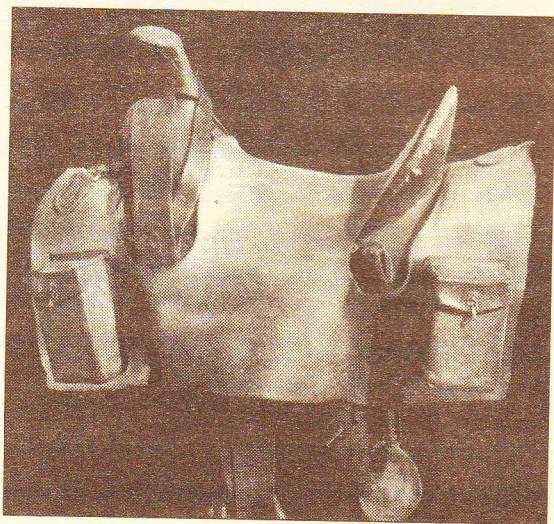


THE MOCHILA

The telegrams and letters transported by the Pony Express were carried in a mochila. This leather blanket-type device was designed to fit securely over a McClellan saddle, and be easily removed and placed on a fresh horse at the Relay Stations. The letters were wrapped in a protective covering and carried in one of four cantinas (pockets) sewn in each corner. The NPEA uses a mochila designed to carry a greater number of letters and to fit over a western saddle, yet can easily be transferred to a fresh horse at rider and mochila exchange points during the Re-Ride.



PONY EXPRESS



A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
TO
RE-ESTABLISH, IDENTIFY & RE-RIDE
THE
PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL
HISTORIC TRAIL

POST OFFICE BOX 236, POLLOCK PINES, CA 95726

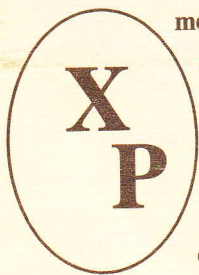
www.xphomestation.com

THE PONY EXPRESS

A lone rider gallops across an arid landscape of prairie grass and sagebrush. The sound of approaching hoofbeats is heard from afar. Another rider and horse awaits in the shade of a tree. The incoming rider reins in and greetings are exchanged. Dismounting, the incoming courier lifts a leather mochila from the saddle. It is placed on the new horse and the fresh rider steps into the stirrup, swings into the saddle and begins a ride over the horizon and back into history.

PONY EXPRESS RE-RIDE

Each June, members of the National Pony Express Association recreate the Pony Express in a Commemorative Re-Ride over a 10 days period. Letters are carried in a mochila over the original trail.



The 1,966 mile, eight state event is conducted 24 hours a day until the mail is delivered to its destination. More than a national event, it is an opportunity for a new generation to ride the Pony Trail or to receive Express Mail.

Over 750 riders participate. They come from all walks of life, but are all members of NPEA Divisions in the eight states on the trail. We invite you to join us in this exciting event.

COMMEMORATIVE LETTERS

Pony Express Commemorative Letters are vignettes highlighting historical events, sites or people of the Pony Express. Each vignette's envelope is hand-stamped with a special US Post Office cancellation. They also bear two oval Pony Express ink stamps showing the date and place of departure and arrival. They are the Official Souvenir of the Annual Pony Express Re-Ride and a valuable addition to ones Old West Memorabilia collection. The Letters are sold in advance for \$5.00 each, like the original mail of 1860. They are carried by horseback the entire route in one of the four cantinas on the leather mochila.

The NPEA

The National Pony Express Association is a non-profit, all volunteer organization founded in 1978 to "Re-establish, Identify and Re-Ride the Historic Pony Express Trail."

National Headquarters is located in Pollock Pines, California. An Annual Director's Meeting is held in September in a city along the trail.

The organization is governed by written By-Laws and incorporated in the State of California. A National President is elected annually at the national meeting.

The Association is composed of member State Divisions in the eight states along the trail: California, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas and Missouri. It is active year long with its Divisions participating in local commemorative events, trail work, parades, trail & school rides.

How To Join

Membership is open to all as either a Rider or Associate Member. Riders must be experienced equestrians, at least 18 years of age (14 with parental permission and supervision), and be willing to abide by the Pony Express Oath and Rider Requirements.

You can become a member of the NPEA by becoming a member of one of the eight Divisions. Membership dues include national dues plus state dues which vary.

For an application write to the address on the front.



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Opportunity to participate as a Rider or Wrangler in the Annual Re-Ride
- Ride Pin
- Subscription to the annual Pony Express Gazette
- Subscription to The National Newsletter
- Learn about the Pony Express
- Learn about the Pony Express National Historic Trail
- Special Edition New Testament (Riders)
- Subscription to State Newsletter (where published)
- Trail Rides, Local Events, Parades and Souvenirs

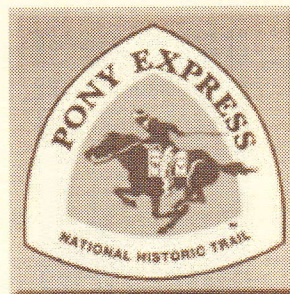
NPEA OATH

In keeping with tradition, all Riders are required to take an Oath of Conduct very similar to the one required by Russell, Majors and Waddell of their own Pony Express Riders. Each rider is sworn prior to the Annual Re-Ride and is presented with a small Bible as were the Riders of history. We are proud to be keeping the custom alive!

I,

do hereby swear, before the great and living God, that during my engagement as a member of the National Pony Express Association Re-Ride, I will under no circumstances use profane language, that I will drink no intoxicating liquors, that I will not quarrel or fight with any other member of the Association, and that in every respect, I will conduct myself honestly, be faithful to my duties and so direct all my acts as to win the confidence of my associates.

So help me God.



PONY EXPRESS HISTORY

The Pony Express was a private mail service which operated between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. Begun on April 3, 1860, it operated for 18 months until the connection of the transcontinental telegraph on October 24, 1861.

The Central Overland California & Pikes Peak Express Co. provided a 10 day delivery between the terminal points. 40 riders in the saddle in each direction, 190 stations and 400 station keepers kept the operation working smoothly. Riders were paid \$25 a week, and rode 10-12 miles before changing horses, 75 miles before being relieved.

Started by the Missouri freighting firm of Russell, Majors and Waddell, it was a dramatic attempt to capture a proposed mail contract. Although it was not successful, it proved the Central Route as an all-weather transporation route. It is remembered as one of the enduring symbols of the American Frontier.

The Pony Riders are gone now but they are remembered for their daring and courage. Their exploits are retold even today in books, videos and recreations like the NPEA's Annual Re-Ride.



PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Contributions of the Pony Express to the development of communications in the west are commemorated by the Pony Express National Historic Trail.

Legislation authorizing the addition of the Trail to the National Trails Systems was signed by President George W. Bush on August 3, 1992. It is administered by the Department of Interior/National Park Service. The P.E.N.H.T. is a route rather than a continous trail. It can be followed by horse, foot or auto for most of its length. Large expanses of the territory through which it transverses are still very scenic and many museums and historical sites offer interpretation and preservation. Through its Re-Ride, publications, resource guides, speakers bureaus, work parties and commemorative events on the trail, it seeks to give the horseman, historian and general public a sense of excitement, danger and accomplishments of the unique historic mail service on this trail.

