

# RIDER OF FIRST PONY EXPRESS

### Hot Controversy at St. Joseph, Mo., Settled by Girl Who Finds Sailor First.

St. Joseph, Mo.—St. Joseph is excited. Groups gather on street corners, in pool halls and near-beer shops to talk about the situation. And the cause of it all is a controversy over the identity of the first rider to leave St. Joseph in the now famous Pony Express ride.

The Pony Express is experiencing a revival, and the historic ride of hardy horsemen is to be revived this fall, when riders will set out again from St. Joseph and San Francisco over the old route. Towns and cities along the way are preparing for the event, which will be celebrated in all the states through which the first riders passed. When the proposal to revive the ride was made, no one thought it would result in such a furor. The movement started in the West, and since then committees have been at loggerheads over the first rider. There seems to be no doubt about the man who left San Francisco with the first bag of mail, but in St. Joseph opinions differ.

While no homes have been divided in the strife, some very heated tilts have occurred. Of course, none of the first riders are now living, as the date of the initial trip was April 3, 1860. Those "first" riders who are backed for honors are Johnnie Fry, John Burnett and one sailor named William Richardson. At the present writing Richardson seems to have the contest tucked away, but at any moment an antique letter or document may be sprung on the committee and swing the contest in another direction.

### Wrangle Over Horse's Color.

The argument does not stop with the name of the first rider. The color of the horse he rode, the hour of the day and the part of the city from which the rider set off are all in question.

Strangely, the interest in such an old affair is not confined to the old folk. Usually in a case like this the younger and, of course, smarter set are content to sit back, casting supercilious sneers at the petty arguments of their grandparents. But not this time.

In fact, the strongest backer of Richardson, and the one who placed him at the head of the race, is a young woman. And if she had not discovered him, Johnnie Fry would now, in all probability, be riding at the head of all "first" riders.

But while some were willing to agree to let the shade of Mr. Fry absorb all of the glory, this young woman went quietly about the libraries, gathering up data on the ride. She dug up dusty newspapers and faded letters on which the writing was hardly discernible. She compared dates and more dates, and then one day she startled the home folks by appearing before the ride committee and demanding that Mr. Fry be hauled out of the saddle and his place be given to Sailor Richardson, who left the bounding main to ride away over the rolling prairies.

She proved to the committee's satisfaction that Fry was the second rider, and that he left St. Joseph seven days after the first rider departed.

### Dangerous Dash Across Plains.

The Pony Express was the first means by which mail was carried overland to the Pacific coast. In 1860 the Eastern outpost of railroads was St. Joseph. Mail destined to the Western territories had to be sent by sailing vessels around Cape Horn.

However, the Pony Express company was given assurances by the government that it might have the contract for carrying the mail if it could make faster time than the vessels took. The company then prepared for the initial ride on which hung the fate of the contract.

The best riders of the West were secured, and hundreds of fast horses were purchased. On the appointed day, April 3, 1860, a horseman set out from San Francisco, carrying the mail eastward. At the same time another horseman was being ferried across the Missouri river, bound for Seneca, Kan., a distance of 20 miles.

The result of the ride is known. The trip was completed in ten days, and the company received the contract.

Seneca was the first stop for a rider from St. Joseph. He was relieved there, and waited for the rider from the West, whom he in turn relieved. Six horses were used in riding the distance, and the riders were supposed to make the distance in eight hours. It was a hazardous undertaking, as the plains were at that time overrun by Indians, and many a rider was found on the trail, his body pierced with a poisoned arrow.

But when the ride is made this fall the horsemen will find conditions different, and if old William Richardson should wander back to this earth he would probably be surprised to see his replica hurrying along over a hard-surfaced highway, while unfamiliar objects, which people call motorcars, speed by the horseman at a terrific rate.

### Poland's Loss in Young Men.

Warsaw.—Poland's greatest loss of recent years has been, not in devastated regions, but in young men. Therefore physical education was stressed at a recent meeting of schoolmasters in this city, and the government was urged to allot more money for the building of playgrounds and otherwise to assist in the building up of Polish youth.

## Legal Notices

**AMOS P. SCRUGGS, Lawyer,**  
220 South 13th Street.  
**NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT**  
To Florence Peat, defendant:  
You are hereby notified that on the second day of February, A. D. 1923, Handy Peat, as plaintiff, filed his petition against you in the District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska; the object and prayer of which is to obtain a divorce from you upon the grounds of cruelty and desertion.  
You are required to answer said petition on or before the 23rd day of July, A. D. 1923.  
HANDY PEAT, Plaintiff.  
Per A. P. SCRUGGS,  
(41-6-8-'23)

**NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION.**  
To Samuel E. Stacks, Non-resident Defendant:  
You are hereby notified that on the 1st day of March, A. D. 1923, Alberta Stacks filed a petition against you in the District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which are to obtain divorce from you on the ground that you have been guilty of extreme cruelty toward the plaintiff with intent to obtain divorce from you on or before Monday, July 9, 1923.  
Per H. J. PINKETT, Her Attorney.  
41-6-1

**NOAH W. WARE, ATT'Y.**  
**PETITION FOR ADOPTION.**  
In the County Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, in the Matter of the Adoption of Baby Harris, minor.  
To the parents of said minor and all other persons interested in said matter:  
You are hereby notified that on the 11th day of June 1923, a petition was filed in said court by Clarence Wilson and Lula Wilson, husband and wife, residents of Douglas County, Nebraska, praying for the adoption of said minor. The consent to said adoption was filed by Ada Kelley the legally appointed guardian of said minor. That the whereabouts of said minor's parents is unknown. That a hearing will be had on said petition for adoption before said court on the 18th day of July 1923, at 9 o'clock a. m., at the county court room of Douglas County, Nebraska, and that unless you appear at said time and place and contest said petition, the court may grant the prayer of said petition, whereby said minor shall be adopted by said Clarence Wilson and Lula Wilson.  
BRYCE CRAWFORD,  
County Judge.  
41-6-15-23

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## Help Wanted

**WANTED—Colored men to qualify** for sleeping car and train porters. Experience unnecessary, transportation furnished. Write T. McCaffrey, Supt., St. Louis, Mo.

## Miscellaneous

Madame A. C. Whitley, agent for the Madam South and Johnson hair system, wishes to announce to her many friends and patrons that she has moved to 2724 Miami street. Tel. Webster 3067.—Adv.

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## DEATH PENALTY FOR CANNIBALS

### France Issues Orders Intended to Extirpate Practice in African Possessions.

Paris.—Albert Sarraut, French minister of colonies, who was one of France's representatives at the Washington naval armament limitation and pacific conference, has just signed two decrees intended to extirpate the practice of cannibalism in the French African possessions. The death penalty is imposed on any one killing or trying to kill human beings for the purpose of eating their flesh. Imprisonment of from one to ten years and a fine of from 100 to 1,000 francs are to be the punishment for complicity in such crimes or for eating human flesh. Cannibalism survives, M. Sarraut says, principally under the form of ritual rites or acts of sorcery.

Discussing this subject in Le Journal, M. Fernand Hauser writes:

"Doctor Cureau, formerly a colonial governor, assured us some years ago in a work on the primitive peoples of equatorial Africa that cannibalism, as practiced there (and it is practiced, even in regions rich in food resources of all sorts, vegetable and animal), is not due to privation or famine. 'It is simply a matter of taste,' he said, 'a predilection for a certain kind of meat.' Cannibalism Called Instinct.  
"Cannibalism is then, according to Doctor Cureau, an instinct. It is a custom. The man who indulges in it is not necessarily ferocious. 'He may be a man who is gentle, gay, cheerful and friendly in his ordinary relations'—at least with those about him.  
"Doctor Cureau added that he had several times seen evidences that certain tribes make prisoners of war or buy slaves to hold them in reserve, and then kill them and eat them in accordance with their needs.  
"Pere Martron, who also made a close-range study of the African negroes, declared, on the contrary, that the cannibals did not hunt men to satisfy hunger. They eat, he said, only the bodies of enemies killed in war and, more rarely, the bodies of those on whom they wish to wreak a terrible vengeance.  
"However that may be, Pere Martron and Doctor Cureau both stated that cannibalism is dying out. Coming into intercourse with more civilized tribes, the cannibals feel a sense of shame and soon refuse to admit that human flesh is eaten by them.  
"Reports for Many Years.  
"These reports dating back some years, M. J. Brevie, chief administrator of colonies, director of political and administrative affairs in the government of French West Africa, says, in his 'Islamisme contre Naturisme au Soudan Francaise'—a penetrating essay on native psychology which he has published—that many blacks still practice cannibalism, less from any real need than from an attachment to ancient rites, which, divorced from their primitive significance, appear unattractive to us, and which they themselves can no longer explain.  
"We are dealing here," he declares, "with human sacrifices, intended to disarm hostile spirits, or to produce a sort of physical and moral transubstantiation from the person sacrificed—to the person who eats, the latter thus assimilating the former's strength and qualities."  
"But whatever may be the reasons which have kept cannibalism alive, the French government is now determined to make an end of it."

## Week-End Gardens Are Boon to Stockholm

Stockholm.—The regular week-end exodus of 7,000 industrial workers armed with garden tools is one of the unique signs of spring now appearing in the Swedish capital.  
Every one of these amateur gardeners has his own "colony lot" in the large co-operative garden colonies situated in what appears to be country, though actually within the city limits. Here he grows his own flowers and vegetables, and finds a retreat from the factories and city streets.  
The 7,000 colonists are grouped into 50 different garden sections in the outskirts of the city, and the administrative work is in the hands of co-operative garden societies.  
The plots of ground worked by individuals vary in size from 1,500 to 5,500 square feet, and the rentals range from \$2.50 to \$15.00 for the season. Greens, vegetables, strawberries and various other garden products are raised, enough to supply the worker's own table and to yield him a small profit besides.

## Hunts Panther With Sponges

Nanaimo, B. C.—Jim Craig of Craig's Crossing, who had shot 120 panthers, brought here the carcass of one that he killed with chloroform. The animal had named Craig's son, Duncan Craig, and had scratched Craig's arm. With a lethal rag on the end of a pole, he put the animal to sleep. Then he hauled it and dragged it from a tree.

## To Start Whaling in Ross Sea

Seattle, Wash.—Three steel whalers are being sent to Ross sea, where Roald Amundsen, discoverer of the South pole, noted the presence of whales in large numbers. In Ross sea they are to meet a 12,000-ton steamer from Norway, which will be a floating plant for the utilization of whales.

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