

The Short-Lived Pony Express



On April 3, 1860, two horseback riders left simultaneously, one from St. Joseph, Missouri, heading west, and the other

from Sacramento, California, heading east. After 10 days of relay-team riding and 1,800 miles, riders arrived at both locations bearing mail packets. The mail had never been so speedy, and the legend of the Pony Express was born.

The Pony Express debuted before the advent of radio or telephone, when California was cut off from the rest of the country. Any mail sent from the east arrived by ship or stagecoach several months later. In this world, the arrival of a letter in 10 days' time was lightning fast. The Pony Express was conceived by three owners of a freight business: William H. Russell, William Bradford Waddell, and Alexander Majors. They, along with route superintendent Benjamin Ficklin, devised a route of over 150 relay stations set up across the frontier through Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and California. Riders, who carried up to 20 pounds of mail, were changed every 100 miles, with their horses switched out every 10 to 15 miles. Over 400 horses were purchased and multiple relay stations built and staffed for the endeavor. Speed was the key to the success of the Pony Express, with their fastest delivery being news of the election of President Abraham Lincoln in a record five days' time. However, as telegraph lines began to move westward, the need for the Pony Express began to dissipate.

On October 24, 1861, a mere 18 months after its historic first run, the Pony Express was discontinued as the first transcontinental telegraph line was completed. Despite its brief existence, the Pony Express has long encapsulated the romance of the Wild West: speeding horses, attacks by American Indians, and famous cowboys who worked for the Pony Express, including "Wild Bill" Hickock and "Buffalo Bill" Cody. Perhaps this is why the Pony Express remains a vivid memory in America's history.

April Birthdays

Residents

Henry Bizzell 4/07
 Marie Brown 4/11
 Eligia Sperry 4/15
 Ruth Troscianiec 4/16
 Peggy Steen 4/27

Staff

Lori North 4/06	Renande Valcine 4/12
Robyn Singer 4/07	Brittany Murillo 4/14
Clovia Baker 4/08	Karen Wesler 4/18
Sonya Jones 4/08	Samantha Norguera 4/24
Michele Santiago 4/09	Jasmine Orr 4/24
Erica Gooden 4/09	
Maria Moreta 4/10	
Shakia Hoke 4/10	

Of Gum and Gumption



The Wrigley Company may be the world's largest manufacturer of chewing gum, but when the company was founded on April 1, 1891, by William

Wrigley Jr., its primary business was selling soap. Wrigley journeyed from Philadelphia to Chicago with just \$32 in his pocket and an innovative idea to offer free baking soda with every purchase of his Wrigley's Scouring Soap. This model proved so successful that he later went into the baking soda business, now offering two free packages of chewing gum for every can of baking soda he sold. Once again, his giveaway proved more popular than the original product, and he ended up dedicating his company entirely to gum, a move that not only made him his fortune but made "Wrigley" a household name in Chicago and beyond.

Palm Garden Post

Palm Garden of Tampa 3612 East 138th Ave, Tampa Fla 33613 (813) 972-8775



Administrative Staff

Michele Forney
 Executive Director

Dr. Zubair Farooqui
 Medical Director

Cheryl Gagon
 Director of Clinical Services

Seretta Biley
 Director of Social Services

Kevin Klye
 Director of Transitional Services

Karen Wesler
 Director of Guest Relations

Tameka Burke
 Life Enrichment Director

Sharon Daniely
 Director of Culinary Services

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Frank Martin
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Jon Irvine
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 Director of Rehab

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 Director of Quality Assurance

Frogs of the Amazon

Most people know that the Amazon is the world's largest rain forest. It covers 2.72 million square miles—almost the size of the 48 contiguous United States—and touches the countries of Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana. The Amazon represents more than half of the world's remaining rain forest, home to an estimated 390 billion individual trees. It is within this magnificent forest that we find another of nature's marvelous animals: the frog. Scientists are not sure how many frog species inhabit the Amazon, but every year they are finding more. The latest estimate stands at 1,000 different frogs, toads, and tree frogs, which give us 1,000 reasons to celebrate April as Frog Month.

Perhaps the best recognized frog of the Amazon is the poison dart frog, the brilliant celebrity of the rain forest. These amphibians get their name from the indigenous tribes of the Amazon who dip their darts in the frog's poison to kill their prey. Another poisonous frog from the Peruvian Amazon is making headlines for its healing properties. Local tribespeople burn a small part of their skin and apply the toxin so that it is quickly absorbed into the bloodstream. After a few moments of serenity, the poison causes sensations of suffering, which leads to vomiting. Practitioners claim that the experience cures everything from depression to drug addiction and high blood pressure.

Researchers continue to add more frogs to this list of amazing creatures. Nearly one year ago, scientists discovered two new clown frog species, quite a surprise considering that only two species were known to exist. Researchers also found a new transparent *yaku* frog in Ecuador, named for its transparent abdominal skin, which reveals its heart. As recently as last November, researchers came upon the jaguar-snouted tree frog in the middle of an abandoned road, a new species that may already be endangered. This is some food for thought on April 28, Save the Frogs Day.