

We located and visited Alkali Station site in Nebraska and then skipped on over to Wyoming where we met a friend at Evanston and went to Luddy, Aspen, Bear River and Needle Rocks station sites. Also spent some more time in Echo Canyon and then down into Salt Lake City to show my father the sights there. We had intended to take the trail road from Camp Floyd to Schellbourne Ranch (Nev.) north of Fly but the roads were too bad from recent rain so we didn't revisit that stretch.

We met another trail friend, Mr. Bert Acree, at Austin, Nevada and went to Old Jacobsville, Simpson's Park. (These two I had seen before but Maude had not) and then on back to Cape Horn and Dry Creek. Not much left at Cape Horn.. It's location not well known according to Bert.. A couple of holes in the ground and the usual signs (glass, crockery, nails etc.) Dry Creek is indeed an interesting spot. Burton mentions it and tells of the two station attendants being killed by Indians just before he arrived there. We found their graves. Applegate and Lossier. They have been marked by the Damale family. Burton mentioned that at the date of his visit they had not yet been avenged. Fact of the matter was that they and two others had stolen an Indian squaw so they probably thought it wise to let well enough alone. The other two barely escaped with their lives by running nearly thirty miles back eastward along the trail to Roberts Creek Station. (See Thompson's & West's HISTORY OF NEVADA, 1881) We also went to the rock ruin of the Dry Creek Station which long ago lost its battle with the sage brush and must be pointed out by those that know. Also nearby is an old corral made mostly of old poles from the first overland telegraph line! One still had part of a hook type insulator hanging on it! One big regret here. Did not get to take pictures of the corral... Too late and no light. I itch to get back there some time. The owners guard the sites with shooting seriousness so I feel it will be safe for awhile.

I inquired about condition of the old trail road both eastward and westward from Austin. Some semblance of a desert road most of the way but in many places may be badly washed out they say.

All in all, we had a fine trip, saw a lot of old friends and made some new friends and contacts. Also came back with some more "goodies" from the trail to heighten our already sizable stack of cigar boxes. A good vacation—we came back with memories of beautiful vistas, trout dinners, cool mountain weather in Wyo and Colo. and then home across Kansas in 100 degree plus heat. We like Kansas alright but sometimes get to wondering why the devil they had to put it between Missouri and the mountains.

Everyone here is well and kicking. Hope same there. We wonder how you all are getting along out there. How are the Ebys' and the Woods anyway?? I have been watching the Colorado River for a barge load of trailers. What are you up to this summer?

Our best to all there

Sincerely,

August 7, 1964

Dear Dr. Eby,

I am sending to you under separate cover the Camp Floyd footage as promised. Also some other scenes and places that you may or may not be interested in. The film is my own and you are welcome to copy and use it as you wish. If you use it in your film and roll any credits I would appreciate a small mention of PONY EXPRESS STABLES MUSEUM, ST. JOSEPH, MO. This is not necessary however, so do as you see fit. I would, when you get through with it, want the original returned to me.

With your Camp Floyd film processing goof in mind, I took the precaution of shooting dual scenes—one with the Bolex another with Cine Special. I would then have had an original copy for you. You have probably guessed what happened.. They ruined one one-hundred foot roll. That is the reason for my wanting the original back. Sometimes I get quite disgusted with Eastman! And with their Kodachrome II also.

Maude and I spent half of our three week vacation on the Trail and the last half fishing & touring like normal folks. We stopped at many places along the way the first half just to keep tabs on them. Fort Kearney is being restored and I wanted to see what they had dug up. Looked in on their head ranger and got to pick through a real interesting array of bullets, bottles buckles and buttons.. Not to mention horseshoes, guns, picket pins etc. etc.. We also went back to some Nebraska and Wyo. station sites that we knew were being plowed over. We did not take the Jeep but needed it badly several times. Left it home in favor of a warm and dry place to sleep—our trailer..



ON THE TRAIL OF THE PONY EXPRESS

BY

ROY E. COY, DIRECTOR

ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM AND PONY EXPRESS MUSEUM

ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI, U. S. A.

April 3, 1860 was the date of the first running of the Pony Express. Because of the national interest in this great historical event, Mr. Roy E. Coy has made a new 16mm all color documentary movie along the Pony Trail today, traveling across eight states with his camera.

Mr. Coy and his assistant, Mr. Don L. Reynolds followed the Pony Express Trail, as nearly as possible, from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California, putting on color film what one can see along the Trail today. These two modern day Pony Riders rode automobiles, jeep and truck, and even walked some of the distance, to obtain for posterity a beautiful film of what they saw on the Pony Trail.

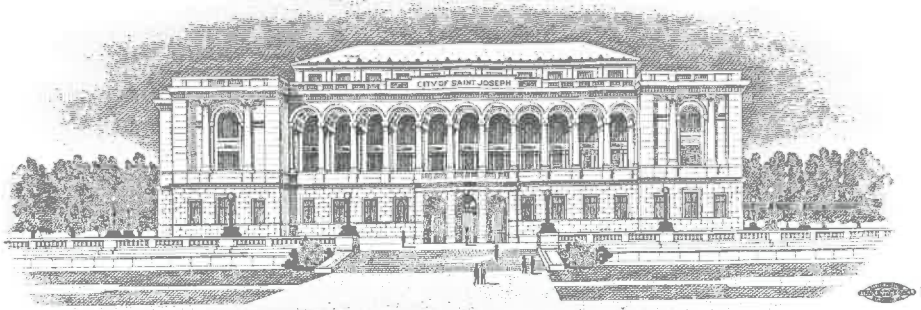
They met an interesting Centennial Covered Wagon Train from Oregon. They found many old Pony Station ruins and photographed some heretofore unknown Pony Stations. They even felt the ghosts of the early pioneers as they traveled the Trail. Even though it was rain in Wyoming, and dust the rest of the way with hot sun and burning desert, life along the trail today is just as interesting as it was one hundred years ago.

Here for the first time in beautiful color film you can see what the Pony Riders saw and some of the changes that have taken place in the years gone by. It is a picture not only with history in its frames, but also beautiful scenery and many excellent wildlife shots. The snakes and lizards of the desert, the badger digging his home in Wyoming, and the red fox and raccoon of Nebraska are only a few. Its fast-moving action also includes a series of carp fishing with a bow and arrow in Nebraska.

This jam-packed film of beauty and action is one hour and ten minutes long and is a superb travelogue filmed along one of the greatest of all American Trails — the Pony Express.

Mr. Coy is a veteran lecturer and photographer. He is a naturalist and serious student of history. He has lectured at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, Chicago Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Ill., Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Nova Scotia Bird Society, Nova Scotia, Canada, and before hundreds of other groups.

For complete information, write the St. Joseph Museum, St. Joseph, Missouri, U. S. A. or call AD 2-4238.



CITY OF ST. JOSEPH

St. JOSEPH, MISSOURI

August 27, 1973

SPECIAL PERMIT:

Permission is hereby granted to the Pony Express Stables to block Penn Street from 9th to 10th Streets on Sunday, September 9, 1973.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

F. L. Endebrock *va*
F. L. Endebrock
Director

VA:mv

In consideration for the above permit, the permittee agrees to indemnify and save harmless the City of St. Joseph, Missouri, from and against all claims, suits, damages, costs, losses or expenses in any manner so resulting from, arising out of, or connected with this permit.

Don Reynolds
Don Reynolds
Pony Express Museum

cc: Communications Center

SOUTH TO SWAMP AND THICKET

A little over three years ago the filming began on this picture. Using vacation time Richard A. Nolf, St. Joseph Museum Director; Don Reynolds, Assistant Director and Photographer; and Floyd Lawhon, local ornithologist spent considerable time in Texas filming "South to Swamp and Thicket." Mr. Nolf will present the film to members of the Audubon Society Tuesday at 8 P.M. at Central High School.

The film is sponsored by the St. Joseph Museum and the public is invited free even though they may not be members of the Audubon Society. The first half of the pictorial narrative deals with the Big Thicket of eastern Texas.

The Big Thicket is a 50 by 70 mile rectangle encompassing three and a half million acres northeast of Houston. It is called the "Biological Crossroads of North America" as it is the meeting and mixing place for the flora and fauna of north, south, east, and west United States.

The clay and sandstone basin was laid down 25 million years ago and ten million years later porous and moisture retaining sand, clay and gravel were deposited. This, plus an annual rainfall of 60 inches or more rain produces a subtropical area.

The last half takes the viewers to the lower Rio Grande Valley and gulf coast. The Santa Ana Refuge is the summer home of South American and Mexican birds. The camera captures beautiful birds not seen in Missouri. A few to be seen are the kiskadee Flycatcher, the chachalaca, the liechtenstein oriole and the pyrrhuloxia.

The Aransas National Wildlife Refuge is the winter home of the whooping crane. This near extinct bird was down to 15 in 1941 but now numbers 64 birds who winter in Texas. The refuge also has wild turkeys, white-tailed deer, alligators, collared peccary and roseate spoonbill. All are shown in the film.

This film was made in cooperation with the St. Joseph Museum and the St. Joseph Audubon Society. Also in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, East Texas Wildlife Association, Texas Highway Department and the National Audubon Society

PONY EXPRESS TRAIL FOOTAGE

The first scene is a view of Joe's Dugout (east of Camp Floyd about ten or so miles) Mrs. R. looks into the depression which is said to have been an unsuccessful attempt to get water for the station. Sir Richard Burton mentions it I believe. The view is to NE with the Wasatch mountains in the background.

The scene showing Maude emerging from the hole is to the southward.

The shot-up sign is one of the old Driggs Pony Express markers.

The traveling road shot is between Joe's Dugout and Camp Floyd looking south easterly toward Camp Floyd - as a pony rider might have seen it.

(We were surprised to find that the old inn at Camp Floyd had been restored. Completed last fall they told us. For pictures would rather have had it as it was before when we saw it in spring of 1962.)

The monument and then its circular pony rider brass plaque marks the end of the Camp Floyd sequence.

Next is Schellbourne Ranch (Nev.) (I can't recall if you said you were there or not so sent it along anyway) The first scene is of the old adobe postoffice said by locals to be 120 years old. The Schell Creek Range is in the background. View is to eastward. The trail came through Schell Creek Canyon just up in back of the station. (Schell - Shell Creek)

The old log blacksmith shop is just SW of the post-office building 75 yards or so. Every time we go by there a few more of the logs have disappeared and last time the bellows were exposed as you can see. Mrs Russell the owner of the ranch has hopes of restoring it but has no help in that respect. She is there only part time in the summer and I suspect that her year around ranch hand care taker is burning the logs as fire wood in the winter. Maude and I found several hook telegraph insulators and a cap and ball revolver up behind the adobe building two years ago. The next station west was EGAN at the top of Egan Canyon. It is across the Steptoe Valley.

There has been some mention of making Schellbourne a State Park site. It does have quite a past what with its overland trail - Pony Express - military (fort Schellbourne) and all the other pioneer history that figured in and around it. Egan Canyon is quite famous. Cherry Creek is a near ghost town just north a few miles. All together it could make quite an interesting area if it were known.

*Film returned to me 10-5-64
D.R.K.*