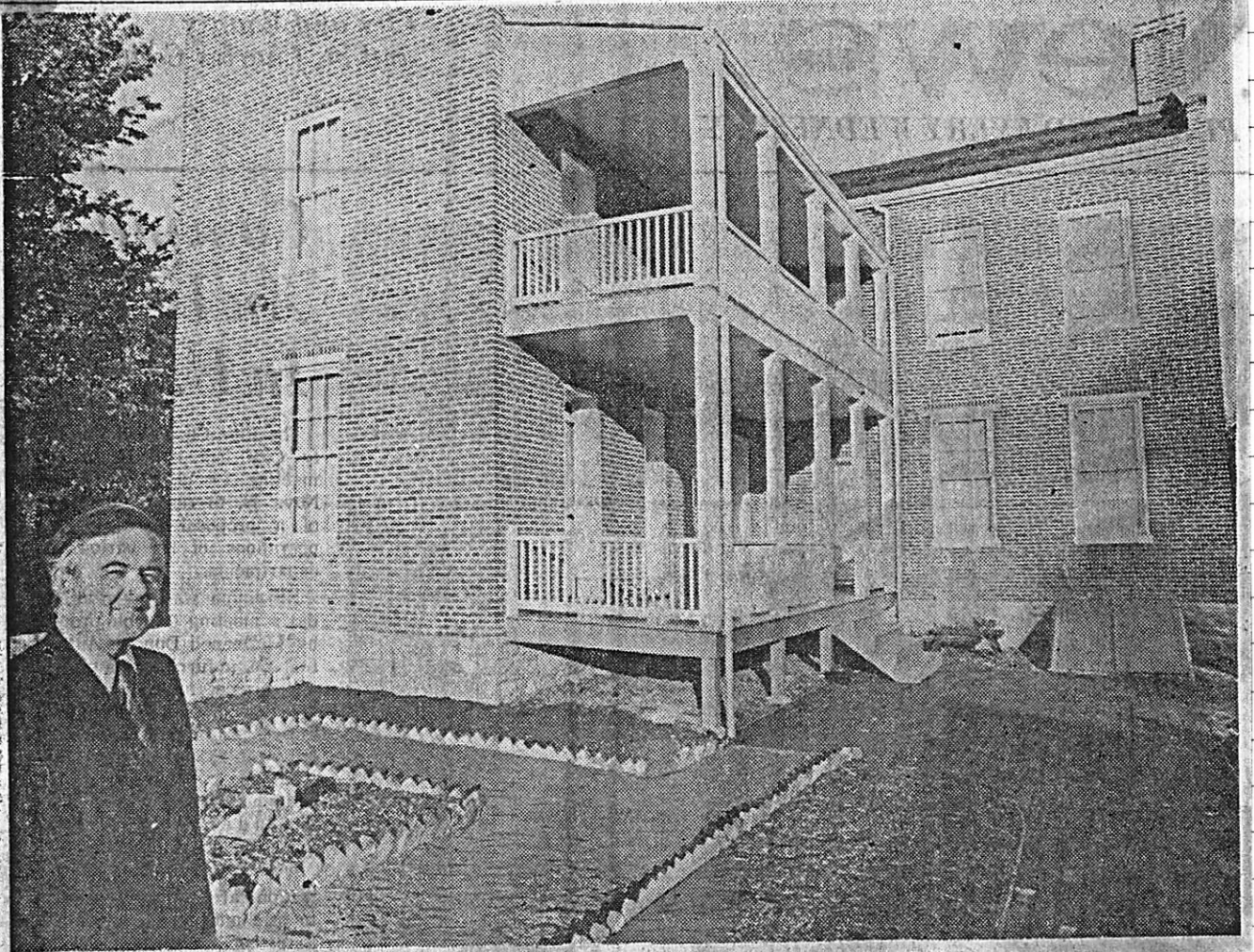


**WELL-BUILT:** This privy at Archambault House has been returned to its original state. It has a French Renaissance roof.



**PRESERVING FLORISSANT'S PAST:** A rear view of the summer kitchen, the middle building, has been re-  
(Post-Dispatch Photos)

Archambault House which is being restored in Florissant. The well house at the right is yet to be restored.



**MUSEUM FOR WEBSTER:** A view of the rear of the restored Hawken House in Webster Groves showing the two-story gallery. Mayor John W. Cooper Jr., president

of the Webster Groves Historical Society which operates the museum house, stands near what will be an herb garden.

# Old Church:

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**W**AGONS and buggies are empty outside the new stone, three-story church on the dusty road that winds past Joseph Conway's horse-powered mill. Several dusty horses are tied to a white ash tree in front of the church. A few children's gravestones mark the cemetery yard.

## Faith Lifted

By **PATRICIA RICE**  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

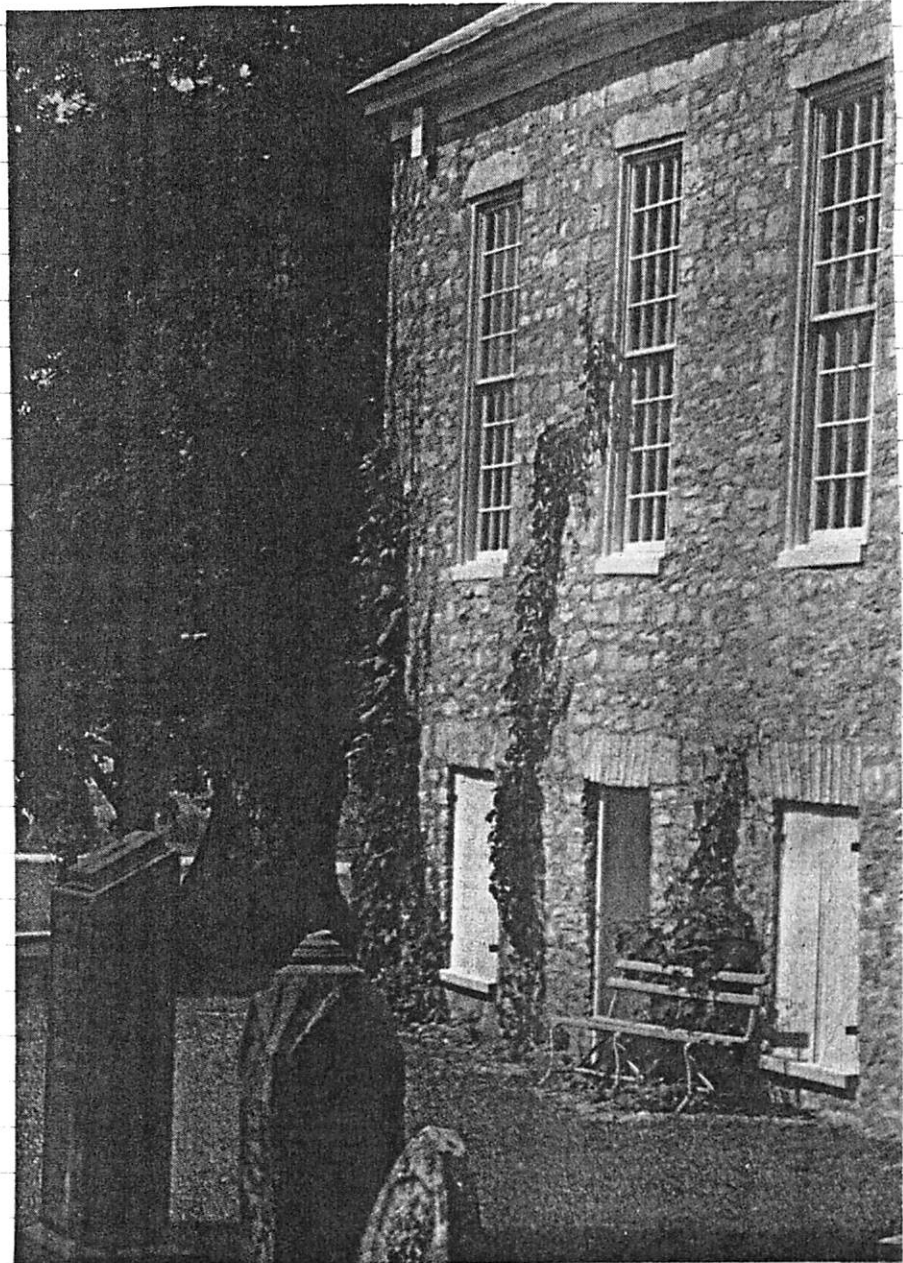
A latecomer rushes into the first-floor classroom to add her covered dish to a table laden with food for the Sunday noon meal. Music from the organ in the sanctuary above signals the beginning of the day-long worship service.

The women in frilly bonnets and the men in stiff collars sit on the dozen gray pews facing the pristine white altar and sing rousing Presbyterian hymns. A father restrains his son from tapping his foot to the music on one of the two iron stoves in the center of the church.

The two-story high, clear glass windows are open on the hot summer day. A member of the David Clarkson family fans herself with a straw fan. A young member of the Thomas Mason family gazes out the window at the wood edged with Queen Anne's lace. He slowly moves his head so that the imperfections in the hand-blown glass panes seem to make the trees change height. Upstairs in the choir loft, the families of slaves worship.

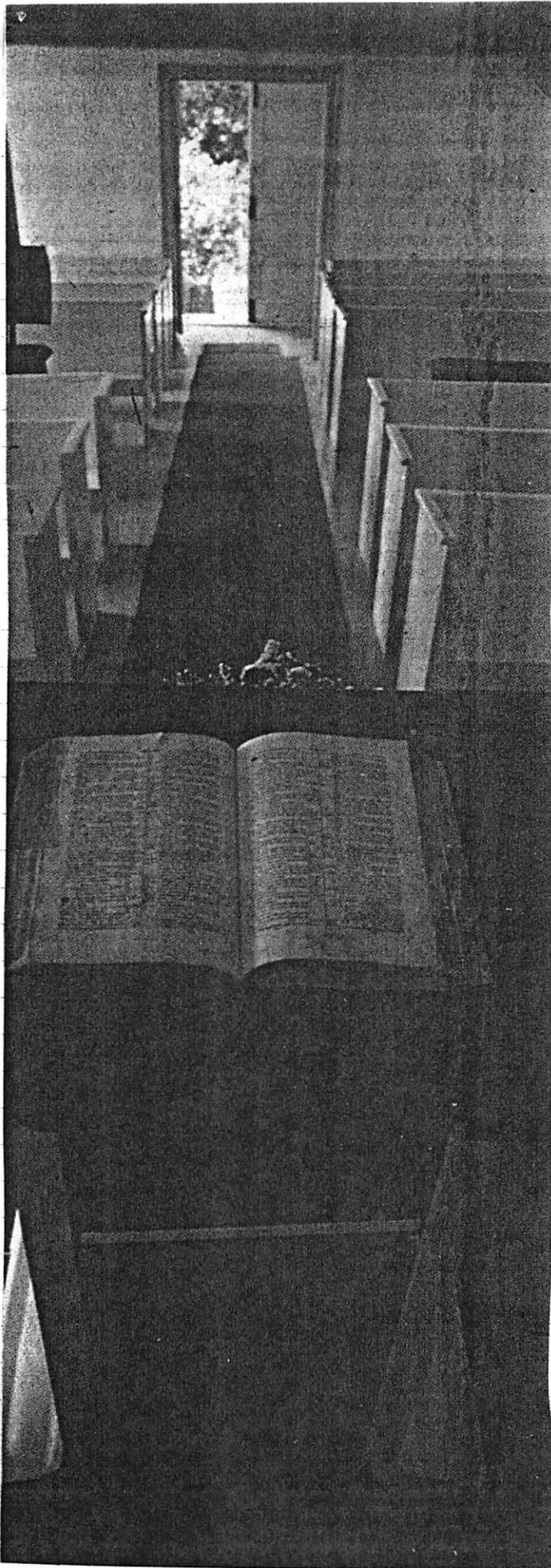
This scene might have happened any warm Sunday in the 1840s at the old stone Bonhomme Presbyterian Church in what is now Chesterfield. The farms of the Mason and Clarkson and Conway families are now suburban tracts. All that is left is the name of the roads past their farms. Some of their names of other members of the congregation can be found on the stones in the small cemetery of the old church. The ash tree to which the horses were tied is now so wide that it takes three long-armed adults to circle its trunk.

But the stone church remains. And this summer it is closer to what it was in the 1840s than it has been for a century. For the last two years, groups of hard-working volunteers of many religions have carefully restored it to what early plans and diaries describe.



Today the restored church looks as it must have in 1841.





The red carpet, the soft gray paint and most details were carefully selected to match descriptions in church records.



Only one oil lamp remained; replicas were cast to match it.

The second oldest Presbyterian congregation in the state was founded just three months after one in Caledonia, Mo. From 1816 to 1841, the Bonhomme families worshiped in homes. The stone church built under the supervision of James Baxter and James Sappington both carpenters and congregation members, was completed in 1841.

"The church was never really rich, and we think that that was a blessing," Mrs. Alfred Kerth

Jr. said. She is chairman of the committee of 13 persons that organized the restoration project. "It didn't grow big enough to need additions and it didn't get rich enough to add Victorian gingerbread."

The old church had long been of interest to those in the neighborhood. As a child growing up on Woods Mill Road, Mrs. Kerth had played in the wood around the church. After a series of vandal raids, which nearly destroyed most of the hand-blown glass and some of the interior, preservation talk was pushed into action. The new Bonhomme Presbyterian

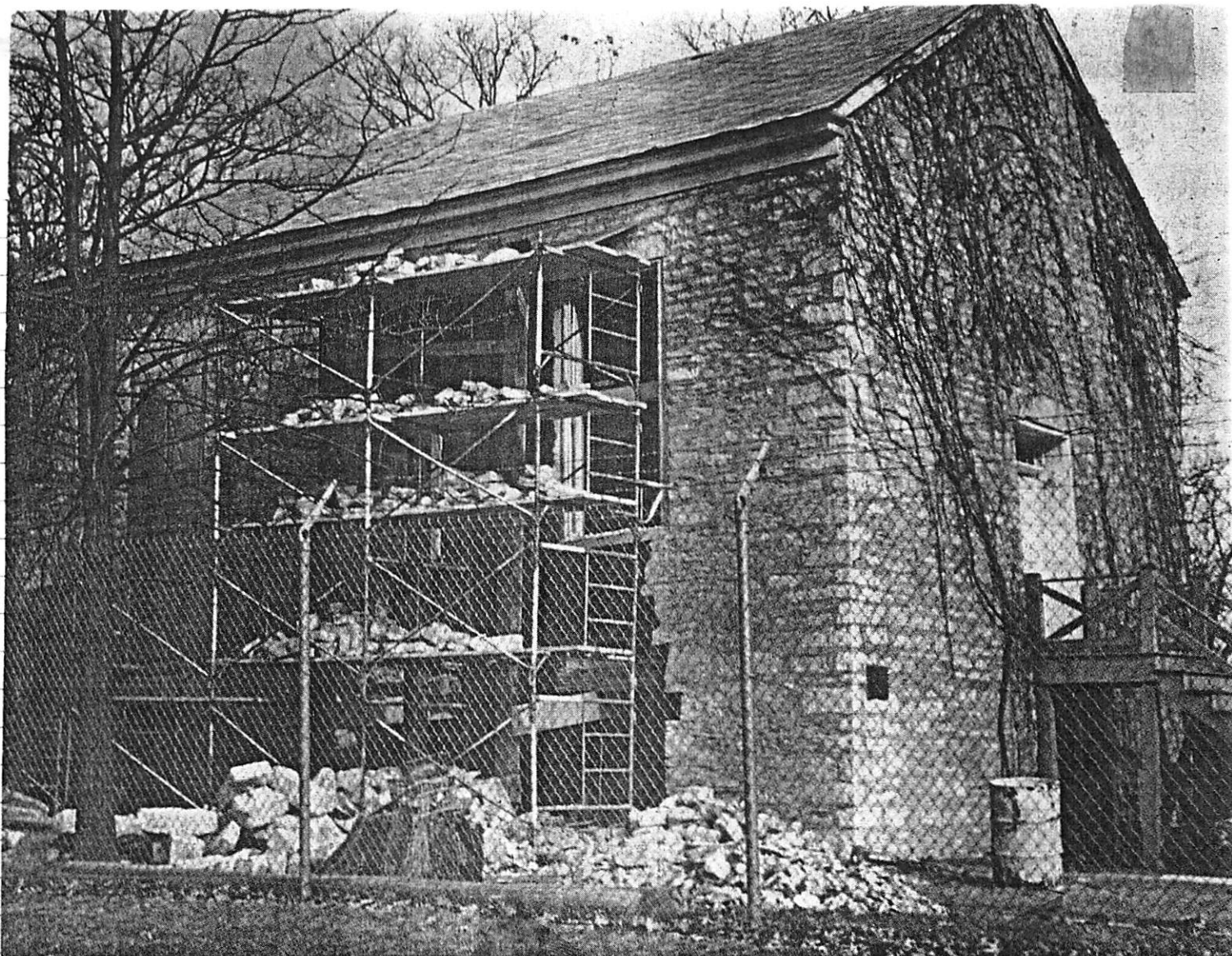
Church, a mile west on Conway Road, begun in 1959 when only one family still attended the old stone church, called a meeting. A cyclone fence was put up around the old church and 11 men and two women began to function as a restoration committee.

"We've received no church, government or other grants, just money from individuals. From all over the area, people we knew and those we never heard of before or since," Mrs. Kerth said.

Some children from Bellerive School and Sorrento Springs School visited the church and sent money that they raised.

The committee mailed out a brochure and money started to flow in. It wasn't a fortune, but it was enough to pay for the work that only professionals could do. The real wealth came from the volunteers who did most of the work on the church.

"I really haven't worried, the Lord has taken care of us," Mrs. Kerth said. Stonemasons completely rebuilt all



In January of 1972 stones from the Old Bonhomme Presbyterian Church were carefully removed, realigned and reconstructed. Funds for the reconstruction came from hundreds of small donations.

four of the three-story high walls. When they finished in May of last year, the volunteers began to work.

With great energy every Saturday and Sunday last fall, church members, neighbors, friends and history buffs pulled up to the church and unloaded plastering material and paint brushes. Mrs. Kerth makes all those working weekends sound more like a carnival than work.

"**WE HAD** lots of fun," she said. She'd bring cases of soda, and teen-agers used the one electrical outlet in the church to plug in their favorite record," Jesus Christ Superstar."

Karl Muschany, 72, said that he needed something more than fishing to keep him happy now that he was retired. So he took all the old hand-blown window panes and the sash home to his basement and spend hours rebuilding the windows. Unfortunately much of the original glass had been broken by vandals and he often had to substitute the smooth, uninteresting modern glass for the wavy, light-catching old glass.

A filthy, discolored red rug in the sanctuary was brought to several cleaners who rejected the business of rehabilitating it because they were concerned that the old rug might disintegrate. One cleaner finally accepted the challenge and restored the rug to its original color without charge.

To replace a narrow red runner for the center aisle, the committee asked weaver Libbie Crawford to create a matching red runner. When the rug was delivered by Mrs. Crawford, there was no bill for her hours of labor.

**ONLY ONE** of the cast-iron oil lamp sconces remained. The committee had a mold made of it and had three more made to replace those ruined by vandals.

The original founders of the church were Americans who came to Missouri when it was a Spanish possession, obtained Spanish land grants and settled in an area the Indians had called Good Man, which the French translated to Bonhomme.

The families had come from South Carolina, Kentucky and Virginia. At least some of the congregation were Southern sympathizers and for a brief period in 1864 when Confederate troops approached the St. Louis area, Union troops were sent to occupy the little stone church.

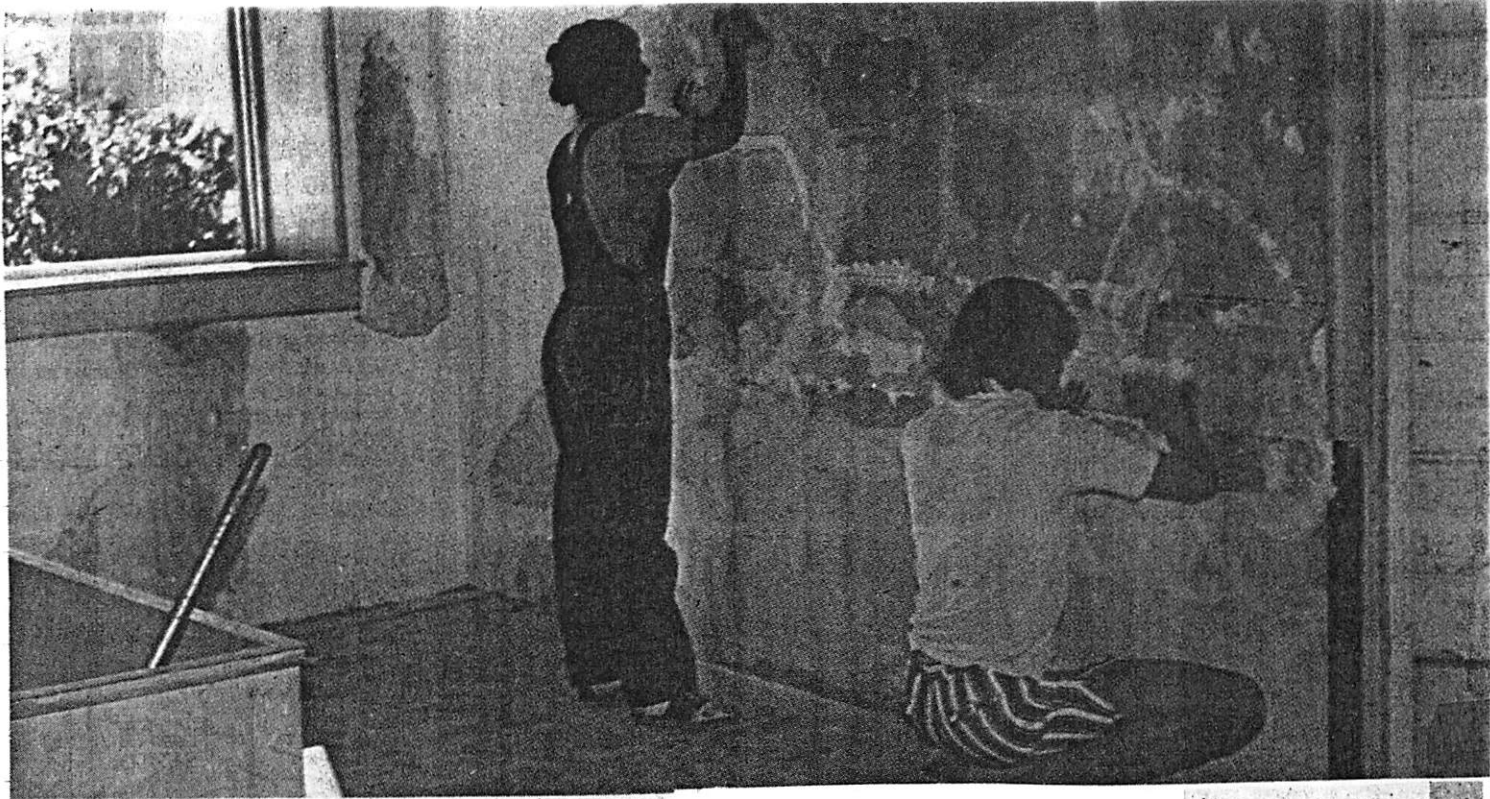
At least one family sent a man to join the Confederates.

After the war the congregation diminished in size. Some families moved west, others died out and Germans bought their land.

But the congregation grew again, and by 1883 there were 50 members. A second decline came at the turn of the century when more Presbyterian churches were built in suburbs. The small congregation at the time of World War II attended services less frequently because of gasoline rationing, Mrs. Donald J. Mundwiller said. She is a volunteer who has been going

over old records and family diaries.

**WHEN WE VISITED** the church, a salesman showing his green shades to Mrs. Kerth slid his briefcase



Karen Ward and Bill Coday were among the dozens of volunteers who helped complete the interior last fall.

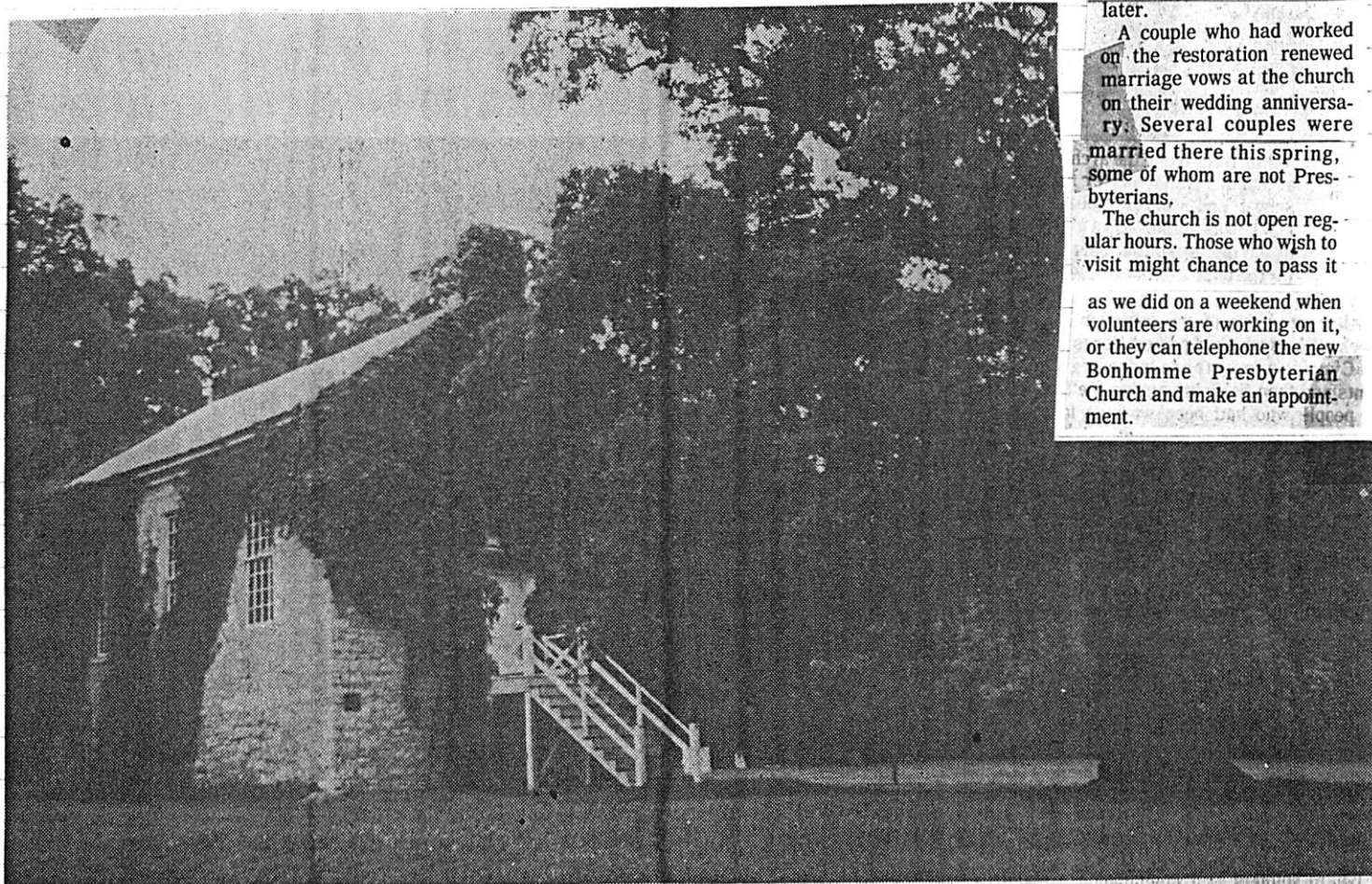
across the freshly painted gray pews. Mrs. Kerth noticed us silently cringe at the scraping.

"This is not a museum; it's meant to be used," she said later.

A couple who had worked on the restoration renewed marriage vows at the church on their wedding anniversary. Several couples were married there this spring, some of whom are not Presbyterians.

The church is not open regular hours. Those who wish to visit might chance to pass it

as we did on a weekend when volunteers are working on it, or they can telephone the new Bonhomme Presbyterian Church and make an appointment.



The old stone Bonhomme Presbyterian Church built in 1841 in what is now Chesterfield. The tree at right is the second oldest white ash in Missouri.

# Restoration Committee Seeks to Save

(N) Wed., Feb. 2, 1972—COMMUNITY PRESS—5 B

## 131 Year Old West County Site

The concern for the preservation of American historical sites is deepening everywhere. One building familiar to residents of west St. Louis County that is now in the spotlight of a restorative program is the Bonhomme Old Stone Church on Conway Road at White Road.

A team of members from Chesterfield's Bonhomme Presbyterian Church has undertaken a major project to restore the church which was built in 1841. They have recently mapped strategy for the restoration which includes a goal of raising over \$70,000. They hope to interest local and distant friends of the church, present and former members, businesses, historical foundations and anyone else who shares their belief in the value of preserving the past to make it meaningful to future generations.

It will not be meaningful just for future generations though, since one of the purposes of the restoration is using the building for worship services and other community-wide uses.

Chairman of the restoration committee, Mrs. Mimi Kerth said "The main thrust of the project is that once it is restored, it would be available to anyone in the community, not just members of Bonhomme, or Presbyterians."

"As we go along in the restoration work, we hope to interest people in helping. The original old church was built by the members themselves. We hope this will be a house of worship built by the community," Mrs. Kerth continued.

Apparently the members are not the only ones who consider the Old Stone

Church significant. In 1967 the St. Louis County Historic Buildings Commission selected the Old Stone Church as one of the sixty structures of historic significance in the county. From that group, and as a joint project, the County Commission and the Historic Parks Service selected the Old Stone

Church as one of the ten most important buildings in the county.

As a result of this, the Old Stone Church was thoroughly documented with architecturally measured drawings, historically researched and photographed. This information is now on file in the Library of Congress.

The history of the old church, east of the current Bonhomme Church on Conway Road, will be familiar

to many long time residents of the area.

Rev. Salmon Giddings first organized the congregation on October 6, 1816 when members held worship services in their homes or local school houses. (A descendant of his is currently involved in this restoration.) Original members included

Capt. Jos. Conway Stephen Hempstead, and Thomas Mason.

In 1841, the stone church was built on property donated to Bonhomme by Jos. Conway Jr. and his wife, Virginia. This land was originally part of the 1796 Spanish Land Grant held by his father, Capt. Conway.

Restoration plans include the use of both floors of the building, the lower floor as a museum, the main floor as a place of worship and a

site for historical tours.

When first built in 1841, the ground floor of the Old Stone Church served as a local school room. When no longer used for this purpose the ground level windows were walled up. With this exception, the building has changed very little through the years.

Then, as now, an outside wooden staircase leads to the sanctuary which is on the second floor. Double front doors open into a small vestibule which leads directly to the center aisle. As was the fashion of the day, the men and boys sat on one side of the church and the women and children on the other. Above the sanctuary running along three walls is a narrow balcony referred to as the Slave Gallery. This is where slaves were allowed to sit when their masters brought them to services.

Through windows two stories tall, sunlight streamed in, flooding the balcony and sanctuary with light. During the evening services the church was lit by kerosene lamps. The lamps were held in brackets attached to the columns supporting the balcony. In winter the church was heated by two wood burning stoves, which occasionally got so hot the paint on nearby pews blistered.

Some remodeling took place in the church in the 1890's and in the 1930's. The current plan is to restore it as closely as possible to this later remodeling. There is some question as to exactly what the interior of the church, and especially the school, was like. Mrs. Kerth explained that the group is "on a detective

hunt' for a photograph or description or any clue that someone might have in their attic or basement. She wondered if a picture of the school teachers might exist somewhere.

The committee does have several items from the sanctuary of the original church that will be used in the restoration. A common Communion cup, candle sticks, an 1838 Bible (still in good condition), a pump organ made by the Jess. French Piano and Organ Company in Nashville, Tennessee, the

day school classes in 1893 which prove to be interesting reading for the historian. Notes include: recorded collection for Sunday school, anywhere from 11 to 50 cents; the students were called "scholars", the weather was recorded each comments in May, 1893 as "rain during morning-too muddy," "roads bad, threatening rain." Hymns revealed such titles as "The Sunday School Army" and "The Teacher's Prayer."

Today the Bonhomme church has a membership of over 1200. Records show, however, that as recently as the 1940's, there were only five members. The old church was used until 1959 when a new chapel was built on Conway Road property donated by Miss Annie Yokel.

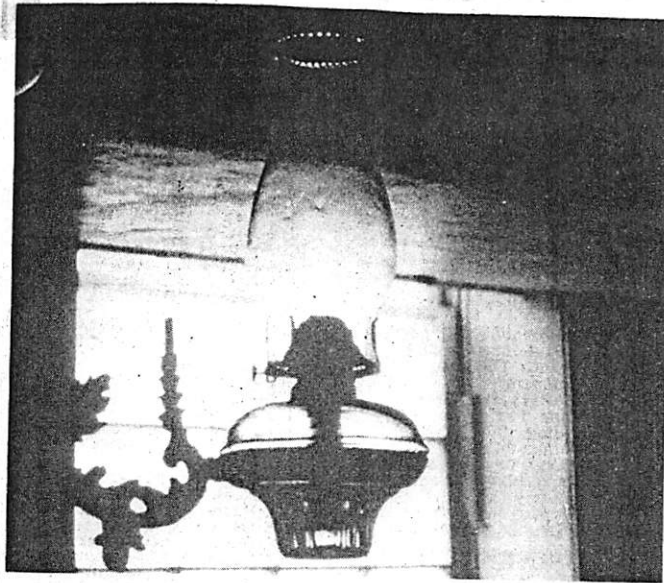
Though the restoration campaign has just started, the workers are hopeful they will achieve success because of the historical significance of the building. "There is a great deal of interest in the restoration

the part of people going back many, many years," she commented.

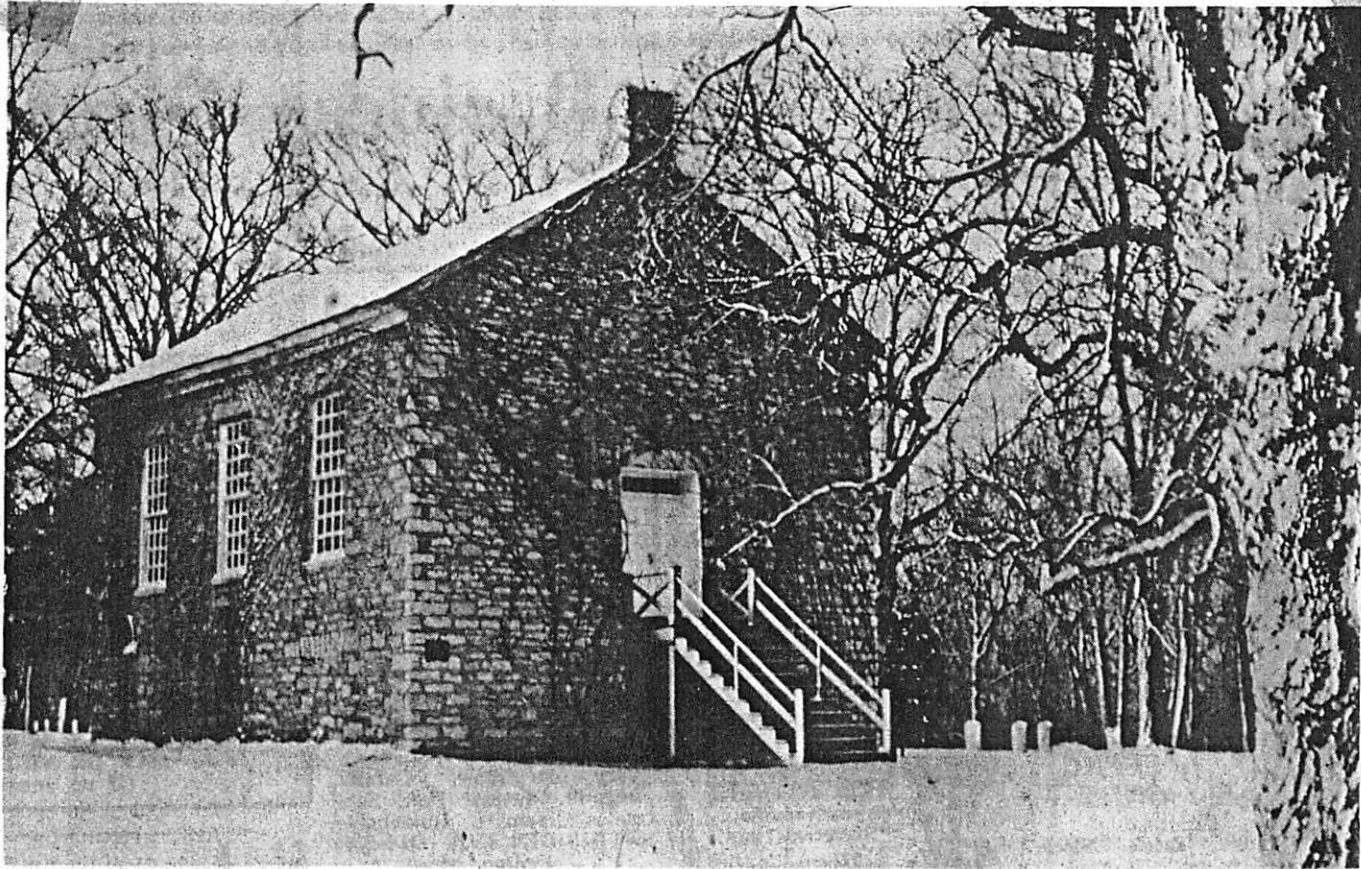
Although the project will be solely supported by donations and not funded by the Bonhomme Church itself; the church's minister is enthusiastic about the chances.

Rev. Roland Moseson believes the project is coming at a time when St. Louis community-at-large is interested in this historical site, not just as a place of worship, but also as a landmark of the community.

Anyone who is interested in furthering the work of the restoration may write to the Old Stone Church Restoration Fund, c/o Bonhomme Presbyterian Church, Conway Road, Route 2, Chesterfield, 63017.

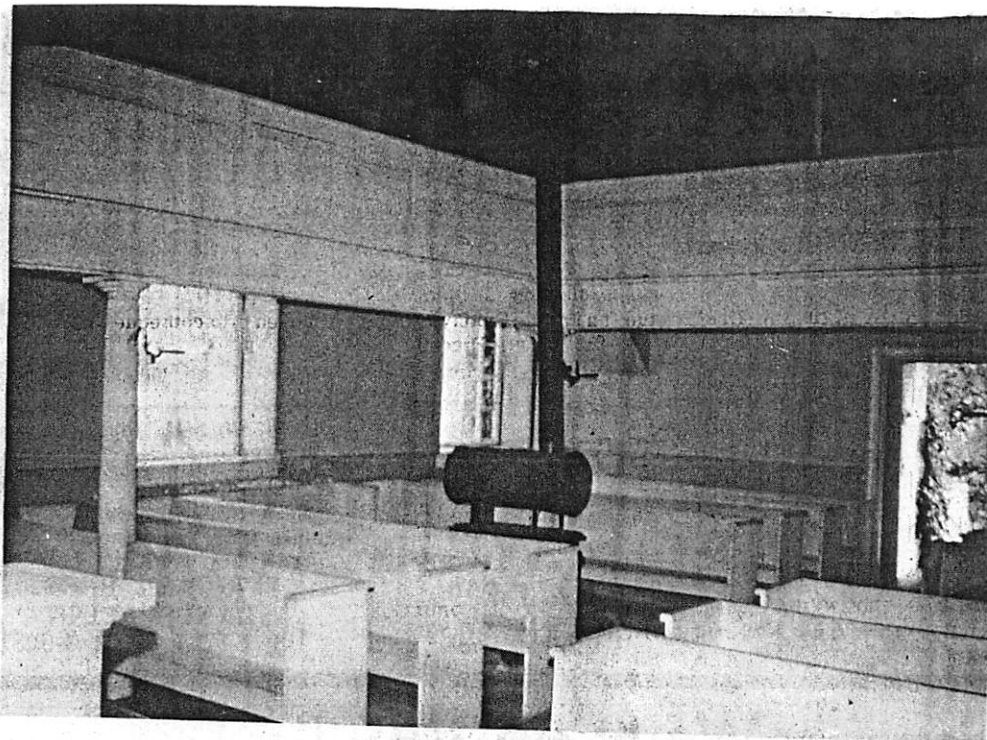


Kerosene lamps attached to the church pillars were lit for evening services.

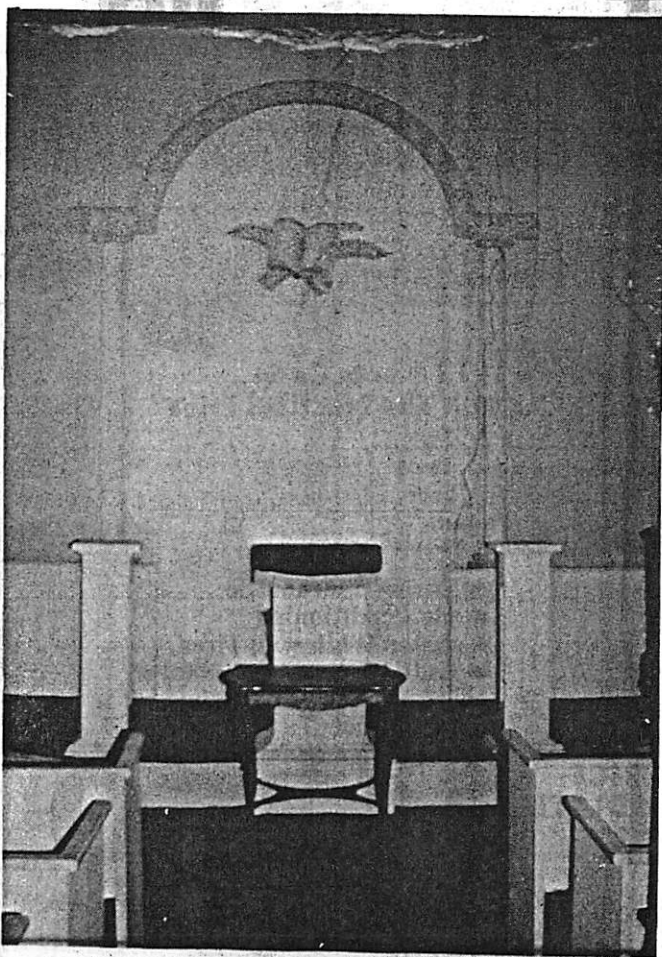


The Old Stone Church stands at the corner of Conway and White Roads in St. Louis County. Its dignity is not hidden behind the ancient and gnarled oak, but its windows are boarded as protection against the wind and rain and further vandalism. The Missouri Botanical Society

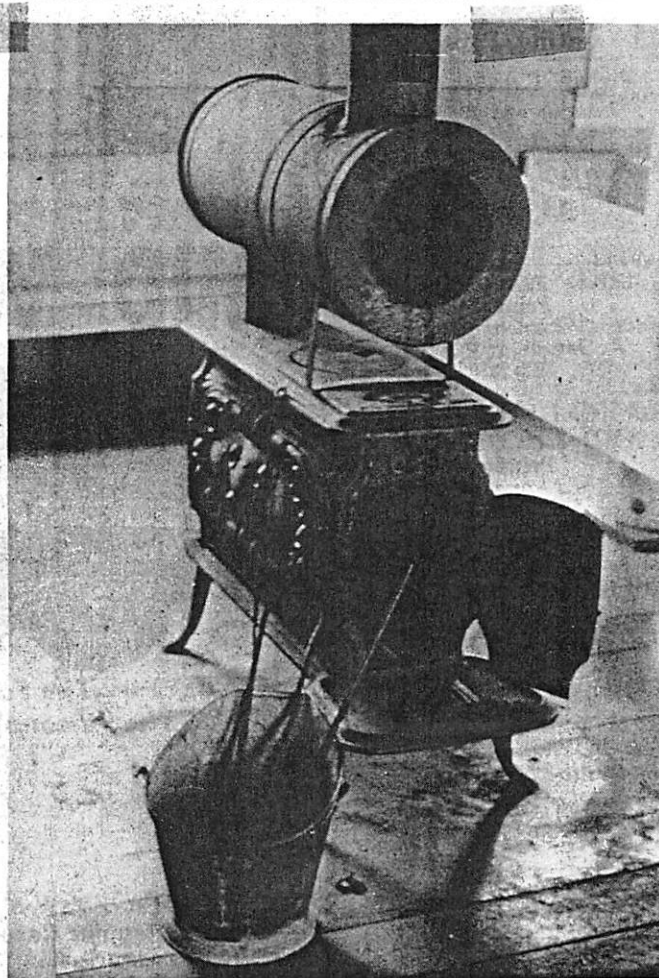
January 1972 Bulletin cited the building and the committee's efforts of historical significance.



The interior of the church is extremely simple. A wood stove on both sides of the church provided the only heat in the building. The walls of the building are now dangerously cracked due to water seepage and age. The upper gallery was built for the slaves who were brought to church by their masters.



Restoration is badly needed on the frame of the structure. Age has cracked the walls, but through the efforts of the committee, the altar will be restored to its original appearance.



The drum stove recirculated the heat and expelled it out both sides before escaping up the exhaust pipe.

(Photos by Eugene Hough)

# Underground Clay Mine Was in Creve Coeur

by Gloria Dalton

Creve Coeur - Chesterfield Historical Society

Granville Morris bought land from the Mosleys at the turn of the century. His grandson, Wesley Morris, still lives there with his wife and children at 232 Mulligan Avenue, off Mosley Road. This area was called "Malcolm Terrace" and was a regular stop for the Missouri Pacific Railroad.

Morris, who is the lead maintenance man at McKelvey School, has been helpful to the students there who study the history of our area in the summer months. He tells them of walking two miles each day to the old Weber School at Olive Street Road and Ballas Road, where Rubens and Coco's is now located.

He has told them of working in the large mine which stood near Ballas and Ladue Roads in the 1900's. There the Parker and Russell Mining and Manufacturing Company leased the mineral rights of the Mavies Farm, located on the southeast corner of Ballas and Ladue Roads. This was a tunnel mine which mined fire clay and coal. He remembers that the area, which included some twenty acres had four main tunnels. These were eight feet wide, 11 feet tall and about 100 feet apart.

The clay was brought up on

a trolley-like car, and Morris shows a picture of himself in one as a young man. The car was four feet long, three feet high and three feet wide. A mule helped pull the load at the end of the tunnel. A St. Mary's Oil Engine helped load the products on to the Missouri Pacific Railroad. This material was taken to the Parker and Russell Company in St. Louis. Much of this raw material was used for making "gas retards."

Morris's father, Frank, was

the foreman in 1921. Some of the men working for him were Bill Stockamp, Fred Bayless, Henry Hemmer, Phil Herzog, Vic Mosley, Mr. Bopp, and Ed and Orville Schaeg. Each man mined 15 ton a day, which was graded before being loaded on the train car. The mines' work force consisted of six miners, one driver, and three extra men.

The area on the southeast side of Ballas and Ladue was owned and operated by the Hydraulic Press Brick

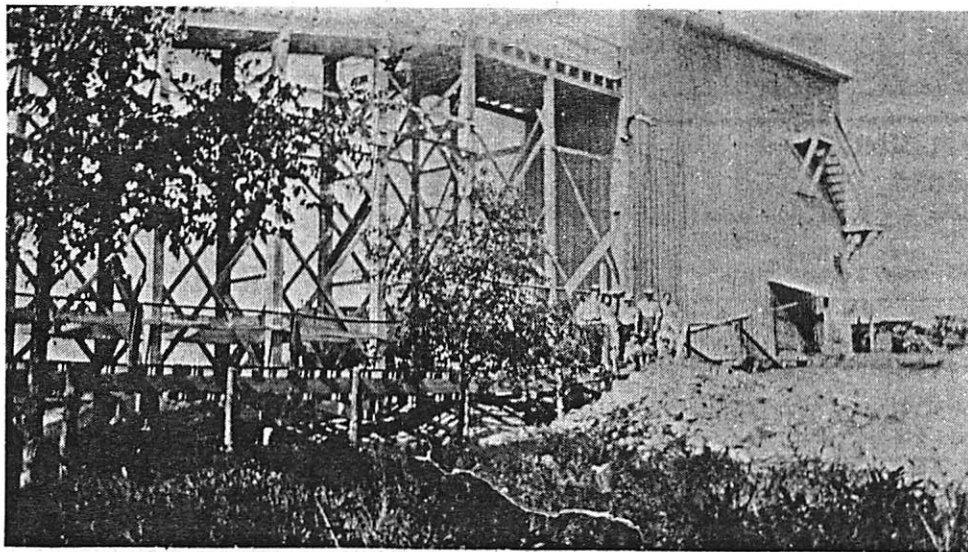
Company. This company shipped 27 cars daily out of our area by Missouri Pacific Railroad.

The coming of natural gas and the lessing of demand for gas retards, plus the depression, caused this industry to move from the Creve Coeur area in 1929. Upon closing, St. Louis County required the firm to fill up the two tunnels that went under Ladue Road.

The corner where Parker and Russell Company operated was purchased by a

real estate firm that made and planned the beautiful lake and homes surrounding it; some of the loveliest in our area.

Anyone having information about the past or interested in the historical society, please call Mrs. James Schneider at 878-3140.



The old mine on Ladue Road in Creve Coeur.



# Landmark Status Sought For University City Site

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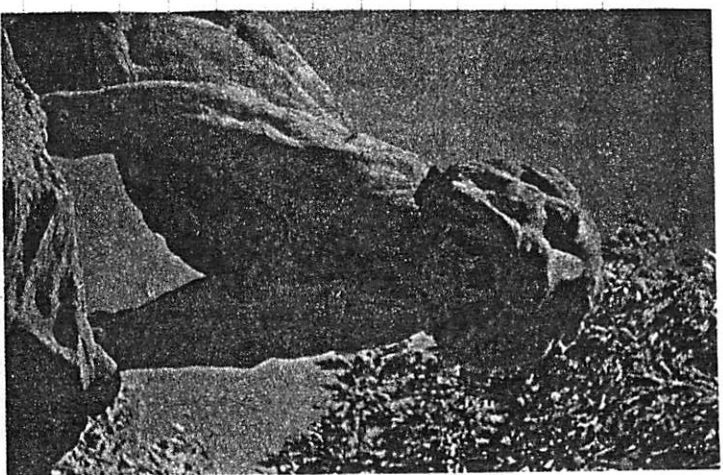


*Woman eternal (above) embronzed in the baroque palace built by publisher E. G. Lewis in University City as headquarters for his women's magazines. More than 4000 women convened there in 1910 for the Lewis-promoted American Woman's League (right), which operated as a political pressure group and a subscription arm for Lewis's empire. In 1912 it established an American Woman's Republic with University City as its capital and seceded from the Union. Below is Lewis in an early photo.*

## Enshrining An Empire's Relics







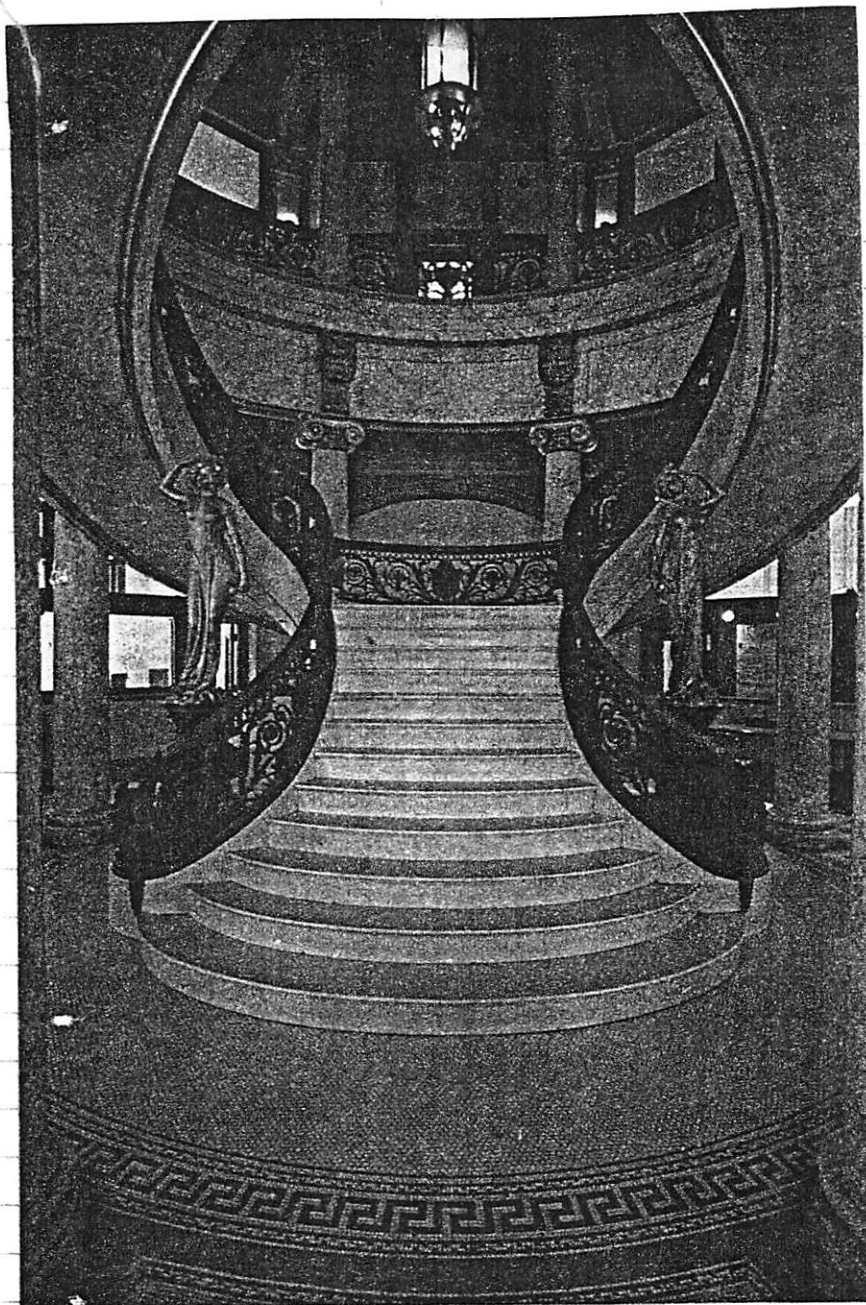
*The 1910 view (top), looking east on Dehar near Big Bend Boulevard, shows the old Egyptian Building (right), replaced by Temple Shaare Emeth. The grand staircase (left) of white Italian marble is in the former Magazine Executive Building, which became the City Hall in 1930. The weather-worn concrete lioness (above) and its mate, by Hungarian sculptor George Julian Zohnay, would be restored if the University City Historic District is approved by the National Register of Historic Places.*

**By VICTOR H. VOLLAND**  
**Of the Post-Dispatch Staff**

**E**DWARD Gardner Lewis might appreciate the irony of a current effort in University City that would grant him recognition of sorts. The United States Government, which brought down his financial empire and put him in prison for mail fraud half a century ago, now is considering a nomination for federal landmark status four monuments that Lewis left behind when his empire crumbled.

The four structures in the proposed University City historic district sprang from the fertile imagi-





Color Photos by SCOTT C. DINE of the Post-Dispatch Staff

nation of a cockeyed optimist holdover from the Gilded Age. And they exemplify Lewis's fondness for the strange and the exotic, especially things Egyptian.

A publisher, real estate developer, banker and promoter, Lewis was the founder and first mayor of University City. His reliquaries stand today like the pyramids as testimony to a fervid imagination and pioneering chutzpah.

The historic district, which was recently recognized by the Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, includes the five-story octagonal City Hall at Delmar Boule-

vard and Trinity Avenue, built in 1903 in a hodgepodge style mixing French and Italian Renaissance architecture and supposedly patterned after the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

The other units are the two-story annex, now housing the police and fire departments; the three-story French Renaissance Ward Building, to the northeast, which houses the Board of Education offices, and the 40-foot neoclassic entrance gates on Delmar capped by stone lions.

He raised his cut stone and terra cotta octagonal tower on the side of a prominent hill in a rolling countryside well west of St. Louis. It looked down to the Delmar Gardens amusement park in what later became the Delmar Loop and across to Forest Park and the busy site being readied for the world fair.

Lewis rushed to finish the \$500,000 edifice, which would house his fledgling publishing firm, in time for the opening of the fair in early 1904. A giant 1,000,000-candlepower searchlight, reportedly built for the Russian exhibit, but undelivered, was installed by Lewis beneath the sliding copper dome roof to draw thousands of fair visitors like moths to his tower and also to Camp Lewis, a tent city complete with floor boards, electric lights and hot and cold running water.

With his ambitions spurred anew, E. G. (as he liked to be called) built the so-called annex to house the magazine presses. Later he erected the strange Egyptian Building, now gone, which was to house his People's Bank but ended up as a second executive building for the Women's National Daily newspaper and the repository of a Goss press.

Lewis, born in 1869, was a young agent and dime salesman from the west when he arrived in St. Louis in 1896 with little capital—\$1.25, he once boasted—but a wealth of "far out" ideas. One, which helped make him a millionaire in 10 years, was that American women, a neglected majority, not only should be first-class citizens but also could be first-class customers for what was probably the first mass-circulation feminist publication. The Woman's Magazine.

The Connecticut clergyman's son started his publishing empire in 1899 with a small journal. The Winner Magazine, which was mainly an advertising vehicle for a number of Lewis's schemes, including the sale of insecticides, foot and tooth powder, medical salts, a nostrum called Dr. Hott's Cold Crackers, cheap jewelry and an endless lottery scheme for a gold watch.

In 1901 The Winner evolved into The Woman's Magazine, which grew to be the country's biggest monthly at the time with a circulation of 1,600,000, due partly to its price of one cent a copy or 10 cents a year by subscription. Like his later publications — The Woman's Farm Journal, The Woman's National Daily and The Woman's National Weekly — it was also an excellent medium for promoting various business projects, such as the People's United States Bank, the first mail-order bank, which "grew like a prairie fire" but was forced into receivership in 1905 when the Post Office Department issued a fraud order barring it from the mails.

Up until the first of Lewis's run-ins with the Government, though, he had free rein to indulge what one observer called his Oriental imagination.

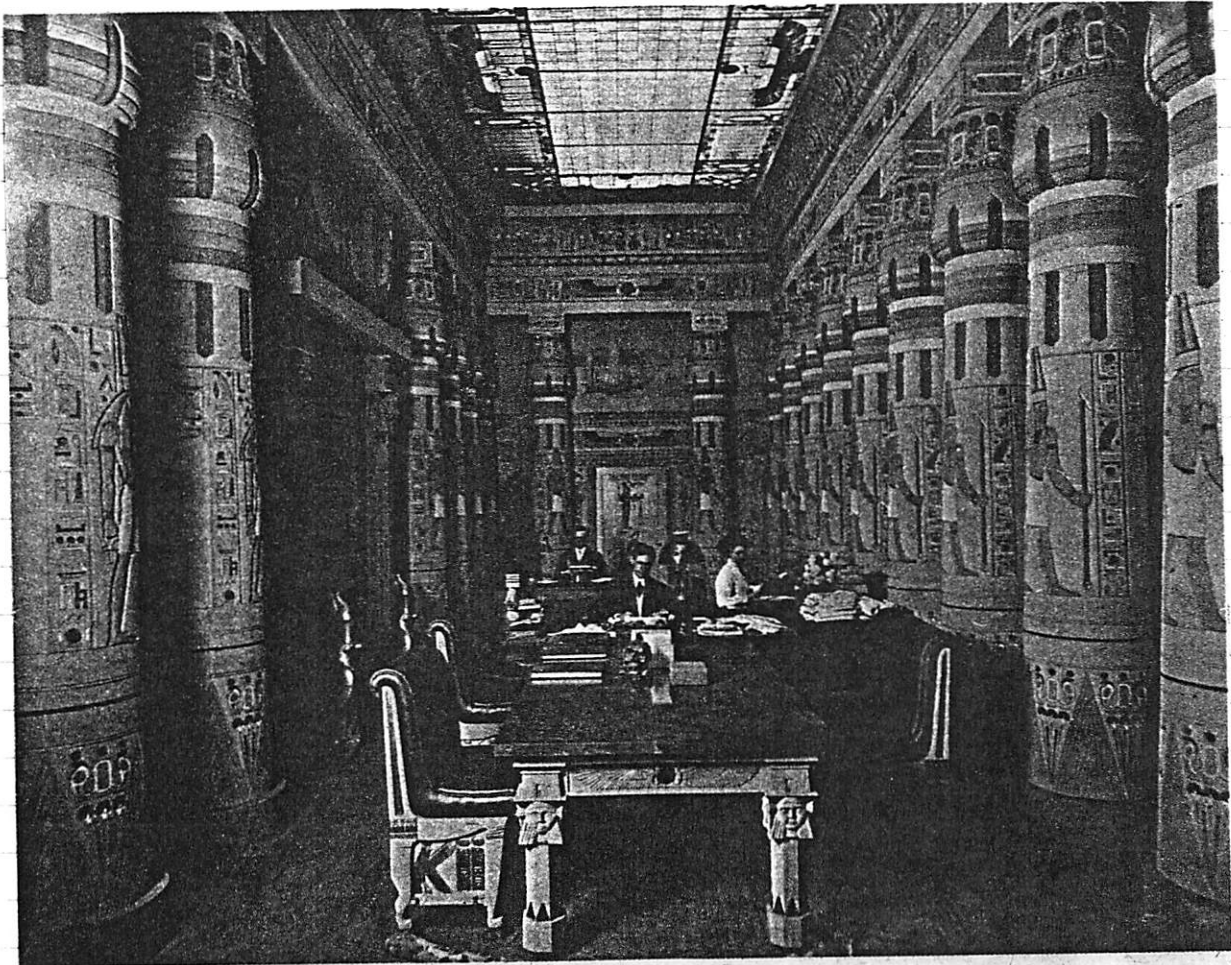
Lewis experimented with the first four-color photograph in a publication, enjoyed a controlling interest from 1908 to 1910 in the old St. Louis Star newspaper, through which he sponsored a subway-building plan, invented a coin slot for telephones and founded the People's University "for the dissemination of popular literature and the enlightenment of the masses, particularly women." Some university buildings were to be copies of the Parthenon, the Taj Mahal and other historic structures, but the only one completed was the Art Institute, now the Board of Education building.

University City, incorporated in 1906, was named for the People's University and not, as many suppose, for nearby Washington University. A "City Beautiful" of elegant homes (including Lewis's own \$100,000 mansion, now gone and replaced by Lewis Park) sprang up just west of the office and People's University complex. The entrance gates on Delmar supporting a pair of lions, symbol of the city, were added in 1909.

Lewis eventually was indicted for mail fraud but managed to win acquittal. However, all his publications were excluded from the mails on the ground that they were designed primarily for promotional purposes, and so his concerns went into receivership.

Hailed by some as the Dreyfus of America, he went west to California and founded other "dream cities," — Palos Verdes and Atascadero — again running afoul of the law and serving seven years in prison for mail fraud. He died a virtual pauper in 1950 at Atascadero. *End*

*Lewis, a pharaoh among American entrepreneurs, sits at his desk in the Egyptian Building, which anticipated modern architecture with its windowless walls and ceiling lighting. It was connected by narrow-gauge tracks through a tunnel beneath Delmar Boulevard to his Magazine Executive Building.*



# Old Army Posts Just Fade Away

## Landmark Status Sought For Historic But Shrinking Jefferson Barracks

Mary Duffe In  
St. Louis Commerce

(Drawings are by George Conroy. Commerce is published by the Metropolitan St. Louis Chamber of Commerce).

On a bluff high above the Mississippi River south of St. Louis, the rolling green meadows of Jefferson Barracks offer a pleasant vista. The former Army post, which once covered 1702 acres, is the verdant representation of a Carl Sandburg poem on war that contains the line, "I am the grass; I cover all."

With its quaint nineteenth-century red brick buildings contrasting with the new white gravestones of the Vietnam war dead in its National Cemetery, the

### The Mirror

### Of

### Public Opinion

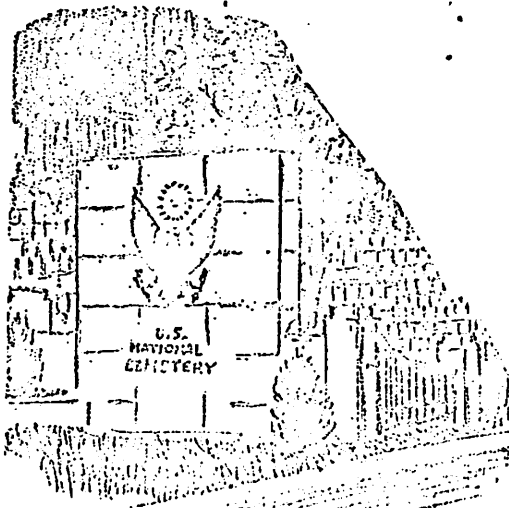
Barracks' beauty in reality masks an anguished record of our settlement of the West, our wars of expansion, our quarrels with the Indians, and our enmeshment in other parts of the world.

The Barracks' cemetery has the dubious distinction of having one of the largest mass graves in the country — 123 World War II atrocity victims who died in the Philippines. Also buried there are six Confederate soldiers shot in reprisal for six Union men summarily executed by guerrillas in outstate Missouri. Early graves hold victims of duelling battles and the plague.

Almost every Army man of note in the last century was stationed at the Barracks at one time in his career. Grant and Lee, of course, but also Sherman, Custer, Kearney, Leavenworth, Zachary Taylor; in more recent times, Pershing and Eisenhower spent some time at the post.

The Barracks originally was intended as a training center for infantrymen. But like at Fort Leonard Wood today, the enlisted men were sent out as rapidly as they came in. They hastened away to fend off uprising Fox Indians in Wisconsin, Seminoles in Florida, Sioux in the Dakotas, and Apaches in the Southwest. They foot-marched to the Mexican War and back again. They rode away to the Civil War, to the Spanish-American War, to the Mexican border, to World Wars I and II.

The finely kept graves in the National Cemetery,

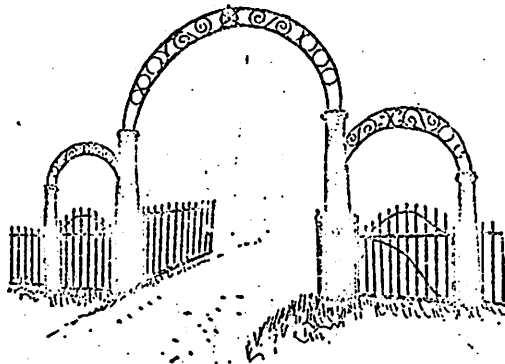


Entrance to national cemetery at Jefferson Barracks.

fourth largest Army burial ground in the nation, are reminders of the loss of young men in every generation. Dead from every war America has fought are interred there.

When Jefferson Barracks was established in 1826, the location was regarded as a more healthful site than old Fort Bellefontaine, north of St. Louis near the mouth of the Missouri River. It was from Bellefontaine that Lt. Zebulon Pike had set forth in 1804 on his famous expedition to the Southwest on which he discovered Pike's Peak. His little daughter is one of those re-interred in the National Cemetery at the Barracks. Another early grave is that of a soldier, Pvt. Richard Gentry, who had been present at Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown. His son, Gen. Gentry, was killed in a battle with the Seminoles in 1837 and also is buried there.

The Barracks burgeoned during the Civil War because of its strategic location on the border be-



Jefferson Barracks main gates, consisting of rifle barrels and cannon from old arsenal.

tween North and South. In addition, a new hospital was authorized in 1861 and began at once to receive Union battle casualties and wounded Confederate prisoners as well. Fatal infections and deaths from such diseases as cholera, spinal meningitis and pneumonia took their toll, adding to the rows of graves in the cemetery.

A tent area for enlisted men came to be known as Pneumonia Gulch. The National Cemetery, an extension of the old post graveyard, was one of eight so designated by President Lincoln in 1863.

The post continued to serve the country as a military distribution center through World War I, and it again reached a peak during World War II when thousands of men were processed there. The end of hostilities marked the end of the Barracks' 120-year history as a military post. It was declared surplus in 1946 and since then has been whittled away until now only 135 acres of the original 1702 remain.

St. Louis County purchased some 450 acres, which include Sylvan Springs Park, west of the Barracks grounds. The Veterans Hospital has 170 acres, the National Cemetery 369. Private development has taken most of the rest.

Missouri Army and Air National Guard units use what remains of the old post for their activities. The grounds are open to picnickers and sight-seers who may visit restored buildings and museums.

There is an active Jefferson Barracks Landmarks Association, whose members are waging a campaign to have the area designated a national landmark. Its president, Tony Fusco, a riverboat pilot, is also an enthusiastic historian of the Barracks and has written a number of booklets and articles about the post.



The Christopher Hawken house, built in 1857 at 9442 Big Bend road, which was dedicated Sunday by the Webster Groves Historical Society as a landmark Century home. It will be moved next year to the city's Southwest Park and the present site will be made into a church parking lot. (Post-Dispatch Photograph)

## House Made A Landmark

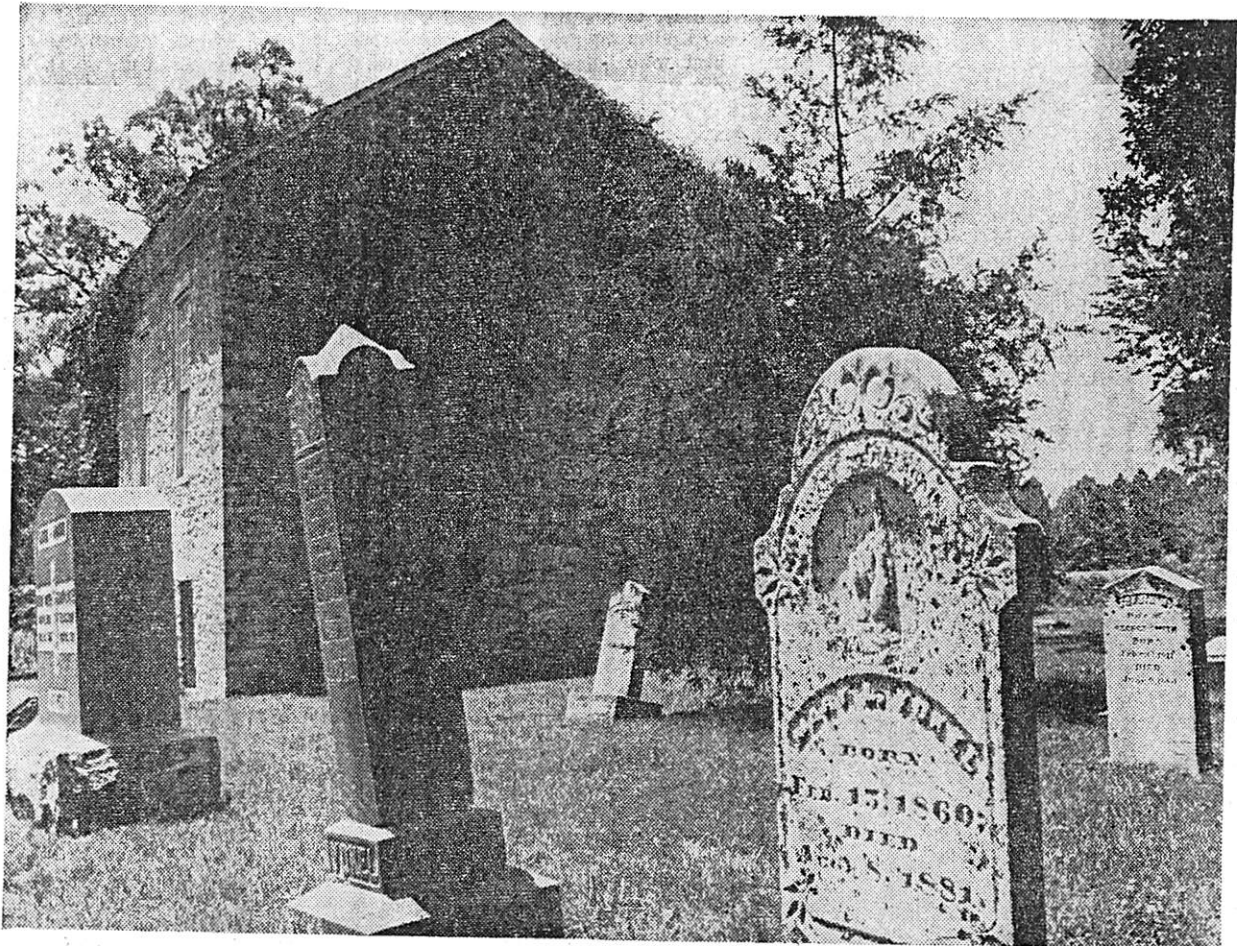
About 200 persons attended the dedication as a historic landmark of the 111-year-old Christopher Hawken home at Big Bend and Grant roads in Webster Groves Sunday. They included city officials; members of the Webster Groves Historical Society; officers of the Church of the Open Door, present owner of the house; and about 12 descendants of Christopher Hawken, some of whom were born in the homestead.

City Manager George L. Majoros disclosed that the church had signed a \$3500 purchase option with the city for the home, which will be moved several blocks to a wooded site in the city's new Southwest Park. He said that the city's application for \$46,000 in federal matching funds to move and renovate the home would be submitted this week to the East-West Gateway

Co-ordinating Council, which screens such requests.

John W. Cooper Jr., president of the historical society and a city councilman, announced the start of a campaign to raise the other \$46,000 constituting the city's share in pledges from Webster businesses and corporations. If the money is raised, the home will be moved next spring and will be renovated and opened to the public as soon as possible thereafter.

The two-story square brick home, one of the few existing examples of federal style architecture here, was built in 1857 with slave labor by the son of the developer of the famed Hawken rifle, which helped open the West. The home was visited by a neighbor, Ulysses S. Grant, who is said to have enjoyed many a game of cards there.



Old Bonhomme Presbyterian Church and Cemetery at Conway and White roads in St. Louis county, shown here, are the targets of vandals. The church, which is not being used, was built in 1841. By a Post-Dispatch Photographer

## Isolated Building No Longer Used

# 1841 Church in Race With Vandals

By WILLIAM C. FOGARTY  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Old Bonhomme Presbyterian Church and cemetery at Conway and White roads in St. Louis county is running a race with vandals and decay as it awaits promised restoration as an authentic pioneer landmark.

The two-story limestone church and graveyard are in a peaceful setting among stately trees, out of view and earshot of any inhabited dwelling.

This has made it a natural target for vandals, who have smashed down doors, shot out windows, stolen church furnishings and toppled 100-year-old gravestones over the last seven years.

The shady, well-kept graveyard has been and is the scene of beer parties by youths who have, at times, affixed lighted candles to the headstones to illuminate their activities.

The very remoteness of the location makes it difficult to ap-

prehend the vandals. Spotlights mounted on a stump in the front of the church have been repeatedly broken, although they have been protected by a strap iron cage and a heavy wire screen. Vandals poke rods through the screen to break the lights.

The congregation was organized in October 1816 as the second Presbyterian church west of the Mississippi river. Services were held in private homes and school houses until the

chapel was built in 1841, on a site donated by Judge Joseph Conway Jr., after whom the road was named.

Services in the building were irregularly held but continued up to 1905. After that services were reserved for special occasions, and even those ceased in the mid-1950s.

The area was originally settled in about 1790 and succeeding French and Spanish administrations discouraged Protes-

tant worship and church-building. The Rev. Salmon Giddings arrived in 1816 and set up 13 Presbyterian congregations, among them, Bonhomme.

The church was built so that the ground floor could be used for a school and the upper floor for the sanctuary. However, dampness and lack of heat made use of the ground floor impractical and Sunday school classes were held upstairs. Win-

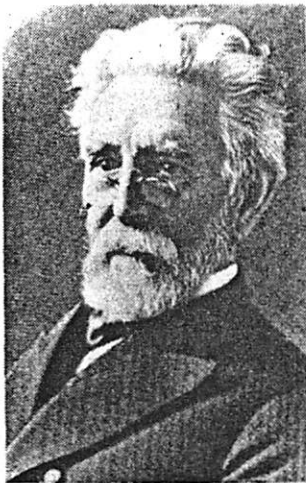
TURN TO PAGE 2, COLUMN 4

OVER

## Agriculture Secretary in 1889 Was Creve Coeur Area Farmer

by Mrs. Gloria Dalton

Did you know that the first Secretary of Agriculture was from our area? Norman J. Colman lived on his highly successful stock farm on Creve Coeur Mill Road. It was recorded that Colonel Colman "owned pretty much of the ground lying to the south of Creve Coeur Lake until Olive Street Road is reached." This area is now known as "Old Farm Estates."



**Norman Colman**

This was a gentleman of many talents. He was editor and publisher of "Colman's Rural World" for sixty years. On his 250 acre stock farm, he was proud of being a successful breeder of trotting horses. In 1911, when Mr. Colman was a healthy eighty four years old, he boasted of owning thirty broodmares. In his youth he was a member of the Missouri Legislature. He originated the College Experimental Station. William Thomas in his "History of St. Louis County" stated "Norman Colman is probably the only Missourian who doesn't need to be "shown" anything."

In 1881 a bill to separate the Agriculture Bureau from the Department of the Interior was introduced in Congress. When the House Committee on Agriculture got through discussing its merits, it reported the bill favorably -- one man dissenting -- and the bill ultimately became a law. One result was the selection four years later of Norman Colman to fill the office of United States Commissioner.

President Cleveland in 1889 appointed Mr. Colman to the newly created office in his cabinet as Secretary of Agriculture. Thomas describes him as the "best-known and most capable all-round expert agriculturist in the Mississippi Valley. He was a man who knew all about agriculture and agricultural interests, all about sorghum and the San Jose scale, wheat, and the use of sulphur in the apricot industry, drum-head cabbage, horses and hogs and hens, et id omne genus."

Colman's farm was sold to Ben Bush, a Missouri Pacific Railroad President, whose name was later used in connection with a local dairy operation. Both Colman and Bush had rail stations near Creve Coeur Lake named after them.

Anyone wishing to contact the Historical Society can do so by calling Mrs. James Schneider at 878-3140.

MO 63005  
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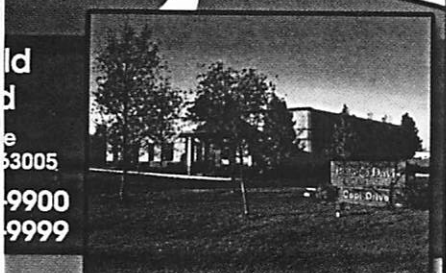
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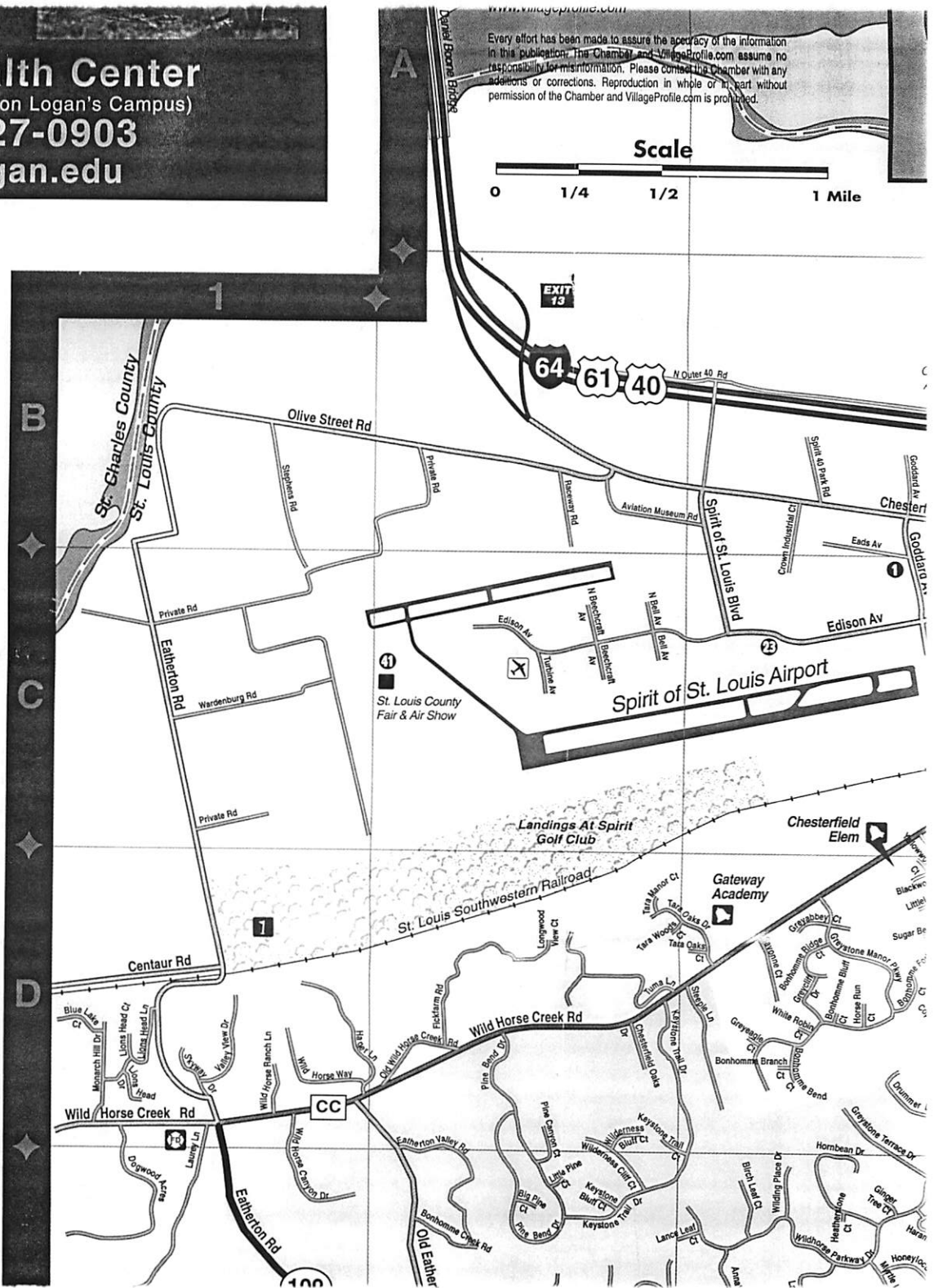


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The Industrial Development Authority for the City of Chesterfield, MO

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**Life Skills Foundation**



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Robert P. Upchurch  
13 APR 2002

# Chesterfield Historical Tour

(Sponsored by: Chesterfield Historical Commission)

Tour Guide: Dan A. Rothwell, author of: *A Guide to Chesterfield's Architectural Treasures*

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Mid-point rest stop at Wild Horse Mobil  
(We have come 18 miles on our 36 mile tour)

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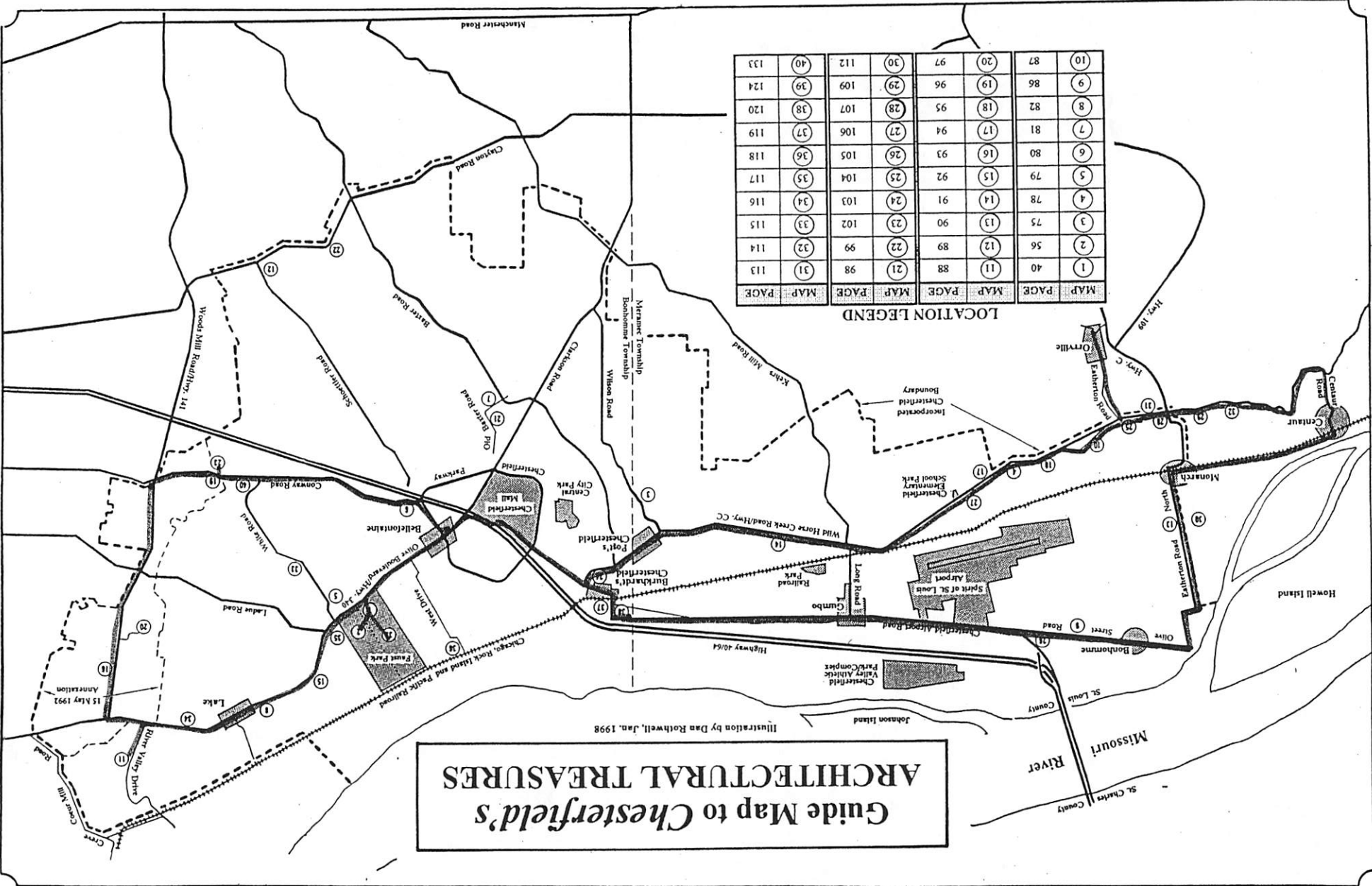
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Trust you enjoyed this sampling of Chesterfield's Architectural Treasures.  
For more ---- buy the book !

# Guide Map to Chesterfield's ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES

Illustration by Dan Rothwell, Jan. 1998



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ST. LOUIS CO, MO

ST LOUIS POST-DISPATCH (WEST POST) THUR 8 NOV 2001 ST. LOUIS, MO

# County library is receiving 98-year-old genealogy collection

BY JOAN LITTLE  
Of the Post-Dispatch

Getting 20,000 books all at once would overwhelm most people. But the St. Louis County Library says it's thrilled at the notion.

The county library is expecting the arrival today of a 98-year-old genealogy collection from the National Genealogy Society in Arlington, Va.

It's one of the largest circulating genealogy-book collections anywhere, say county librarians. It will nearly double the resources available to St. Louis-area residents who want to explore their family roots, says Joyce Loving, manager of special collections for the county library.

"It's more resources and much broader than what we have had," she said. "We're only two years old and we try to be really good, but it just takes time."

The collection of about 20,000 volumes includes many unique

and out-of-print books, numerous small-press and vanity-press works as well as major tomes and indexes of interest to genealogists and history enthusiasts across the country, says Barb Mottin of the county library.

It contains family histories, cemetery and marriage lists, soldier rosters, census information and other genealogical material from every state in the union. There is also genealogical information from Germany, England,

Ireland and Scotland plus other countries.

Because it was based so long in Virginia, the collection has a wealth of information about family histories in New England and the East. The county library already has a lot of information about the St. Louis area and Missouri, but "we hadn't yet gotten to the East Coast," she said.

The collection is different because people will be able to check out the books. Most genealogical

materials are reference books and don't leave the library. People across the nation will be able to check books out on an interlibrary loan. That service won't be available outside the St. Louis area until Feb. 21.

The National Genealogical Society decided to move the collection because it was running out of space at its headquarters in Arlington. Across the nation there were a number of libraries that wanted it. Apparently, the county library's past collaboration with the St. Louis Genealogical Society was influential in its being chosen.

"The members of their board had used our collection," she said. "They know how good our Web site is."

The collection is expected to arrive this morning in two 53-foot trucks at the county library's headquarters at 1640 South Lindbergh Boulevard. The trucks and drivers have been donated by

United Van Lines and its president, Robert J. Baer. That helped clinch the deal with the national society, library officials say.

Library staff and volunteers will immediately start unloading and shelving the books. The collection will become available to the public as it is shelved, with the entire works accessible by Jan. 28.

Reporter Joan Little:  
E-mail: [jlittle@post-dispatch.com](mailto:jlittle@post-dispatch.com)  
Phone: 314-849-1531

CROSS-FILE

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY

ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MO ↑

24 MAY 2003

Donna Cobb

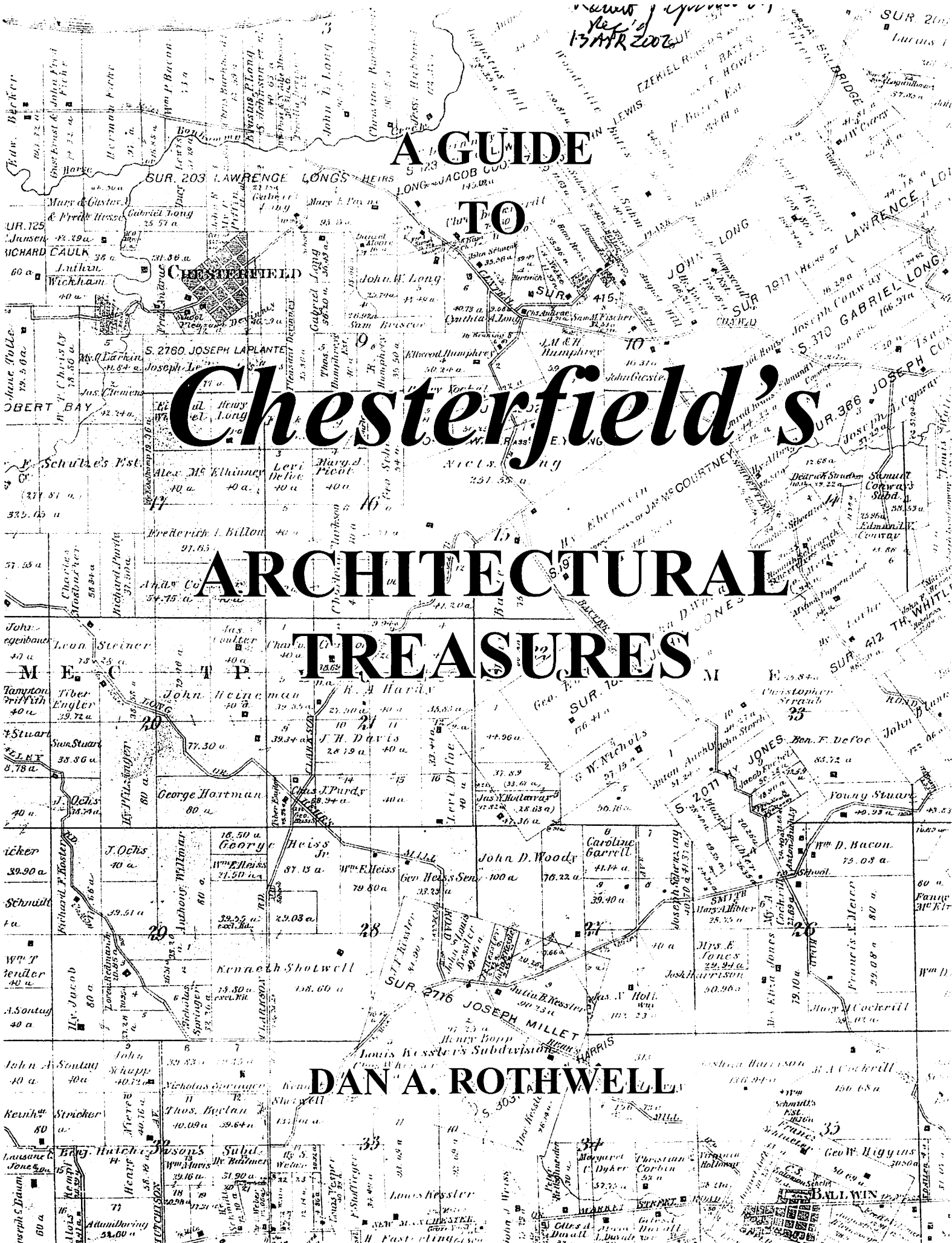
Thanks very much for the loan of  
your two history books on St Lewis County  
Area. They are returned herewith. Sorry it  
took me so long to get them back to  
you. I enjoyed them

Here are my two books subjects  
you might like to scan and return  
to me - no rush. I got the guide  
to Chesterfield where we went on a  
tour of the area. The Farow book is  
of special interest because the author's  
Grandfather Ruppenberg owned the farm  
a part of which became Belle Cove  
Subdivision where we lived 1965-1975.

I love history

Phil Bychurch

Survey of 1837  
13 APR 2006



A GUIDE

TO

Chesterfield's

ARCHITECTURAL  
TREASURES

DANA A. ROTHWELL

*My  
Finest  
Nineteen*

Victor Edward Tamm



BOOK OWNED BY DONNA COBB  
LOANED TO RFD SPRING 2003

# PORTRAIT OF AN AMERICAN TOWN - CHESTERFIELD, MISSOURI

By Kim Potter

Published By

**West COUNTIAN**

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Chesterfield, Missouri

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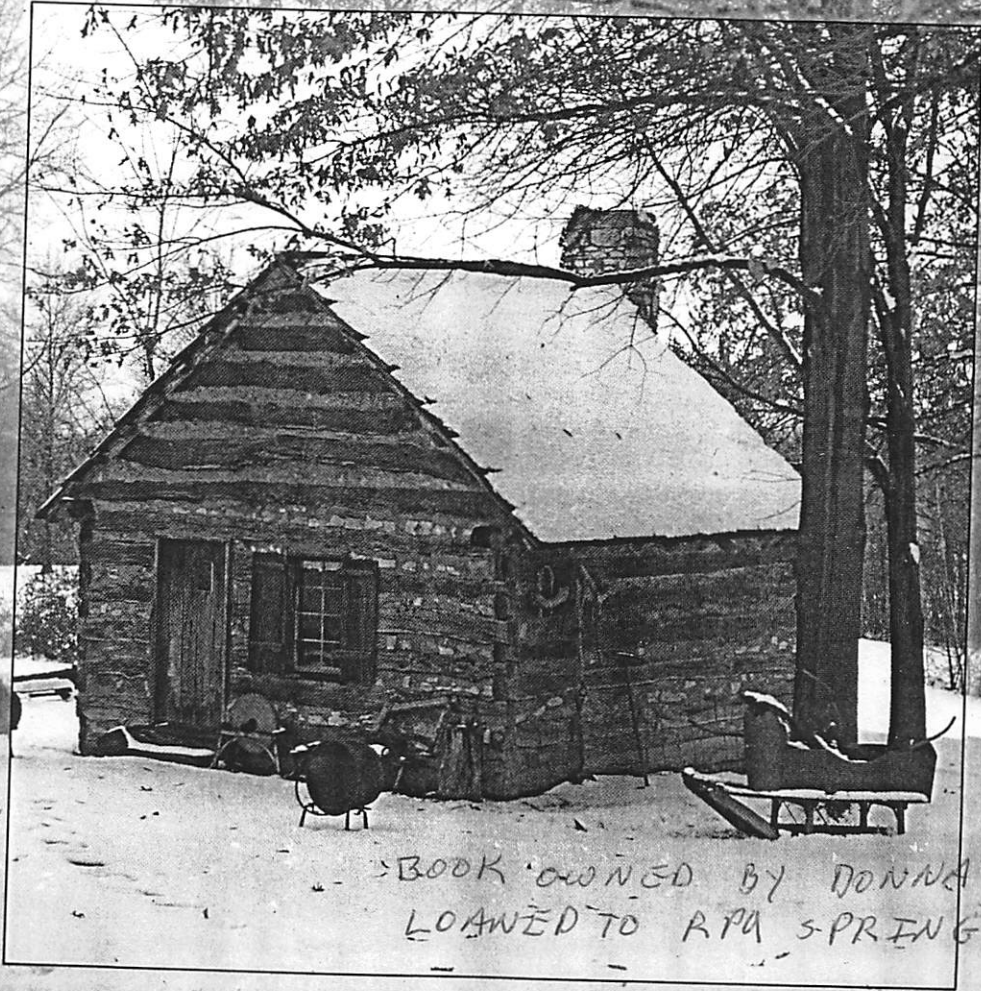
International Standard Book Number: 0-9631787-0-9

To Dad & Grandpa -  
Hope this puts many  
memories and your past  
entertainment and experiences  
hours of  
Fun, Danne, Happy Father's Day  
Brad, Linda, Lisa & Kristin.  
Kevin & Lori

**PORTRAIT OF AN AMERICAN TOWN -  
CHESTERFIELD, MISSOURI**



# Heritage OF THE Creve Coeur Area



BOOK OWNED BY DONNA COBB  
LOANED TO RPA SPRING 2003

San Donato Abb

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Survey of James  
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13 APR 2002

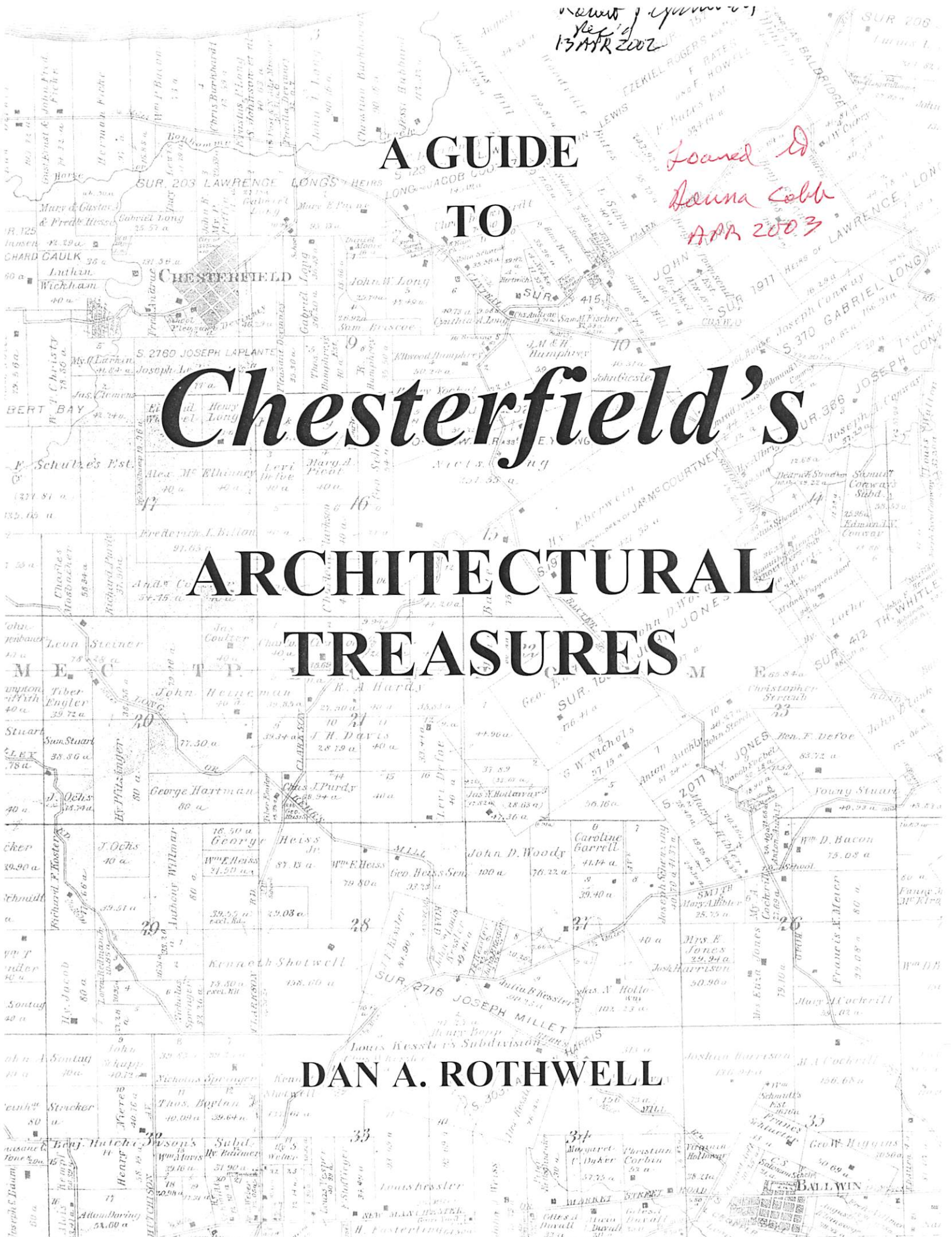
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Laura Cobb  
APR 2003

# A GUIDE TO

# Chesterfield's

# ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES

## DAN A. ROTHWELL



# Olive Boulevard, circa 1851, was Gateway to West (County)

*Before the Central Plank Road was built 150 years ago, roads that linked St. Louis and the Missouri River in West County were dirt, and passable only when the weather cooperated.*

BY PAMELA SELBERT  
Special to the Post-Dispatch

Until the middle of the 19th century, if you were a farmer in west St. Louis County with produce to haul to St. Louis markets, or if you were an immigrant going the opposite way after being outfitted in St. Louis, there were two ways you could make the trip.

You could go by boat, the lesser choice, because river traffic was slow and dangerous, as steamboat boiler explosions were common. Or you could go overland along a rutted, dirt road (originally an American Indian trace), which ran from Olive Street at the St. Louis city limits west to the Missouri River at Howells Island.

But the 28-mile overland route was driveable only in dry weather, and even then, a trip by mule- or horse-drawn wagon was difficult. On rainy days the road was impassable.

An article in Columbia's Weekly Missouri Statesman in 1850 noted that "the meanness of muddy roads was too ubiquitous to be news, though an occasional ranking protest was printed."

"Clearly a way had to be found to make land travel possible no matter what the weather," said Jack Hanewinkel, a museum technician at Faust Park, which is a short distance east of Howells Ferry, terminus of the old road. "Building a corduroy road, of relatively straight trees laid down sideways, was a possibility, as wood was plentiful."

The bumpy surface of a corduroy road could be evened out with earth packed between the logs.

"But the next rain would wash the mud away, and until it could be replaced, travelers in wagons or carriages would have a pretty rough ride," he said.

One account of such a trip was recorded by Charles Dickens, who had come "to see what America was like" in 1842, and wrote of his experience on a corduroy road in Ohio, Hanewinkel said.

Dickens wrote: "It was well for us that we were disposed to enjoy even the roughest journey, for the road that day was enough to have shaken any tempers. The way was over what is called a corduroy road, made by throwing trunks of trees into a marsh. The very slightest of jolts with which the carriage fell from log to log was enough, it seemed, to have dislocated all the bones in the human body."

"A plank road, another early type, was a better idea for an all-weather road," said Hanewinkel. "Like corduroy roads, plank roads were made of wood, but the plank road was of milled lumber, not just tree trunks with the branches cut off."

Plank roads were unsatisfactory in primitive conditions, as building them and keeping them maintained required nearby sawmills and a labor force, he said. Consequently, they were built mainly in well-settled areas. They came into use after hard-surface turnpikes began to be built, as they served a similar purpose but were far less expensive, costing about \$1,800 per mile.

Plank roads, or "farmers' railroads," as they were sometimes called, were, according to the Statesman, "twice as effective as gravel or macadam roads, which themselves were three times as effective as dirt roads."

"Considering the transportation problems Missouri faced in 1850, the enthusiasm for plank roads, which were also toll roads, was not surprising," said Hanewinkel. "And their virtues seemed to outweigh their defects."

Genealogy of the plank road has been traced from Russia, where the first one was built in 1834. A short time later similar roads were built in Canada and then upper New York state, he said. The success of a plank road in the 1840s from Syracuse to Central Square in New York City prompted the building of some 500 additional miles in New York, and a thousand or more miles in New Jersey, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin, he said.

Plank road advocate J.E. Ware contended in an 1851 article in the Western Journal and Civilian: "... they create markets wherever they reach, adding wealth and population, and are better adapted to an agricultural country from the fact that they can be constructed and kept in repair easily, and that farmers and planters can own and manage them so as to make the transient travel pay the expenses of carrying their own produce to market."

By the late 1840s, the Missouri Legislature had begun to charter road companies by special acts, and in February 1851, a General Act was passed enumerating the rights and obligations of these companies, one of which would be the Central Plank Road Company. Within two months, by-laws and articles of association had been set up enabling the firm to build a plank road to the Missouri River. Central Plank Road Company, one of 49 plank road firms the state would charter, included stockholders with such familiar names as Woodson, Dorsett, Clarkson, Lucas and Hunt, Hanewinkel said.

According to the Articles of Association, the road would begin

## Central Plank Road even

### AT FAUST PARK

**Exhibit:** A 24-foot model of the Central Plank Road plus a gallery of "then and now" photos of the road. **When:** The festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. **Where:** Faust Park. **Admission:** Free. **Exhibits:** The festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday include exhibits relating to the road and demonstrations of 19th-century life skills such as soapmaking, felting, blacksmithing, spinning and weaving, quilting, hooking and others. A trading post will offer 19th-century-style jewelry and other items. Music will be provided by bagpiper Chandler Kennedy, fiddler John Bartley and others. Fair food will include smoked turkey leg kettles.

**Where:** 15185 Olive Boulevard  
**How much:** Free  
**More info:** 636-532-7298

### IN CREVE COEUR

**Bicycle Ramble:** A 7-mile bicycle ramble beginning at the old Lake School in Lake School Park on de Ville Drive. The event commemorates similar bike rambles sponsored a century ago by the St. Louis Cycling Club that began at the Hochs Store at the St. Louis city limits and ended at Rinkels St. Rinkels Grove near the end of Central Plank Road. The mode of travel will not follow the Central Plank Road, but it will pass several historic cabins that once stood along it. The cabins will be open for **When:** 7:30 a.m. May 20  
**More info:** 314-432-6000

### IN OLIVETTE

**Olivette Summerfest:** July 5-8 at Stacy Park. Events will commemorate the Central Plank Road.  
**More info:** 314-993-0444

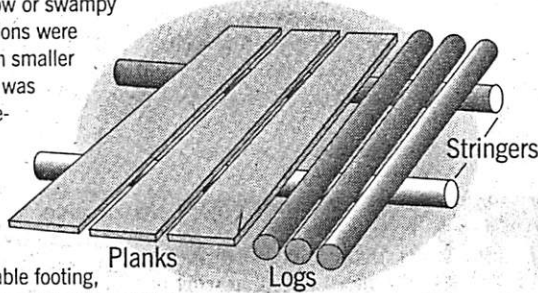
### OLIVETTE-UNIVERSITY CITY BICYCLE RAMBLE

**When:** 8 a.m. July 8; a 9-mile ramble beginning at Heman Park, heading west to Olivette and returning to Heman Park  
**More info:** Judy Little at the University City Historical Society, 314-726-4522



## How plank roads were built

Plank roads should not be confused with "corduroy" roads, which were also popular during the early 19th century. The latter were made by placing logs, often of different sizes, over a low or swampy area. Although depressions were filled with gravel or with smaller logs, the corduroy road was usually rough and sometimes even dangerous. Logs "floated and rolled" in the slippery mud and often horses, "frightened by the unstable footing, plunged and floundered and at times sank one or more legs between the loose logs." Plank roads, on the other hand,

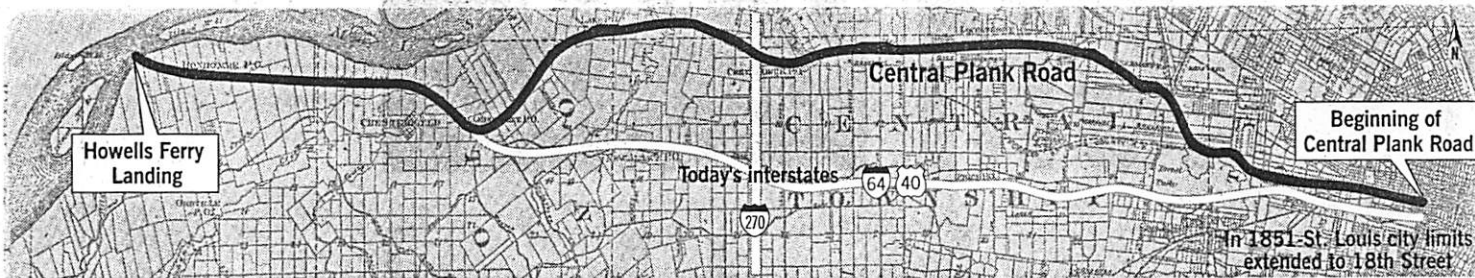


were made of boards and as long as they were properly maintained, provided a smooth surface. They were constructed by laying planks of pine or oak, 8 to 16 feet long and 3 to 4 inches thick, across "sleepers" or "stringers," which were placed parallel to the direction of the road. Ditches were dug on either side of the road to provide proper drainage.



Most 19th-century roads were only rutted paths through swamps and forests. Entrepreneurs formed private companies to build corduroy roads of logs to solve this problem. Later, they built the smoother plank roads. To pay for building the roads, they charged travelers a toll.

Illustration courtesy of Michigan Historical Center



Map courtesy of Missouri History Museum and Research Center

Source: Creve Coeur Historical Society

The vintage part of the above map was drawn in the 1870s. The Central Plank Road and modern Interstates were overlaid on the 19th-century map.



COURTESY OF CREVE COEUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Creve Coeur House, established in 1851 as a stagecoach stop, stood at 11610 Olive on the Central Plank Road east of what is now Ballas Road. It was also called the 14-Mile House (14 miles from the courthouse in St. Louis). In its last incarnation, it was the Creve Coeur Inn, a saloon and cafeteria that closed Dec. 31, 1993, before demolition for a shopping center. William Dierberg, founder of the supermarket chain, bought the inn from Henry Koch in 1914 and operated his first general store there.

"where Olive Street in the city of St. Louis crosses the western boundary of the said city, and extend westwardly to Howell's (sic) Ferry Landing, terminus of said road." Land would be purchased (with reluctant sellers taken to court if necessary) to create a road 60 feet wide, 8 feet of which would be plank, the rest graded dirt. Tollgates would be built at 5-mile intervals along the way. Total cost for building the road, tollhouses, tollgates and "everything else necessary for the full

enjoyment of the benefit of the road," was to be \$100,000.

Between the city limits (then at 18th Street, according to an 1876 map showing the boundaries of St. Louis at different periods), where the road began, and the Missouri River, Central Plank Road would cross three townships: Central, Bonhomme and Meramec. Olivette in Central Township was one of the few communities the road crossed that are still on the map. Most of the towns the road connected have since been absorbed into the present-day communities of University City, Olivette, Creve Coeur and Chesterfield or have disappeared. Among these towns are Mount Olive, Fern Ridge, Lake, Bellefontaine and Bonhomme, Hanewinkel said.

Tolls per mile were set at "one and a half cents for every sleigh, carriage or vehicle drawn by one animal, and one cent in addition for each additional animal; one cent for every horse and rider or led horse; two cents for every twenty sheep or hogs; and five cents for every twenty head of neat cattle, mules or asses."

There were also exemptions: for people going to religious meetings or funerals, troops in "actual service," civil or military processions on July 4 or Washington's birthday, and farmers or work hands traveling to work or to grist mills or blacksmith shops. Anyone living within a mile of a

tollgate could pass at half the usual rate. But those who avoided paying "on false grounds" would be subject to a fine of \$5.

Building a plank road was not difficult, Hanewinkel said. Sawmills were built along the way to supply lumber. There, long timbers called "sleepers" would be laid parallel on a stretch of cleared right-of-way. Planks 8 feet long and about 4 inches thick and 8 inches wide would be set perpendicularly across the sleepers and secured with four-sided nails.

The wide dirt swath, or "summer road," paralleled the planks, enabling wagons to pass, though eastbound traffic had the right-of-way, he said.

"In theory the whole thing was a great idea," said Hanewinkel. "But in reality it didn't work."

From the outset, cheating went on to avoid paying the toll, he said. Travelers would drive on the dirt on dry days, and on the planks in the rain except where they could be seen by tollhouse keepers.

"It also turned out that wooden planks weren't good for building roads," Hanewinkel said. "Heavy loads in bad weather caused them to warp, they rotted, and floods would float entire sections away."

Margie Reisner, president of the Creve Coeur-Chesterfield Historical Society, who helped to build a 24-foot scale model of the Central Plank Road for the 150th

anniversary festivities at Fa Park, said that within seven years of the road's construction, Central Plank Road Company was bankrupt. St. Louis County shareholder in the company, took over the road in 1858.

"In a court order to pave road with macadama," dated June 9, 1859, we see the first official reference to it as Olive Street Road," she said. "Tollgates also continued to operate until 1860."

Shewey's Map of St. Louis County, dated 1878, identifies as Olive Street Road. A century later, the road's name was changed to Olive Boulevard.

The Central Plank Road, designed to take people "from river to river," may not have lasted long, but it served its intended purpose, Reisner said.

"It enabled farmers to drive market and helped open St. Louis County for development," she said. "It was an extremely important road."

Some information for this story was provided by Margie Reisner, president of the Creve Coeur-Chesterfield Historical Society and the Missouri Historical Society.