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CONTACT:

CZECH - AUSTRALIAN - USA

PONY EXPRESS

I want to relay a story to you that I hope you find interesting. The National Pony Express Association (NPEA) is currently involved in an international pony express ride involving three countries. The three counties involved are the Czech Republic, the Unites States, and Australia. I need to take you back to 1985 to a group of horse people and American West history lovers living in what is now known as the Czech Republic. They were captivated by the stories of the Pony Express in 1860, and created their own pony express club. This group is alive and well today and have as much admiration for the Pony Express as they did 32 years ago. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of an independent Czechoslovak Republic in 1918 they wanted to do an international pony express ride. The Pony Express Club members felt the ride would be one way they could honor and thank two countries that helped and supported them, the United States and Australia.

The United States NPEA members were invited by the Czech Pony Express Club to participate in their pony express ride. Pat Hearty from Utah and I accepted their invitation. We had the honor and privilege of riding on horseback through the beautiful Czech Republic countryside carrying commemorative letters on May 20-21, 2017.

We brought those letters home with us and they were placed in the NPEA Mochilla (mail pouch), which is carrying our commemorative letters. The Mochilla will be relayed across the United States by the NPEA riders during our annual re-ride. The ride this year started in St. Joseph, MO on June 5th and will finish in old Town Sacramento on June 15, 2017. Representatives from the Czech Pony Express club will be in Old Town Sacramento to receive their letters. The story of the Czech letters does not end there. The letters will continue their journey by sailboat to Australia. Then on May 15, 2018 they will once again be carried by horseback on the last leg of an international pony express ride.

It is interesting to note that other countries besides the United States are “keeping the legend alive”.

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