



U.S. #922, 1944
First Transcontinental Railroad

The completion of the first transcontinental railroad in 1869 was an epic event in U.S. transportation and economic histories.

Interestingly, this post-Civil War event involved both Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis. Lincoln, as President, signed the authorization legislation in 1862. Davis, as Secretary of War in the early 1850s, was responsible for the research that convinced the Congress that a transcontinental railroad was a feasible and necessary undertaking for the country. The first of four such railroads, it was a major step in providing economic unification to a nation that had grown substantially in size in an east-west direction. A fuller description is provided in the entry for the three-stamp panel commemorating the 150th anniversary of this event (5378-5380).



U.S. #924, 1944
Centenary of the Telegraph

The inventor of the telegraph, Samuel Morse, was honored in the American Inventors series of stamps (U.S. #890). This stamp recognizes the telegraphic transmission process as symbolized by

the telegraph wires. It would be hard to underestimate the role of the telegraph in transforming communication in the nineteenth century. Yet, when this stamp was issued in 1944, the telegraph was giving way to the wired telephone which itself would be transformed by the wireless revolution.



U.S. # 926, 1944
Motion Pictures

The origins of the motion picture industry go back to the 1890s and Thomas Edison was involved. Edison perfected existing camera technology and ultimately tied it to his phonograph invention to

create movies with sound. Most people are not aware that Edison built a movie studio in Fort Lee, NJ near his base in Menlo Park. By the time this stamp was issued, the industry had gravitated to Hollywood, California where the major studios like MGM, Paramount, and Universal turned the movies into America's top form of entertainment before television came on the scene.