

Bypaths of Kansas History

STEAM VERSUS MULE POWER

From the *Junction City Union*, June 2, 1866.

A bill is now before Congress asking for a grant of lands, right of way, &c., for a traction engine road from Fort Riley to Santa Fe. The traction engine as most people are aware is intended to run on an earth road, without rails or track, its draft power being an application of the same principle now applied in using the steam plow.

Over the dry and level plains westward of Fort Riley, there can be little doubt that these engines could be operated very successfully during a great portion of the year, and if brought into general use, the bullwhacker's occupation would be gone on the Santa Fe route.

So long, however, as grass grows on the plains instead of fuel, it is doubtful if the engine can be subsisted as cheaply as mules and oxen in the transportation of the vast freight of Mexico. Unless coal depos[its] are unearthed along the route, we predict that the *grazing engine* will hold its own for many years [to] come on the great plains of the West.—*Kansas City Journal*.

CIGARS, BUT NO MOVIES ON THE CANNONBALL LINE

The following paragraph is from a correspondent's article written from Greensburg and published in the *Kansas City (Mo.) Journal*, May 11, 1885.

Green's Cannon Ball Stage line runs from Kingman to all points westward daily; making the round trip from Kingman to Pratt Center and return in a day, going at a ten mile rate, and changing teams every eight miles. Col. D. R. Green has made himself celebrated by his excellent management of this popular line. His stages are large and comfortable; his teams fat and full of vigor; his drivers kind to the teams and courteous to the passengers; his eating houses at every other station are provided with everything required for the comfort of the inner man. The drivers are instructed to always carry a box of cigars for the convenience and accommodation of the passengers. It is Col. Green's intention next fall to put on new stages made expressly for Green's Cannon Ball line. Each one of them will be provided with a small steam callope to be played around town in the mornings before starting out, and also upon entering a town. At Kingman they will play National and patriotic airs; at Saratoga selections from "Il Trovatore," and at Greensburg quicksteps. He is arranging to have some dead marches played in one or two of the towns along the way, and for one particular town, about five miles east of Greensburg, he desires to contract for or otherwise procure the deadest march ever composed. He will also decorate his horses with black plumes while going through what he calls the valley of the shadow of death. Whether the colonel will ever realize these fond hopes or not, he will continue to make regular trips and carry passengers faster than they were ever carried before, unless they have traveled by telegraph. . . .