

THE LAMENT OF JOHNNY FRY

STORY BY STEVE HIGGINS • ART BY BRYAN WARD

RIDING FOR THE PONY EXPRESS AIN'T NO PICNIC...



THOSE OF US WHO ESCAPED ARE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE.






YEAH, RIDING GIVES A BODY
A CHANCE TO SEE PARTS OF THIS
COUNTRY AINT NO ONE ELSE SEEN...




...ITS WIDE EXPANSES...


...ITS BEAUTIFUL VIEWS.



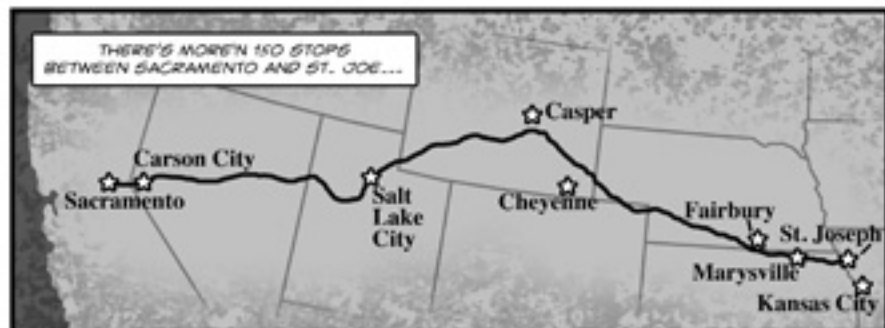
BUT IT CAN GET A MITE LONELY OUT THERE...



...JUST A MAN, HIS HORSE...



...AND HIS MOCHILA,
THAT SACRED PACKAGE
HE HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH
AND WOULD GIVE HIS LIFE FOR.





MOST STOPS, A MAN AIN'T GOT MUCH MORE TIME THAN TO FILL HIS CANTEEN AND PISS, IN THAT ORDER, BEFORE HE'S BACK OUT ON THE TRAIL..



AND WHEN HE'S DONE FOR THE DAY, A RIDER CAN'T VISIT THE LOCAL CATHOUSE OR SALOON.



MR. MAJORS MAKES US SWEAR AN OATH TO BE GENTLEMEN, NOT TO DRINK OR GAMBLE OR WHATNOT.



BUT EVEN IF A MAN WERE SO INCLINED, RIDING 75 MILES IN A DAY LEAVES HIM PLUMB TUCKERED OUT.



AND WHEN WE REACH
OUR DESTINATION, THERE
IS NO COMFORT TO BE
FOUND THERE NEITHER.



A PONY EXPRESS RIDER
IS OFTEN THE BEARER
OF BAD NEWS,
AND SUCH A PERSON IS
RARELY WELCOMED.



I HEARD A BODY
USE THE EXPRESSION
"DON'T SHOOT THE
MESSENGER" ONCE.



I DO WISH PEOPLE'D
TAKE IT TO HEART,
AS I'VE COME CLOSE
A TIME OR TWO.



NO, I RECKON I AIN'T APPEARED
A'WHAT MY FELLOW RIDERS ARE...



...THAT MR. MORSE'S INVENTION
MIGHT MAKE US OB-SO-LETS.



IF A WAR BETWEEN THE STATES IS A-COMIN' AS SOME FOLK SAY...



...THEN THERE'S
PLENTY MORE TO
FEAR COMIN' OVER
THE HORIZON...

'CAUSE AIN'T NO HAYLL BE ABLE
TO ESCAPE ITS SHADOW.

END