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## **Concert, Re-enactments & Parade Will Mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pony Express in St. Joseph, Missouri**

**St. Joseph, MO**—The Pony Express National Museum in St. Joseph, Missouri, will sponsor re-enactments, a parade and a Michael Martin Murphey concert to honor the sesquicentennial of the legendary Pony Express relay mail service, April 1-3, 2010. The museum is the site of the original Pony Express stables where, on April 3, 1860, Johnny Fry rode into history as the first Pony Express rider.

“No event in American history has captured the imagination of young and old alike, more than the excitement created by those young riders and their horses, as they rode across the western half of our continent,” says Dick DeShon, president of the board of the Pony Express Museum. “We hope to capture some of that excitement when we celebrate that first ride during our sesquicentennial celebration in 2010.”

The main event will take place on April 3, 2010, following a gala parade through the historic streets of St. Joseph. Riders from all over the nation—including several celebrities—will, via horseback, pick up commemorative letters from the Pony Express stables at the Pony Express National Museum, put them in mochilas (special mail carriers like those used by Pony Express riders) and deliver them to the original Pony Express Post Office located in the Patee House Museum.

That evening, residents and visitors will enjoy a concert by “Singing Cowboy Poet” Michael Martin Murphey, the award-winning, best-selling singer/songwriter of American Cowboy music. The concert will take place at the Civic Arena in downtown St. Joseph.

Other sesquicentennial events will include:

- A rededication of the famed Pony Express Monument, placed in Patee Park across from the Pony Express National Museum in 1912 by the Daughters of the American Revolution.
- Buffalo Bill (a former Pony Express Rider) Look-Alike Contest
- Re-enactments of a train robbery and a bank hold-up
- Patron’s Party, April 2, 2010

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Several events will take place at the Patee House Museum, 12<sup>th</sup> & Penn Streets, named "One of America's Top 10 Western Museums," by *True West Magazine*.

The Pony Express, originally known as the Central Overland and California Pikes Peak Express Company, carried letters and telegrams for 18 months between St. Joseph and Sacramento, California. The 1,966-mile trip typically was completed in 10-14 days, during which the daring young riders frequently encountered perils including Indian attacks, wild animals and harsh weather. The most incredible ride, by "Pony Bob," covered 380 miles in just 36 hours. The creation of the telegraph and completion of the transcontinental railroad put an end to the ambitious enterprise.

The Pony Express National Museum, located at 914 Penn Street in St. Joseph, is dedicated to preserving the legacy and legend of the Pony Express. Opened in 1959, the museum has expanded over the years and today features state-of-the-art exhibits, such as a Pony Express relay station and an archeological dig, as well as special events year-round and a gift shop.

"The sound of the cannon, the cry of the first rider and the galloping horse as they speed into the sunset urged on by cheering crowds...the entire family will not want to miss where it all began, in St. Joseph, Missouri," says Jim Conlon, co-chairman of the Pony Express Sesquicentennial Committee.

For more information about the Pony Express Sesquicentennial or the Pony Express National Museum, and for a continually updated list of activities, please contact the museum at (800) 530-5930, or visit [www.ponyexpress.org](http://www.ponyexpress.org).

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