RAILROAD FLAG CEREMONY

May 10, 1869, an era ended and a new one began. Gone was the pioneer period as the golden spike was driven in the rails at Promontory Point, Utah, marking the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. No longer would people and goods need to take the long and hazardous route by horse or ox drawn wagon. Goods could now be exchanged from coast to coast, making it unnecessary to produce everything needed in every rural district. The Central Pacific Railroad started in Sacramento, California and laid 690 miles of track over the Sierra Mountains and across the desert to Utah, where it met the Union Pacific Railroad. The Union Pacific started laying rails at Council Bluffs, Iowa, and continued laying 1,087 miles of track as it followed the Mormon trail on its way westward. The Transcontinental Railroad is considered the greatest technical and engineering feat of the nineteenth century, but more important, it helped unite our country truly into one nation from sea to shining sea.

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