

# HANNAH'S DIARY

## A Tale Of The Pony Express

### Chapter Eight – by Kay Hively

For a whole week, Hannah thought about the letter she sent on the Pony Express. She prayed each night that the riders and horses would not lose their way in the desert or fall off a mountain.

One evening after supper, Mr. Cole came to the Evans' house and talked to Hannah's father.

When Mr. Cole left, Hannah's father told her and her mother that the first Pony Express rider from California was coming to town. The rider was just 20 miles from town.

Soon the whole family was hurrying down the street. At the Pony Express office, they found Mr. and Mrs. Cole waiting for the mail to arrive.

Word spread quickly around town. Soon many people came to the Pony Express office. Hannah was very excited, although it was not as exciting as it was when she put her letter in the mail pouch.

Hannah did not see Robert. He must be in the stables with the horses, she thought. She was sure he would be out in time to see the horse and rider come racing down the street.

Suddenly she heard people down the street yelling and whistling. This meant the Pony Express had arrived in St. Joseph and soon the rider would hand the mail pouch to Mr. Cole.

As she waited, Hannah saw the horse and rider turn a corner and come charging right up to the front door of the Pony Express office. With a great swing of his arm, the young rider dropped the mail pouch into the outstretched arms of Mr. Cole. All the people cheered as loudly as they could.

Mr. Cole raised the mail pouch over his head and declared that history had been made in St. Joseph. He said that now there was a fast and safe way to send mail to the Pacific Ocean.



When Mr. Cole finished his speech, the little rider who had brought the mail stepped onto the porch and removed his hat. It was Robert! Mr. Cole opened the mail pouch and Robert reached inside to remove the first letter to come to St. Joseph on the Pony Express.

Robert handed the letter on top to his father. Mr. Cole put on his glasses and read the name on the letter. The name he read was "Hannah Evans."

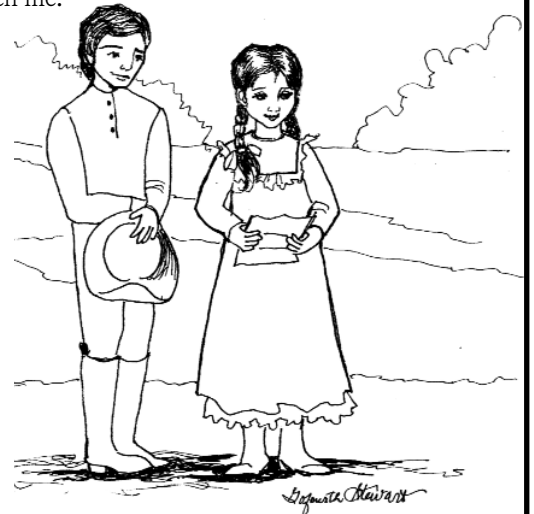
It was a letter from Betsy - she had sent her letter on the first day just as Hannah had done.

Hannah was happy to get her letter and happy for Robert. He told Hannah that his father had taken him out to the first relay station in the morning. Robert waited there for the mail to get that far. He then took the mail pouch and rode the last 20 miles of the trip into St. Joseph.

That night, Hannah wrote in her diary,

"Dear Diary, It was a wonderful day. I got a letter from Betsy. She has not forgotten me.

And Robert got to be a Pony Express rider. He stayed with his dream and made it come true."



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## Classroom Extensions

### Things to Think About and Do –

- The Pony Express riders traveled for many, many miles. The horses got to rest after 20 miles of travel. Draw a picture of a Pony Express rider and his horse. Have them riding through a desert. What kind of plants would you see in a desert?
- Mr. Cole said the Pony Express could take letters to the Pacific Ocean. Look on a map and see if you can find the Pacific Ocean. Write down the names of all the countries you can find that touch the Pacific Ocean.