

RIVER NEWS

March 2010


NATIONAL
MISSISSIPPI RIVER MUSEUM
& AQUARIUM

DUBUQUE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.rivermuseum.com
563-557-9545

BLACKSMITH DAYS



Experience the craft of blacksmithing at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium during Blacksmith Days, March 20-21!

This special weekend event

will highlight the historical importance of blacksmithing and metal working along the Mississippi River during pioneer times. Several working blacksmiths will demonstrate their metal-working skills to guests and there will be activities for children and families.

Blacksmith Days will take place in the Pfohl Boatyard Plaza at the Museum & Aquarium. The event is included with regular admission to the Museum & Aquarium.

For admission prices or for more information, please call 563-557-9545 or visit www.rivermuseum.com.



BOWLIN' ON THE RIVER

Go "Bowlin' on the River" with the Museum & Aquarium
March 27 at Cherry Lanes!



Family team having fun at last year's bowling event.

We are seeking teams for our second annual bowl-a-thon event. Each team can have up to five people. Kids and families are encouraged to participate!

Team Registration Forms and the \$75 Team Registration Fee are due by March 19. We also ask that teams try to raise at least \$300 in collected donations for the event's cause by March 26.

The funds you will help raise for this event will go toward the Museum & Aquarium's free admission program, which will provide a free membership to eligible under-served families in Dubuque.

Go to www.rivermuseum.com for additional information and to download the Team Registration Form.

BLACKSMITH BASICS



The basic equipment of the blacksmith shop was forge and bellows, anvil and slack tup, hammer and tongs, swage and cutler, chisel and punch, and file and drill. Blacksmiths made items like horseshoes but also hardware such as latches, hinges, irons farm tools, nails, hammers, axes, chisels and carving tools.

A blacksmith would also weld and fit wagon tires and hub rings as well as metal parts on carriages and sleighs. The most skilled blacksmiths were those who shaped iron to

the precise and intricate needs of ships. Warships and whaling vessels usually carried their own blacksmiths to repair fittings and guns at sea and to make grappling hooks and harpoons.

In the late 1900s, blacksmiths had all but disappeared from the American scene. A few still made picks and mattocks, air drills, stone chisels and various knives. Others, known as farriers, worked in rural areas caring for racing and riding horses.

(Source: Manchester, Herbert. "Blacksmithing." Dictionary of American History. 2003.

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 3

Early Dismissal After-School Program "If Dirt Could Talk"

March 24

Early Dismissal After-School Program "Avian Adventures"

March 20-21

Blacksmith Days

March 27

Bowlin' on the River @ Cherry Lanes



SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION COMING SOON!

The Museum & Aquarium's **River Adventure Summer Camp** is *all new* for 2010! We will offer four different camp sessions this summer for children who will enter 1st-5th grades in the 2010-11 school year and an advanced camp program for older kids entering 6th-8th grades.

Plus, the 2010 River Adventure Summer Camp programs will include the Museum & Aquarium's brand new center and feature fresh, innovative activities!

River Adventure Summer Camp Registration Forms will be available from your school and online at www.rivermuseum.com by April.