

Treasures



of



# Carbon County

\* Utah





Desert Wave Pool



Scofield Reservoir



USU Eastern Museum



Great Hunt Panel



## Fun things to see and do in *Carbon County*

- Railroad Museum - *Helper*
- Big John Statue - *Helper*
- Scofield State Park - *Scofield*
- USU Eastern Prehistoric Museum - *Price*
- Desert Wave Pool - *Price*
- Mountain Bike Trails - *Price*
- Dino Mine Park - *Price*
- Nine Mile Canyon - *Wellington*
- Coke Ovens - *East Carbon*

For other fun and exciting things to do,  
or to plan a trip go to [www.CastleCountry.com](http://www.CastleCountry.com)

# Towns of Carbon County

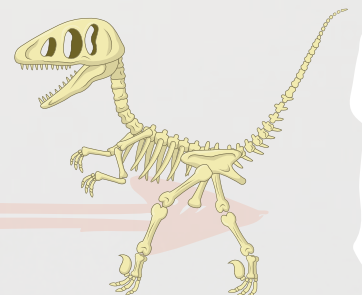
Located in the central portion of the county, Price is the largest city in Carbon County and also the county seat. Price was settled in early 1879 by pioneers from just over the Wasatch Plateau in Sanpete County. Price was named by Bishop William Price who explored up Spanish Fork Canyon to the area.

The second largest town in Carbon County is the only town in the United States to be named after a railroad locomotive. Helper, located at the base of the Book Cliffs at the north end of the county. The railroad planned to make the area a hub between Grand Junction, Colorado and Salt Lake City. Engines called 'helpers' were needed to push the heavy coal trains up the steep mountain grades. Because of the unique function of the hub, the town was called Helper.

The third largest town in Carbon County, Wellington, is the county's agricultural center. Wellington has always maintained its agricultural roots. Though the settlers were primarily farmers, they often worked in the coal mines during the winter months to supplement their income.

Made up of the remains of several old coal camps, East Carbon and Sunnyside combine to make the fourth largest town in Carbon County. Incorporated in 1973, East Carbon is made up of the old towns of Dragerton and Columbia. Located at the far eastern edge of the county, East Carbon and Sunnyside have always relied heavily on the rich coal deposits of the Book Cliffs for their economic growth. Out here you will find old Coke ovens.

Carbon County has many ghost towns that are a big part of what they have today you can find remnants in many parts of the county.



# Dinosaur Discovery

When miners began removing coal from the underground mines, they began to uncover three and four toed dinosaur tracks that looked like the prehistoric animals had been walking on the ceiling. Coal is a fossil fuel and is the altered remains of prehistoric vegetation that originally accumulated in swamps and peat bogs. This was during the time that Dinosaurs roamed Carbon County.

Many dinosaur discoveries have taken place through the years. Located about 29 miles south of Price is the famous dinosaur quarry. The Cedar Mountain Formation is one of the last major dinosaur-bearing formation to be studied in the United States.


## Fremont People

The Fremont people lived throughout this region. They left many echoes of their lives-in finely formed Fremont figurines, rock art such as those in Nine Mile Canyon and the Gordon Creek area, pit houses and granaries such as those being studied in Range Creek. Nine Mile canyon is called the world's longest art gallery, because of all its Fremont rock art.

## Settlers & Beyond

The high Wasatch Plateau was a formidable barrier to settlement in Carbon County. Routes into the region included offshoots of the Old Spanish Trail but it wasn't until the late 1870's that Mormon settlers arrived to establish farms, ranches, and towns along the Price River.

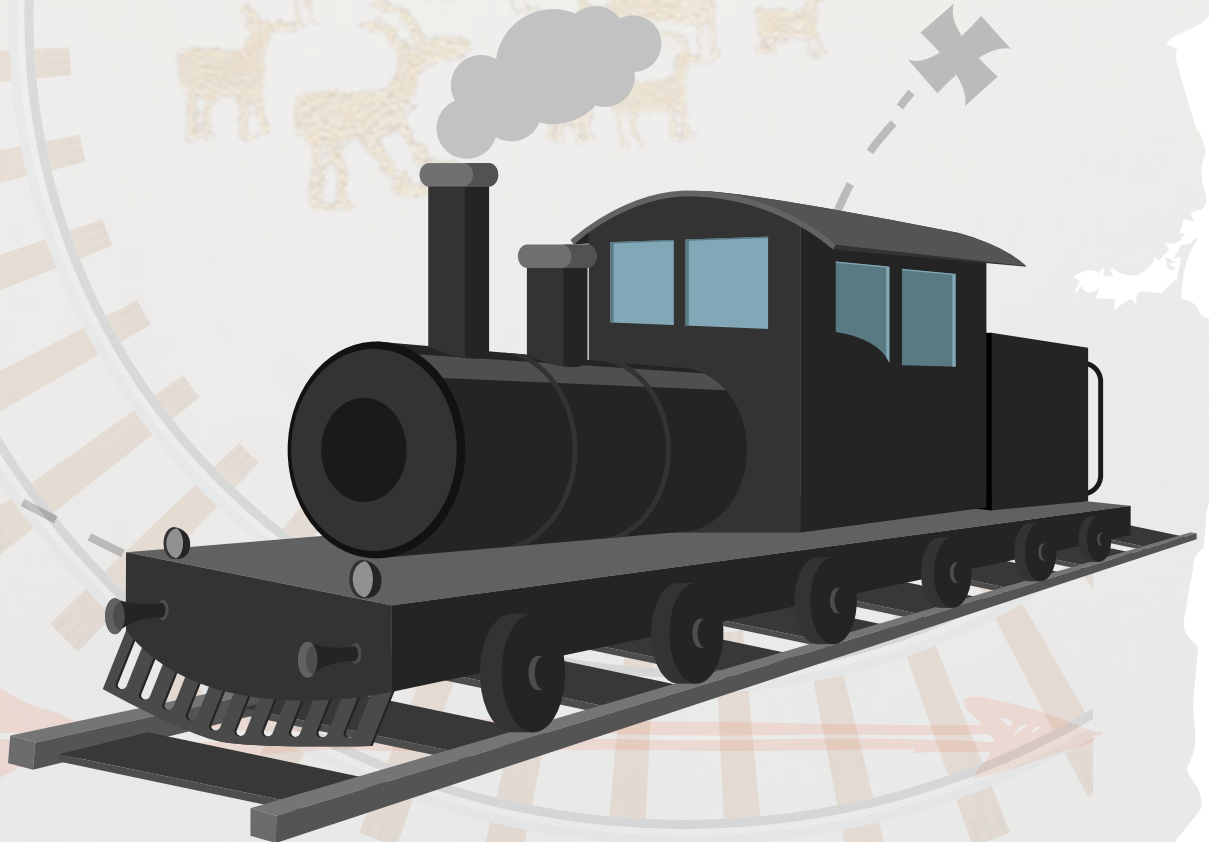
In early generations, most people farmed and ran livestock, giving Carbon County a tradition of cowboys-and outlaws too, with the likes of Butch Cassidy and Gunplay Maxwell roaming the area.



# Working on the Rail Road

In 1881, officials from the Denver & Rio Grande railroad sent survey parties to find an easy route from Grand Junction, Colorado to Salt Lake City, Utah. Several routes were suggested including a route through the San Rafael Swell in Emery County, however the present route through the mountains was chosen because of its easy access to coal deposits. The coal was needed to power the steam engines as well as making it easy to transport to Salt Lake City.

Designed as a hub or a division point on the railroad, Helper became a railroad town almost overnight. The railroad built a 15 stall roundhouse, a depot, a YMCA, a nondenominational chapel and a hotel as well as company housing for its employees. The heavy coal trains needed help to climb the steep mountain grade to Soldier Summit and the helper engines were placed on the train at Helper. The helper engines, which are still used today, usually consisted of 4 engines in the middle of the train and 3 on the rear of the train although sometimes as many as 7 were used.



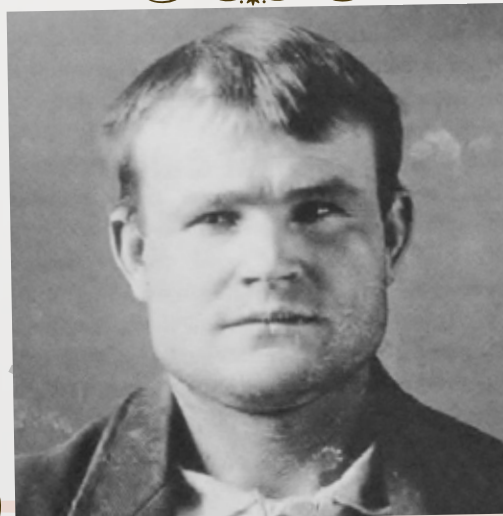
# Wild West

On April 21, 1897 members of famous Wild Bunch robbed the Castle Gate Miner's payroll of nearly \$8,000.00. Led by the notorious Butch Cassidy, the group staged the robbery in broad daylight with over 150 miners standing by waiting for their pay. Butch and his partner Elza Lay had been working in Castle Gate for a little less than a month but that gave them plenty of time to accomplish the robbery.

On April 21, the special signal sounded telling the miners that the payroll was on its way into town. Butch and Elza approached the train. When the payroll master took the bags of money and headed up the stairs of the Wasatch Store, Butch told him to "drop them bags". The payroll master did as he was told, Butch threw the bag of silver to Elza keeping the bag of gold for himself. They tore off down the canyon toward Helper as fast as they could. Near the mouth of the canyon, Elza dropped the bag of heavy silver coins and they scattered everywhere.

The payroll master jumped aboard the train engine and told the engineer to head as fast as he could for Helper. Posses from both Carbon and Emery Counties were formed but Butch and Elza were never caught. They headed for the Robbers Roost deep within the desert near Hanksville and the gold was never recovered.

WANTED

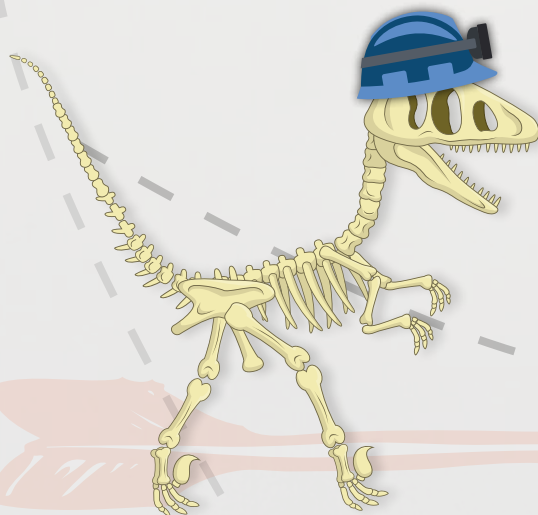


# Life in a Coal Camp

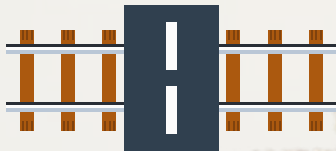
Life on the side of a mountain was always interesting. The mining camps were owned by the company and everything in them was paid for by the company. The company built and furnished the modest houses, they provided access to a company store and school house. Some camps even had hospitals or at least access to a doctor. Miners were paid in script, redeemable only at the company store. They were required to buy their own pick and shovel and dynamite to go into the mine to remove the coal. When the end of the month came around, the miner's wages were deducted by what he owed the company store or the hospital. Whatever was left over was what the miner made for a month's worth of work.

In times of strike, the miner's and their families were forced from their homes. They left the camps with few possessions as the company owned nearly everything they had. One long time Carbon County resident recalls her parents being forced out their home in the winter and she herself was born in a friend's chicken coop. They lived in that chicken coop for a year until the strike was settled and they could return to their company home.

Often times boys as young as 8 years old went to work in the mines with their fathers. These boys would separate out the rock from the coal and were known as "bony pickers." Although these boys were not paid by the mine company, they helped their fathers make every cent they could. At the turn of the century, a coal miner was paid at \$.60 per ton of coal. Coal companies brought in southern and eastern European and Japanese laborers to work in the mines and on the railroad gangs. Helper became known as the town of "57 Varieties" because of its ethnic diversity.

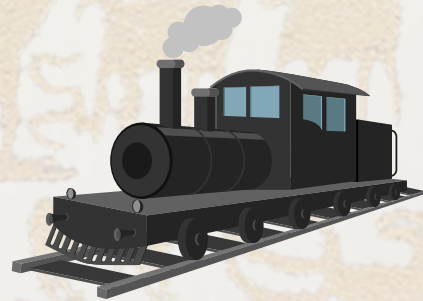


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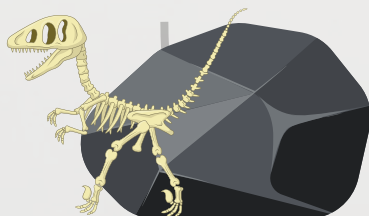
Late 1870's Mormon settlers arrived to establish farms, ranches, and towns along the Price River.



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Coal is a fossil fuel and is the altered remains of prehistoric vegetation that originally accumulated in swamps and peat bogs.







# Quick Facts



**County Seat:** Price

**Where it got its name:** “Carbon”, from the vast amounts of coal in the area.

**Main cities and towns:** Price, Helper, East Carbon, Wellington, Scofield

**Economy:** Health Care, Education, Retail Trade, Coal & Energy

**What the land is like:** At the north and west, the high alpine mountains of the Wasatch Plateau slope down eastward into desert country of sagebrush, pinion and juniper. The Price River, which gets its start on the plateau, cuts through the valley. To the east is the rugged and remote Tavaputs Plateau. The Book Cliffs, part of the plateau, stretch 200 miles from Utah into Colorado

**Population:** 22,403



# Word Games



1. \_ i \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ y \_ \_ is called the world’s longest art gallery, because of all its Fremont rock art.
2. Coal is a \_ o \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ e \_ and is the altered remains of prehistoric vegetation that originally accumulated in swamps and peat bogs.
3. In a daring robbery in 1897, \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ and his partner Elza Lay stole the \$8,000 payroll of the Pleasant Valley Coal Company.
4. \_ \_ l \_ \_ \_ is named after the helper engines used on trains going up the steep grade in Price Canyon.
5. Boys as young as 8 years old who went to work in the mines with their fathers. were known as “\_ \_ \_ y \_ \_ \_ e \_ \_”.

# Word Search

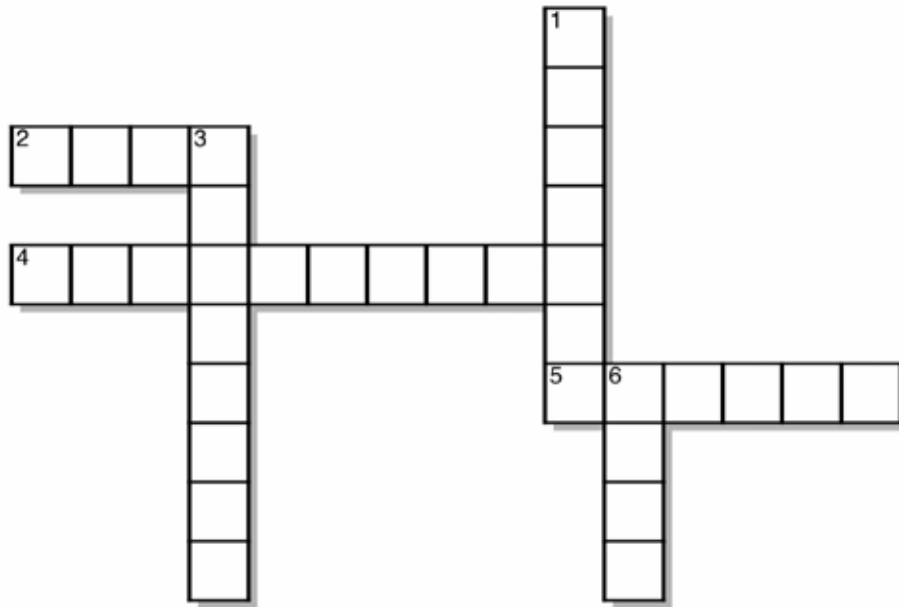
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|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>BIKING</b>      | <b>FOSSIL</b>    | <b>PETROGLYPH</b>  |
| <b>CAMPING</b>     | <b>FREMONT</b>   | <b>PREHISTORIC</b> |
| <b>CARBON</b>      | <b>GHOSTTOWN</b> | <b>PRICE</b>       |
| <b>COAL</b>        | <b>HELPER</b>    | <b>RAILROAD</b>    |
| <b>DINOSAUR</b>    | <b>HIKING</b>    | <b>SCOFIELD</b>    |
| <b>EAST CARBON</b> | <b>MINE</b>      | <b>SETTLERS</b>    |
| <b>ENERGY</b>      | <b>MINERS</b>    | <b>SIGHTSEEING</b> |
| <b>FISHING</b>     | <b>OUTLAWS</b>   | <b>TRAIN</b>       |
|                    |                  | <b>WELLINGTON</b>  |





# Crossword



### ACROSS

- 2 What did Butch Cassidy steal during robbery in Helper?
- 4 Railroad built this and it had 15 stalls.
- 5 What were the miners paid with instead of money?

### DOWN

- 1 What kind of settlers did Wellington have?
- 3 What kinds of tracks did miners find?
- 6 What Powered steam engines?

