



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2008

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Get on Board! August – September - October

Celebrate the Butterfield Overland Mail Stage 150th Anniversary

Celebrate the amazing Butterfield Overland Mail Stage on its 150th anniversary. Operations began between St. Louis and San Francisco in 1858, revolutionizing mail and passenger delivery services. With stages traveling 24 hours a day, the Butterfield's 2,800-mile trip took an unheard of 25 days and forever changed transportation in California.

California State Parks and its partner organizations are using this anniversary to underscore the importance of stage lines in the 19th century. Through special events and programs, many of which will feature living history, stories, songs, stage equipment, and actual historic stage roads, visitors will gain an appreciation for travel and communication in the era before the automobile.

Experience the past at these special events:

August 10 – **Friends of Bodie Day** at Bodie State Historic Park. 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Visit the historic mining ghost town of Bodie and see an important destination for stages. Enjoy a special BBQ, tours and talks with the Friends of Bodie. From U.S. 395 seven miles south of Bridgeport, take State Route 270. Go east 10 miles to the end of the pavement and continue 3 miles more on an unsurfaced road to Bodie. Sponsored by Bodie State Historic Park, the Friends of Bodie and the Sierra State Parks Foundation. Contact: Terri Geissinger (760)647-6564 or tgeissinger@parks.ca.gov

August 16 – **Adobe Day: Stageline Competition** at William B. Ide Adobe State Historic Park. Noon to 4 p.m. Learn more about stage travel. Witness a tug of war between the competing stage companies, Baxter & Co. and Hall & Crandall Stage Line. Enjoy the Ide Adobe Players' music and experience "hands-on" pioneer crafts at this historic ranch and ferry crossing. The park is two miles northeast of Red Bluff off I-5 on Adobe Road. Sponsored by William B. Ide Adobe State Historic Park and the Ide Adobe Interpretive Association. Contact: Debbie Chakarun (530)529-8599 or dchakarun@parks.ca.gov

August 23 & 24 – **Stagecoach Days: Celebrating the West on the Move** at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Be part of the frontier experience of historic Old Town. Take a wagon ride. Enjoy period activities, games and music. See an authentic

Concord stagecoach at Wells Fargo Bank's museum in the Colorado House and a historic mud wagon and celerity coach used on California's stage roads exhibited at Seeley Stable. A special dinner under the stars will be held in the Plaza on Saturday, August 23rd at 5 p.m. (reservations required). The park is located on San Diego Avenue and Twiggs Street in San Diego, and is convenient to the Old Town Transit Center, with Coaster, Trolley, and MTS Bus service. Sponsored by Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, Slow Food San Diego and the Boosters of Old Town San Diego. Contact: Richard Dennison (619)688-3398 or rdennison@parks.ca.gov

August 29, 30, 31 & September 1 – **Gold Rush Days** at Old Sacramento Historic District and Old Sacramento State Historic Park. Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Monday: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. See history come alive on the dirt streets of Old Sacramento—only horse-drawn vehicles allowed! Have your picture taken on board a Wells Fargo stagecoach. Capture the past through parades, living history, demonstrations, music, entertainment, and other offerings representing Sacramento's early years. The historic district is adjacent to downtown Sacramento next to Interstate 5. Follow the signs. Covered parking may be found nearby in several multi-story parking structures. Contact: Mike Testa (916)808-7479 or mtesta@cityofsacramento.org

September 6 – **San Juan Bautista Living History Day** at San Juan Bautista State Historic Park. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Step back to the early days of San Juan. Meet mountain men, Civil War soldiers, Victorian ladies, and stage driver "Charlie" Parkhurst, who has a secret. Enjoy craft and cooking demonstrations. Hoist an old-fashioned soda in the historic Plaza Hotel Saloon. See historic horse-drawn vehicles inside the Plaza Stables. The Park is located on Second Street, between Washington and Mariposa Streets In the city of San Juan Bautista, 3 miles east of Highway 101; 7 miles west of Hollister. Sponsored by San Juan Bautista State Historic Park and the Plaza History Association. Contact: Nikki Combs (831)623-2753 or acombs@parks.ca.gov

September 13 – **Columbia Gold Rush Days** at Columbia State Historic Park. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The "Gem of the Southern Mines" comes to life with volunteers in period attire, special tours, and historic activities, including stagecoach rides, period bowling (yes!), a fire bucket brigade, concert by the Great Motherlode Brass and Reed Band and special children's activities. Columbia State Historic Park is three miles north of Sonora, off Highway 49. Contact: Amber Cantisano (209)588-9128 or acantisano@parks.ca.gov

September 13 – **Stagecoach Day** at Chino Hills State Park. All day events. On the original route of the Butterfield Overland Mail Stage, visitors will envision the joys and misery of stage travel. The park is located 10 miles northwest of Corona. Take the 91-Freeway to Highway 71-North, turn left at Soquel Canyon. Proceed to Elinvar and turn left. Elinvar merges into Sapphire on the left. The park entrance is on the right. Sponsored by Chino Hills State Park. For more details contact: Joanne Redoble (951)780-6222 or jredoble@parks.ca.gov

October 4 – **San Juan Bautista Living History Day** at San Juan Bautista State Historic Park. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Step back to the early days of San Juan. Meet mountain men, Civil War soldiers, Victorian ladies, and stage driver "Charlie" Parkhurst, who has a secret. Enjoy craft

and cooking demonstrations. Hoist an old-fashioned soda in the historic Plaza Hotel Saloon. See historic horse-drawn vehicles inside the Plaza Stables. The Park is located on Second Street, between Washington and Mariposa Streets In the city of San Juan Bautista, 3 miles east of Highway 101; 7 miles west of Hollister. Sponsored by San Juan Bautista State Historic Park and the Plaza History Association. Contact: Nikki Combs (831)623-2753 or acombs@parks.ca.gov

October 11 – **On the Butterfield Stage Route Through Tulare County.** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Take a road trip from the foothills to the tules, revisiting the original route of the Butterfield Overland Stage on an escorted car caravan. Local historians will offer presentations at the different stops. Refreshments will be offered, but participants are advised to bring lunches and water. Free. Sponsored by the Tulare County Historical Society. Contact: Terry L. Ommen (559)732-5829, (559)901-3227 or histry@comcast.net www.tularecountyhistoricalsociety.org/Events.htm

October 11, 12, & 13 – **Coloma Gold Rush Live** at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The historic Gold Rush tent town of Coloma comes to life for three days. Enjoy living history, demonstrations, carriage rides, and gold panning. Take a ride on a carriage. Watch miners at work. See an original Concord stage coach on exhibit in the museum. The park is located in Coloma on Highway 49 between Placerville and Auburn. Sponsored by Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park and the Gold Discovery Park Association. Contact: Mark Michalski (530)295-2173 or mmich@parks.ca.gov

October 11 - **Stagecoach Day** at Shasta State Historic Park. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The “Queen City of the Northern Mines” comes to life through special guided tours and exhibits. At the head of “Whoa! Navigation,” the town’s colorful history encompasses many stage companies. The Pioneer Barn houses a restored stagecoach and a stone monument celebrates stage drivers. The park is six miles west of downtown Redding. Highway 299 passes through the town’s main street. Sponsored by Shasta State Historic Park. Contact: Lori Martin (530)225-2065 lmartin@parks.ca.gov

October 12 - **Heritage Day** at McArthur-Burney Falls State Park. Noon to 4 p.m. Celebrate Heritage Day at the park with demonstrations and recreations of activities and crafts typical of the 19th century and fiddler music. The park is northeast of Redding, six miles north of Highway 299 on Highway 89 near Burney. Contact: Andrew Urlie (530)335-2777 or aurlie@parks.ca.gov

October 19 - **Stagecoach Day** at Los Encinos State Historic Park. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rancho El Encino’s natural spring helped to support the Butterfield Overland Mail as a station stop. Take a tour of the original adobe that stagecoach guests visited and enjoy living history in the park. The day is scheduled to include smithy demonstrations, food to share, games and activities for the kids, singing and other fun. Follow the 101 Ventura Freeway to the Balboa off ramp. Turn south on Balboa to Moorpark (one block before Ventura Blvd.). Turn left onto Moorpark and park on the street. Enter through the gate. Sponsored by Los Encinos State Historic Park and the Los Encinos Docent Association. Contact: Lee Hawkins (818) 784-4849 or Jennifer Dandurand (818)784-4849 jdandurand@parks.ca.gov

Historic stages which traveled the dusty roads of California may be seen at these museums and California State Parks:

- Banning Residence Museum, 401 East Main Street, Wilmington, Calif. (310)548-7777
- El Dorado County Museum, 104 Placerville Drive, Placerville (530)621-5865
- Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park at the Gold Discovery Museum in Coloma on Highway 49 between Placerville and Auburn (530)295-2173
- Mendocino County Museum, 400 E. Commercial Street, Mendocino (707)459-2736
- Old Sacramento State Historic Park in the B.F. Hastings Building at 2nd & J Streets, Old Sacramento (916)445-7387
- Old Town San Diego State Historic Park in the Seeley Stable Museum and the Wells Fargo Museum in the Colorado House, San Diego Avenue and Twiggs Street, San Diego (619)688-3398
- Pioneer Yosemite History Center, Yosemite National Park, Mariposa (209)372-0200
- Museum of San Diego History, Casa de Balboa Building, Balboa Park, 1649 El Prado, Suite #3, San Diego (619)232- 6203
- Paso Robles Pioneer Museum, 2010 Riverside Ave., Paso Robles (805)239-4556
- Santa Ynez Historical Society Museum & Carriage House, 3596 Sagunto Street, Santa Ynez (805)688-7889
- The Sharpsteen Museum, 1311 Washington Street, Calistoga (707)942 5911
- Shasta State Historic Park on Highway 299, 3 miles west of Redding (530)225-2065
- South Yuba River State Historic Park, 17660 Pleasant Valley Road Penn Valley (530)432-2546
- Wells Fargo History Museum, 333 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles (213)253-7166
- Wells Fargo History Museum, 400 Capitol Mall, Sacramento (916)440-4161

The anniversary events of Stagecoach Days are being coordinated by California State Parks.

For more information about California State Parks go on line to www.parks.ca.gov

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