

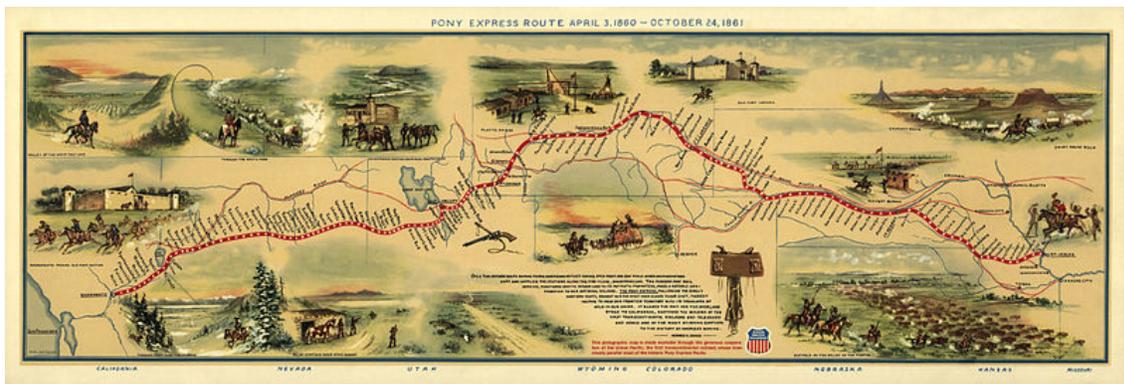
# Amelia's Journal

## PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY



### PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

Highway 50 is a road that crosses through the center of the state of Nevada. Many people call it the "loneliest road" in the U.S.—but for those who are interested in a bit of history, this road follows the path of the Pony Express!



**PONY EXPRESS!**

CHANGE OF TIME!  REDUCED RATES!

**10 Days to San Francisco!**

**LETTERS**

WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE  
**OFFICE, 84 BROADWAY,**  
 NEW YORK,  
 Up to 4 P. M. every TUESDAY,  
 and  
 Up to 2½ P. M. every SATURDAY.

Which will be forwarded to connect with the PONY EXPRESS leaving  
 ST. JOSEPH, Missouri,  
 Every WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY at 11 P. M.

**TELEGRAMS**

Sent to Fort Kearney on the mornings of MONDAY and FRIDAY will connect  
 with PONY leaving St. Joseph, WEDNESDAYS and SATURDAYS.

**EXPRESS CHARGES.**

LETTERS weighing half ounce or under.....\$1 00  
 For every additional half ounce or fraction of an ounce 1 00  
 In all cases to be enclosed in 10 cent Government Stamped Envelopes,  
 And all Express CHARGES Pre-paid.

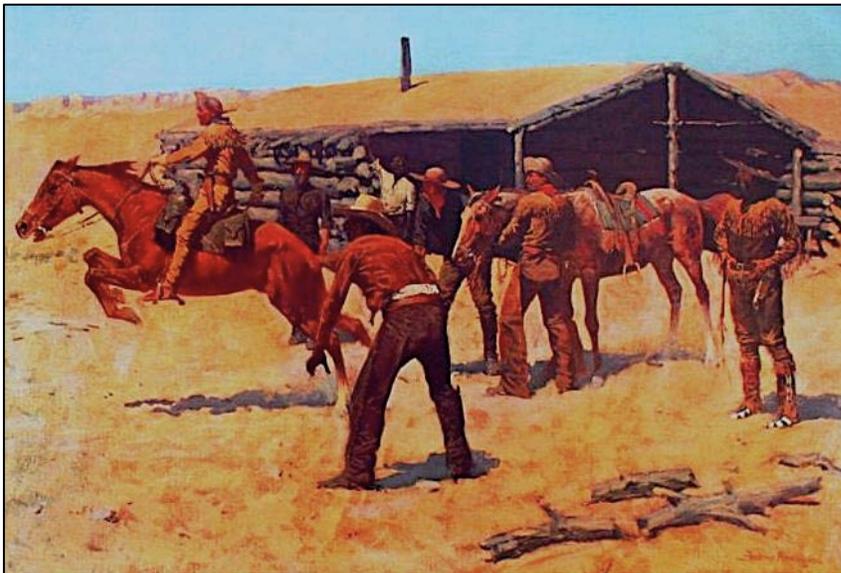
12½ PONY EXPRESS ENVELOPES For Sale at our Office.

**WELLS, FARGO & CO., Ag'ts.**  
 New York, July 1, 1861.

ROUTE & STATIONS: ST. JOSEPH AND PREVIOUS & FORTS SIBER, NEW YORK.

The Pony Express was a mail service that delivered letters, messages, newspapers and small packages from 1860 - 1861. The route started in St. Joseph, Missouri and reached all the way to Sacramento, California (that's 2,000 miles!). Horses and riders would be changed at relay stations so that they could make the best time possible. It was a hard and dangerous journey—only the bravest of men and orphans were encouraged to apply!

The more I learned about the Pony Express, the more impressed I was by the people who signed up as riders. While it was a very innovative way to get the mail delivered quickly, the Pony Express only lasted for 18 months, when it was replaced by new technology of the time—the Telegraph System!



This is a famous painting by Frederic Remington called "Coming and Going of the Pony Express". He painted it in 1900.



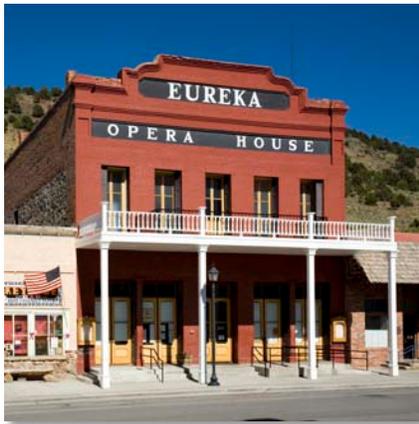
**Spring Wings Festival**

When you live in the desert, you realize how important water is—not just for human beings, but for animals as well. Natural wetlands areas are really important, not just for local wildlife, but for animals like birds that migrate.

The Spring Wings Festival is an annual celebration in Fallon, Nevada that works to educate the public and build an appreciation for wetlands areas. We had the chance to take some bird hikes, and got to watch the release of an injured bald eagle after it had been nursed back to health!



### Eureka Opera House



We continued our journey across the State Route 50 and stopped to film the Eureka Opera House. The Opera House was built in 1880. It's been renovated and is still used for theater performances and special events. Visiting here was like stepping into the past! After getting a tour and learning about the history of the building, we got to film the performance of a singing cowboy in the evening. With so many big cities and new buildings across the country, it was nice to know that there are still places that celebrate the past!

### Northern Nevada Railroad Museum

At the end of our Route 50 journey, we went to Ely, Nevada to experience the Northern Nevada Railroad Museum. The train to Hogwart's has nothing over these trains! Not only did we get to take a train ride, we got a whole tour of the museum and rail yards. This place has passenger cars, woodside box cars, ore cars, and working trains, all from the 1910's! It also has the oldest operating tank car and the oldest operating coal-fired steam crane on any American railroad. Train enthusiasts come to see this place from all over the world—now I know why!



Things I learned:

- Standard Time: was started by the railroads in 1883 to help people keep track of arriving and departing trains. Before that, the time of day was a local matter, and might be different from one place to another.
- "Being called on the carpet" is a phrase that usually means you're in trouble. In railroad yards, only the boss had an office with carpeting in it. If you were "called on the carpet", you had been called to the boss's office and were probably in trouble.

### Gem Hunting for Garnets

Want to know something I like to do almost as much as fossil hunting?

GEM HUNTING!

Just outside of Ely, Nevada is a place called "Garnet Hill", where you can look for garnets! While sometimes you can find them laying on the ground, most of these beautiful gems are found embedded in ancient volcanic rock. They're pretty small, so don't expect to strike it rich here—but if you have a good eye and enjoy the challenge of the search, you'll definitely be rewarded!



### Wild Horses of Nevada



The final piece my parents wanted to film for this episode of *Wonders of the West* were some of the wild horses of Nevada. They weren't hard to find—probably because Nevada has the largest population of wild horses in the U.S.!

In 1971, Congress passed a law that declared wild horses are "living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West".

These horses are so beautiful! There are so many that every year the government has to round some up—they make these available for adoption for only \$150 a horse. How much fun would that be? To have your own horse!!! If only our backyard was bigger.....

### One more note.....

After we returned home, we learned about the Pony Express Re-ride. Every year in June, riders trace the route of the Pony Express, alternating between traveling from Missouri to California and from California to Missouri. The riders enter reports

along the way that you can read online. You can even send a letter and have it carried by the riders! You can learn more about it through the National Pony Express Association: <http://www.xphomestation.com/npea.html>

'Til next time,

*Amelia*

