



Today in History

October 26, 1861

▲ **The Pony Express closed.** It operated for 19 months and was the most direct means of east to west communication in the U.S. before the advent of the telegraph

1905: Norway gained independence from Sweden following a plebiscite

1977: The world's last natural case of smallpox was recorded in Somalia, vaccination having wiped out the disease that killed up to 500 million people in the 20th century alone

1994: Jordan and Israel signed a historic peace treaty ending the 46-year state of war between their two nations

1994: An oil leak in Siberia spread across a large area of fragile tundra