

Story of the Pony Express (1)

By Don Oakley and Ralph Lane



For examples of courage and devotion to duty, few stories in American history equal that of the Pony Express. During 18 important months in 1860 and 1861, its riders, most of them just boys, carried the mails between St. Joseph, Mo., and Sacramento, Calif., against the greatest of odds.

"The mail must go through" was their motto—and it always did.

The Pony Express was born in the great need for faster communication between the East and pioneer settlements in the West. By 1860, emigrants and fortune-seekers had swelled California's population

to 380,000. Except for stagecoaches or ships that arrived once or twice a month, the state was virtually cut off from the rest of the nation.

Even when mail did arrive, there were no facilities for distributing it inland. Some erstwhile miners began delivering letters for a fee and found it better than grubbing for gold. They became welcome figures as they went from camp to camp.

In 1858, the government had awarded a mail contract to the famed Butterfield Overland line, which ran between St. Louis and San Francisco for 2,700 miles through the southwestern U.S. But a trip

took three to four long weeks, leaving the West still isolated by time.

In 1860, the freighting firm of Russell, Majors and Waddell laid out a route through the central west to compete with Butterfield and secure his subsidy when it expired. Its initiator, W. H. Russell, felt that what was needed was a spectacular demonstration of the superiority of the shorter central route, which some considered impassable. He conceived of a system of relays of swift horsemen, riding day and night—a Pony Express.

NEXT: Horses and Men.

North Dakota Election Listed As All Important

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rep. Goldwater said today that he would not go to North Dakota to campaign for the state's senatorial election which could influence the whole presidential campaign.

Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona, chairman of the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, said today that he would not go to North Dakota to campaign for the state's senatorial election which could influence the whole presidential campaign.

"If we Republicans lose this special election in the Midwest just prior to the convention, it will influence the whole campaign this year," he said. "If we can't win in a key pivotal state like this, we may lose the Presidential election."

Republicans have nominated Gov. John F. Davis to fill the remainder of more than four years of the term of the late Republican Sen. William Langer. Democrats are expected to nominate Rep. Quentin N. Burdick at their state convention Thursday.

Because the farm issue is likely to be paramount, Goldwater said he has been urging Vice President Richard M. Nixon to go into the state and make a farm speech.

Goldwater thinks this program may prove to be something of an antidote to the policies of Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson. Benson's ideas are under heavy attack from Democrats and many Middle Western Republicans are considerably less than charmed with them.

"We know that Nixon doesn't like to go left," Goldwater said. "And if the Republicans get into to lose the election."

Thus far Nixon has said no to Goldwater's pleas for a North Dakota speech.

Arrangements have been made for New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller to make a two-day tour in North Dakota. Rockefeller has sent word to the senatorial committee to hold down on book-ings for formal speeches.

The New York governor wants to try out his smile on North Dakotans. So he'll take to the streets, the supermarkets and the roadside farm stands to pass the Republican word.

Goldwater indicated the Republicans will try to hang a radical label on Burdick. He said Burdick will get help not only from the Democratic senatorial and national committees but from American for Democratic Action, the Farmers Union and the AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Action.

"If Burdick should win, I'm afraid it will influence both parties."

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CITY BRIEFS

Louise LaSalle will be hostess meet at Field's Hall at 7:30 p.m., April 5. The executive committee of the Degree of Honor meets in her home, 2016 Wantland, Tuesday, April 5, at 8 p.m.

Jo Harris will be hostess to the Greensprings Garden Club at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 7, at her home, Route 3, Box 242, Keno Highway. Mrs. Will Blackman will speak on basic flower arrangements. For information call Lou Smith at TU 4-3919, or Bea Anderson, TU 2-1216.

Midland Grange meets Wednesday, April 6, at 8 p.m. in the Midland Grange Hall.

Neighbors of Wonderaft meet tonight at 8 o'clock in the KC Hall. All officers and guards wear uniforms.

Mrs. Velma Krause will be hostess to Rebekah Past Noble Grand Club at 1014 Beaver Avenue for dessert luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday. Members bring articles for IOOF Home.

Mrs. Julia Zumwalt, resident of Klamath Falls for many years who has been living at the Mountain View Nursing Home, Ashland, moved April 3 to Eugene where she will be a resident of the Sunset Nursing Home, 3500 Hilliard Street. Cards and letters will reach her there. Mrs. Zumwalt was one of the first music teachers in Klamath Falls and continued her lifetime work until recent years.

Stephen Nicolas is the name chosen for the new son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilber Elliott (Catherine Blanas) born March 27 at Tacoma. Parents of the new arrival are former well known Klamath Falls residents. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Dexter Elliott and Mr. and Mrs. George Blanas, this city. The baby's father is music instructor in the city schools of Cloverdale, Washington. The baby joins a sister, Elaine, and brother, Michael.

Prosperity Rebekah Lodge will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 7, at the Odd Fellows Hall. The charter will be draped for Mrs. Effie Frain and officers are asked to please wear uniforms. Members are reminded to take Easter hats. There will be prizes and refreshments.

Women's Missionary Society of the Bible Baptist Church will

day, April 8, at 2 p.m. instead of the regular meeting day, April 15. Meeting will be at the R. H. Anderson home, 345 North Tenth Street.

Mrs. Rhoda Harnden will show pictures of Guatemala and other Pan-American countries at the meeting of Klamath Unit No. 8, American Legion Auxiliary, Tuesday, April 5, at 8 p.m., in the American Legion Hall.

A Senior life saving group meeting of the Red Cross will be held at the municipal swimming pool Tuesday, April 5, at 7 p.m. For further information call the Red Cross office, TU 4-4123.

Klamath Camera Club will meet at 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, upstairs at the county library. A set of 50 best slides of 1958 taken from all clubs in the United States will be shown. Visitors welcome.

Players Club will hold a regular meeting at 7:45 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, at the city library. There will be discussion of the dinner in late April and reservations taken.

Francis Flowers, Klamath County Pomona master, requests all Pomona officers to be present for practice of the fifth degree at the Midland Grange Hall Tuesday, April 5, at 8 p.m.

Maverick square dance beginners' class will meet Monday, April 4, at 8 p.m. at Summers Lane School. Class is for everyone.

Eileen Herringshaw will review Dr. Tom Dooley's books at the meeting of the Mothers Club of Mt. Laki Community Presbyterian Church Tuesday, April 5, at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

School Mates will meet Fri-

Downed Bird Back In Air

ENTERPRISE, Ore. (AP)—Ralph Bird, Los Angeles "flying salesman," took to the air Sunday after a temporary grounding.

It occurred last Monday night when Bird was forced to land his light plane on the main street of nearby Wallawa.

Bird planned to take off the next day, but the clouds that hung heavy over the Northeastern Oregon Mountain community nixed that.

Bird left the plane in Wallawa and made his rounds by vehicle and train Thursday when the weather cleared. Ted Grote, a local flier, flew Bird's plane here.

Sunday Bird, 43, returned and took it from the airstrip and headed for Spokane.

Wallawa's main street is an extension of Highway 82, so Grote taxied onto the highway, away from overhead wires, and took off.

"Undoubtedly," said Bird, "he flew it out as neat as could be." Sheriff Mark Marks said that was the case.

Where Bird came down a week ago there were utility wires overhead. "I cut my engine, pulled my flaps and slipped my plane."

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K-LAD Community Club Awards Weekly Newsletter

Here they are . . . third week winners in CCA.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Women's Circle \$30.00
Kingsley Field NCO Wives Club \$25.00
Sweet Adelins, Crater Lake Chapter \$20.00
Merrill Library Club \$15.00
Orions \$10.00

Runners-Up

Ladies Aux. of Letter Carriers 1,000 Bonus Points.
Melody Mothers 1,000 Bonus Points.
Payless Drug Store offers \$5 in CCA bonus points on each \$5 purchase.
Returnish a room for 1500 bonus credits at Bush Furniture, open every evening till 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Western Oil & Burner pays triple bonus points on all fuel purchases.
Earn \$500 in CCA credits with the purchase of a service for 8 dinnerware set at Your Store.
Pepsi-Cola pays generous CCA bonuses on all soft drink purchases and is offering cash prizes for the most bottle caps turned in during the contest.

Good Luck!
CLAIRE ELLIS
CCA Director

K-LAD

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"Let Them Talk"
"My Love Is"

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