and surviving in the elements. He has practiced gaining physical strength and learned how to take care of his body to keep it healthy and strong. He has learned about communications, science, engineering, safety and first aid, and he has learned about the arts. His long journey has brought him from the blue seas of the young Cub Scout to the golden seas of the graduating Webelos Scout. What makes his seas golden is the sun setting in the west, half way down on the horizon. This is the symbol of the sun that is pictured on his Arrow of Light badge, the sun splitting the image of the arrow on the horizon.

Tonight we are honored to present the Arrow of Light Award which he has earned over the past year. It is the highest award presented in Cub Scouting and the only award he will continue to wear on his uniform into Boy Scouts, and will be recognized on his uniform as an adult leader some day as a knot symbol above his pocket.

Eric Christiansen
WE7-590-3-08

*Note: Pictures can be downloaded from the internet of Thomas Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, the Pony Express, the telegraph, and the driving of the golden spike. The young man or men can hold the pictures up during the presentation so they are actively involved.

Express. The telegraph would carry the messages half way across the country and the Pony Express riders would then carry the messages the rest of the way. It was difficult work, for the riders had to be tough and lightweight. One famous advertisement reportedly read, “Wanted: Young, skinny, wiry fellows not over eighteen. Must be expert riders, willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred.”

The Pony Express only ran for 18 months from 1860 to 1861 when the Pacific Telegraph Company from the east met up with the Overland Telegraph Company from the west in Salt Lake City. The Pony Express had held the country together.

Now the country was linked where communications back and forth took very little time, but moving goods and people from coast still took a huge effort. In 1869 in a remote area of Utah called Promontory, this all changed with the driving of the Golden Spike linking the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads to complete the first transcontinental railroad.

Today with modern telecommunications we can speak instantaneously across the country and news can be broadcast just as rapidly into our homes. With jet aviation we can travel from coast to coast in just a few hours. We are truly one country from “sea to shining sea”.

The spirit of exploration still lives on today. Tonight we honor a young man who has constantly looked over the horizon to gain more knowledge and more skills. Just as the members of the Corp of Discovery stood on the Great Divide and looked west, not knowing what was ahead, this young man has summited personal peaks and looked forward with only his dreams to lead him on. He has spent time in the outdoors and learned of nature. He has learned of maps

From Sea to Shining Sea
Arrow of Light Ceremony

In the patriotic song,"America" we speak of our country being from "sea to shining sea". But it wasn't always that way. At the turn of the century in 1800 our country went only from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River.

In the early 1800's the United States were offered the French holdings to the west. President Thomas Jefferson authorized what was to become known as the Louisiana Purchase for the sum of 15 million dollars, or about three cents per acre.

Congress authorized an expedition called the Corp of Discovery to explore, map and document the newly acquired region. President Jefferson chose Meriwether Lewis to lead the expedition and Lewis chose his friend William Clark to be the co-leader. From 1804 to1806 Captains Lewis and Clark led a company of 33 men from St. Louis up the Mississippi and then up the Missouri Rivers, across the Rocky Mountains and the Great Divide and down to the mouth of the Columbia River. The expedition was both military and scientific in nature as the country now did stretch from sea to sea.

With the conclusion of the Mexican War the United States extended clear through to California, but with the Civil War looming the government needed to make sure the west did not follow the South into rebellion. To keep California loyal to the Union a communications link was created between Washington, D.C. and Sacramento where messages could be exchanged in just 10 days, and that was accomplished by the use of the telegraph and the newly organized Pony