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CHANGE OF TIME! REDUCED RATES!

10 Days to San Francisco!

**LETTERS**

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**OFFICE, 84 BROADWAY,**  
 NEW YORK,  
 Up to 4 P. M. every TUESDAY,  
 and  
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 With all its branches in connection with the PONY EXPRESS along  
 the GREAT PLAINS

Every WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY at 11 P. M.

**TELEGRAMS**

Send to Post-Office on the receipt of MESSAGES and PAYMENT, all day  
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LETTERS weighing half ounce or under \$1 00  
 For every additional half ounce or fraction of an ounce 1 00  
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 and all Eastern CITIES AND PORTS.

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**WELLS, FARGO & CO., AGTS.**  
 New York, July 1, 1882.

FIGURES AND PLACES CONNECTED WITH THE PONY EXPRESS

**ST. JOSEPH DAILY**  
 PUBLISHED DAILY

**WANTED**  
 YOUNG SKINNY WIRY FELLOWS  
 not over eighteen. Must be expert  
 riders willing to risk death daily.  
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THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**  
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FOR RELEASE P. M. PAPERS  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1960

RELEASE NO. 42

The Nation's first permanent Postal History Museum - vividly portraying American postal development from Colonial days to the present - was officially opened today (Tuesday, February 23, 1960).

The Postal History Museum, located on the first floor (Rooms 1412-1416) of the Post Office Department Building at 12th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., will be open to the public permanently without charge. Hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, starting today.

The Postal History Museum is most easily reached by entering the Post Office Department Building via the side entrance off 13th Street. The new Museum is located near another major attraction of the Postal Service - the Philatelic Exhibition housed near by in Room 1315.

The Postal History is expected to be a new and unusual historical attraction for local residents as well as the thousands of visitors that come to Washington each year. The Museum portrays the progress of the United States Post Office from the early post riders of several centuries ago to the recent experiment with Missile Mail.

In the hallway just outside the Museum, the visitor first sees a Wells Fargo stage coach model, one half the size of the original coaches which carried the mails between the remote western settlements in the latter half of the 19th century. In 1858, for example, the first transcontinental stage line - "Butterfield

(more)

Overland Mail Co." - ran from Tipton, Missouri to San Francisco, California on a twenty-five day schedule. Some of the early stage lines were in existence as late as 1913.

The Wells Fargo model, used by Col. William "Buffalo Bill" Cody, one of the original Pony Express riders, in his Wild West Show, sets the scene for a tour through a chronological historic display of panels and cases depicting more than a century and a half of American Postal Service.

To the visitor's left, as he enters the Postal Museum, is a Colonial postmaster's desk used to sort and dispatch mail in the early period of American history. It is significant that the pigeonhole case used for sorting letters then is basically the same as currently used in all post offices until recently when modern mechanized letter sorters were introduced as part of the Department's mechanization program.

A pictorial display of the era, 1750 through the early 1800's shows a "milestone" from the old Boston Post Road telling the distance to New York and has a picture of a mail sack used by Benjamin Franklin.

In nearby display cases are pen holders, quills, actual early letters and other products and tools used in Colonial Days.

In a following section of the Museum the development of river transportation for movement of the U. S. Mails is portrayed. Included is a handsome model of an 1850 Mississippi steamboat, with the typical "U. S. Mail" printed on the side near the paddlewheel--signifying it was one of many mail carrying ships of the period.

As the visitor moves on, he sees a display case with numerous old firearms. This is the first of several displays devoted to one of the most colorful periods in Postal history.

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The story of the Overland Express Stages and the Pony Express is shown on the panels. Adjacent to the panels are a strong box, a Pony Express "mochilla" (a leather saddle cover with mail containers) and scores of other articles used by postal pioneers to help win the west.

The Pony Express era - April 3, 1860--October, 1861 - opened a notable Century of progress in the American Postal Service and electrified the Nation by carrying letters 2,000 miles across the trackless American wilderness in ten days time.

Following the Pony Express, the Exhibition shows the advent of Railway Mail Service, followed by a view of the first official test of a railroad post office car in 1864.

Later advancements of the "Iron Horse" and the role it played in speeding mail service are also related through pictures and artifacts.

The birth of Rural Free Delivery in 1896, a major step in rendering postal service to over 22,000 families living in sparsely populated areas of the Nation, is a feature of the Museum. At present, 9,189,211 families are receiving rural service.

The development of airmail starting in 1918 when mail was first officially flown from Washington to New York is shown. In its initial year 17,831 pounds of mail were carried by air; last year the total was 115,207,000 pounds.

A final exhibit climaxing the display tells the story of the first official mail delivery by guided missile on June 6, 1959, opening a path for further exploration of a new technique of communication -- "Missile Mail."

Anyone may visit the Museum or Philatelic Exhibition during regular hours without making advance arrangements. Groups which wish guided tours, or visits at times other than regular hours, should communicate in advance by letter or telephone to: The Special Assistant to the Postmaster General, Post Office Department, Washington 25, D. C.

(The End)

# PONY EXPRESS



One of the most colorful episodes in the history of our country is the story of the Pony Express.

Knowing that faster and more dependable communications to the West were necessary, the staging firm of Russell, Majors and Waddell established a fleet of fast riders who would carry the mail from Missouri to the West Coast—the Pony Express.

Relay Stations 10 to 15 miles apart were established. 80 riders and 420 horses were selected. On April 3, 1860, the first trip began.

Mail arrived triumphantly in California nine days later—10 days faster than the stage coach record.

Pony Express riders quickly became the heroes of the West. The pouches they carried were limited to 20 pounds of mail.

Letters cost \$1.00 up to one-half ounce. Letters were written on tissue. Contents of each mail pouch were wrapped in oiled silk to protect them from rain, snow, river crossing and sweat of the horses.

One of the great feats of the Pony Express was the announcement of President Lincoln's election ... in 7 days and 17 hours, 1950 miles were covered.

A year and a half after it started, the Pony Express ended—but not without leaving a chapter of courage and daring in the story of carrying the mail.

