Postmasters and employees of the Postal Service are hereby notified of the issuance of a special postage stamp in the 3-cent denomination in commemoration of the eightieth anniversary of the introduction of the Pony Express Service. The stamp will be first placed on sale at St. Joseph, Mo., and Sacramento, Calif., the eastern and western terminals, on April 3, 1940. It will be available at other post offices as soon after that date as stocks can be printed and distributed.

The new stamp is $8\frac{3}{4} in. by $1\frac{1}{4} in.$ in dimensions, arranged horizontally. It is printed in purple by the rotary process and issued in sheets of 50.

The central design depicts a mounted Pony Express rider leaving a relay station with a consignment of mail. In the foreground at the right is the denomination designation in the form of a large numeral "3" with "Three Cents" below, in dark roman lettering. In each upper corner is a vertical panel with dark ground containing at the left a reproduction of a buffalo skull and a sheaf of wheat at the right in white. Immediately below are the dates "1860" and "1940," respectively, in dark lettering. In a horizontal panel with dark ground at the upper edge of the stamp is the inscription "United States Postage" in white gothic. In a similar panel at the lower edge of the stamp is the wording "Pony Express 80th Anniversary" in white gothic.

Stamp collectors desiring first-day cancelations of the new stamp on April 3 may send a limited number of addressed covers, not in excess of 10, to the postmasters at St. Joseph, Mo., and Sacramento, Calif., with a cash or postal money order remittance to cover only the cost of the stamps required for affixing. Postage stamps will positively not be accepted in payment. At first-day sales in the past, many covers have been undelivered because the sender has failed to properly address the same. Each cover must be addressed and should bear a pencil endorsement in the upper right corner to show the number of stamps to be attached thereto. It is also necessary to allow sufficient space to affix the stamps and the postmark. Envelopes should not be smaller than 3 by 6 inches. The use of large and irregularly shaped envelopes should be avoided. All cover envelopes should either be sealed or sent with the flaps turned in. Better cancelations will be provided if the envelopes contain medium-weight enclosures.

Requests for uncanceled stamps must not be included with orders for first-day covers to the postmasters at the above offices.

For the benefit of collectors desiring stamps of selected quality for philatelic use, the new stamp will be placed on sale at the Philatelic Agency on April 4, 1940. To insure prompt shipment, mail orders to the Agency must exclude other varieties of stamps.

Postmasters at direct- and central-accounting post offices may submit requisition on Form 3201-A, endorsed "Pony Express," for a limited supply only of the new stamp. These requisitions shall exclude other varieties of stamps, and must be submitted promptly if shipment on first order is desired. Postmasters at district-accounting post offices may obtain small quantities of the new postage stamp by requisition on the central-accounting postmaster.

Postmasters receiving advance shipments of the new stamp are hereby cautioned not to allow any of the stamps to be sold before April 4.

RAMSEY S. BLACK,
Third Assistant Postmaster General.