



PONY TRACKS



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Dedicated to the Preservation, Research, Heritage and Spirit of the Pony Express

Volume XI

Trail Event Year 2003

Olde Tyme Saturday "high time" in Colorado

The Bunkhouse Outlaws were off riding again in August 2003, this time in Vernon, Colorado! Who would guess that a town, out in the middle of rolling prairies & farm lands, and which measures only one block by one block around a grassy park in the middle, can throw a family fun, *Best & BIGGEST Party* found anywhere in the West!!! That's what the folks around Vernon do each year!!

This two-day event includes a huge antique tractor show, craft and food fair, Parade, chuck wagon feed, music festival, auction, street dance & much more.

This year they featured living-history & military groups re-enacting an WWII Allied and German Soldier battle scene, which included exploding bombs, half-tracs firing machine guns, cannon fire and realistic battle events. Ears were ringing before the final capture was completed! The Bunkhouse Outlaws were also invited to attend and re-enact the Pony Express. A MAIL TENT was set-up in the park, where folks could come drop off their mail to be

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relayed and over 300 pieces of mail was collected.

A commemorative US Postal cancellation was designed specially for this event and stamped on all the mail which was relayed via horseback from Vernon to Wray, Colorado, @ 15 miles away.

Postmaster Theresa A. Vogt of Vernon, spent the afternoon hand canceling all the mail before stuffing it into the mochila & extra mail bag. Each piece of mail also received a rubber stamping that it was carried via Pony Express! The huge gathered crowd cheered as Cowboy Poet/Chuckwagon Cook & Bunkhouse Outlaw "Grampa" John Schaffner rode the first mail lap out of the park, accompanied by outriders Elsie Dunning & Sabrena Mc Casland. It was very hot that late afternoon but each rider relayed the mail in record time and true Pony Express Spirit, even beating the Wray postmaster to the postoffice.

"Hats Off" too, to the other Riders & Outlaws....

Leesa Prather, Shawn Allen, Shelly Thomas, JJ Lippert, Rob Lueth, Ray Johnson, Rich Richardson and all those who helped us along the way!!!



A special THANKS to Roberta Schaffner & the Chuckwagon Gang for all their work, friendship & good food! Lets hope that the Olde Tyme Saturday committee will ask the Outlaws back again to enjoy the Best Party in Colorado!!!

Thanks

to every Pony Express
Bunkhouse Outlaw Member!

We have relayed over

135,000 Pieces of Mail !!

All via horseback & hand-cancelled

For the past 14 years, members of the "Most Wanted"

Bunkhouse Outlaws Gang have taken their vacations,

horses, time and energy

to ride & carry the US Mail via Pony express.

This year we would like to HONOR an outstanding Outlaw who has shown dedication to the heritage & spirit of the Pony Express beyond measure!

"Hooper"

aka : Cathie Presley

River Rose Station

Worland, Wyoming Territory

Gang Reg. #004

Awarded In Appreciation

Lifetime Membership

Most Wanted Gang

BUNKHOUSE OUTLAWS

New Pony Express Trail Brochure Published

When you travel along the National Historic Pony Express Trail in the future, you will be able to find a wonderful newly published free brochure, compiled by the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, Forest Service and U.S. Department of Agriculture. The NPEA helped in research, historic sites and additional information, as did land owners along the Trail. Set-up in a standard folded map format, it is colorfully illustrated with a historical time line & information on one side and a map of the XP Trail on the reverse. There are many major sites and XP Stations marked on the easily read map, so you can explore the places as you travel. These brochures should be available in most "point of interest" stops, visitor centers & travel info areas along the Trail. Thanks goes out to the folks who spent years working to get this beautiful brochure done. It is truly an outstanding publication and a gem in presenting our XP Trail to those interested. The Pony Express Trail was made a National Historic Trail in 1992, authorized by Congress.

Ask for the **PONY EXPRESS TRAIL** brochure when you trek across the 8 states of the Trail or contact the nearest National Park Service office.

Pony Rider Decals

Show your XP Spirit & Pride!
Add a "pony rider" to the side of your horsetrailer or window

**** ONLY \$ 2.50 ea. ****

(Black or White — 3M weatherproof)

Contact: Quackgrass Sally
email: BunkhouseOutlaws@aol.com

ORPHANS PREFERRED

The Twisted Truth AND Lasting
Legend of the Pony Express

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A new book by author  
*Christopher Corbett.*

"The more or less true but strange story of the Pony Express, one of the most celebrated and enduring chapters in the history of the American West. *Orphans Preferred* is a fresh and exuberant look at a bit of Americana where fact and fable collide.

Corbett investigates the old, rock-solid accounts and finds them crumbly, but therein lies the charm of his story. He has been a working journalist for more than twenty-five years. A former news editor and reporter with the Associated Press, Corbett has also written for the New York Times, Washington Post, Philadelphia Inquirer, and Boston Globe. The author of the novel *Vacationland*, he lives in Baltimore and teaches journalism at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County.

He had interviewed several well known NPEA members while researching this new book and was a guest speaker at the annual NPEA Convention, held last September in Julesburg, Co.

*"An authoritative and entertainingly written chronicle of the Pony Express that, for the first time, explores the tall tales and long-obscured truths about this beloved but myth-laden piece of Western Americana, and, in the process, exposes how the myth came to be."* Published 2003  
[www.broadwaybooks.com](http://www.broadwaybooks.com)

## On the Lookout for Outlaws, Bear Lake Idaho "Trail Mail Relay"

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Schools in the Bear Lake area near Georgetown, Idaho will be on the lookout for "Outlaws" come May 2004. Rumor has it, from very reliable tale tellers, that members of the Bunkhouse Outlaws at Twin Creek Station (along with class skippin' students 'n teachers) will be relaying mail over 30 miles on horseback!! South Paw Sadie was seen at the mercantile stickin' up *Wanted posters* for XP Riders.... "willing to risk havin' fun with history while packing letters cross country.... U.S. bonifide TRAIL MAIL!" Other members of Twin Creeks Station were seen dusting off their "good hats" and checking tack, to be ready for the day long event. Postmasters in Georgetown, Paris and Montpelier, Idaho will be participating, with a commemorative postal hand cancellation planned in Georgetown. A special Pony Express Cache will be available, so everyone can send the "folks back home" a letter! Students will hear a bit of XP history from Quackgrass Sally in April and then be able to sign-up & ride with her in May. Bunkhouse Outlaw "Madhouse Mimi" has been working on the mail trail route, along with her outlaw family at Tallow's Fork Station, so it should be a saddle-slappin' good time for everyone involved..... even for those folks who only watch the riders go by as the mail is relayed in true Pony Express Rider style 'n spirit! For more information contact Ride Director Quackgrass Sally.

The Bunkhouse Outlaws work with schools & organizations yearly, promoting and preserving the history & heritage of the Pony Express.



## Trail Excitement Across America !

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In August, Bunkhouse Outlaws Director Quackgrass Sally was asked to represent the National Pony Express Assn. at the 9th Conference on National Scenic & Historic Trails. Representatives from the National Trails System meet annually, this year in Washington, to discuss how each Trail can work to better "their" trail, as well as the whole trail network.

"It was a true eye-opener to see how many different and diversified trails there are in America. Thousands of miles of trails criss-cross this country, including Alaska & Hawaii, both Historic & Scenic" reported Quackgrass, "Each Trail has its own unique heritage, usage, value and even problems, but they all have a common cause... to sustain these Trails for future generations."

During the Trail Conference, Quackgrass shared with the different representatives that the Pony Express Trail has a strong historical past, which organizations like the NPEA and the Bunkhouse Outlaws keep alive with their annual re-enactment's. Many people at the conference didn't realize that US mail was still being carried via horseback along the XP trail every year, just like it was done in 1860!..... but then Quackgrass said she learned that they also carry mail along the Iditarod Trail during the annual Dog Sled competitions in Alaska.... and that stones set by the original inhabitants of Hawaii can still be seen on a trail across one of the islands.... or that you had better be very careful when on the Florida National

Scenic trail or you can come face to face with an nasty snapping alligator.... and the Pacific Northwest Trail has some of the highest hiking points on the trail network. Quackgrass met the "Captain" who told her that the historic Overmountain Victory Trail recreates living history battles every year, cannons & all..... She met folks from the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, the historic Lewis & Clark, the Oregon, the California, the Nez Perce Nee-Me-Poo and many more, including the "mayor" of Nome, Alaska!! She also attended several workshops put on during the 3 day conference and took a horseback ride into the Washington coastline timber with members of the WA Backcountry Horseman.

"I am very grateful to the NPEA for giving me the opportunity to attend the TrailConference. I met so many enthusiastic dedicated people there, that it rejuvenated my drive to continue working not only for our unique historic XP trail, but towards a strong Trails System."

Quackgrass Sally

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\* Limited Edition \*

### Pony Express Pins

Custom Design Enameled

*\*Gold Rider on Black\**

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of the 1860's Pony Riders

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## CHEROKEE TRAIL

### WAGON TRAIN

*THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES*

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The second leg of the wagon train re-enactment along the historic Cherokee Trail continued its trek in June 2003. Starting close to where they ended last summer, near Flaming Gorge, members of Ben Kern's wagon train headed south-east again along some of the most pristine trail areas in Wyoming. The Bunkhouse Outlaws Pony Express was along again too, carrying "wagon train mail" during this years 250 miles traveled. Two specially designed Pony Express U.S. postal hand cancellations commemorated this leg of the trek, one in Baggs and the other in Encampment, Wyoming. Postmasters in each town welcomed the XP riders at their postoffice, receiving several hundred pieces of relayed mail for cancellation. Special care was taken in Baggs, where wedding invitations were relayed for Trail Boss, Rod Henderson. He and his "darlin' Doris" were to be "hitched".... not once, but twice... and the invitations were for those folks back east not able to attend the wedding ceremony which took place during the wagon train. Bride Doris said she was delighted to know that all her invitations were sent to family members by horseback from along the Cherokee Trail! Special thanks to Outlaws, "Hooper" & Little Mike Owens from XP Director Quackgrass Sally! You two are true Pony Express Relay Riders! C U on the Cherokee this June!

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## Send a *Personal* Letter via horseback with the National Pony Express

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YOU can send those special people a "personal" message via the Pony Express and have it carried along the Original Trail in only 10 days by over 550 Relay Riders! Your letter will be carried day & night starting in Sacramento, California., across the 8 states to St. Joseph, Missouri. There it will receive a Commemorative US Postal Hand-cancellation designed just for this *Historic Event!*

Every June, the National Pony Express Assn. members re-enact the 1860's Mail relay, carrying special caches via horseback. Now for a special Commemorative, they are offering a **LIMITED EDITION "Personal" Letter Packet** for sale, on a first come, first serve basis. For only \$10.00, each personal letter packet contains:

1 Commemorative Cache w/postage  
1 Stationary Sheet (to write your message on)  
1 pre-addressed return envelope  
plus instructions on how to follow your letter's travels along the Trail during the re-enactment via the XP Website: [xphomestation.com](http://xphomestation.com)  
Only 200 caches are available and they are going FAST. All packet orders must be received no later than May 1, 2004 to make the relay.

If you would like to order and send one of these NPEA Limited Edition commemorative "personal" letters, send \$10 for each to:

National Pony Express Association

P.O. Box 153

Beattie, Kansas 66406

or contact NPEA Cache Sales

Lyle Ladner (785) 353-2432

**Order Today !!**

They are going as fast as  
XP ponies relay the mail !!!

## Best Little Horse House In the West

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If you are looking for a new saddle or any other item to go under one, look no further than the Frannie Tack Shop, in Wyoming's Biggest Little Town, Frannie!

Nestled beneath the Bighorn Mountains, on the Montana-Wyoming border, its the home station of Bunkhouse Outlaw "Cattle Kate".

She, along with her son, saddlemaker Rick Campbell, have supplied ranchers, cowboys, outfitters and horse people with quality tack & supplies for many years. Custom orders and repairs are welcome anytime.

They are happy to talk with you and make sure you and your horse are outfitted correctly & comfortably for hours on the trail. Rick has even been known to show folks a few good "knot" tricks or skills with the "cowboy Yo-Yo" !!

(They can ship anywhere too)

So if you are looking for top-notch bits, spurs, saddles or any quality tack at cowboy prices, give them a hollar at

The Frannie Tack Shop

(307) 664-2344 or

1-800-552-8836

The Best Little Horse House  
in the West !!!

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## "MOST WANTED" MEMBERSHIPS

Its time to renew your Bunkhouse Outlaw Gang membership for 2004  
*still only \$5.00*

keeps you on the mailing list  
and helps us continue XP adventures!!

## Pony Express Website

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If you are looking for the latest book about the Pony Express or where some of the historic relay stations were located along the trail, names of the XP riders or just have an interest in anything connected with the Trail, search no further than the web. Designed and maintained by NPEA member Tom Crews, it is one of the top sites about the Pony Express. Tom has had this informative & fun Website for several years, done on his own time and love of the XP. Each June you can even "follow the riders" of the NPEA as they relay mail non-stop 10 days during their annual Re-ride.

Go check it out at:

[www.xphomestation.com](http://www.xphomestation.com)

**"Thanks Tom"**

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## Kern's Wagon Train Club

If you are interested in joining the Cherokee Trail Wagon Train in June 2004 & reliving the spirit of America's pioneers - contact:

Wagonmaster

Ben Kern : (307) 234-9437

## BUNKHOUSE OUTLAWS PONY EXPRESS

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION & RESEARCH OF THE HISTORIC PONY EXPRESS AND ITS RIDERS.

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FOR INFO OR MEMBERSHIP CONTACT:

**BUNKHOUSE OUTLAWS DIRECTOR**

QUACKGRASS SALLY

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BRIDGER, MONTANA 59014

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