

Central Overland California & Pikes Peak Express Co.

The arrival and departure of the coaches of the Central Overland California & Pikes Peak Express Company, which had succeeded the Leavenworth & Pikes Peak Express Company were important events. They came and went with nearly as much regularity as passenger trains now move on the railroads, and large crowds assembled at the company's office to await their arrival.




June 13, 1860 Saint Louis, Missouri To Eli R. Lackland care Captain Parkinson bearing large pen notation *Via Pikes Peak Express* to Saint. Joseph, Missouri where the letter was carried on to Denver City by Central Overland California & Pikes Peak Express.

Central Overland California & Pikes Peak Express

The trips between Denver and the Missouri River were begun each way, and the distance over the Pony Express route along the Platte River was six hundred and sixty-five miles; with the time being shortened to about six days. Passengers fares were reduced to seventy five dollars one way.

The coaches carried the gold dust east to St. Joseph, and often conveyed as much as forty thousand dollars worth on a single trip. The bullion was usually forwarded once a week in charge of a special messenger. On those occasions every passenger in the coach had to be personally known to the company's Denver officers, or vouched for by some person acceptable to them. This, of course, was precaution against pre-arranged robbery by coach passengers.

Passengers were not permitted to carry gold dust in their baggage or concealed on their persons. The stage company demanded special pay for transport gold and its officers were quick detect its presence in the clothing of any individual. Occasionally a passenger succeeded in smuggling some gold through the journey. There was a person was forcibly detained until he paid the company fee for its transportation.

FOR PIKE'S PEAK, HO!
DAILY U.S. MAIL LINE
Through to Denver City in 4-5 Days!
THE CENTRAL OVERLAND, CALIFORNIA

PIKE'S PEAK EXPRESS CO.
FORMERLY JONES, RUSSELL & CO.
FROM ST. JOSEPH
TO
DENVER CITY.
ANY NUMBER OF EXTRA COACHES
WHEELS PROVIDED AT THE STATIONS AT REASONABLE PRICES!
THE CALIFORNIA PONY EXPRESS
SPECIAL SERVICE TO THE GOLD MINES
TEN DAYS TO SAN FRANCISCO!
All Points in California, Salt Lake and Carson Valley!
For further particulars of rates or routes apply to Agents.