

## Pony Express Mail From Kin of POWs

Mayor Joseph L. Alioto took time out from his schedule yesterday morning to hand-deliver a stack of special letters to an unusual mailman.

The letters were addressed to various congressmen from families of American prisoners in North Vietnam asking that the prisoner of war issue be given top priority.

The mailman was Tom Mason, a buckskin-suited copy of a Pony Express rider, who rode his horse right to the Polk street steps of City Hall to make the collection.

The occasion was the arrival here of the Pony Express Ride for POW's, a 2000-mile journey that began two weeks ago in St. Joseph, Mo.

The ride was organized by Herb Schilbe, a World War II pilot and president of Pony Express Postage Centers, Inc., and is co-sponsored by Concern for Prisoners of War, Inc.

Schilbe's firm manufactures and sells coin-operated postal machines which dispense stamps, envelopes, papers and string and are being installed in shopping centers nationwide.

Mason and two other riders left St. Joseph on January 8 to publicize the POW issue along a 2600-mile route that will culminate in San Diego on Tuesday.

Mayor Alioto, not wishing to risk a relapse of a recent bout with the flu, held brief welcoming ceremonies for the riders in a steady drizzle on the City Hall steps.

He praised the group for its effort, then handed over the letters, while a dozen wives of POWs watched.