



GOLDEN SPIKE

On May 10, 1869 at 2:47 PM bells in the Capitol Building in Washington D.C., a large fire bell in Sacramento, CA, and a cannon near the Golden Gate all simultaneously sounded. The event that caused this was the driving of the Golden Spike by Leland Stanford to connect the east and west coast of the United States by rail. The telegraph was connected to his sledge-hammer and when he struck the spike the signal instantly went from coast to coast. The location was a high, dry landscape in Northern Utah that was called Promontory. This event changed the future of the country and manifest the industrial ingenuity and tenacity that exemplifies the U.S.A. This historic moment is captured by Eric Dowdle in his new painting, "Golden Spike." Bringing his humor to widen the scene and reflect more of the area at the time, this piece is fun for its history and additional asides about this historic event in American History.

1. Native American traditions said "The Land will be crossed by snakes of iron."
2. 4 symbolic spikes were used in the "joining ceremony."
3. Over 13,000 Chinese immigrants worked on building the railroad.
4. Hugh "Mormon" crickets almost did in the first settlers.
5. Eagle waving the Utah flag. The railroad was key to Utah entering the Union.
6. Photographer Andrew Russell took the famous "Champagne Photo."
7. A laurel railroad tie was used for driving the golden spikes and then replaced.
8. Grenville M. Dodge—Union Pacific Chief Engineer.
9. Samuel S. Montague—Central Pacific Chief Engineer.
10. Sam Bradford—christened the Jupiter with a bottle of champagne.
11. George Booth—christened the 119 with a bottle of champagne.
12. Union Pacific #119 Engine with tender.
13. The Jupiter aka Central Pacific #60 with tender.
14. How many eagles can you find?
15. "Oh, give me home where the buffalo roam...
16. ... and the deer and the antelope play..."
17. The Great Salt Lake
18. Seagulls are Utah's state bird and Eric loves to paint them.