

# The Little buffalos Savings Club

Quarterly Newsletter for Kids

## The Golden Spike

Would you believe that there is a golden railroad spike sitting in the middle of Utah?

It's true, and here is the story of how it got there!



When the country was first founded, we didn't have all the choices of transportation we have now. Originally it was wagons pulled by horses or ox, or maybe a boat, powered by sails or pulled by donkeys to get through bigger rivers and canals.

When trains were invented, they soon became very popular. But the U.S.A. is a huge country with two coast and giant mountains in the middle. Ocean-going ships could sail between the two coasts, bringing goods from one side to the other, but it took a long time. Trains were stuck on their respective coasts.

That is when the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific railroads got an idea: build a transcontinental line (that means a rail line across the whole country, connecting the two coasts).

Crews started laying tracks from both sides of the Rockies. They raced to build the most rail line as they could. When they met at Promontory Summit, Utah, on May 10, 1869, they drove a golden rail spike into the ground to commemorate the event.

And it was all for a picture. As soon as it was driven in, the spike was removed and replaced by a normal iron spike. But, if you're ever around Stanford University out in California, the original golden spike is on display at the Cantor Arts Center.

## Tin Can Phone

You may have seen in older movies two kids talking into tin cans connected by some string. If you've never tried it, it actually works! You just have to make sure the string is pulled tight! So here is why it works and how you can build your own to talk to your friends!

Sound is a vibration. When you hear someone speak, their vocal cords are causing air to vibrate. When that air hits your ears, it vibrates your eardrums. That then stimulates special nerves that interpret the vibrations as sound.



When you talk into a tin can phone, you're causing the bottom of the can to vibrate ever so slightly. When you have a string attached, that string then transmits the vibration along its path. So when it gets to the other can, it shakes that can's bottom. When that can vibrates, it's with the same patterns your friend's voice made, so it roughly reproduces their voice.

So how do you make one? Well, first you need two cans and some string. You're also going to need a nail and a hammer to punch a hole in the bottom of the can. Maybe ask an adult to help with that part. Stick one end of the string through the hole in the bottom of one can, and the other end in the other can, and tie two knots so the string won't slip out.

The best route is a straight line; however, you can make turns if you do it right. You need to twist the string and loop it around whatever you're attaching it to. You can make multiple lines by tying in a new line.

Just remember that you need to keep the string tight. Have fun!



Attention Little Buffalos,

Interior Federal Credit Union is excited to announce that we have been working on improving your online and mobile banking experience! Whether you log in through the app or a computer, you will have a whole new layout waiting for you. Things will be catered to your needs and you will hopefully be able to navigate much easier. The new set up will be coming to your computers and phones very soon, so be on the look-out!