



# The Pony Express Rides Again!



**Oregon celebrates its 100th birthday with a big show this Summer—but yesteryear's mail carrier steals the spotlight.**

"PRESENTLY the driver exclaims—'Here he comes!'"

"Every neck is stretched and every eye strained. Away across the endless dead level of the prairie a black speck appears against the sky. In a second or two it becomes a horse and rider, rising and falling, rising and falling—sweeping toward us nearer and nearer—growing more and more distinct. The flutter of the hoofs comes faintly to ear—another instant a whoop and a hurrah from the upper deck (of our stage coach), a wave of (our) rider's hand, but no reply, and man and horse burst past our excited faces, and go swinging away like a belated fragment of a storm."

Thus did a Pony Express rider pass the stage coach of Mark Twain and impress this tough world traveler as few other pieces of American romance did. Twain was not the only man to be awed by the Pony Express. It had a short official life—from 1860 through 1861—but it captured and held the imagination of Americans of that age and every age to follow.

It's not surprising that Oregon, celebrating its centennial this year, should revive the Pony Express as a symbol of a stirring and proud past. Throughout the state from June 7 until Sept. 17, volunteers in cowboy garb will sell Pony Express envelopes for \$1 apiece, the going price in 1861. These envelopes (plus the modern 4-cent stamp) will be delivered by some 4,000 riders any place in Oregon—or to rail connections on the border for delivery outside the state.

The dates for Pony Express service coincide with those of the centennial exposition and in-

ternational trade fair in Portland. The trade fair will be the state's concession to modern times, a dazzling display of the finest products of some two dozen nations. But for the most part, Oregon will entertain six million guests at its 100th birthday party with a rip-roarin' return to the romantic past.

In addition to the Pony Express, the exposition will feature an Adventureland where tourists can shop in a simulated frontier town, complete with hired guns and no-nonsense marshals. Chugging, narrow-gauge railroads will carry guests around the settlement, and a sawmill of ancient vintage will show how Oregon's prize crop, timber, was first readied for market. From Independence, Mo., a wagon train will wend its way over the Oregon Trail in time to join the anniversary fete.

Just to prove that Oregon's present and future are as fascinating as its past, the state also will present an atomic energy display, never before shown, at which visitors will be able to set off their own chain reactions. And for those who shy at six-guns and atoms, another 10 acres of the 65-acre exhibition area will show "The Garden of Tomorrow," a collection of newly developed flowers which soon will be available to back-yard horticulturists.

As proud as Oregon is of its centennial whoop-up, it wants folks to know that the best show in the state is milleniums old—rugged scenery like the Columbia Gorge, snow-capped Mount Hood, breathtaking Crater Lake. What tourist could resist sending home picture-postcards of these spots by real Pony Express?



Typical of Oregon scenery is the Columbia Gorge, here 30 miles from exposition site.

State's centennial fair, shown in artist's drawing, will feature sports and exhibits.



Rodeos, an Oregon mainstay, will give centennial visitors some extra thrills.

