

INFORMATION:

The first telegraph line across the continent was built by the Pacific Telegraph Co. under a government subsidy of \$40,000 per year. The line was started from Brownville, Nebraska, in 1860 and was run to Omaha; then up the north bank of the Platte to Ft. Kearny; then up the south bank of the Platte to Julesburg; and then via the Old Stage Road to Ft. Laramie and Ft. Bridger, to Salt Lake, where it connects with a line that had been previously constructed eastward from San Francisco.

In the summer of 1863 Mr. Edward Crieghton obtained a liberal subscription from the citizens of Denver, to aid in the construction of a branch line from Julesburg to Denver. The building of the line was commenced in August of the same year (1863) and completed to Denver in October under supervision of B.F. Woodward, who opened intermediate offices at Valley Station, Junction and Living Springs, and assumed management at Denver upon completion of the line.

In 1865 the Pacific Telegraph Co. was merged into and became a part of the system of lines of the Western Union Telegraph Co. The line had stations at Golden, Central, Georgetown, and other mountain towns.

CONCLUSION:

SOURCE: Rocky Mountain Directory and Colorado Gazetteer for 1871.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES: The Story of the Pony Express by Glenn Bradley.

\*Note: Both Paths of Progress by the Colorado Dept. of Highways and The Story of the Pony Express by Glenn Bradley indicate that the completion of the transcontinental telegraph line came in 1861.

TOPIC: The First Telegraph Line  
PERIOD: 1860 - 1865