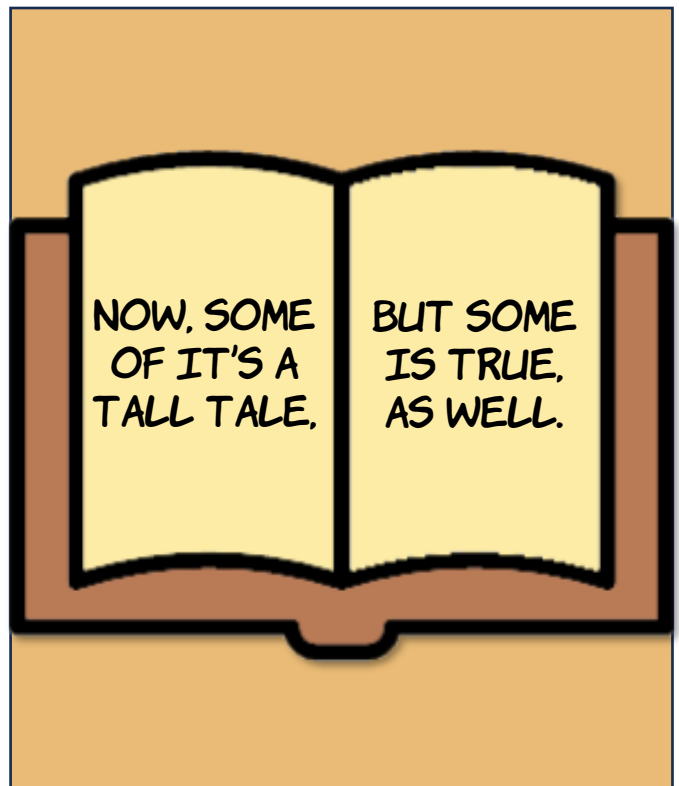
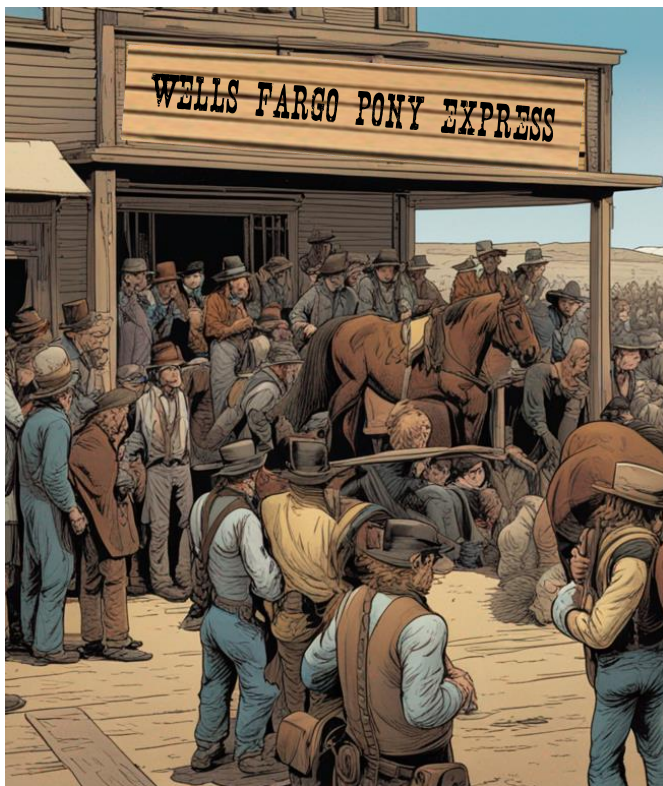


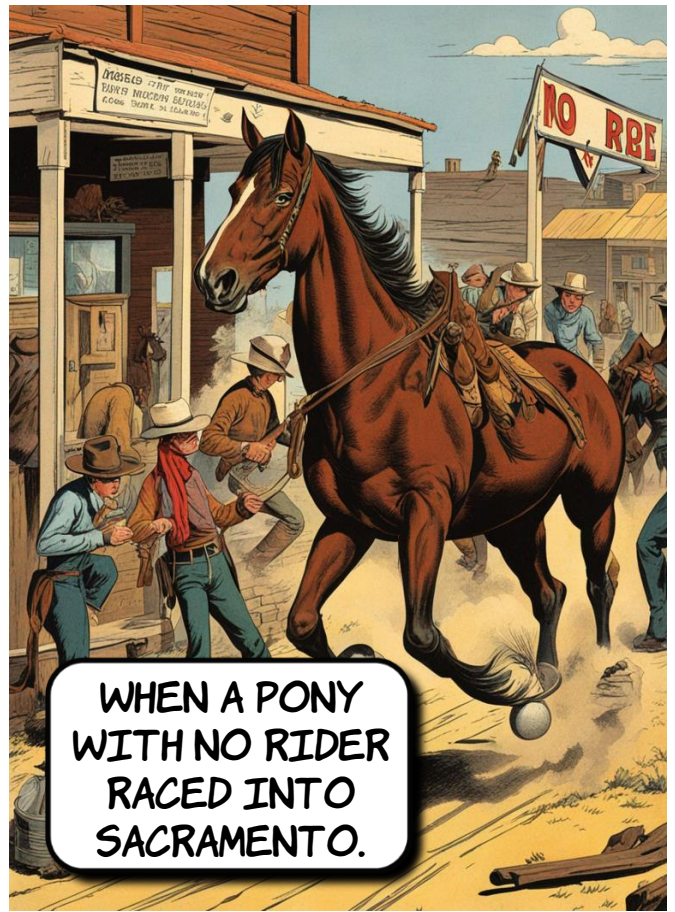


**BRONCO CHARLIE
RIDES THE
PONY EXPRESS**

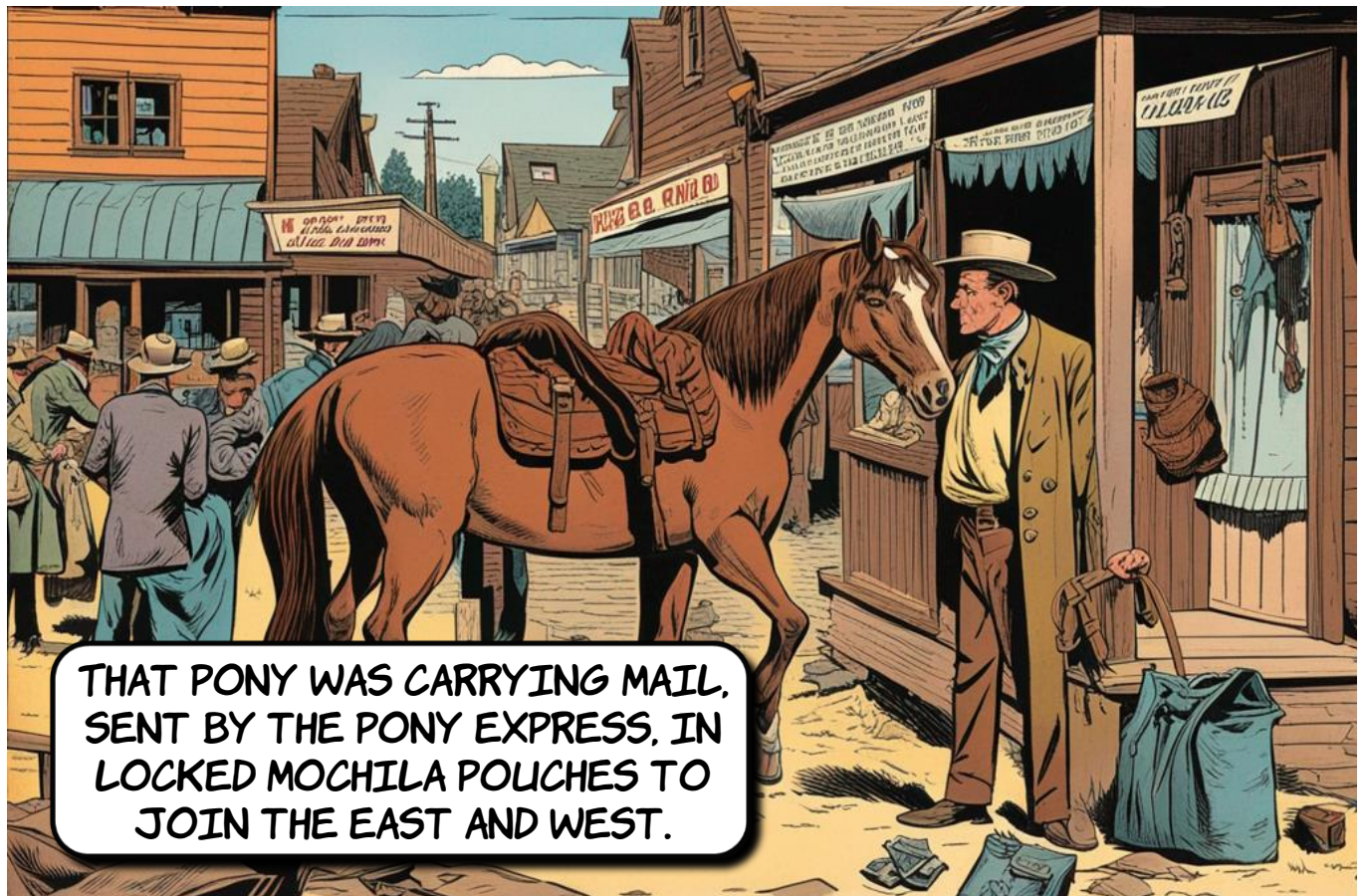




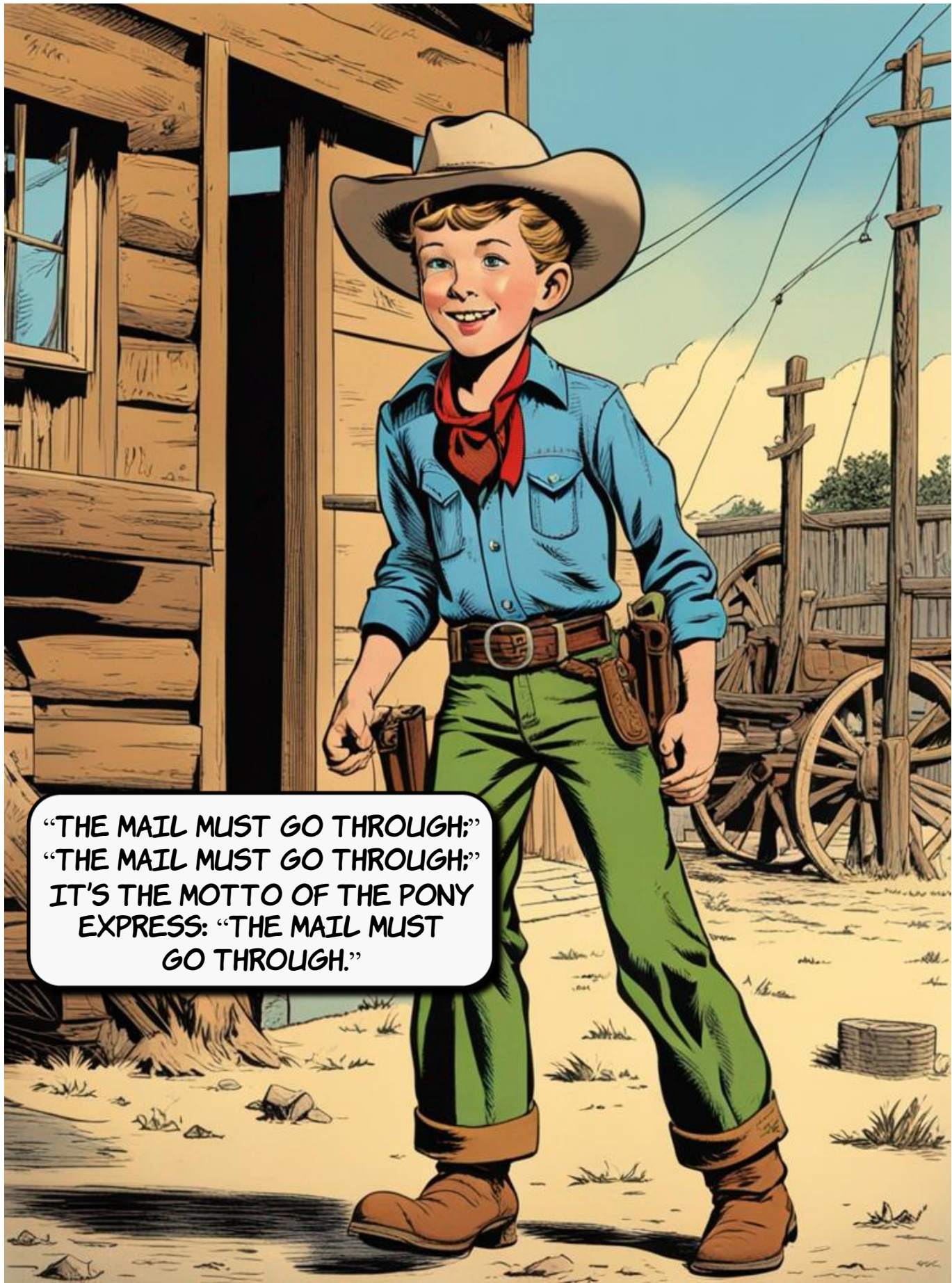
WAY BACK IN
1861, I WAS
ELEVEN
YEARS OLD



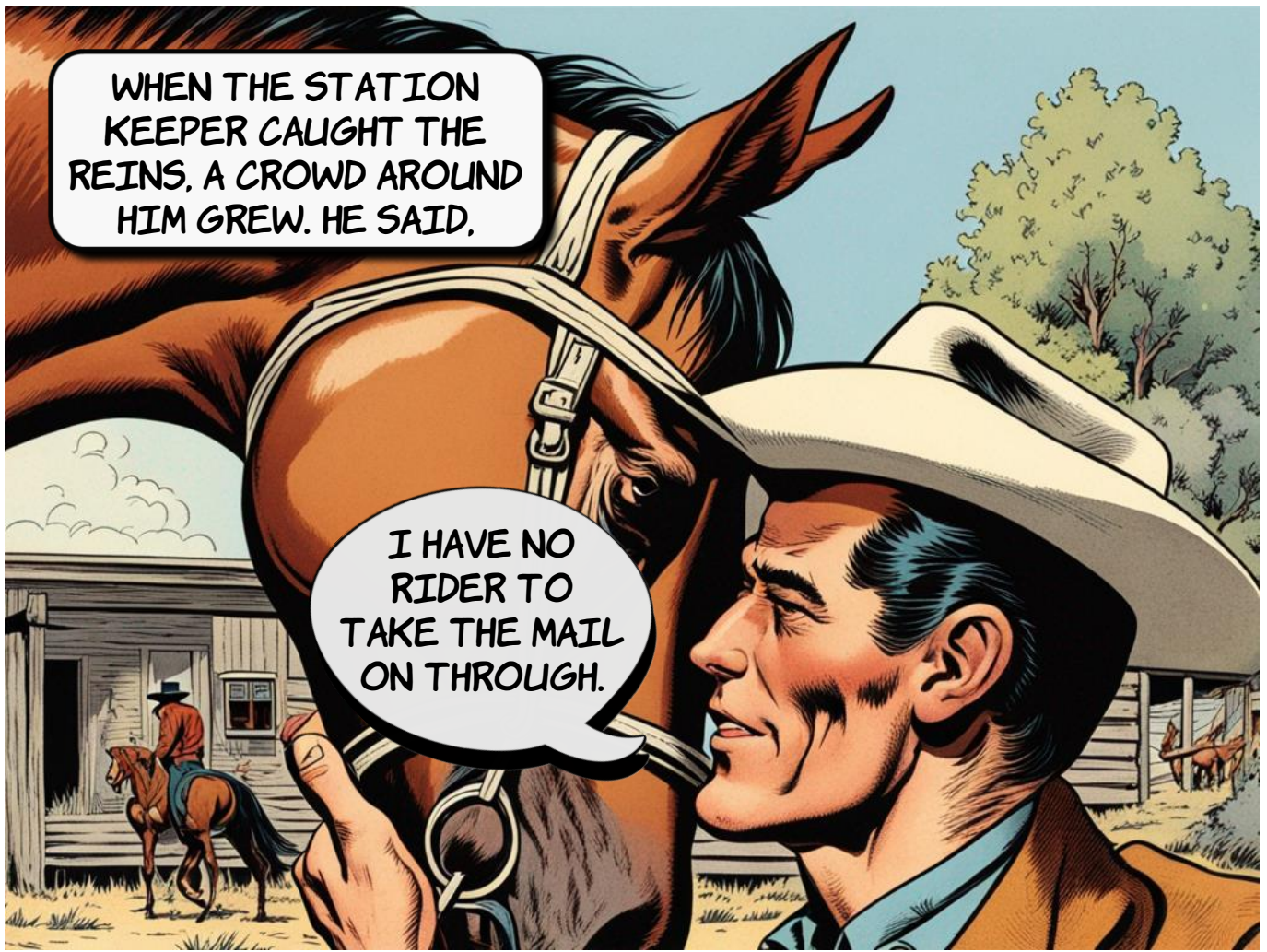
WHEN A PONY
WITH NO RIDER
RACED INTO
SACRAMENTO.



THAT PONY WAS CARRYING MAIL,
SENT BY THE PONY EXPRESS, IN
LOCKED MOCHILA POUCHES TO
JOIN THE EAST AND WEST.

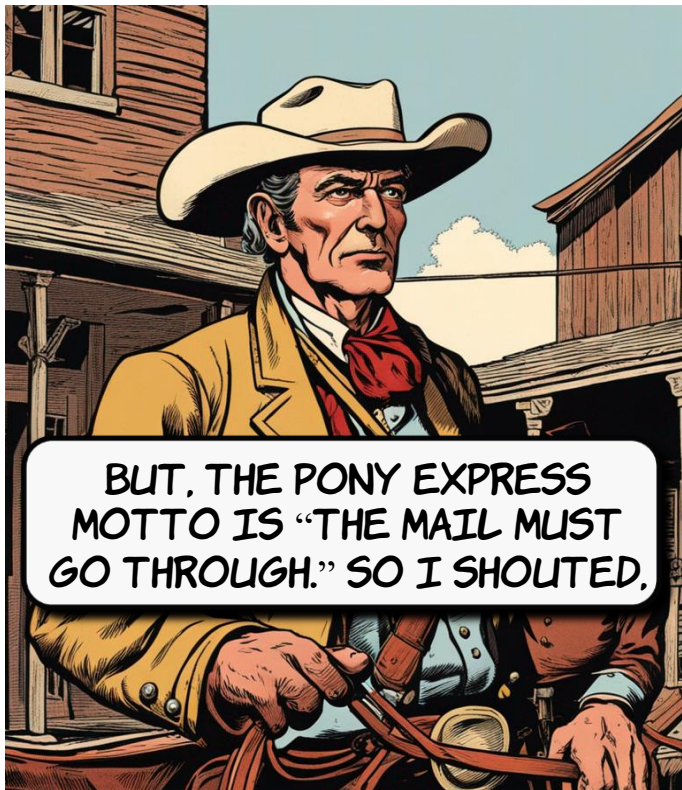


**“THE MAIL MUST GO THROUGH!”
“THE MAIL MUST GO THROUGH!”
IT’S THE MOTTO OF THE PONY
EXPRESS: “THE MAIL MUST
GO THROUGH.”**



WHEN THE STATION
KEEPER CAUGHT THE
REINS, A CROWD AROUND
HIM GREW. HE SAID,

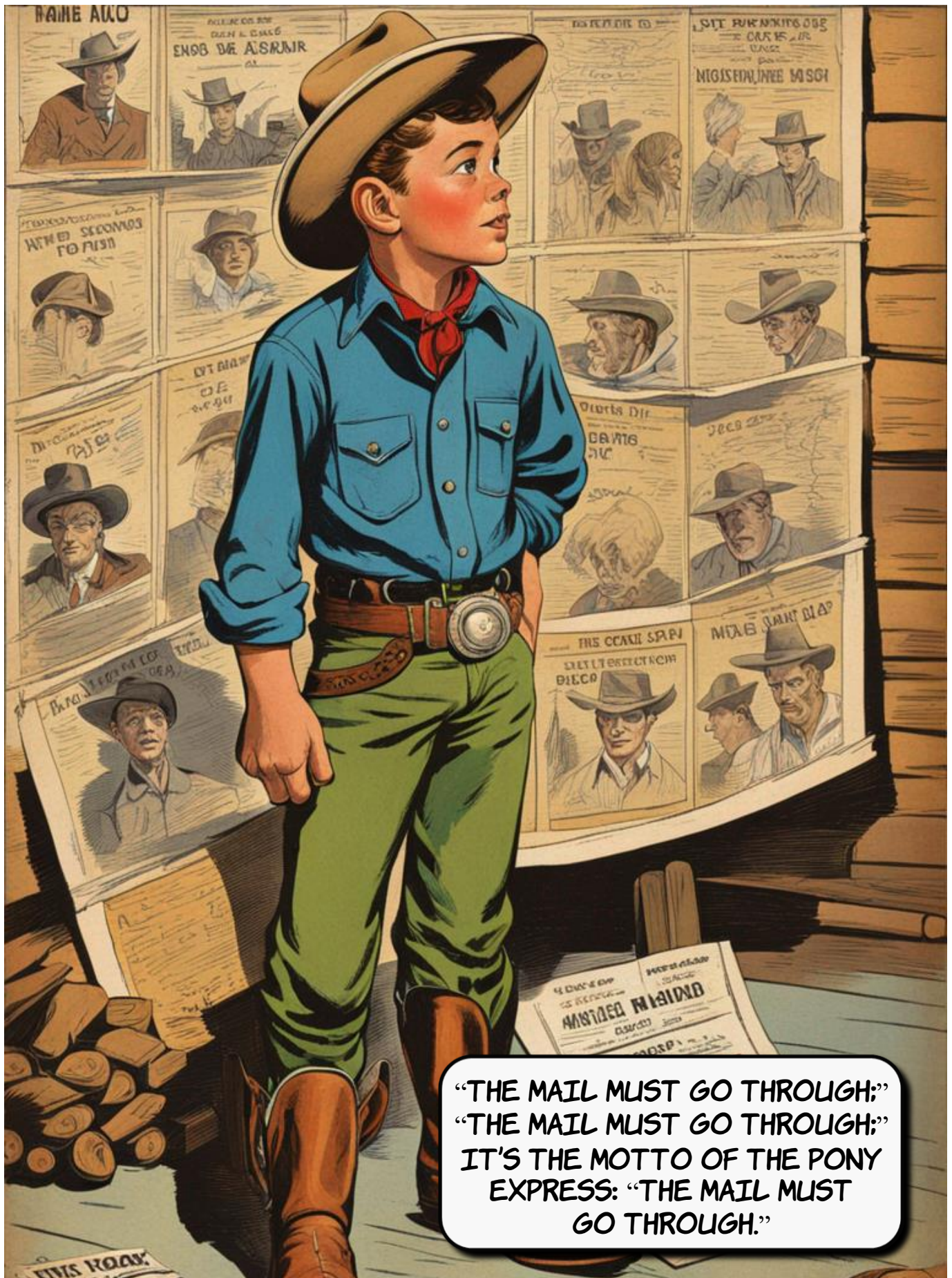
I HAVE NO
RIDER TO
TAKE THE MAIL
ON THROUGH.



BUT, THE PONY EXPRESS
MOTTO IS "THE MAIL MUST
GO THROUGH." SO I SHOUTED,



GIVE ME
HALF A CHANCE
TO SHOW WHAT
I CAN DO!



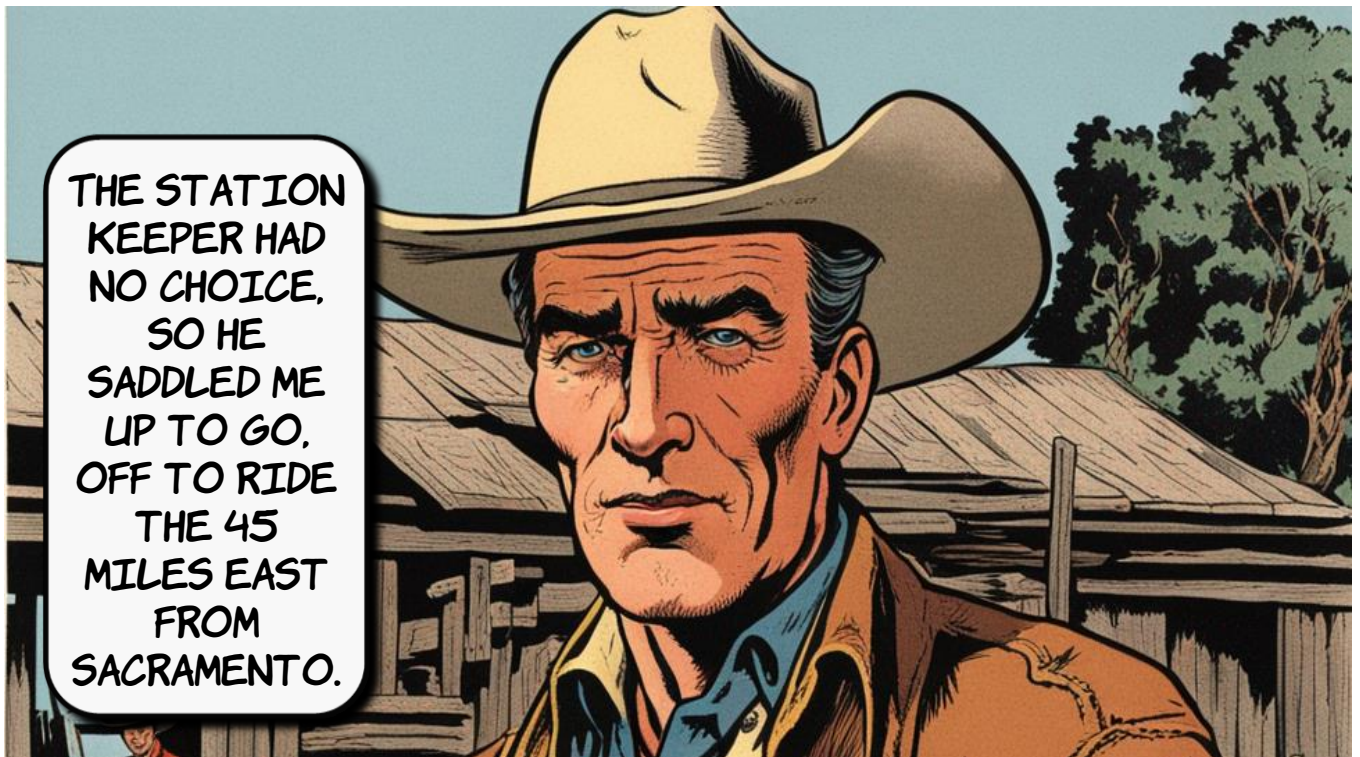
"THE MAIL MUST GO THROUGH;"
"THE MAIL MUST GO THROUGH;"
IT'S THE MOTTO OF THE PONY
EXPRESS: "THE MAIL MUST
GO THROUGH."

I'VE RIDDEN
THE ROUTE
TO HANGTOWN;
I KNOW THE
PLACERVILLE
TRAIL.



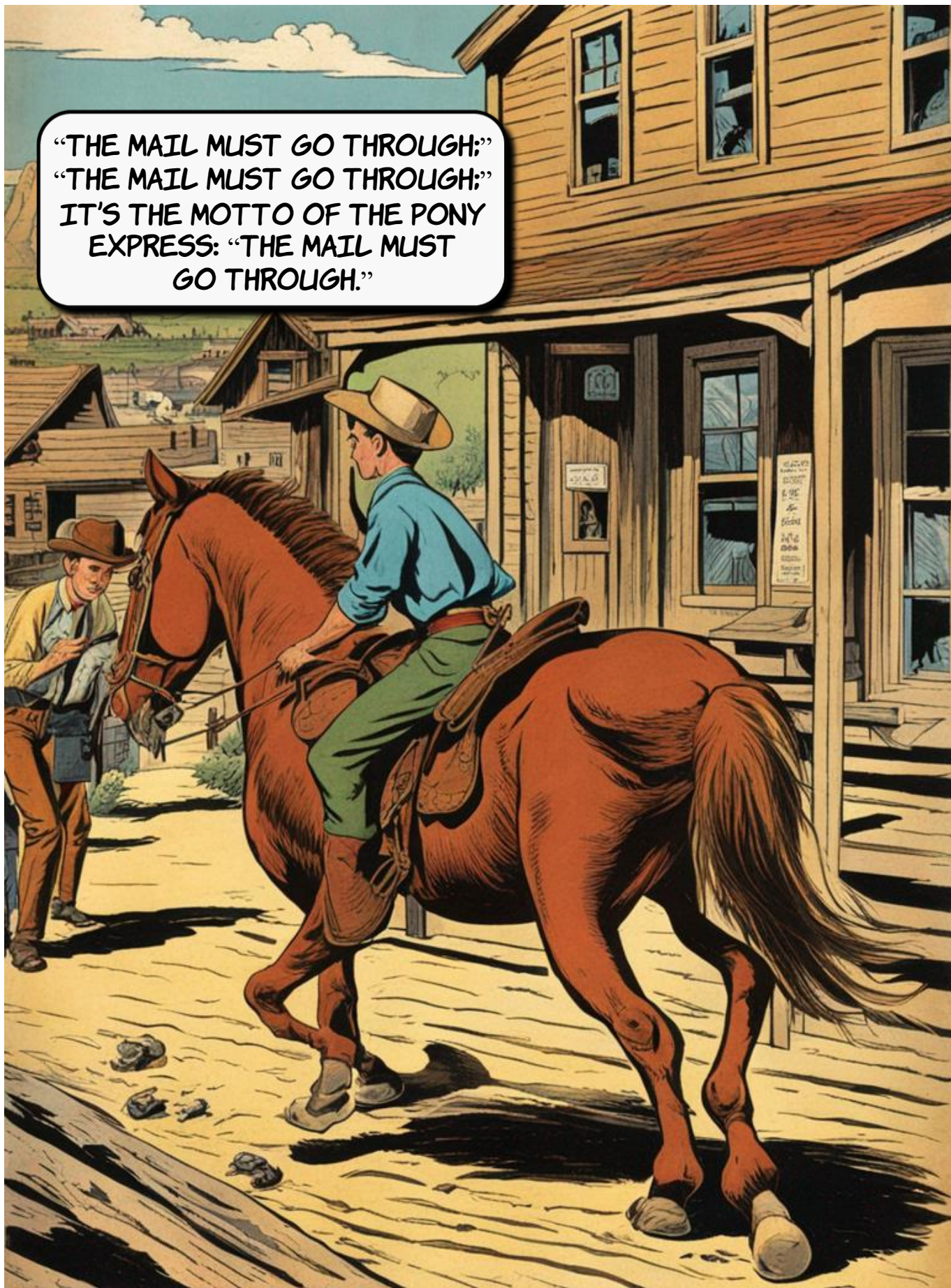
NO, YOU'RE MUCH TOO YOUNG, SAID SOME IN THE CROWD,

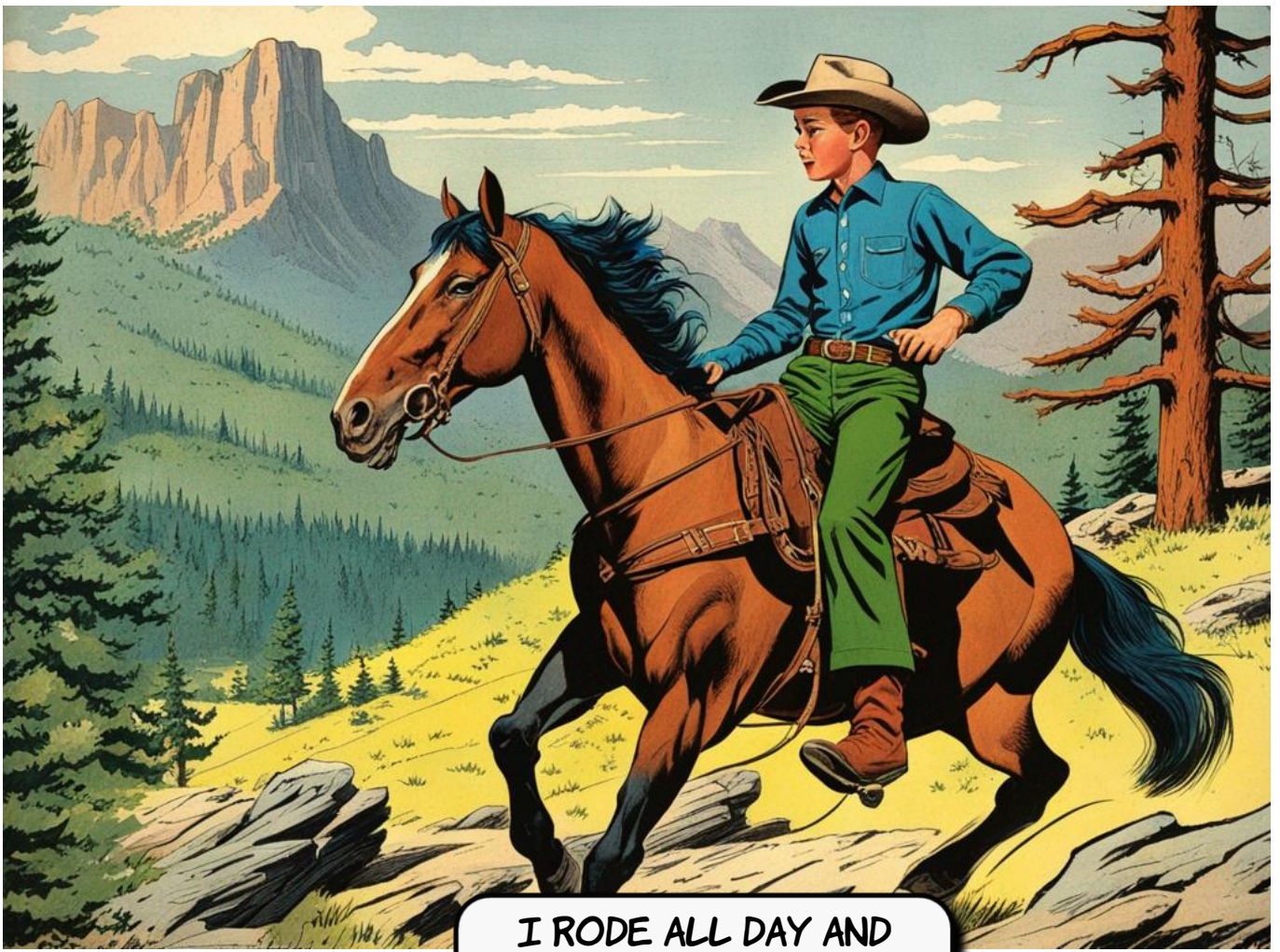
TO CARRY THE U.S. MAIL.



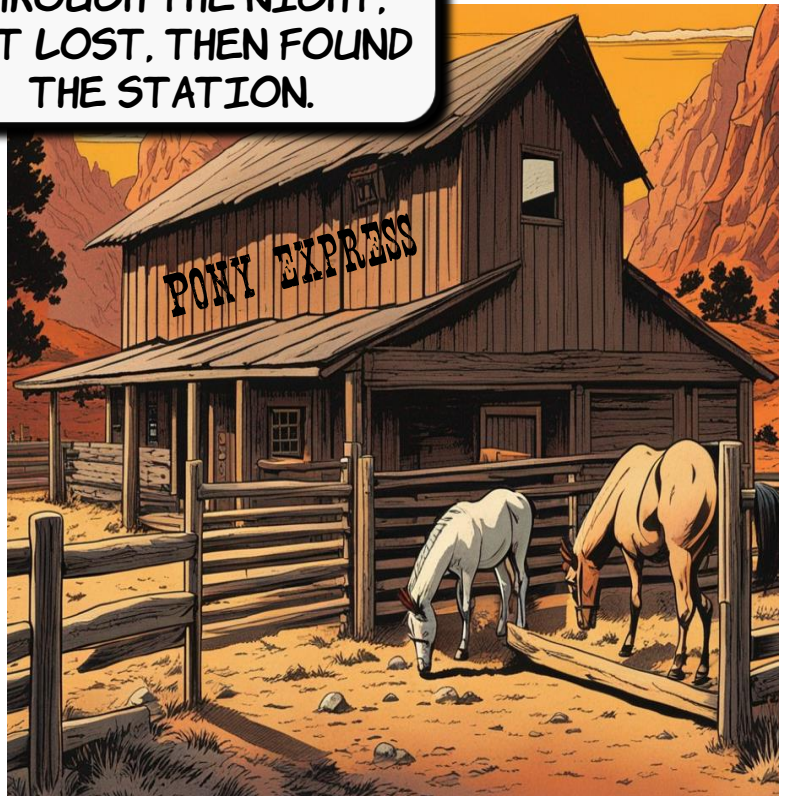
THE STATION KEEPER HAD NO CHOICE, SO HE SADDLED ME UP TO GO, OFF TO RIDE THE 45 MILES EAST FROM SACRAMENTO.

"THE MAIL MUST GO THROUGH;"
"THE MAIL MUST GO THROUGH;"
IT'S THE MOTTO OF THE PONY
EXPRESS: "THE MAIL MUST
GO THROUGH."





I RODE ALL DAY AND
THROUGH THE NIGHT,
GOT LOST, THEN FOUND
THE STATION.

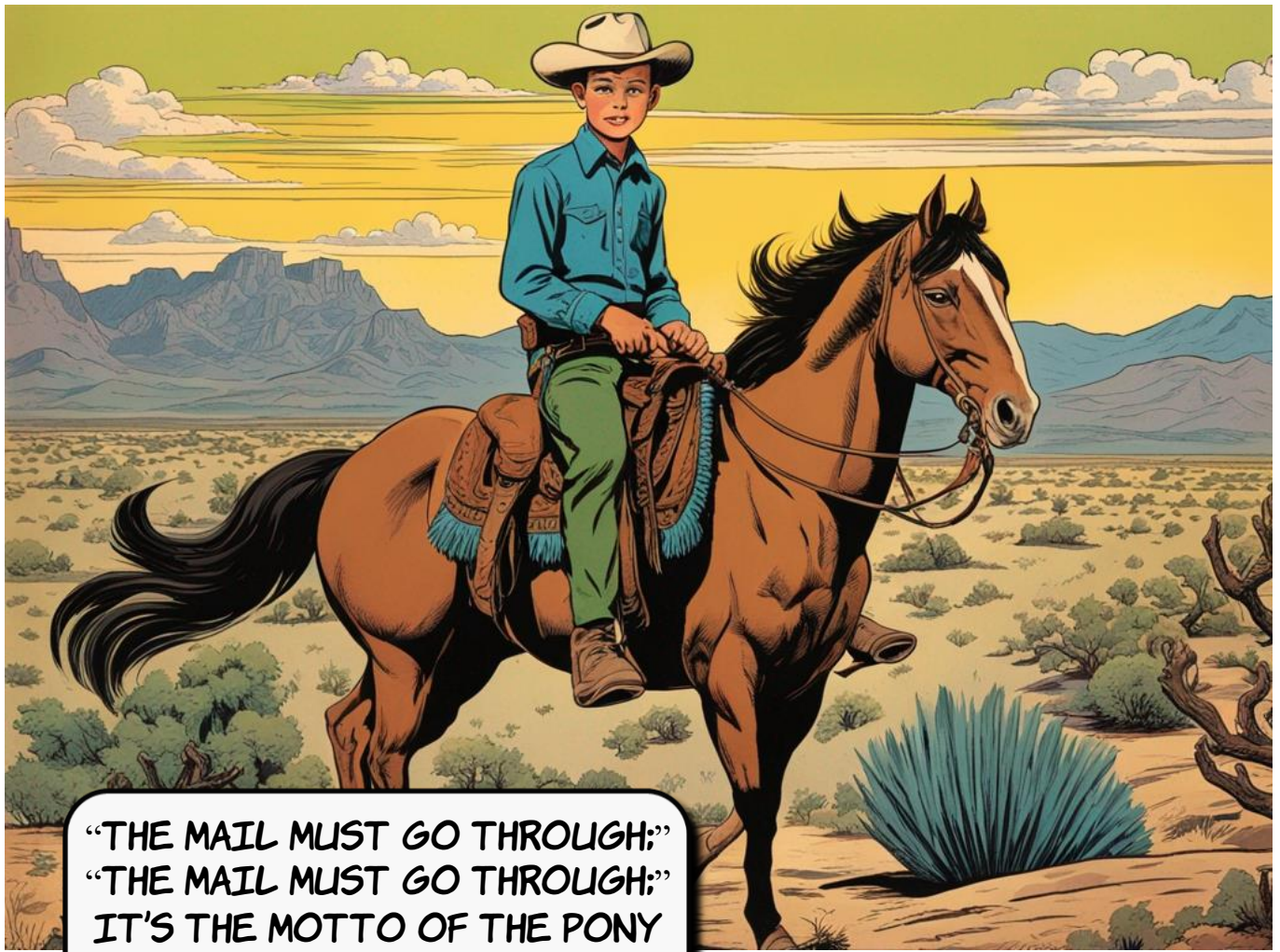


A NEW RIDER
STRAPPED ON THE
MAIL TO A FRESH
PONY WAITING.



THE NEXT DAY
AT THE
STATION, THE
EASTERN RIDER
ARRIVED. BUT HE
COULDN'T
FINISH UP HIS
ROUTE WITH AN
ARROW IN
HIS SIDE.





“THE MAIL MUST GO THROUGH;”
“THE MAIL MUST GO THROUGH;”
IT’S THE MOTTO OF THE PONY
EXPRESS: “THE MAIL MUST
GO THROUGH.”

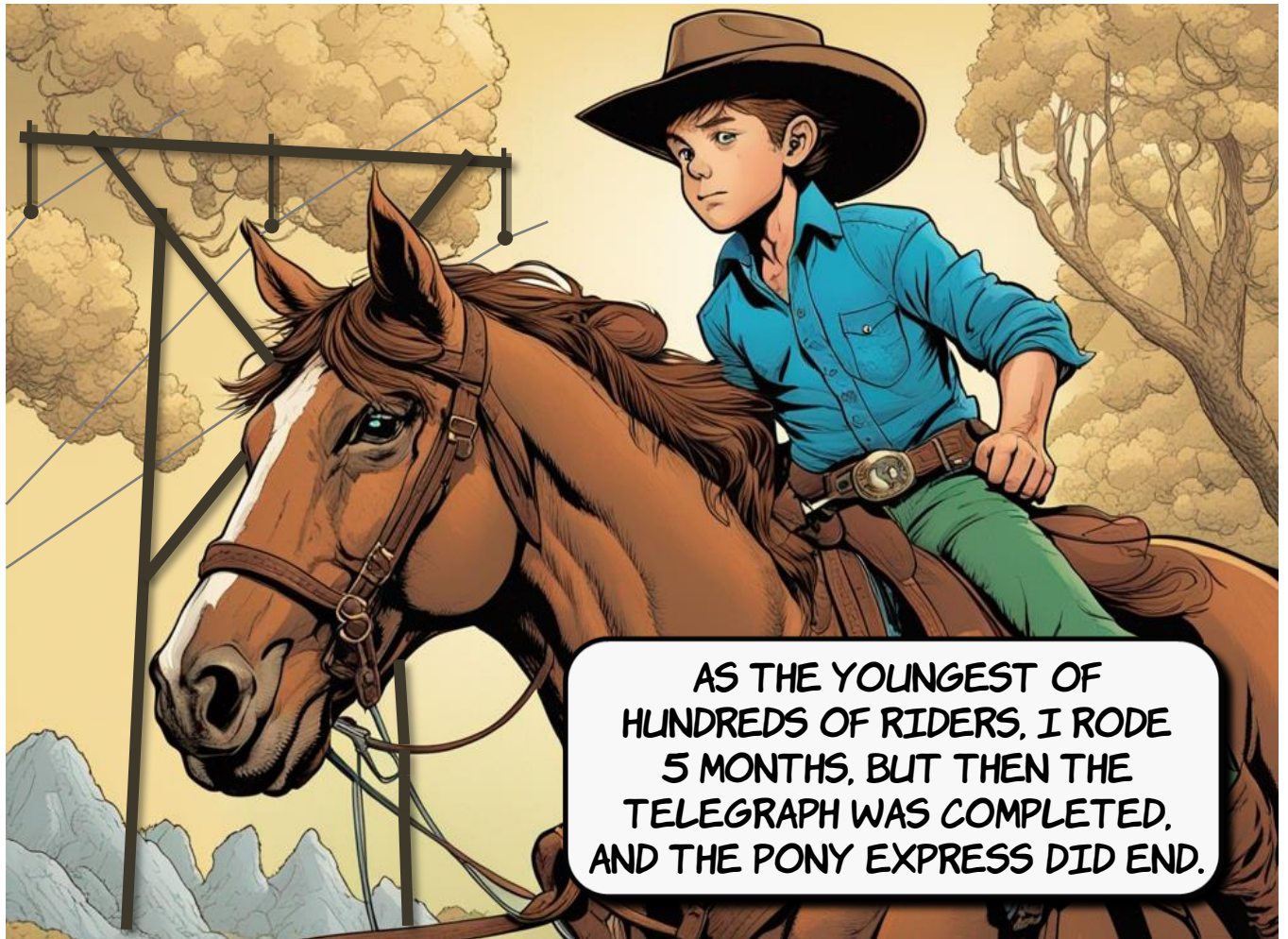
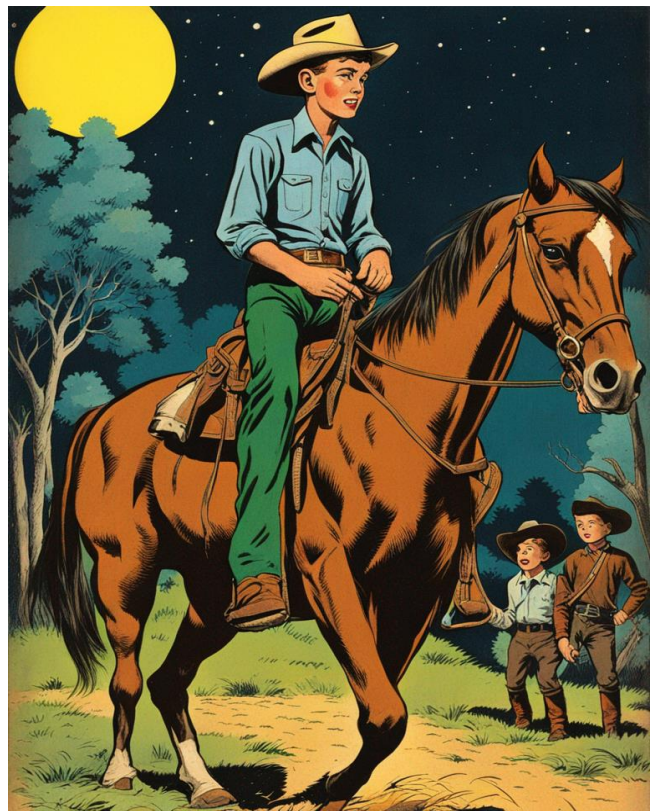


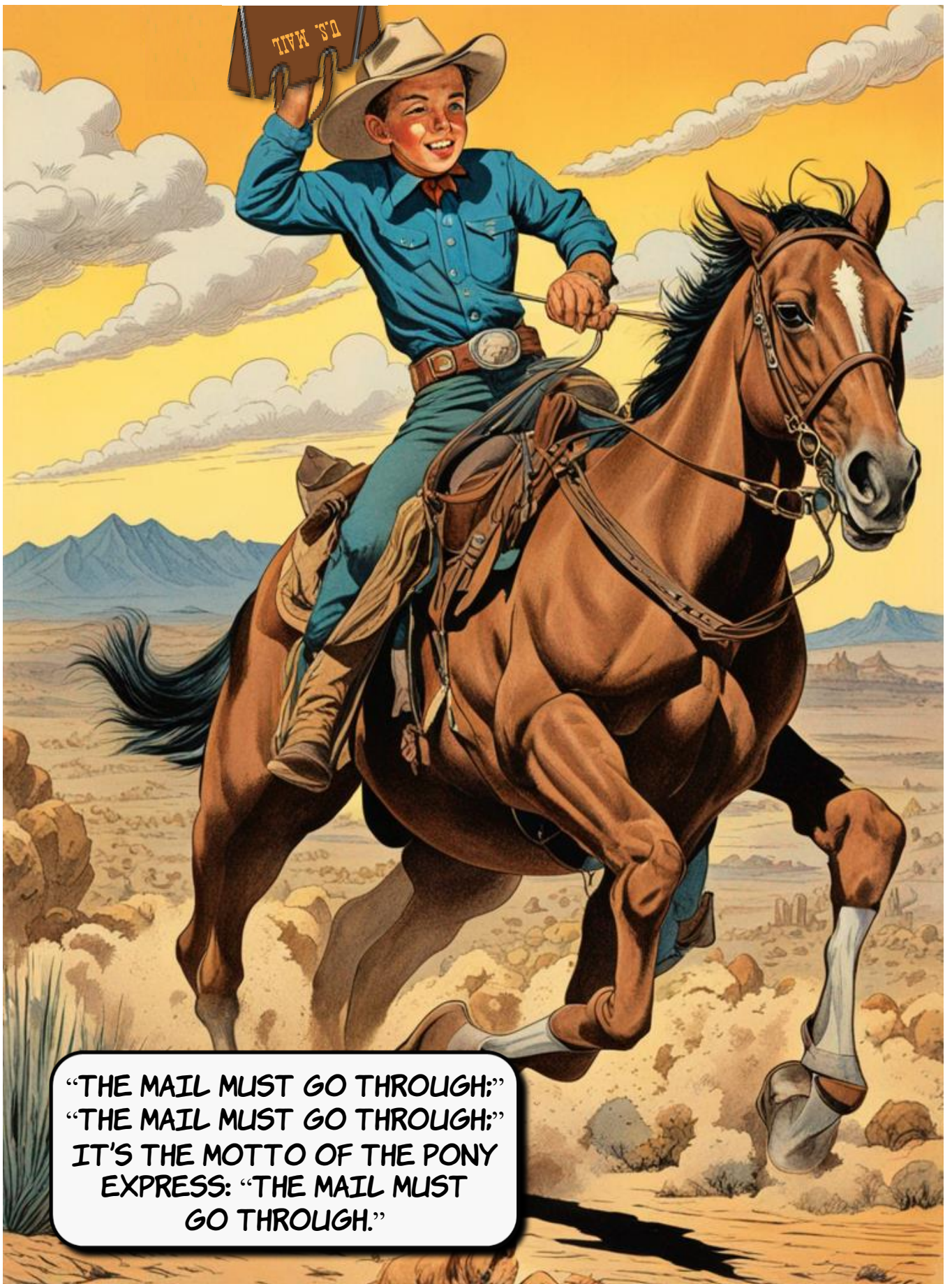


THEN THE STATION
KEEPER TOLD ME, NOW
YOU WORK FOR THE
PONY EXPRESS, SO I
TOOK THE OATH AND

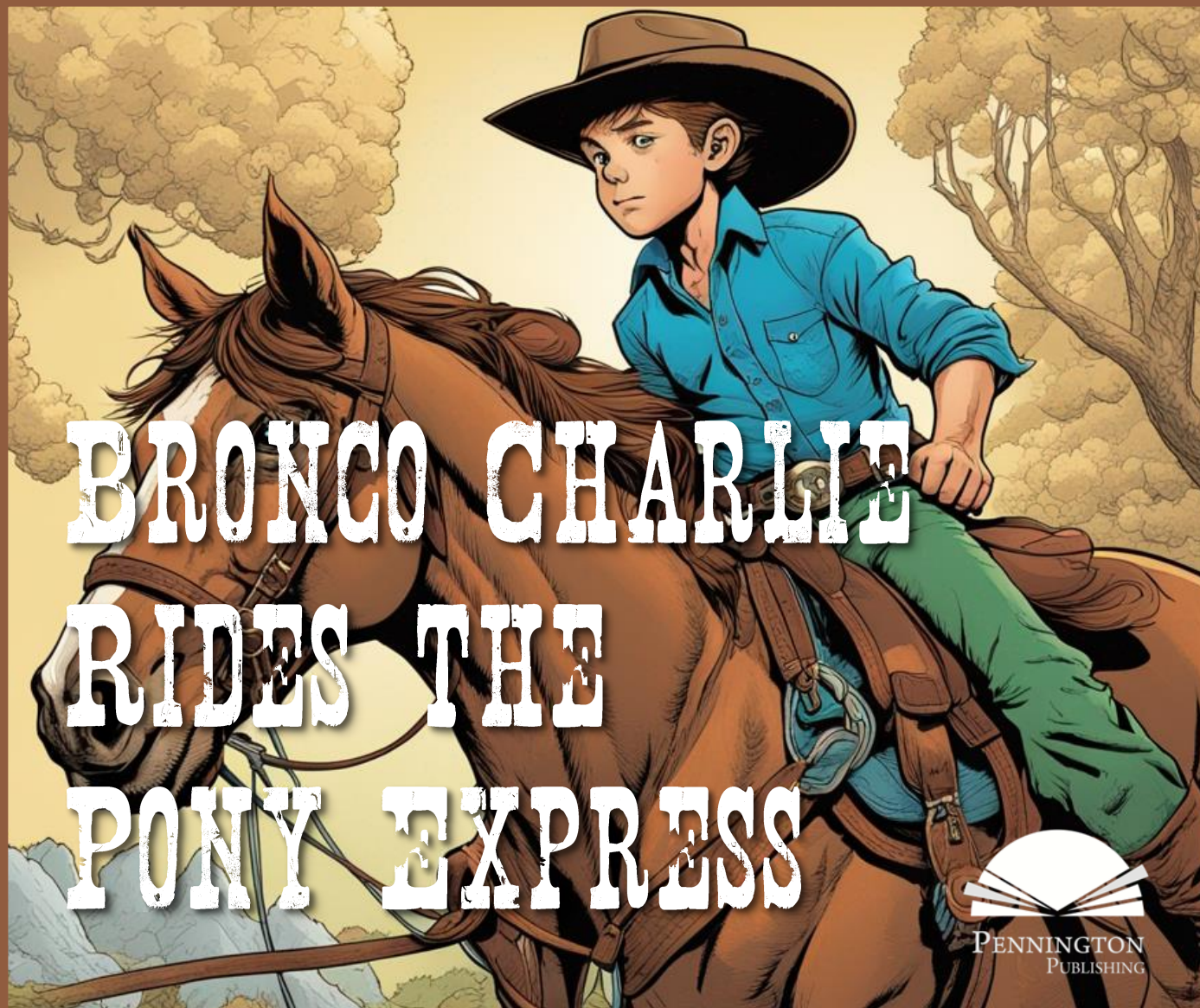
PONY EXPRESS OATH

"I, [Name], do hereby swear, before the Great and Living God, that during my engagement, and while I am an employee of Russell, Majors and Waddell, I will, under no circumstances, use profane language, that I will drink no intoxicating liquors, that I will not quarrel or fight with any other employee of the firm, and that in every respect I will conduct myself honestly, be faithful to my duties, and so direct all my acts as to win the confidence of my employers, so help me God."





**“THE MAIL MUST GO THROUGH;”
“THE MAIL MUST GO THROUGH;”
IT’S THE MOTTO OF THE PONY
EXPRESS: “THE MAIL MUST
GO THROUGH.”**



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Story, music, lyrics, and accompanying literacy resources written by Mark Pennington.

Comic illustrations generated by [jbilcke-hf/ai-comic-factory](https://www.github.com/jbilcke-hf/ai-comic-factory)

Listen and sing along to “Bronco Charlie” with **The Gold Rush Musical!** video, featuring 12 songs. Each video includes song lyrics, vocals, and backing instrumentation for knowledge-building, sing-along reading fluency practice and fun!

Click the link in the YouTube description to access reading fluency, vocabulary/comprehension, and writing resources for all 12 songs. Plus, get your students involved in California Gold Rush history with the accompanying readers’ theater script. Integrated history, literacy, drama, and music!

The Gold Rush Musical! video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luv_Bc2lyEc