



# **Pony Express Post**

## **All the News Fit to Print**

### **Issue #5 – February 2010**

NEWS FLASH - We are now using the MAFCA website exclusively for the Pony Express updates. The early bird newsletter is a thing of the past.

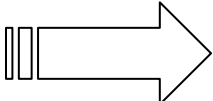
In Casper, the only lodging with negotiated rates is the Best Western Ramkota, the host hotel. You may or may not get the rates quoted at the other hotels.

In both Sacramento and Casper, the meal will be a buffet. Therefore, you do not need to make a menu selection in advance.

We have prepared the following travelogue for the East to West travelers. However, information about what to do in Casper is included in this travelogue. We hope to have the same type of information for the West to East travelers soon. Please note that Lois & I will be out of town from February 19 to March 2.

Dick Przywitowski  
Head Pony

<http://mafca.com/PonyExpress.html>

**EAST**  **WEST**

#### **June 18 – Riverside, MO**

Plan to spend all day here in Riverside, Missouri

We will have registration in the E.H. Young Park, in Riverside. Entertainment and lunch, sponsored by the City of Riverside, are planned for those who register here for the tour. The town will also sponsor a parade through Riverside later in the day. We will spend the night in Riverside and be off to St. Joseph the next day (June 19). We recommend staying two nights in Riverside at the Argosy (June 17 & 18). Free trailer parking will be made available at the Argosy Casino.

#### **June 19 – St. Joseph, MO**

After a short drive from Riverside, about 40 miles, plan to spend the day visiting the Pony Express Stable, the Pony Express Museum, the Patee House museum and the Jesse James Home. An afternoon reception will be held in the Patee House, where the Pony Express offices

where located and where the riders were housed and trained. The Patee House is filled with many floors and rooms of antiques and memorabilia of that era. The \$20 fee covers admission to the Jesse James Home, the Patee House museum and the afternoon reception. We will spend the night of the 19<sup>th</sup> in St. Joseph.

### **June 20 – Hasting, NE**

We will leave St. Joseph, Missouri for Hastings Nebraska following the National Park Service Pony Express Auto Route. The distance for the day will be 246 miles. Along the way we will pass through a couple of significant Pony Express sites that you may wish to visit, Marysville, Kansas and Rock Creek Station, Nebraska. The museum and stables in Marysville will be expecting the tour. In Marysville use extreme caution when crossing the train tracks as trains come through very frequently. The Rock Creek Station in Nebraska is another site that has been persevered.

### **June 21 – Sidney, NE**

Long day ahead 296 miles – start early and stop often to see many of the sites along the way. From Hastings we will travel west to Minden, the home of Harold Warp’s Pioneer Village, then north to Kearney. The Great Platte River Road Archway museum, which spans Interstate 80, is located in Kearney. Travelling west on Highway 30 you will find many Pony Express markers.

A must see stop is the town of Gothenburg. The Pony Express museum, located just a couple blocks north of the highway in the City Park, is in the original Pony Express building that was moved to this location in the 1930’s. Stop and visit.

Further west you will pass through the small town of Paxton, if you need a bite to eat or just a drink stop at Ole’s to see a remarkable collection of one man’s adventures.

The Julesburg, Colorado visitor center off the Interstate 76 is another great stop. While in Julesburg go into town and stop at the ‘Old Ford Garage’ to see a collection of Model A’s and other memorabilia from Sedgwick county. From there you will travel northwest to Sidney, Nebraska to spend the evening. Sidney is the home of Cabela’s Sporting Goods, a trip to this store can be a real treat.

### **June 22 – Casper, WY**

From Sidney we will go North and West to Scottsbluff. Along the way stop and visit Chimney Rock National Historic Site for a great view. Your reward for driving to the top of Scottsbluff is an incredible view of the plains. Looking out, you can almost see the lone Pony Express rider galloping across the plains. The Pony Express Trail goes through Torrington, Wyoming and on to Fort Laramie where it merges with Interstate 25. From this point I-25 will take you to Casper. Traffic on this section of I-25 is generally light all the way to Casper.

### **June 22 – Casper, WY**

**WHATEVER IN THE WORLD CAN WE DO IN CASPER?**

The following information is taken, in part, from the Casper Area Convention and Visitors Bureau website. You can visit them at [www.casperwyoming.info](http://www.casperwyoming.info). If you want to plan ahead, request their magazine either through the website, or by calling them at 1-800-852-1889. We know they will be more than happy to talk with you.

We hope to leave you with enough time to explore the many aspects of Casper. With that in mind, we have only two events planned for June 23<sup>rd</sup>, a late afternoon parade followed by an outdoor evening of great food and entertainment at the historic Fort Caspar.

**In the rugged Old West era, Casper promised adventure to all who traveled its famous trails.** It still does, so read on.....

If you're looking to reconnect with nature the old-fashioned way, spend the day fishing for trophy sized rainbow and brown trout that thrive in the historic North Platte River - the same river that challenged early settlers on their historic pilgrimage west on the Oregon, California, Pony Express, and Mormon Trails.

Ready for a round of golf? Casper boasts of five golf courses, including the Three Crowns Golf Club - a Robert Trent Jones Jr. designed public course!

Looking for antiques? Casper has several antique stores. You can find them in advance by googling "antique stores Casper Wyoming".

Adventure awaits the mind and spirit as well. For modern pioneers, Casper offers up history in comfort with many museums and historical sites. Here are some of the many opportunities that just waiting for you in Casper.

**FORT CASPAR** (4001 Fort Caspar Road) is located at a major river crossing on the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, Pony Express and transcontinental telegraph trail corridor. It includes a reconstructed 1865 frontier army fort, an 1859 Guinard bridge, and an 1847 Mormon ferry. The museum offers exhibits featuring the social and natural history of central Wyoming from prehistoric occupation through recent regional development.

### **NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS INTERPRETIVE CENTER**

1501 N POPLAR ST  
CASPER, WY 82601

**Website:** <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/NHTIC.html>

Admission:   \$6-Adults                      \$5-Seniors  
                  \$4-Students (18+ w/valid Student ID)  
                  \$3-Youth (6-17)              \$1-Child (3-5) Free-Children 3 & Under

This is one of Wyoming's finest museums. Experience what pioneer life was like for the early emigrants traveling on the Oregon Trail, California Trail, Mormon Trail, Bozeman Trail, Bridger

Trail and Pony Express Trail. These trails converged at a place we now know as Casper, Wyoming.

Visitors can experience a unique piece of western history as they sit in a wagon and view a simulated crossing of the North Platte River. Hear the stories of brave and hardy pioneers in search of a new future through narrations taken from their diaries and journals.

Several galleries and life-sized displays await you in the museum. Spend time with those who played a role in America's west: transcontinental railroad construction crews, fur trappers, Mountain men, missionaries, explorers, hope-filled families and reckless "Forty-Niners" of the California Gold Rush.

**THE NICOLAYSEN** (400 E Collins Dr) brings a diverse range of work from local artists, as well as regional, national and internationally renowned artists. The Discovery Center brings individuals into the world of creativity. There is also a Museum Shop with many interesting items for sale.

### **TATE GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM**

Casper College-Southern most entrance to campus off Casper Mtn Rd  
CASPER, WY 82601

One of a small number of geology and paleontology museums in Wyoming, the Tate houses a collection of over 3000 fossil and mineral specimens.

**WANT TO GET OUT OF TOWN?** Here are just a couple of options:

### **MORMON HANDCART MUSEUM**

47600 W HIGHWAY 220-Approx 60 miles SW OF CASPER on Hwy 220

One of the great tragedies of the early pioneer days occurred in 1856. Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) left Iowa City, Iowa, intent on reaching Salt Lake City Utah. Traveling with handcarts, they were stranded by a blizzard during October and November. Many people died from exposure and starvation while waiting to be rescued.

In 1996 the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints purchased the portion of the Sun Ranch with access to Martin's Cove, the site where the pioneers took refuge from the storm.

The Visitor Center commemorates the trek across the prairies by the Mormon Pioneers. Visitors can walk or pull a handcart to the cove.

### **HELL'S HALF ACRE, WYOMING**

40 MI NW OF CASPER ON HWY 20/26  
Natrona County, WY

Hell's Half Acre is a geological masterpiece. It encompasses more than 300 acres in the middle of the Wyoming prairie, flanked by mountains and valleys. Hell's Half Acre is complete with jutting rocks, chilling caves and vast valleys. The landscape is so alien that part of the movie "Starship Troopers" was filmed here.