Ron, {our SM}

Here are some photos from the Hollenberg Pony Express Festival Special Event station. I have high resolution copies if you should need them.

The event occurred on August 28, 2005 at the Hollenberg Pony Express Station near Hanover KS as part of the annual Hollenberg Pony Express Festival. Jim Anderea, K0NK, Rex Darrow, KC0YQY, and Charlie Hett, K0THN, stepped back into the 1860 to play the part of telegraph operators. Interestingly, the short-lived Pony Express was really just an extension of the telegraph. It existed for the sole purpose of bridging a 2000 mile gap in the telegraph line and operated for only 18 months.

Most of the operating time was spent on 40, 20 and 17 meters CW, with some 20-m phone operation. We did not hear a lot of activity on 40 meters. The radio was a Kenwood TS-50 running off of battery power.

73,

Jim K0NK

Picture Captions

#1 With the help of some of the local youth, Jim, K0NK, sets up the Cushcraft R5 vertical. A 40-m inverted V was also used.
#2 Using the Crown Amateur Radio Association’s club call sign of K0ASA, this Special Event Station was set up to resemble an 1860’s telegraph office. A Morse code display was set up on the office’s front counter.

#3 A fun part of the event was watching the people trying their hand at Morse code. Kids of all ages seemed to enjoy the code.

#4 Even Buffalo Bill stopped by the telegraph office. Period-dress was common for many of the participants.
#5 Telegraph operator, Charlie, K0THN, worked CW most of the time. Later in the day we had to use headphones because of local QRM from horse-mounted gunmen who were engaged in a shooting competition only 75 feet away from the Telegraph Office.

#6 Some visitors were more interested in Buddy, the telegraph office dog, than in Morse code.
#7 In keeping with the early-American flavor of the festival, campsites like this one were set up just up the hill from the Telegraph Office. Basic old-time skills, such as making lead bullets in this scene, were demonstrated.

#8 Helping bring the Old West back to life, Yvonne reconstructed this Lewis-and-Clark-era campsite.

#9 This stagecoach represented rapid transportation in 1860. The uniquely preserved Hollenberg Station is in the background.

#10 To make the Telegraph Office sound authentic, a sounder clicked and clunked in response to incoming CW traffic, while Jim, K0NK, copied the CW tone in the headphones.
#11 Rex, KC0YQY, and Charlie, K0THN, explain Morse code to a standing-room-only for crowd.

#12 These lovely ladies visiting the Telegraph Office look like they just stepped out of the pages of a 1860s fashion catalog.

Thanks Jim for taking your time to put together this event each year and demonstrating Ham Radio to the public. Thanks also for providing certificates for those who contact your station. For more see >> http://www.73SE.com << Orlan w0oyh