

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

NATIONAL TOPICAL STAMP SHOW TO CELEBRATE THE HORSEMEN WHO CONNECTED THE COUNTRY

On April 3, 1860, a young man named Johnny Fry left St. Joseph, Missouri, on horseback as the first of a relay of riders on a new mail service to California. The country he worked for was originally called the *Central Overland California and Piles Peak Express Company*. But it became better known as the “Pony Express” and was responsible for carrying letters and telegrams for 18 months until telegraph line technology surpassed their speed of transferring information almost 2,000 miles in 8 to 14 days.

Postage rates of \$5 per half ounce of mail were later reduced to \$1 per half ounce. Overall, 35,000 letters and telegrams were carried across plains and mountains to their destination in Sacramento, California.

For the sesquicentennial of that event, the American Topical Association will have the Pony Express as its theme for its June 25-27 annual show in Denver, Colorado. This year’s events will be held at the Crowne Plaza Denver International Airport Hotel, 15500 East 40th Avenue. This World Series of Philately show is topical in its exhibits, meetings and management, but dealers from around the country will cover all aspects of philately, several bringing material that will be new to area collectors. The National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS) stands out for not only giving thematic exhibits a singular place in which to compete on common ground but provides one of the most interesting and diverse grouping of exhibits for collectors and non-collectors to enjoy. Expected is an exhibit of the Pony Express collection of philatelic material of Maury Pautz. Other special events in the works will be announced in the near future.

Another aspect of the NTSS is that in each city in which it is held, the ATA offers two different tours. This year the Thursday afternoon half day tour will include stops at the Denver Mint, a tour of the (Unsinkable) Molly Brown House, and a visit to the Miller-Coors Brewery.

The full Monday day trip will include panning for gold following a tour of the non-commercialized Phoenix Gold Mine and a visit to the nearby Idaho Springs Gold Mine Museum. Visitors will be allowed to bring back rocks with embedded gold, sold at the mine. Those on the bus will then visit the Buffalo Bill Museum and gravesite. He, as is well known, was one of those Pony Express Riders. From there the group will enter the breathtaking Red Rocks Natural Amphitheater for a photo stop. On both trips the Tour Operators will point out Historic Buildings in the area with a chance of seeing a wild buffalo herd along the way.

The great team of people who run both, the successful ROMPEX shows in Denver and the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, will be working with the American Topical Association to make this an outstanding event. This is a perfect vacation getaway trip in which collectors can include a great stamp show in June. For more information see www.americantopicalassn.org or email americantopical@msn.com