



* Bunkhouse Outlaws Pony Express *



There has been a lot of talk of "who are the Bunkhouse Outlaws?" They are no secret, for their name has already hit nation wide news, television and print.... and it wasn't for robbing a bank! They talk, live and breath the 1860's Pony Express. This non-profit organization participates in parades, historical talks to schools & historical societies, living history demonstrations for the public, as well as actively working on historical preservation projects & historical markers..... but most of all, they organize many fun commemorative Pony Express relay re-enactments! Participants of the group reside in many different US states, as well as members in Germany, Australia, England and South Africa. People often come from far away to join in the Pony Express re-enactment rides and events, riders and non-riders alike! Members are encouraged to dress "1860's style", with many wearing buckskins or clothing replica of the original time period..... including their horses gear.

The Bunkhouse Outlaws Pony Express dates back to 1987, when the Director, Quackgrass Sally helped organize a relay ride from Cody, Wyoming to Livingston, Montana. Working with the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, they helped dedicate a new satellite museum in Livingston and the riders carried mail from Cody via horseback to the new Depot Museum celebration.... a fun two day 190-mile relay.

During the following years, the Directors of the Bunkhouse Outlaws organized and directed the Montana Centennial Pony Express Ride and the Wyoming Centennial Wagon Train Pony Express Mail Ride... carrying over 17,700 letters via horseback, all of which received special postal Hand-cancellations!! In 1991, the Directors worked with the U.S. Forest Service to ride a mail-carrying relay 650 miles, through 3 states, commemorating the Centennial of the Forest Service. The group of riders helped spread the word of the centennial by holding ceremonies for the public throughout the route, as well as carrying letters, special maps and greetings from the President of the United States. The Burlington Northern Railroad even participated by carrying the XP Mail through the difficult Bozeman Pass in Montana, delivering the mail bags to Livingston where the XP riders continued it on its way to Wyoming

This active organization has participated in historical events, as well as living history commemorative rides.... including the dedication of the roadside highway marker for the historic Bridger Trail, near Burlington, Wyoming. In 1993 they rode part of the actual Oregon Trail during it's 150 year celebration and in 1994 the stage coach route from Red Lodge, Montana to Cody, Wyoming. The summers of 1995 & 96 found the Outlaws reliving "Custer's Last Stand" in Hardin, MT. during the spectacular Battle of the Little Big Horn re-enactment. This annual hour-long performance involves a cast of over 200.... Indians, cavalry & homesteaders, plus the Pony Express! We not only had a boni-fide postal wall tent set-up, where everyone could mail letters via the XP, but we had to out run Indian braves across the prairie in true Pony Express style during each show!

In May 1996 the Director Quackgrass Sally and two Bunkhouse Outlaw members took part in the Centennial Olympic Torch Relay, carrying on horseback, the Olympic Torch as it passed through Nebraska on its way to Atlanta, GA. and the '96 Olympic Games.

Over the pass few years the Outlaws have ridden in several more historical re-rides, including one honoring an original 1860's Pony rider, Nick Wilson. The motion picture

"Wind River" used Bunkhouse Outlaws' mochila & tack when filming the opening pony express scenes of Nick Wilson. The group was contacted by the British television series "Connections" on the Learning/Discover Channel, supplying some time-period props, as well as re-enacting several XP scenes for the film. The Bunkhouse Directors have been consultants to several motion picture and television companies and were even a feature "front page" article in the San Francisco Chronicle. This organization's members have carried and delivered via horseback, over 135,000 letters, each of which was carried in a copy of the original 1860's mail bag (mochila) and has received a specially designed commemorative U.S. postal hand-cancellation. To date the Outlaws have information and special commemorative items in 3 different time capsules (two 100 year capsules and one 50 year capsule). Recently the Outlaws have carried mail during historical Wagon Train re-enactments, including the 2001 Bozeman Trail Wagon Train that went from Fort Bridger, Wyo. to Virginia City, MT. and "expressed" over 3500+ pieces of mail! They relayed mail during the 2002 & 2003 Cherokee Trail Wagon Train, as well as many other celebrations & events! New adventures are planned for the coming year, including several XP mail relays & demos!!

Director Quackgrass Sally (Elanna Skorupa) has been an avid history and Pony Express buff throughout her life. She is a busy working ranch wife in Bridger, MT. a western folk artist and horsewoman. She is actively involved in many historical organizations and groups, including the Pony Express Historical Society in St. Joseph, Missouri, the Wyoming & Montana Historical Societies, the Oregon-California Trails Assn., and the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. She is a Lifetime Member of the National Pony Express Assn. participating in their annual XP Ride each June across the original 8 states of the 1860 Pony Express Trail. She carried the Olympic Torch via XP in 1996, as well has helped with the 2002 Torch Relay. She also volunteered at the 2002 Salt Lake Olympics at their historic Western Experience in Soldiers Hollow. She is an active "wagon train" re-enactor, traveling many of the historic pioneer Trails across America. Quackgrass Sally and other Outlaw Members have been movie extras on several films, interviewed on television and continue to make numerous public appearances and fun XP events.

The Bunkhouse Outlaws non-profit group is open to anyone who is interested in history and the Pony Express. Participants enjoy the excitement of re-living a memorable part of America's past, whether they ride carrying the mail or help along the XP Trail during re-enactment's. From kids to grandmas, the Bunkhouse Outlaws have gladly signed them up to take part in their XP fun!!

If you are interested in becoming a Bunkhouse Outlaw member, or in having the Outlaws come express mail via horseback for YOUR special event, please contact :

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