

# THE CARD – Vol. 31, No. 4, Issue 349, April 2020

A Publication of the Lancaster County Postcard Club, Lancaster, PA

*Enjoying postcards through education and entertainment.*

**Next Meeting:** April 20, 2020. **CANCELLED**

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<http://www.lcpc-stamps.org/newsletter-archive/the-card/>

## MARCH MEETING

**CANCELLED**

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Hello all, hope you are staying safe and well during these unusual times.

This is a good opportunity to spend some time on your postcards. Here are a couple things I'm going to do and some other ideas:

- I'm going to sort through the last bunch of cards I bought at the Member's Market. I like looking for postcards but not going through what I bought and deciding to keep for my collection, sell on eBay or putting in the sell pile.
- I collect postcards related to the local history talks I give. So I'm going to look more for cards to add to those talks. I do this mostly on eBay as it gets harder to find cards I don't have.
- For many of you this is a good chance to sort through that shoebox of cards you put in a closet and bring back family memories or decide which ones you want for your collection.

Related to Club business, I still need a person to help with the equipment for the programs. Seriously it's not hard and I will teach you. Give it some thought.

Stay healthy,  
Mark

## \*\* MEMBERSHIP REMINDER – TIME TO PAY DUES

It's that time again to pay your dues. Don't worry you won't be removed from the list if now is not a good time to pay. Just do it when you can. **Individual dues are \$15.00 or \$20.00 for two people residing at the same address.** Please send your check to:

Richard Pendergrast  
950 Willow Valley Lakes Drive, I-506  
Willow Street, PA 17584

## FUTURE SHOWS

**August 1:** Summer Chesapeake Postcard Fair & Postcard Auction, Community Center, Havre de Grace, MD. Sat: 9 AM-4 PM. Admission \$3.00. Live postcard auction @ 4pm

**August 15:** Lancaster County Postcard Expo, Farm & Home Center, Saturday 9AM-5PM (we hope)

## APRIL PROGRAM

**CANCELLED**

## FUTURE PROGRAMS

May – Bud Heim

June -

July - Picnic

August - Expo

September – Leighton Stover

October – Aaron Heckler

November – Maria Schurz, Octoberfest

December – Christmas Party



## 2020 POSTCARD COMPETITION SUBJECTS

**May** – Continental Cards

**June** – Baseball

**July** – Homemade Cards

**August** - Make a Expo Board

**September** – Large Letter Cards

**October** – Horse Drawn Vehicles

**November** – Political Cards

## Answers to the St. Patrick's Day True or False

The patron saint was born in Ireland – False

2. March 17<sup>th</sup> was St. Patrick's birthday – False

3. Green is the color of St. Patrick's Day - False

4. New York City's parade is the oldest in America - True

5. The first parade in Belfast was big - True

6. It's easy to find a four-leaf clover - False

7. Pork was the original meal for this holiday - True

8. There are female leprechauns - False

9. St. Patrick invented the Celtic cross - True

10. St. Patrick was a canonized saint - False

11. St. Patrick banished all the snakes from Ireland - False

12. Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt were married on St.

Patrick's Day in 1905, in New York City - True

## Pony up to this Express Story Jim Ward Gallops thru a Western Phenomenon

### REASONS

After the gold discovery in California in 1848, in only 12 years there was a new state with 380,000 people, many of whom wanted to maintain touch with the East, especially businesses. Stage coach mail took 25 days. Mail by ship was unthinkable before the Panama Canal, but the Pony Express would only take 10 days.

### OWNERS

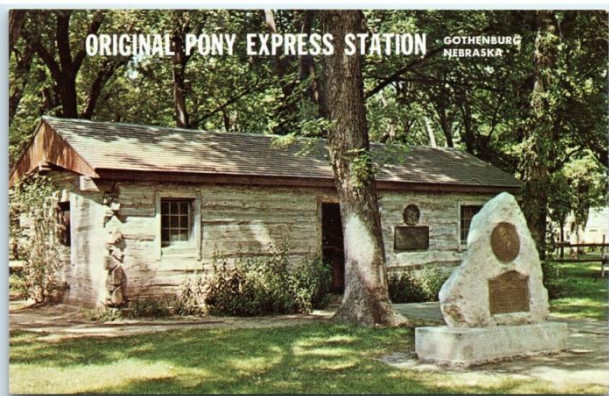
Wm. Russell, Alexander Majors and Wm. Waddell had a successful freight business: 6,000 men, 75,000 oxen, 1,000 wagons plus warehouses and a bank. They assembled 120 riders, 400 horses and nearly 200 stations. Service began on April 3, 1860.

### THE ROUTE

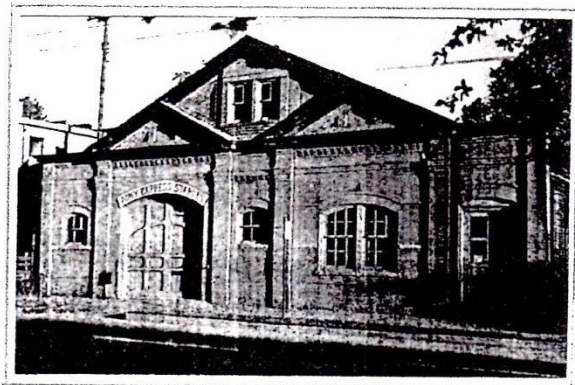
Approximately 1,900 miles long, it roughly followed the Oregon and California Trails to Fort Bridger, Wyoming; then the Mormon Trail to Salt Lake City, Utah: then the Central Nevada Route to Carson City before passing over the Sierras near Lake Tahoe and into Sacramento.

### STATIONS

190 stations, about 10 miles apart, were "home" stations for the rider's room & board, and "swing" stations where he had time to only change horses. Very few military forts housed stations.



The above postcards are from the St Joseph Missouri Museum. On the left is the Pony Express Stables. On the right is an oil painting by Benton Clark. It shows, in front of the Patee House Hotel, Alexander Majors, and three of the riders: Jonny Fry, Billy Richardson, John Burnett and Gus Cliff.



"The Original Pony Express Station" postcard in Gothenburg, Nebraska is a very interesting stop for tourists on U.S. #30 or Interstate #80. The station was used from 1860-1861 and contains many historical items from the Old West. Free picnic area. Extochrome by Harold Paspeshil.





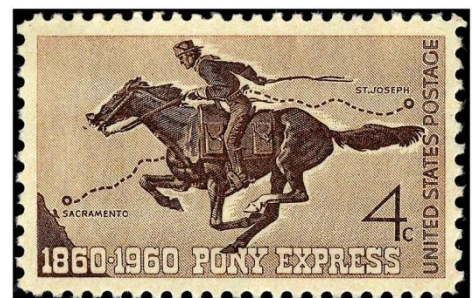
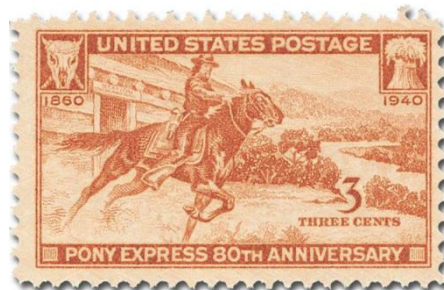
The watercolor is by Wm. Henry Jackson, courtesy of the National Park Service. It includes data on the 18 month life span of the Pony Express, but also information about Buffalo Bill's "longest non-stop ride of 322 miles in 21 hours, 40 minutes using 21 horses, none of which was ever substantiated.

## HORSES

Morgans and thoroughbreds were used in the East; Mustangs in the West. They were relatively small, about 900 pounds, and cost \$200. They were switched every 10-15 miles.

## RIDERS

They were "jockey-size" weighing no more than 125 pounds. The wiry men and boys were 14 to 20 years old. They took a loyalty oath and promised not to drink (??). They earned \$100 a month while average unskilled workers earned 43 cents to \$1.00. There is no evidence Buffalo Bill was a rider though he did praise them in his Wild West Show.



Above are three postage stamps honoring the Pony Express. On the left is a Pony Express Rider stamp issued in 1869. In the middle a Pony Express 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary stamp, issued in 1940. On the right is a Pony Express 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary stamp issued in 1980.



Left - The Pony Express Memorial is located at St. Joseph, Missouri's million dollar civic center.

Right - a Pony Express advertisement from the Wells Fargo & Co., New York City agents.



## THE MOCHILA

Rather than a typical mail pouch, a thin leather mochila was thrown over the saddle, saddle horn and cantle projecting through it, with a cantina in each corner. Three held mail, the fourth the ride's I.D. All were padlocked. The switch to another horse took 2 minutes.

## MAIL COST

A ½ oz. letter cost \$5.00 initially; the cost was reduced to \$2.50 then \$1.00. \$5.00 was today's \$130. Nearly no individual used the P.E. Service. Even so, the 26,500 pieces sent eastward and the 13,000 mailed west in the P.E.'s lifetime, proved a financial failure. Does that sound familiar?

## INTERRUPTION

A two month battle with the Paiute Indians cost \$75,000 and lives lost in May and June 1860.

## FINAL FACTS

April 3, 1860 to October 26, 1861, Pony Express service ended 2 days after the Western Union telegraph service began.

