

Charleston--Abbett Cemetery Association Bozarth, Kansas

TOWN HISTORY

CHARLESTOWN WAS FOUNDED IN 1856 ON THE MISSOURI RIVER. THE POST OFFICE CLOSED DURING THE CIVIL WAR, AND WHEN IT OPENED AGAIN AFTER THE WAR, THE COMMUNITY WAS KNOWN AS CHARLESTON. JACOB BOZARTH BECAME THE POSTMASTER WHEN THE POST OFFICE RE-OPENED IN 1867.

IN 1901 WHEN LEWIS GIBSON BECAME POSTMASTER, THE TOWN WAS RE-NAMED BOZARTH, IN HONOR OF ITS FORMER POSTMASTER. AT ONE TIME THERE WERE THREE BUSINESSES AND A POST OFFICE AS WELL AS 18 TO 20 HOUSES IN BOZARTH.

WITH THE RISING IMPORTANCE OF THE RAILROADS, RIVER SHIPPING DECLINED, AS DID MANY OF THE EARLY RIVER TOWNS.

THIS CEMETERY WAS NAMED THE CHARLESTON CEMETERY, BUT HAS ALSO BEEN KNOWN AS THE ABBETT CEMETERY.

IN FOUNDING THE CHARLESTON-ABBETT CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, BOTH NAMES WERE USED FOR CLARITY.

THE INTERIM OFFICERS OF THE CHARLESTON--ABBETT CEMETERY ASSOCIATION ARE:

President--Rev. Mike A. Bozarth, St. Joseph, Mo.

Secretary--Cameron Mayer, Horton, Ks.

Treasurer--Tony DeSpain, St. Joseph, Mo.

For Further Information Contact:

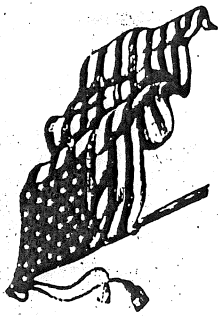
Rev. Mike A. Bozarth

5207 Swift Avenue, St. Joseph, Mo. 64504

(816) 238-8265

June 29, 2002

NEWS BRIEFS



Fly Your Flag

'Salzburg Night' slated
The Sisters of St. Francis will host a "Salzburg Night" as a fundraising benefit for LaVerna Village Nursing Home to assist in continuing the ministry to the elderly. The event, including Austrian cuisine and entertainment, silent auction, and theme baskets, will be at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 12, at the Jesse James Conference Hall, I-29 and 71 highways, and tickets, at \$50 a plate, may be secured by calling 816-324-3179 or 324-3185.

MGE wants to expand

Missouri Gas Energy (MGE) has filed an application with the Missouri Public Service Commission to expand its current area in Cedar County by obtaining commission authority to construct, operate, and maintain a natural gas system near El Dorado Springs. Applications to intervene and participate in the case must be filed on or before Tuesday, July 16, with Dale Hardy Roberts, secretary, PSC, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102, with copies sent to Gary W. Duffy Esq., P.O. Box 456, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102, and the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 7800, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102.

Mini-Retreat planned

The 2002 Women's Mini-Retreat, sponsored by St. Joseph's Woodson Chapel Christian Church and First Christian Church of Grant City, Missouri, will be held at Missouri Western

Cleaning up cemetery is priority

possibly several decades more. They formed the Charleston-Abbott Cemetery Association, which worked June 29 and 30 at reclaiming the cemetery from nature. Bozarth said the name of the cemetery association was chosen to incorporate both names of the cemetery for clarity. Bozarth said he is a descendant

of Jacob Bozarth, one of the early town fathers.

Charlestown was founded in 1856 along the Missouri River. The post office closed during the Civil War. When the post office reopened after the war in 1867, Jacob Bozarth, who owned the general store there, became postmaster.

In 1901, when Lewis Gibson became postmaster, the town was renamed Bozarth, in honor of its former postmaster.

At one time, there were three businesses along with the post office and 18 to 20 houses in Bozarth.

With the rising importance of the railroads, river shipping declined, as did many of the early river towns.

Today, there are only three homes and the cemetery left in Bozarth, but the area remains a popular recreation spot for boaters, with several boat launches and an RV park.

Interim officers of the new Char-

lestown-Abbott Cemetery Association are Rev. Mike A. Bozarth, president; Cameron Mayer, of Horton, secretary; and Tony DeSpain, of St. Joseph, treasurer. The group plans to establish a local address soon. Anyone interested can contact Rev. Bozarth at 5207 Swift Ave., St. Joseph, MO 64504, or call 816-238-8265.

Rosie Merritt receives promotion at Citizens



Rosie Merritt

Rosie Merritt has been promoted to vice president and business development officer at Citizens Bank & Trust, according to West Region Manager Vern Middleton. "Rosie is very knowledgeable, a hard worker, and customer service oriented. I know she is eager to get started and will be very successful in her business development efforts," he said.

Starting with Citizens in April of 2000, Merritt's responsibilities have included management of several areas — tellers, financial service representatives, and the banking facility itself, along with consumer and commercial loans. Her new position adds business development to her list of duties.

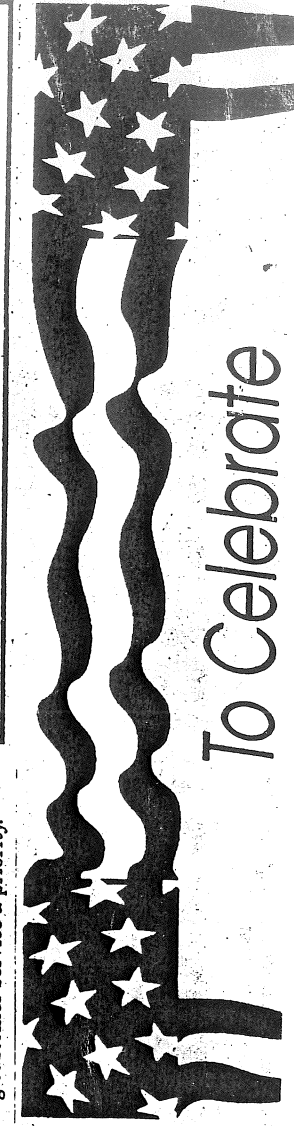
Merritt holds a bachelor of science degree from Missouri Western State College; along with a commercial lending degree earned in 1999, and has been in retail banking for

over 14 years. Her community involvement includes Chamber Diplomats, East Hills Sertoma, United Way, and Leadership St. Joseph 2002.

"I enjoy my work and I'm pleased at the opportunity to do more," said Merritt. "I intend to continue making customer service a priority."

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