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To Whom It May Concern,

I have examined the cover pictured below. In my opinion it is a genuine use carried by the Pony Express. It was carried on the eastbound trip that departed San Francisco on November 10, 1860 and arrived at St. Joseph on November 23. The cover was apparently picked up someplace en route between California and Missouri and the US postage was either unpaid, or paid in cash by sender. It bears a pencil "1/4" endorsement underneath the stamp indicating that the pony express fees for a letter to one-quarter ounce were prepaid by the sender. The letter was received at Pony Express office in St. Joseph on November 23, 1860 and, after putting their datestamp on the cover, they applied the 3c stamp. The cover then entered the mails at St. Joseph where it received their dark greenish black datestamp and the stamp was canceled with matching grid cancel.

This is an unusual example of a use where the US postage was not applied by the sender. The cover is ex Bob Nichols and George Kramer collections. It has been very slightly reduced at left edge. I have signed the cover on reverse.

Signed,

