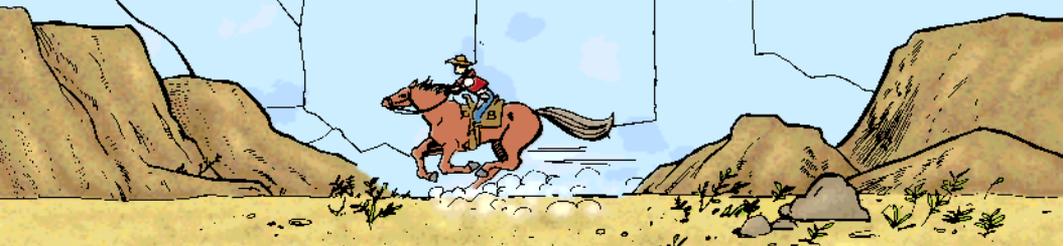


THE TRUE STORY OF THE PONY EXPRESS

From April 1860 to November 1861, a drama played out on this continent's Western stage that still stirs the soul and fires the imagination. That drama was The Pony Express. From St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California, a journey of 1,840 miles, young men with true grit carried the "mochila" (mail pouch) and rode hell-bent-for-leather.



Young men with names like Tough Littleton, Bronco Miller, Mochila Joe Paxton and Cyclone Thompson got the mail through. History tells us there were only two failed rides. The first happened during the Paiute Indian War when 7 relay stations were razed and 16 people were killed by the warring Paiutes. The second, well, that's our story today.

The story of the failed ride of...

...Lazybones Jones!



SCHLUNK

RATTLE RATTLE

Never heard of old Lazybones, huh? Not many folks have. He simply rode off into oblivion one day. But we do know some of the things that led up to that fateful ride, thanks to the journal of one of his expressing-riding compatriots, Buffalo Bob Half-Mast.

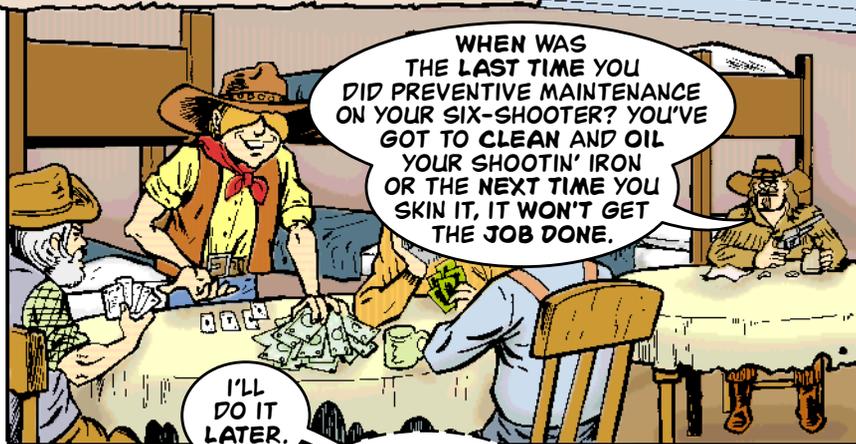


HEY, JONES, YOU'D BETTER CHECK YOUR HORSE'S SHOES. YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO COME UP LAME ON THE TRAIL.

I'LL DO IT LATER. I WAS UP LATE LAST NIGHT AT ROSIE'S. YOU KNOW HOW THE FOLKS LIKE A MAN WHO RIDES TALL IN THE SADDLE.

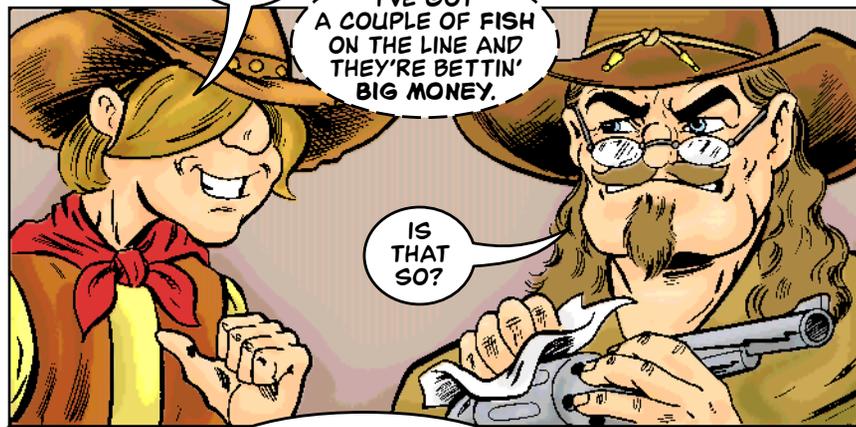
IF YOU DON'T PULL SOME PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE ON THOSE SHOES, YOU'RE GOING TO FIND OUT HOW THEY LIKE A MAN WHO WALKS LOW IN HIS BOOTS.

But later, Lazybones was busy with something else...



WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU DID PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE ON YOUR SIX-SHOOTER? YOU'VE GOT TO CLEAN AND OIL YOUR SHOOTIN' IRON OR THE NEXT TIME YOU SKIN IT, IT WON'T GET THE JOB DONE.

I'LL DO IT LATER.



I'VE GOT A COUPLE OF FISH ON THE LINE AND THEY'RE BETTIN' BIG MONEY.

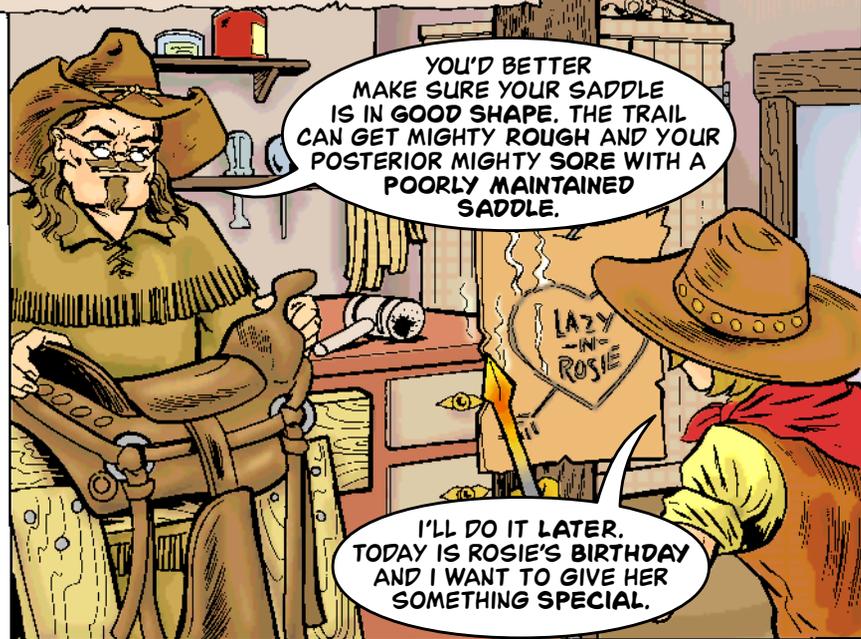
IS THAT SO?



SEEMS TO ME YOU'RE THE BIGGEST FISH IF YOU PUT OFF GUN PM. I'M BETTIN' YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE THAT WAGER.

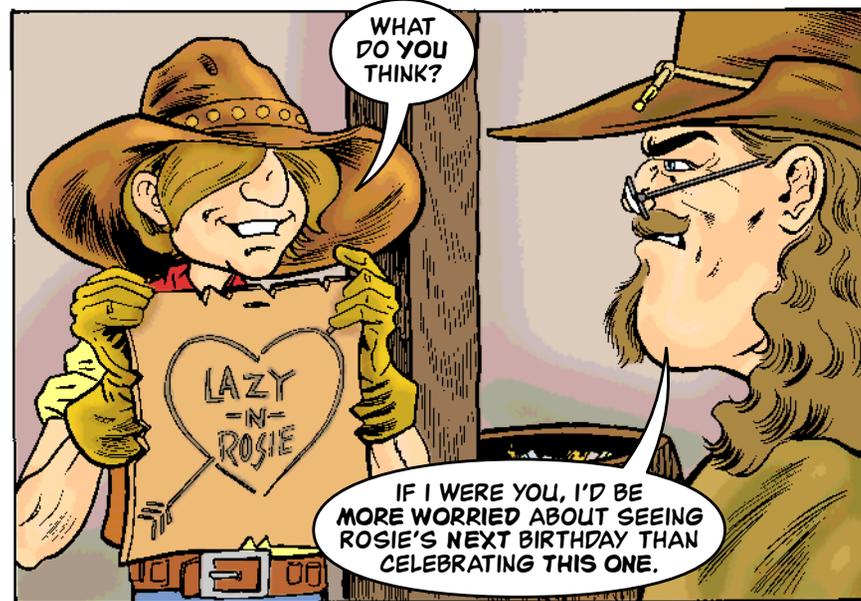
I'LL GET TO IT...

But he didn't get to it, nor to saddle maintenance...



YOU'D BETTER MAKE SURE YOUR SADDLE IS IN GOOD SHAPE. THE TRAIL CAN GET MIGHTY ROUGH AND YOUR POSTERIOR MIGHTY SORE WITH A POORLY MAINTAINED SADDLE.

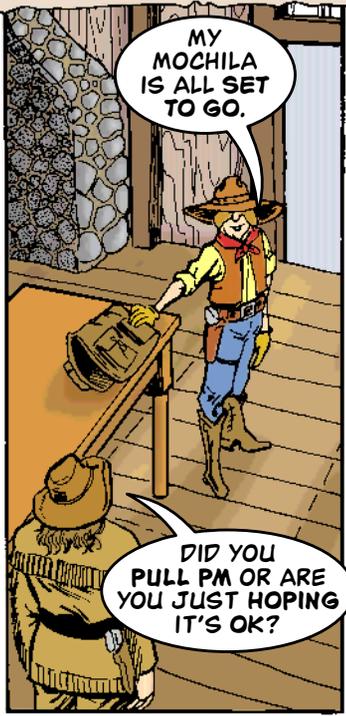
I'LL DO IT LATER. TODAY IS ROSIE'S BIRTHDAY AND I WANT TO GIVE HER SOMETHING SPECIAL.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

IF I WERE YOU, I'D BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT SEEING ROSIE'S NEXT BIRTHDAY THAN CELEBRATING THIS ONE.

After the party, one of the most important things for a successful ride needed attention...



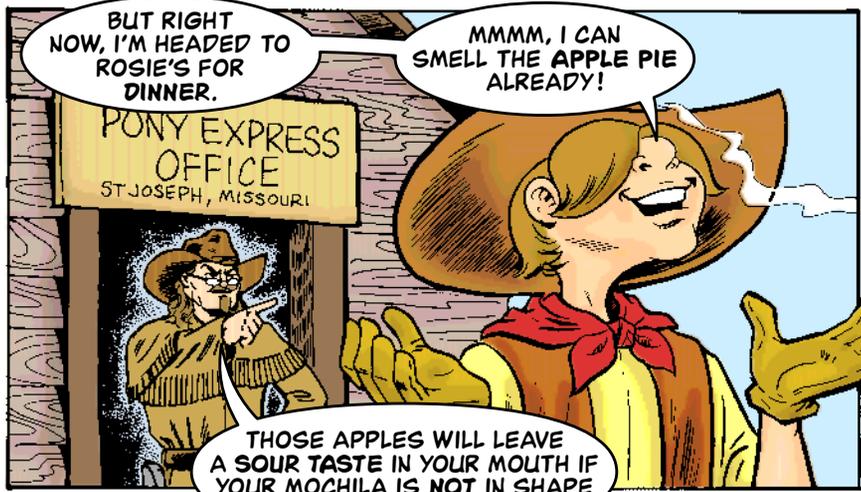
MY MOCHILA IS ALL SET TO GO.

DID YOU PULL PM OR ARE YOU JUST HOPING IT'S OK?



THIS STITCH JOB WON'T HOLD UP PAST THE FIRST HARD MILE.

I'LL WORK ON IT MORE LATER.

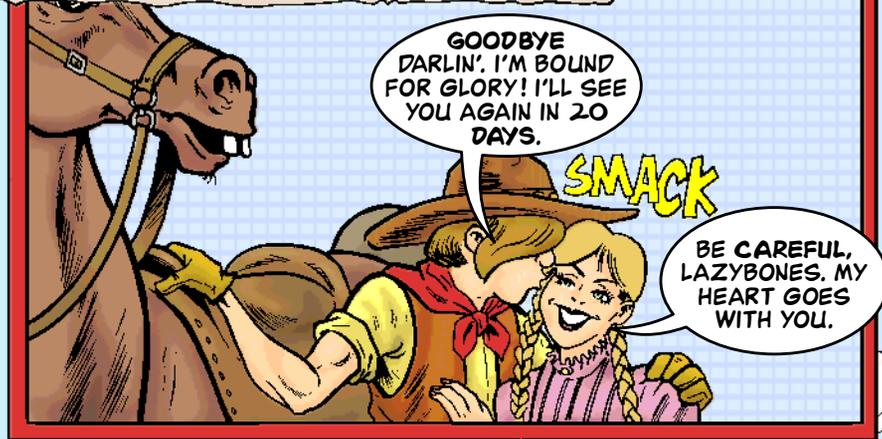


BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M HEADED TO ROSIE'S FOR DINNER.

MMMM, I CAN SMELL THE APPLE PIE ALREADY!

THOSE APPLES WILL LEAVE A SOUR TASTE IN YOUR MOUTH IF YOUR MOCHILA IS NOT IN SHAPE TO CARRY THE MAIL.

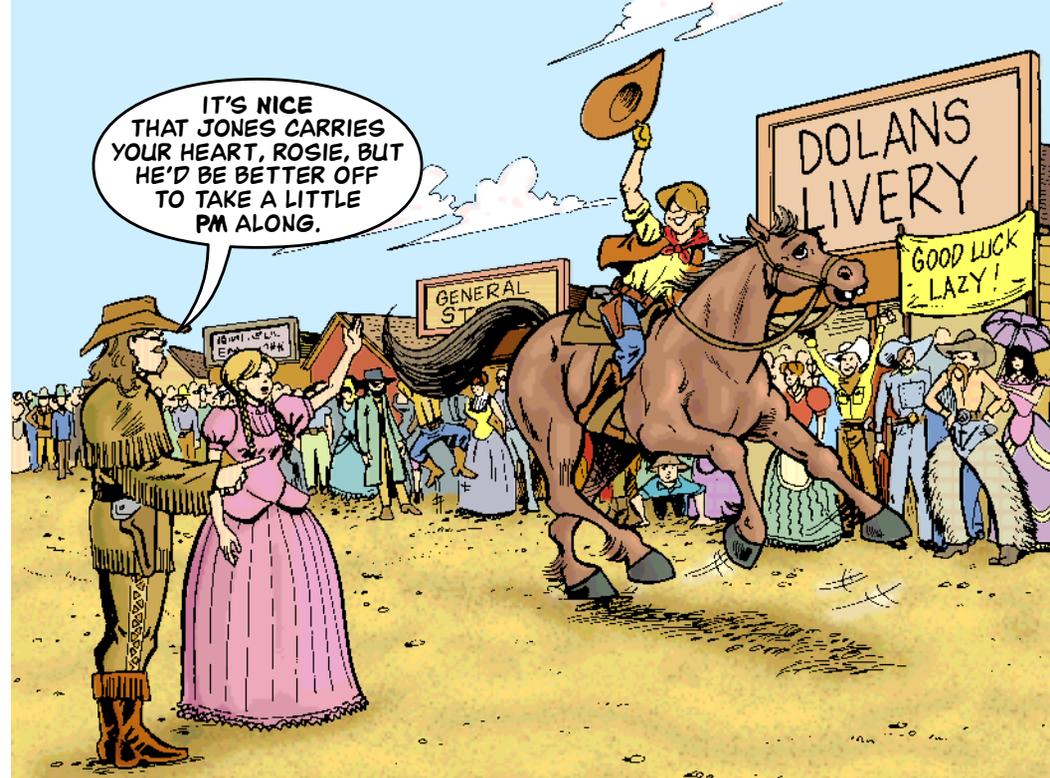
Jones' turn to ride came up...



GOODBYE DARLIN'. I'M BOUND FOR GLORY! I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN IN 20 DAYS.

SMACK

BE CAREFUL, LAZYBONES. MY HEART GOES WITH YOU.



IT'S NICE THAT JONES CARRIES YOUR HEART, ROSIE, BUT HE'D BE BETTER OFF TO TAKE A LITTLE PM ALONG.

But, unfortunately, Lazybones Jones never returned from that ride...

EXTRA!
EXTRA! READ ALL
ABOUT IT!

PONY
EXPRESS RIDER
LOST!

THE MAIL
DOES NOT GO
THROUGH!

LACK OF PM
SUSPECTED!

BOO HOO
HOO! MY POOR
LAZYPONES!

ST JOSEPH REGISTER
**EXPRESS RIDER
LOST**
THE MAIL DOES NOT GO
THROUGH. LACK OF PM SUSPECTED

LAZYPONES JONES
WASN'T A BAD FELLOW. HE
HAD ALL THE GOOD INTENTIONS
IN THE WORLD TO DO PM. IT WAS JUST
THAT HE ALWAYS INTENDED TO DO IT
LATER. AND LATER FINALLY CAUGHT
UP WITH HIM. UNFORTUNATELY,
LAZYPONES' DESCENDANTS
ARE PLENTIFUL.
THERE MAY BE ONE IN
YOUR UNIT. BUT BEFORE YOU
POINT A FINGER, CHECK THE
MIRROR. COULD BE HE'S
HIDING THERE.