

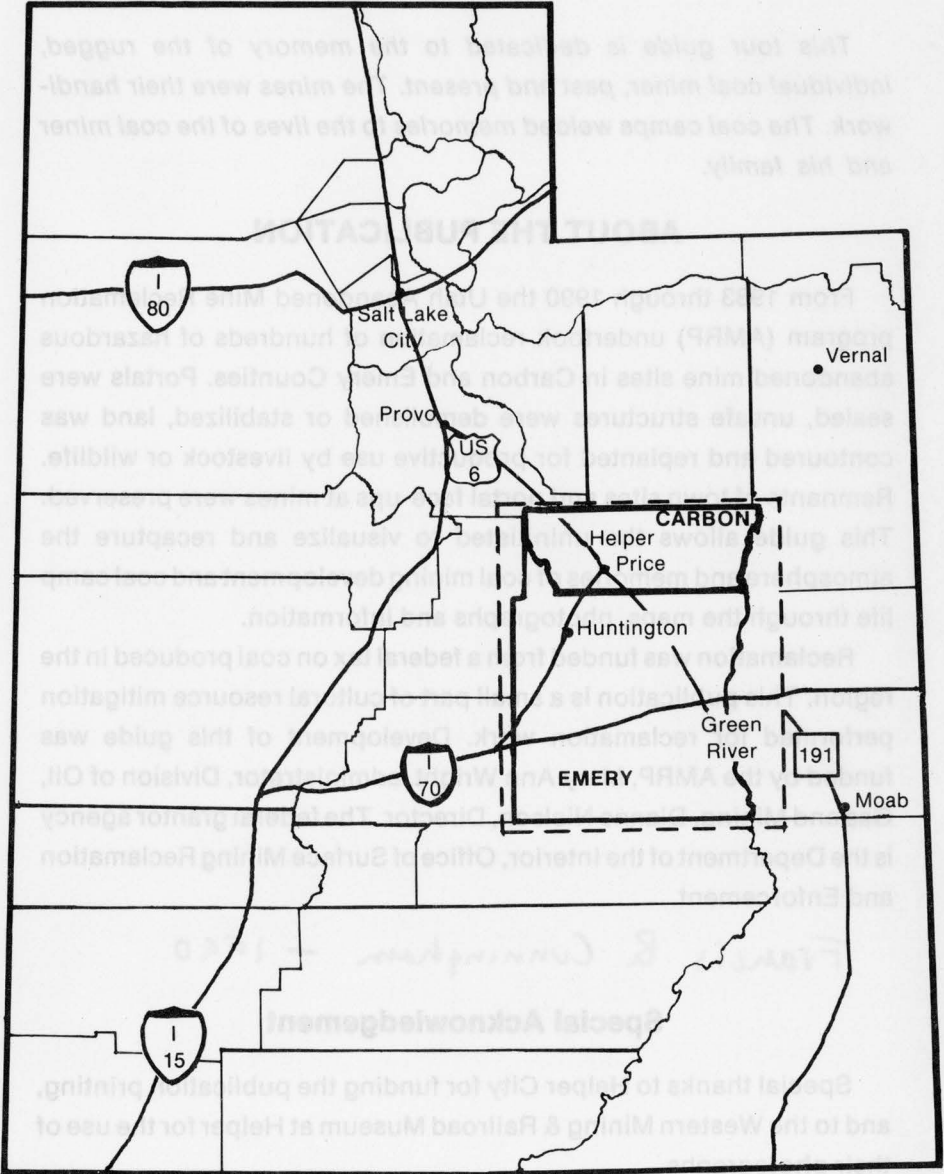
DRIVING TOUR GUIDE

SELECTED ABANDONED COAL MINE SITES

**FRANCES
CUNNINGHAM**

**CASTLE COAL COUNTRY
CARBON & EMERY COUNTIES**

UTAH CASTLE COUNTRY: CARBON & EMERY COUNTIES



**Driving Tour Guide
Selected Abandoned Coal Mine Sites
of
Castle Coal Country
Carbon & Emery Counties**

MEMORIAL

This tour guide is dedicated to the memory of the rugged, individual coal miner, past and present. The mines were their handiwork. The coal camps welded memories to the lives of the coal miner and his family.

ABOUT THE PUBLICATION

From 1983 through 1990 the Utah Abandoned Mine Reclamation program (AMRP) undertook reclamation of hundreds of hazardous abandoned mine sites in Carbon and Emery Counties. Portals were sealed, unsafe structures were demolished or stabilized, land was contoured and replanted for productive use by livestock or wildlife. Remnants of town sites and portal face-ups at mines were preserved. This guide allows the uninitiated to visualize and recapture the atmosphere and memories of coal mining development and coal camp life through the maps, photographs and information.

Reclamation was funded from a federal tax on coal produced in the region. This publication is a small part of cultural resource mitigation performed for reclamation work. Development of this guide was funded by the AMRP, Mary Ann Wright, administrator, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, Dianne Nielson, Director. The federal grantor agency is the Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

Francis B. Cunningham - 1990

Special Acknowledgement

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CONTENTS

| | |
|--|---------|
| Introduction | 1 |
| Castle Coal Country: | |
| Carbon and Emery Counties Highway Map | 2 |
| Mileage Starting Point: | |
| Western Mining Museum Map | 3 |
| Tour 1: Pleasant Valley/Scofield Map | 5 |
| Pleasant Valley/Scofield | 6 |
| Blue Seal/Kinney/Columbine/Jones Mine | 7 |
| Winter Quarters/Pleasant Valley Coal Company | 8 |
| Union Pacific Mine | 9 |
| Clear Creek/Pleasant Valley Coal Company | 10 |
| Tour 2: Castle Gate Map | 11 |
| Heiner/U.S. Fuel Company | 12 |
| Castle Gate/Utah Fuel Company | 13 |
| Royal/Royal Coal Company | 15 |
| New Peerless Mine | 16 |
| Tour 3: Spring Canyon Map | 18 & 19 |
| Peerless/Peerless Coal Company | 17 |
| Spring Canyon/Spring Canyon Coal Company | 20 |
| Standardville/Stardard Coal Company | 21 |
| Maple Creek Mine | 22 |
| Latuda/Liberty Fuel Company | 23 |
| Rains/Carbon Fuel Company | 24 |
| Little Standard, Vulcan, Day and Western Mines in Mutual Area | 25 |
| Mutual/Mutual Coal Company | 26 |
| Tour 4: Kenilworth Map | 27 |
| Kenilworth/Independent Coal & Coke Company | 28 |
| Tour 5: Gordon Creek Map | 29 |
| Gordon Creek | 30 |
| National/Consumers/Sweets | 31 |
| Tour 6: Hiawatha/Morhland Map | 32 |
| Hiawatha/U.S. Fuel Company | 33 |
| Morhland/Castle Valley Fuel Company | 34 |
| Tour 7: Columbia Map | 35 |
| Columbia/Columbia Steel Corporation | 36 |
| Tour 8: Huntington Canyon Map | 37 |
| Huntington Canyon/Meetinghouse Canyon | 38 |
| Rilda Canyon/Coal Canyon | 39 |
| Tour 9: Straight Canyon Map | 40 |
| Straight Canyon/Black Diamond Mine | 41 |
| Oliphant Mine | 42 |

EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE COAL INDUSTRY

Coal mining has been a major part of Utah's economy since the development of the first coal mine. The first documented coal mine in Utah was started east of Cedar City in response to Brigham Young's call for a steel mill in 1849. Transportation barriers proved to be too great, and the operation did not flourish, but the coal mining industry had begun in Utah.

Salt Lake City was the major population center of the region with correspondingly high fuel demands, so a search began to find coal within a reasonable distance of Salt Lake City. Development in nearby Coalville occurred about 1870. In the mid-1870's coal was discovered in Carbon County and Emery County, both of which were then a part of Sanpete County. Knowledge of the coal fields led to the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad being routed through Eastern Utah.

The higher quality Carbon County coal quickly became the focus of Utah's coal mining industry. The Pleasant Valley (Scofield) area was the first to be developed. The Pleasant Valley Coal Company and Utah Fuel Company both subsidiaries of the D&RGWRR developed Winter Quarters, Mud Creek, Clear Creek, Castle Gate and Sunnyside Mines. Numerous other mines opened in the Scofield area.

The first large commercial coal mine independent of a railroad was the Independent Coal & Coke Mine at Kenilworth. In 1912 the coal lands in the Spring Canyon area west of Helper began to be commercially developed. Approximately 3,000 people lived in coal camps there.

In the 1920's Consumers, National and Sweet Mines were developed in upper Gordon Creek. Other mines along the Book Cliffs and south along the eastern face of the Wasatch Plateau into Emery County were developed in the early 1900's and on into the 1970's.

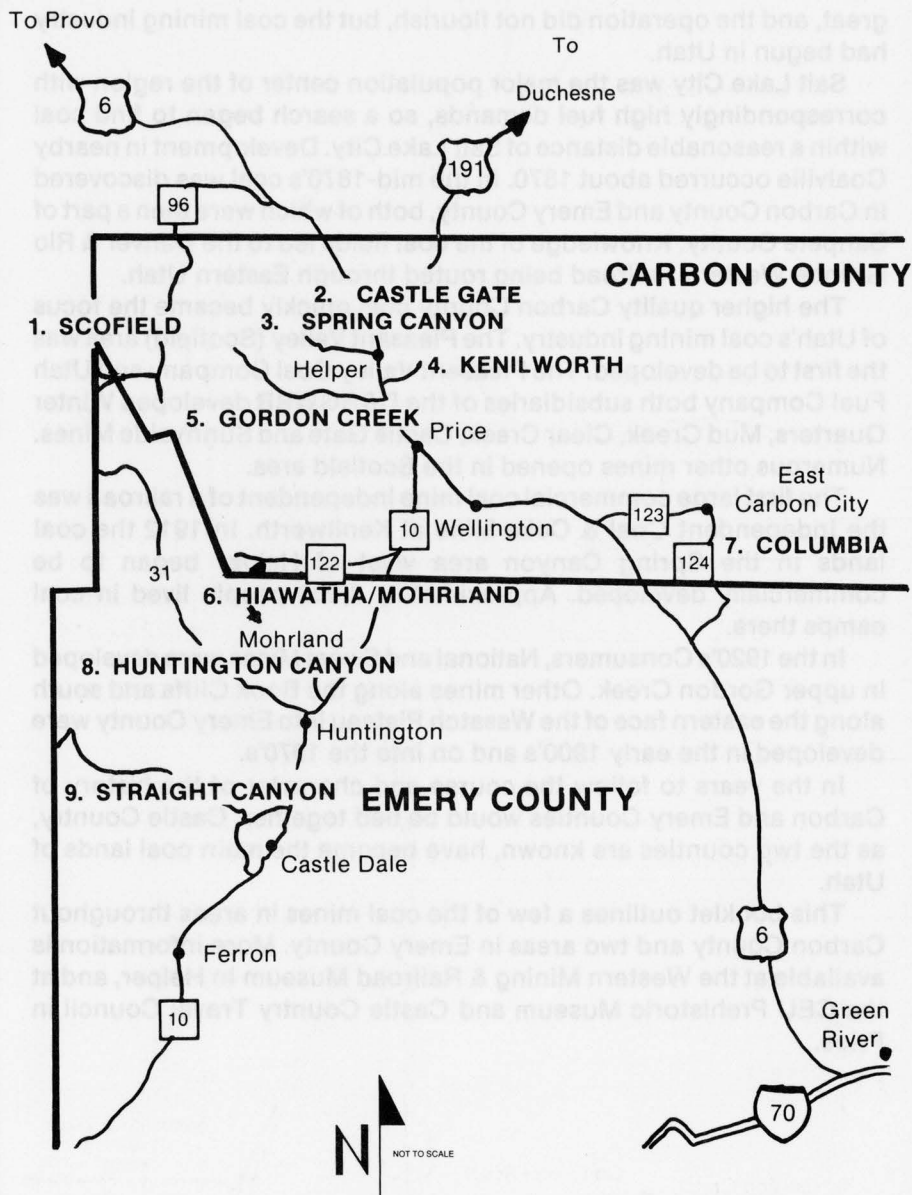
In the years to follow the course and character of the history of Carbon and Emery Counties would be tied together. Castle Country, as the two counties are known, have become the main coal lands of Utah.

This booklet outlines a few of the coal mines in areas throughout Carbon County and two areas in Emery County. More information is available at the Western Mining & Railroad Museum in Helper, and at the CEU Prehistoric Museum and Castle Country Travel Council in Price.

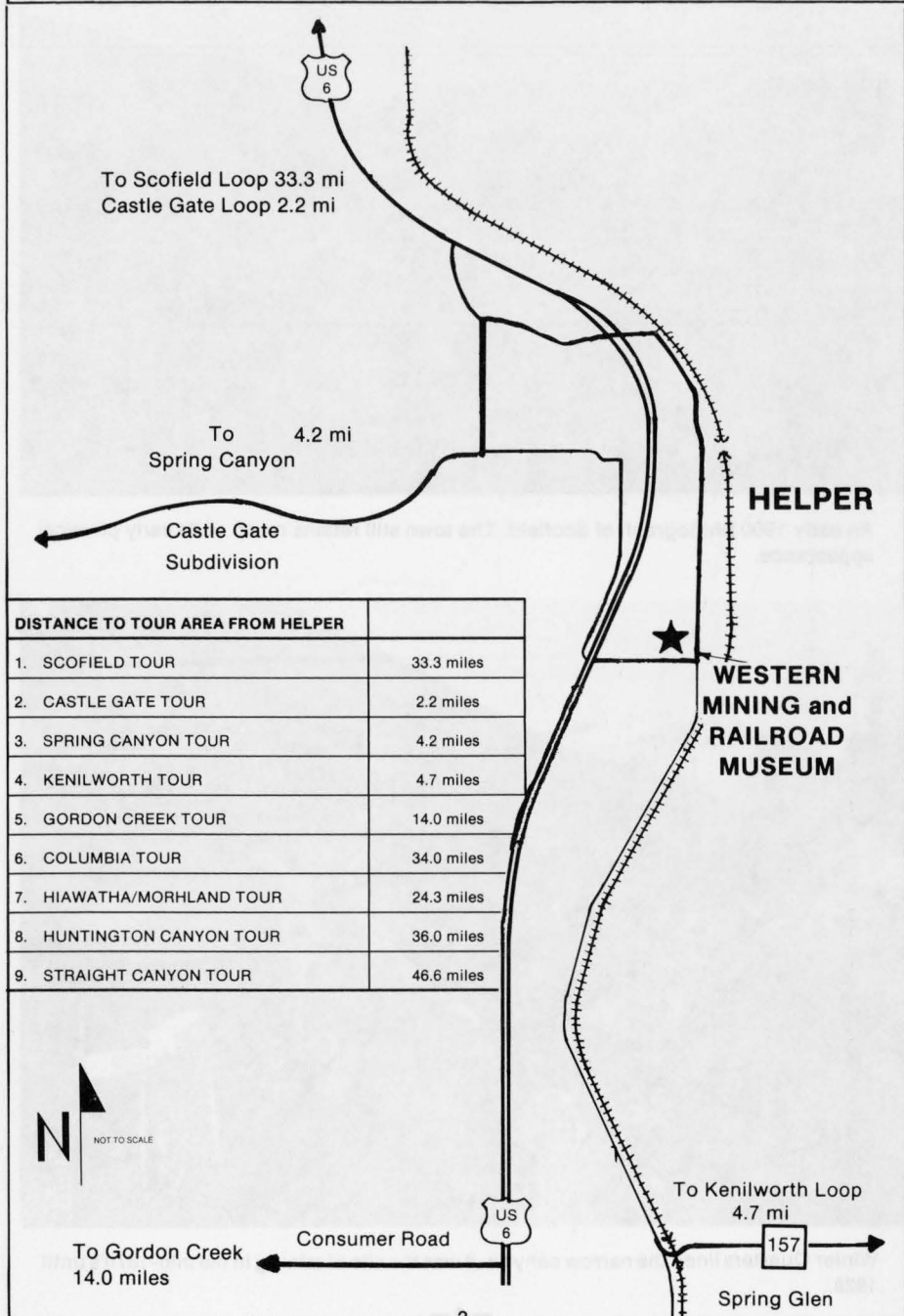
CASTLE COAL COUNTRY:

Carbon and Emery Counties

Highway Map and Abandoned Mine Tours

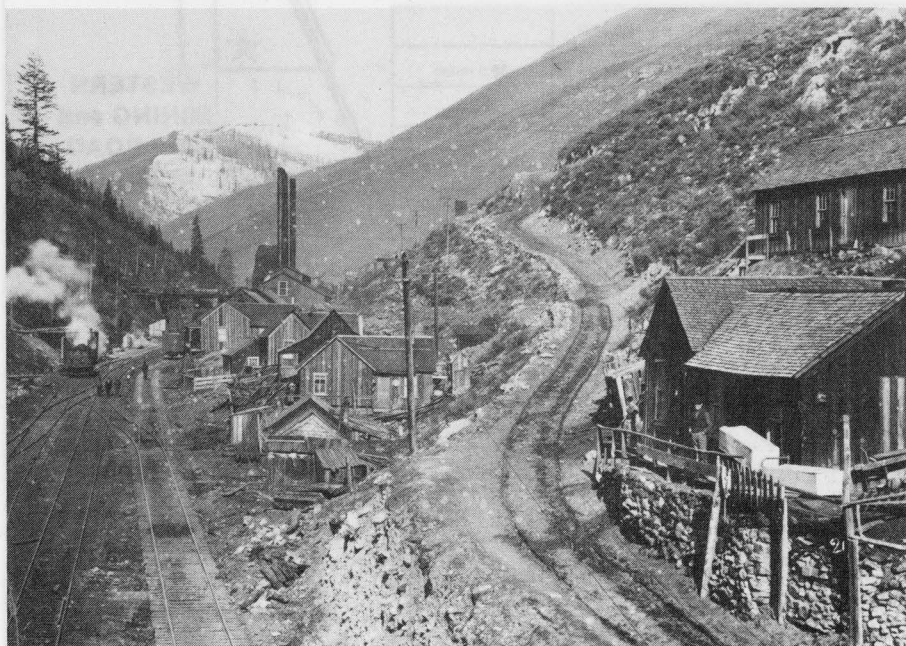


MILEAGE STARTING POINT: WESTERN MINING RAILROAD MUSEUM



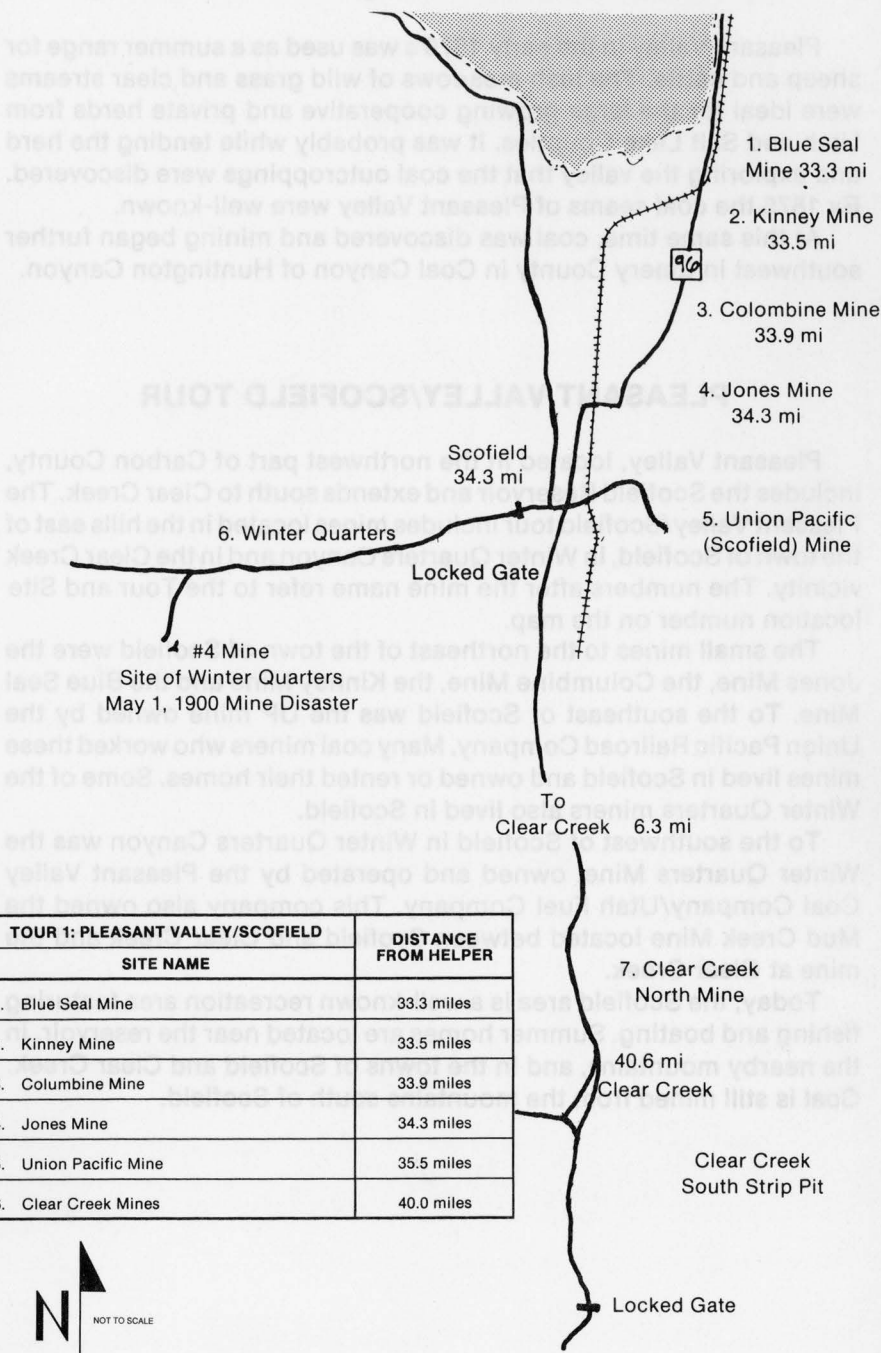


An early 1990 photograph of Scofield. The town still retains much of its early physical appearance.



Winter Quarters lined the narrow canyon. It was the site of mining in the mid-1870's until 1928.

TOUR 1: PLEASANT VALLEY/SCOFIELD



| TOUR 1: PLEASANT VALLEY/SCOFIELD | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| SITE NAME | DISTANCE FROM HELPER |
| 1. Blue Seal Mine | 33.3 miles |
| 2. Kinney Mine | 33.5 miles |
| 3. Columbine Mine | 33.9 miles |
| 4. Jones Mine | 34.3 miles |
| 5. Union Pacific Mine | 35.5 miles |
| 6. Clear Creek Mines | 40.0 miles |



TOUR 1:

PLEASANT VALLEY

Site of the First Coal Mining in Carbon County

Pleasant Valley in the early 1870's was used as a summer range for sheep and cattle. The lush meadows of wild grass and clear streams were ideal for the large growing cooperative and private herds from Utah and Salt Lake Counties. It was probably while tending the herd and exploring the valley that the coal outcroppings were discovered. By 1875 the coal seams of Pleasant Valley were well-known.

At this same time, coal was discovered and mining began further southwest in Emery County in Coal Canyon of Huntington Canyon.

PLEASANT VALLEY/SCOFIELD TOUR

Pleasant Valley, located in the northwest part of Carbon County, includes the Scofield Reservoir and extends south to Clear Creek. The Pleasant Valley/Scofield tour includes mines located in the hills east of the town of Scofield, in Winter Quarters Canyon and in the Clear Creek vicinity. The numbers after the mine name refer to the Tour and Site location number on the map.

The small mines to the northeast of the town of Scofield were the Jones Mine, the Columbine Mine, the Kinney Mine and the Blue Seal Mine. To the southeast of Scofield was the UP mine owned by the Union Pacific Railroad Company. Many coal miners who worked these mines lived in Scofield and owned or rented their homes. Some of the Winter Quarters miners also lived in Scofield.

To the southwest of Scofield in Winter Quarters Canyon was the Winter Quarters Mine, owned and operated by the Pleasant Valley Coal Company/Utah Fuel Company. This company also owned the Mud Creek Mine located between Scofield and Clear Creek and the mine at Clear Creek.

Today, the Scofield area is a well-known recreation area featuring fishing and boating. Summer homes are located near the reservoir, in the nearby mountains, and in the towns of Scofield and Clear Creek. Coal is still mined from the mountains south of Scofield.

TOUR 1:

BLUE SEAL/KINNEY/COLUMBINE/JONES MINES

The Blue Seal (Tour 1, Site 1), Kinney (Tour 1, Site 2), Columbine (Tour 1, Site 3), and Jones Mines (Tour 1, Site 4), were located northeast of Scofield. The Jones Mine was located at the edge of the town with the Columbine .4 mile from the Jones Mines, the Kinney .8 miles and the Blue Seal 1 mile. The Blue Seal and the Kinney Mines were early mine operations with the Columbine and Jones Mines more modern.

The Blue Seal Coal Company was organized in Colorado on October 19, 1920; Belmond B. Magee, president, Luke J. Kavanaugh, secretary, with four other stockholders. This new mine company was a subsidiary of the Amalgamated Mines Company of Denver with mines in Wyoming and Colorado. The mine was located on the Kimball property at Sulfur Springs, one mile north of Scofield and was opened in the spring of 1921. On April 3, 1922, after working for just one year, the Blue Seal Coal Company's incorporation papers were annulled by the State of Utah for non-compliance with existing regulations. Records show that the mine worked intermittently from 1921 to the 1940's.

In 1918-1919 the Kinney Coal Company opened a seam of coal eight feet in thickness. Work developed rapidly with equipment that was considered modern for that time. The company had its own power plant and used electrically operated machinery to mine the coal. The mine closed in 1926. From 1946 to 1956 the mine operated as the Monay mine.

The Colombine Coal Company, named for its principal stockholder Dr. F.V. Colombo, was incorporated August 17, 1960. Other stockholders included Carbon County residents: Thorit Hatch, secretary and treasurer; Bert Prichard, vice-president; Joe Santi, Joe Ruden, Edward Sheya, Melvin L. Young and Romana Walters. By April 8, 1971 the mine was closed.

Incorporation papers of the Jones Mine show that the Spring Creek Coal Company, incorporated April 19, 1960, operated the mine. Raymond S. Jones was president and general manager; Ronald P. Jones, vice-president; Julia Ann Jones, secretary and treasurer; Leroy Richard and Wayne Albert Jones, directors. The mine was abandoned and not operating by 1970.

TOUR 1:

WINTER QUARTERS/

PLEASANT VALLEY COAL COMPANY

Winter Quarters (Tour 1, Site 6), a mine and coal mining town, was located in a canyon southwest of Scofield, 16 miles south of Colton, a railroad town at the junction of where Highway 6 and Highway 96 now are. The mine was the first commercial mine in Carbon County, and the grandfather to the many coal mines that would be the life support for Carbon County. The life span of the mine was 53 years, from 1875 to 1928.

In 1875 George B. Matson, Phil Beard and John Nelson of Springville started driving into the mountain taking the first coal from a five-foot vein. The coal was loaded in sacks and placed on mules that were taken down the mountain to waiting wagons. Milan O. Packard and Myron Crandall, owners of the coal claims, drove the wagons to Springville.

During the winter of 1875-1876 John Nelson and Abram Taylor wintered at the mine site, holding the claims for the owners, thus the name of Winter Quarters was given to the mine site. This name was reinforced by Sanpete coal miners who leased the mine from the Pleasant Valley Coal Company and were stranded there during the winter of 1877-1878.

In the spring of 1876 the Pleasant Valley Coal Company was incorporated with Milan O. Packard as president. Mr. Packard formed the Pleasant Valley Railroad Company in 1877 and the construction of a railroad line from Springville to Pleasant Valley was begun that same year. This railroad line was called the "Calico Road" because the workers were paid mostly in goods, especially calico cloth.

In 1882 the Rio Grande Western railroad purchased the Utah and Pleasant Valley Railroads and the mines of the Pleasant Valley Coal Company. From this time, the Rio Grande Western Railroad and its subsidiary, the Utah Fuel Company, played an important role in the development of coal mining and history of Carbon County.

On May 1, 1900 an explosion occurred in the No. 4 mine, killing two hundred men and boys. The youngest boy was thirteen years old. Families throughout Utah were affected. One hundred and five women were widowed and two hundred and seventy children were left fatherless. The Scofield cemetery markers show the burial sites of many of these victims. Several large monuments that honor the memory of these miners are located at the Scofield cemetery.

The Winter Quarters mine began to decline and closed in 1928 when other mines producing higher quality coal opened.

Today, two walls of the company store are visible from the Scofield road. The land is on private property and permission should be asked before walking into the Winter Quarters area.

TOUR 1: UNION PACIFIC MINE

The Union Pacific (UP) Mine (Tour 1, Site 5), was located near Scofield, 1.5 miles south of the intersection of Highway 96 and the railroad track, on the east side of the highway.

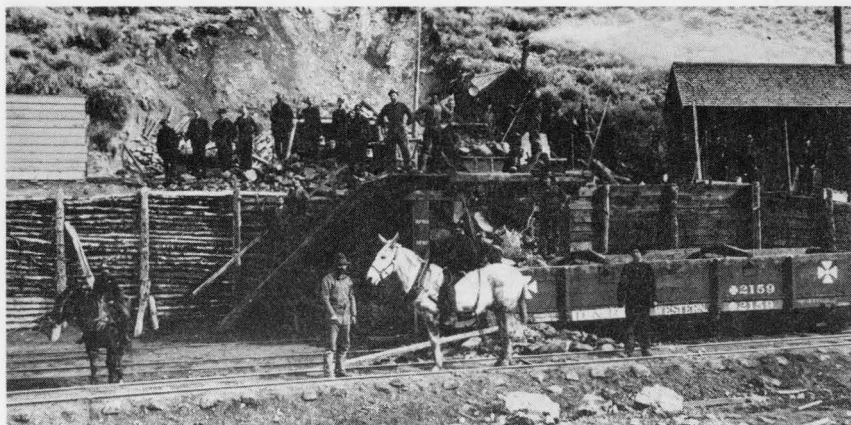
In 1876, a Mr. Hatch of Springville discovered a coal seam on the east mountains almost opposite to that of the Winter Quarters Mine to the west of Scofield. By June of 1877 a Mr. Pugsley of Salt Lake City acquired the mine. He hired six to seven men to mine the coal which was hauled by teams down to Utah Valley.

This coal operation became known as the Utah Central Coal Company. In 1881, they opened a twenty-eight foot seam of coal. The state's first coal mining-related deaths occurred here on New Year's morning, 1884. The tippie caught fire, setting the coal in the mine ablaze. John McLean and his son were working in the mine and were trapped there. As a result the mine tunnel was permanently sealed. A year later the mine was holed into from Slope No. 2, through which all the coal was hoisted.

In November of 1890, the Union Pacific Coal Company took over this coal property with the understanding that the Scofield townsite property was included. Prior to this time, families had homesteaded the land and claimed ownership. The dispute over the land ownership was settled in court, the ruling for the homesteaders.

Another problem faced the Union Pacific Coal Company. The D.&R.G. Western Railway owned the only tracks to the valley, and charged so much to haul coal that the Union Pacific Coal Company found it more economical to buy most of their coal from Wyoming, mining only a small amount from the Scofield location.

In 1917 the UP Mine was leased to the Scofield Coal Company. By 1936 the mine was abandoned.



TOUR 1:

CLEAR CREEK/PLEASANT VALLEY COAL COMPANY

The town of Clear Creek (Tour 1, Site 7), named from the mountain stream that flows from the mountains, paradoxically named Mud Creek, is located six miles south of Scofield, at an altitude of 8,300 feet. It was first a logging site for the Pleasant Valley Coal Company. In June, 1899, W.G. Sharp of the Pleasant Valley Coal Company reported that new coal properties were to be opened and a mine developed at Clear Creek. The coal was of a superior quality with the coal seam occurring at tippie height above the bottom of the canyon, eliminating outside haulage from a tramway. Within two years a tent town had grown up and trains made two trips daily.

In 1904 the Utah Fuel Company sent an amazing chunk of coal from the Clear Creek mine to the St. Louis World's Fair. It was pyramid shaped, three feet square at the bottom, six to eight inches square at the top and about eight feet high with no impurities.

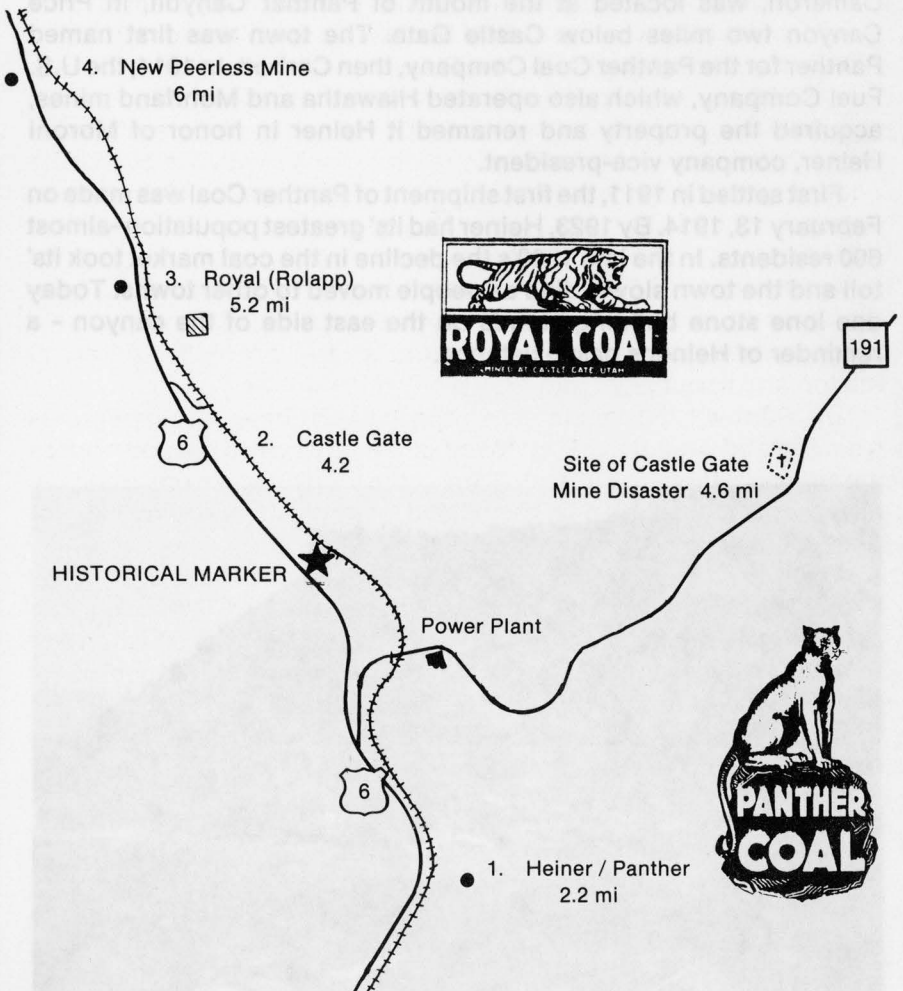
By 1908 over 450 people were living in Clear Creek with immigrants from Finland predominating. Many of the salt-boxed shaped houses are similar to those in Finland. Many of the Finn people were musically talented; because of this they build a large amusement hall for entertaining the people of the area.

From 1910 to 1920 mining was at its peak. From 450 to 600 people lived in the town during this time. During the early 1930's the coal seam became too deep for economical removal. This slowed production and the population dropped to about 250 people. By the 1950's most of the people had left to find other work. Today only a few families live in Clear Creek all year. There are some summer homes. Several mines to the east, up Eccles Canyon, are operating today.



The town of Clear Creek was named from nearby Mud Creek.

TOUR 2: CASTLE GATE



| TOUR 2: CASTLE GATE | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| SITE NAME | DISTANCE FROM HELPER |
| 1. Heiner/Panther Mine | 2.2 miles |
| 2. Castle Gate (town) | 4.2 miles |
| 3. Castle Gate (mine) | 4.6 miles |
| 4. Royal/Rolapp Mine | 5.2 miles |
| 5. New Peerless Mine | 6.0 miles |

TOUR 2: HEINER/U.S. FUEL COMPANY

The small mining camp of Heiner (Tour 2, Site 1), founded by Frank Cameron, was located at the mouth of Panther Canyon, in Price Canyon two miles below Castle Gate. The town was first named Panther for the Panther Coal Company, then Carbon. In 1914, the U.S. Fuel Company, which also operated Hiawatha and Mohrland mines, acquired the property and renamed it Heiner in honor of Moroni Heiner, company vice-president.

First settled in 1911, the first shipment of Panther Coal was made on February 13, 1914. By 1923, Heiner had its' greatest population -almost 600 residents. In the late 1930's the decline in the coal market took its' toll and the town slowly died as people moved to other towns. Today one lone stone building stands on the east side of the canyon - a reminder of Heiner's past existence.



First settled in 1911, Heiner existed until the decline in the 1930's coal market.

TOUR 2: CASTLE GATE/UTAH FUEL COMPANY

The mining town of Castle Gate (Tour 2, Site 2), once located 4 miles north of Helper, was situated to the south of the great Castle Rock formations from which the town was named. Before the western side of the Castle Gate rocks were sliced off, they seemed to block the road straight ahead, only to part at the last minute. The dramatic effect has been lessened with the construction of a new highway. It is still here that you enter the Price River Valley from the north.

The town of Castle Gate is gone. In its place is a coal preparation plant where the mined coal is sorted, washed and stored until it is loaded into railroad cars.

In 1883, the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad built a line through Carbon County along a route partly determined by a company geologist. He had located the Castle Gate coal seams in 1881 needed for locomotive fuel. In 1888, Castle Gate became D&RGWRR's second mine operation. Its coal proved to be valuable as coking coal, which was needed for ore smelters. The coal was also located near the rail lines making it easy to ship.

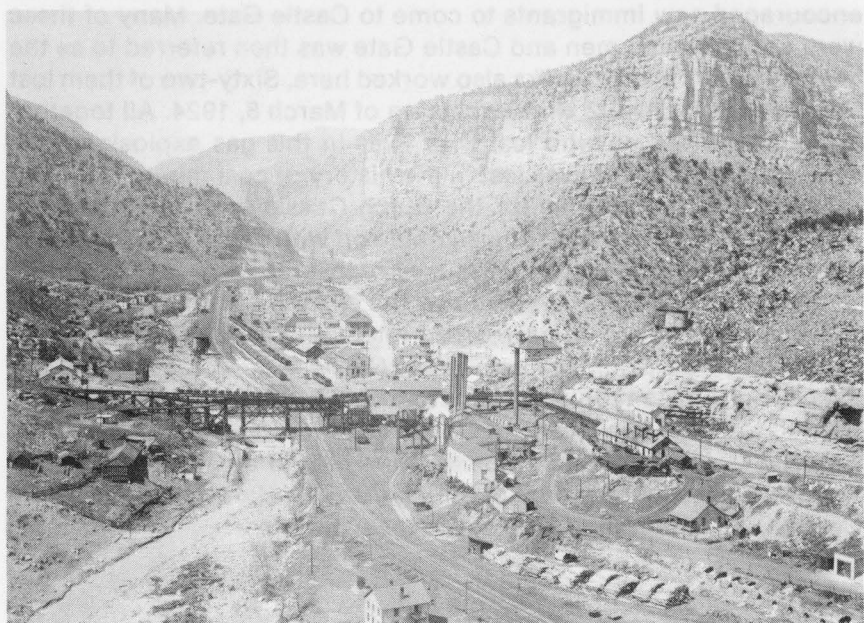
The first miners at Castle Gate were sent from the company's Winter Quarters mines. But more miners were needed. Labor agents encouraged new immigrants to come to Castle Gate. Many of these were young Italian men and Castle Gate was then referred to as the "Italian Mine". Many Greeks also worked here. Sixty-two of them lost their lives in the No. 2 Mine explosion of March 8, 1924. All together there were 172 men who lost their lives in this gas explosion. This shows the high toll of lives lost in the history of coal mining.

Castle Gate is famous for the Butch Cassidy payroll robbery of April 22, 1897. Butch and his men made off with over \$7,000 dollars in gold and silver. The money was never recovered.

The post World War II years saw the closing of many of the small mines. Many of them were merged into a single company. By 1974 McCullough Oil Company owned the Castle Gate, Kenilworth, Clear Creek, Spring Canyon and Hardscrabble coal lands. This company wanted to use the town site of Castle Gate for new operations. They paid the residents for their homes, then picked up and moved 60 of them five miles to the mouth of Spring Canyon. Here they became the Castle Gate subdivision west of the town of Helper.



March 8, 1924, Caskets from Castle Gate Mine Disaster.



The town of Castle Gate existed for over 90 years. Now it is the site of a mining operation.

TOUR 2:

ROYAL/ROYAL COAL COMPANY

The small mining camp of Royal (Tour 2, Site 3), was located at the foot of Castle Rock, nature's gateway to Carbon County. Royal had more names than any other mining town. It was known as Cameron, then Rolapp, then Royal.

In 1913 Frank Cameron, a prominent mining man, with the help of 35 miners, began mining in Bear Canyon, a side canyon of Price Canyon. The town that developed out of Bear Canyon and spread across the narrow canyon floor was named Cameron in honor of its founder. On August 14, 1914 the first cottages were ready for occupancy. By 1917 Cameron had a population of about 200 people.

In November of 1919 the coal property was sold to Henry Rolapp, and the town's name was changed to Rolapp. Then it was changed to Royal, the name derived from the Royal Coal Company. This mine had become one of the deepest coal mines in Utah. In 1919 the Royal Coal Company sold the properties to the Spring Canyon Coal Company.

The population of the town fluctuated, having at its height 355 people. During the winter months when the demand for coal was high, some coal miners moved their families to the coal camps, but when the slack summer season came, many families left, some to find work elsewhere or to work on family farms.

As the demand for coal continued to decline following World War II, so did Royal and the town began to dwindle. By the end of the 1950's, Royal was deserted.

The Price River Water Diversion and Treatment plant has been built on top of the main part of the old town. By looking up Bear Canyon, you can still see many remnants of old sheds and house foundations that were once a part of Royal.



The town of Royal, located just north of Castle Gate, had as many name changes as owners.

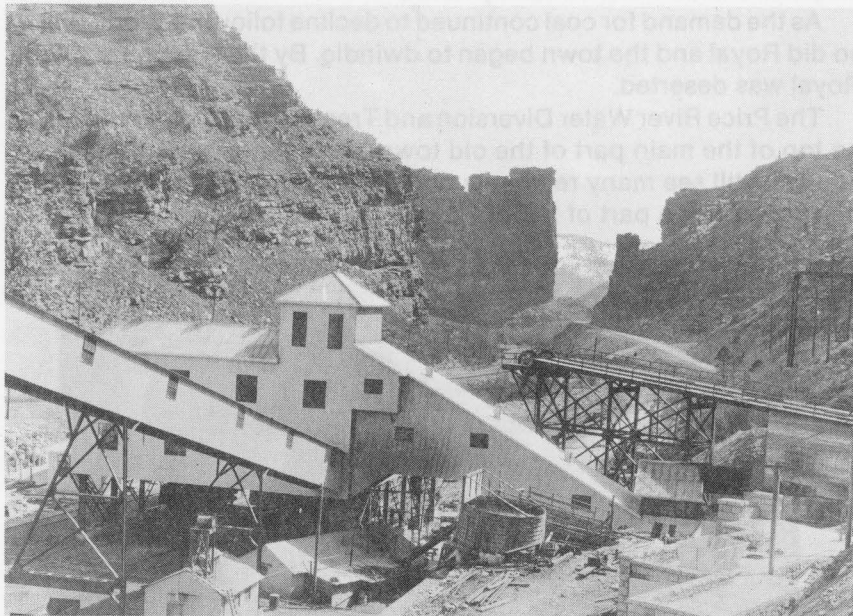
TOUR 2: NEW PEERLESS MINE

The rock wall and cement structures, remains of New Peerless Mine works (Tour 2, Site 4), are located to the north of the Castle Rock Gateway just above what was the mining town of Royal. The life of this mining site was just one year, from 1930 to 1931.

The property was opened by the Peerless Coal Company of Spring Canyon. The coal there was almost worked out. Ezra and Clyde Thompson, brothers, leased the New Peerless coal property from the government. This mine, established during the early years of the depression, had problems, too.

The elevation of New Peerless was approximately 6,300 feet. The mine opening had to be driven through rock on a 30 degree incline. The coal seams encountered were at 1900 feet and 2300 feet, a distance of two miles below the portal. There was also a problem of water in the mine. Then one and one-half months after opening, in March of 1930, five men were killed in a tunnel by a gas explosion.

During the depression, the demand for coal declined and in 1931, the mine closed.



New Peerless tipple: The mine operated for only one year, 1930 to 1931.

TOUR 3:

PEERLESS/PEERLESS COAL COMPANY

The Peerless Mine (Tour 3, Site 1), was located 1.8 miles above the Utah Railway underpass at the mouth of Spring Canyon. Over the years from 1917 to 1953 the Peerless Mines produced 3.4 million tons of coal from the coal seams located up in the cliffs of the arrowhead-shaped sandstone cliffs.

In 1915, Charles and William Sweet, brothers prominent in the Utah coal industry, purchased the properties. They built a tramway, a tippie, and opened the mine. They incorporated the Peerless Coal Company adding Ezra Thompson and James Murdoch to their Board of Directors. In 1918 Thompson and Murdoch bought out the Sweets, and shipped the first carload of coal by the end of May. By November, the company had a contract to ship coal to Idaho, Washington, Oregon and the Hawaiian Islands. Eventually, the mine produced up to 500 tons a day.

The town had 30 homes, a store, post office, clubhouse for mine officials and a school house for the younger children. About 150 men were employed in the mine. As the transportation system improved, many of the men began to live in the nearby towns of Helper and Spring Glen and to drive to work at Peerless.

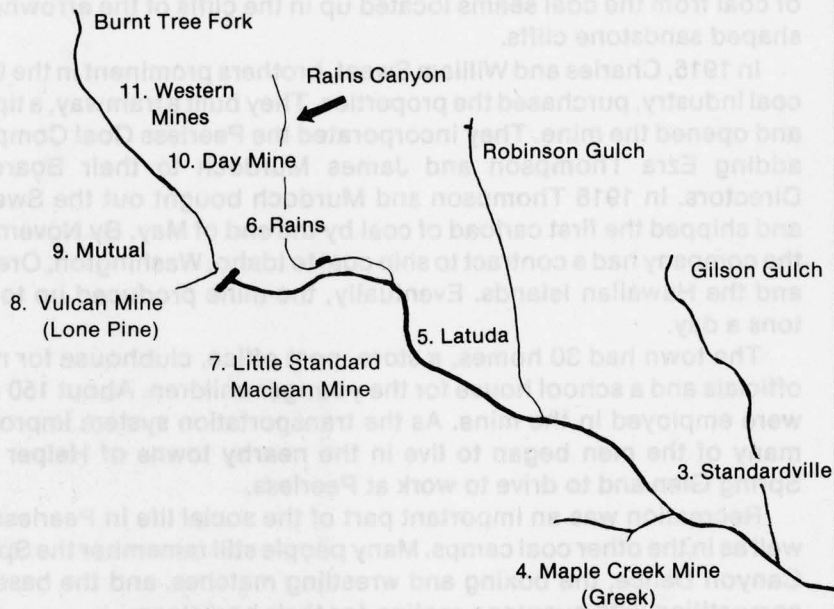
Recreation was an important part of the social life in Peerless, as well as in the other coal camps. Many people still remember the Spring Canyon Dance, the boxing and wrestling matches, and the baseball competition with everyone rooting for their hometeam.

In March of 1953, due to relentless series of mining problems, the company decided to close down. By December the last people left Peerless. The old tramway grade which was constructed to haul the coal from the mines down the steep mountainside to the tippie situated at the canyon floor, marks the birth, life and death of Peerless.



The coal camp of Peerless had 30 homes, a store, post office, clubhouse for mine officials and a school house for the younger children.

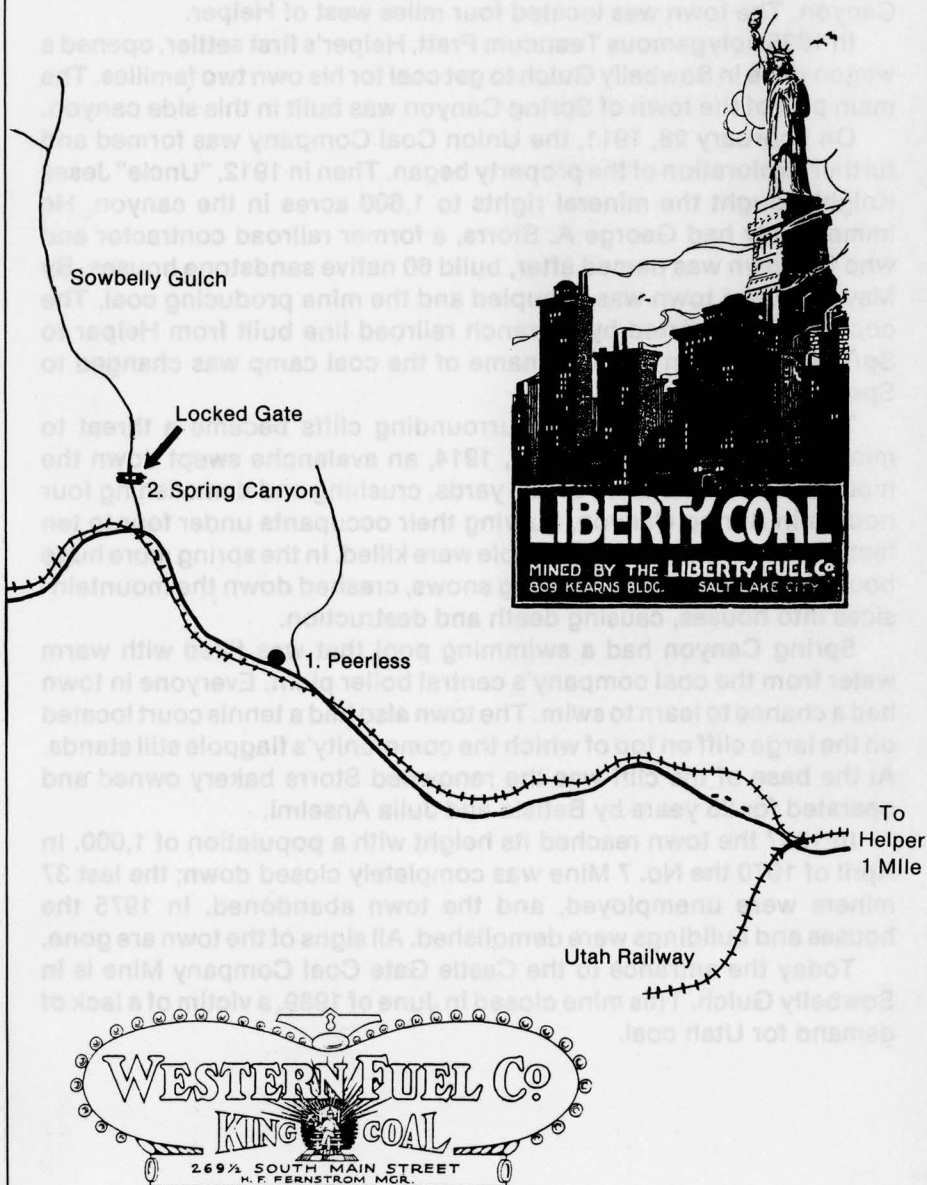
TOUR 3: SPRING CANYON



| TOUR 3: SPRING CANYON | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| SITE NAME | DISTANCE FROM HELPER |
| 1. Peerless Mine | 4.2 miles |
| 2. Spring Canyon (Storrs) | 4.6 miles |
| 3. Standardville | 5.8 miles |
| 4. Maple Creek Mine | 6.0 miles |
| 5. Latuda | 6.6 miles |
| 6. Rains | 7.5 miles |
| 7. Little Standard | 8.0 miles |
| 8. Vulcan (Lone Pine) Mine | 9.0 miles |
| 9. Mutual | 7.8 miles |
| 10. Day Mine | 8.5 miles |
| 11. Western Mine | 9.0 miles |
| | |



TOUR 3: SPRING CANYON



TOUR 3:

SPRING CANYON/SPRING CANYON COAL COMPANY

The town of Spring Canyon or Storrs (Tour 3, Site 2), as it was originally called, was the site of the first mining operation in Spring Canyon. The town was located four miles west of Helper.

In 1895 polygamous Teancum Pratt, Helper's first settler, opened a wagon mine in Sowbelly Gulch to get coal for his own two families. The main part of the town of Spring Canyon was built in this side canyon.

On February 28, 1911, the Union Coal Company was formed and further exploration of the property began. Then in 1912, "Uncle" Jesse Knight bought the mineral rights to 1,600 acres in the canyon. He immediately had George A. Storrs, a former railroad contractor and who the town was named after, build 60 native sandstone houses. By May 1913, the town was occupied and the mine producing coal. The coal was transported by a branch railroad line built from Helper to Spring Canyon. In 1924 the name of the coal camp was changed to Spring Canyon.

The winter snow on the surrounding cliffs became a threat to mining camps. On January 26, 1914, an avalanche swept down the mountainside a distance of 500 yards, crushing and demolishing four houses in Spring Canyon, burying their occupants under four to ten feet of packed snow. Three people were killed. In the spring more huge boulders loosened from melting snows, crashed down the mountain-sides into houses, causing death and destruction.

Spring Canyon had a swimming pool that was filled with warm water from the coal company's central boiler plant. Everyone in town had a chance to learn to swim. The town also had a tennis court located on the large cliff on top of which the community's flagpole still stands. At the base of the cliff was the renowned Storrs bakery owned and operated for 25 years by Batista and Julia Anselmi.

In 1947 the town reached its height with a population of 1,000. In April of 1970 the No. 7 Mine was completely closed down; the last 37 miners were unemployed, and the town abandoned. In 1975 the houses and buildings were demolished. All signs of the town are gone.

Today the entrance to the Castle Gate Coal Company Mine is in Sowbelly Gulch. This mine closed in June of 1989, a victim of a lack of demand for Utah coal.

TOUR 3:

STANDARDVILLE/STANDARD COAL COMPANY

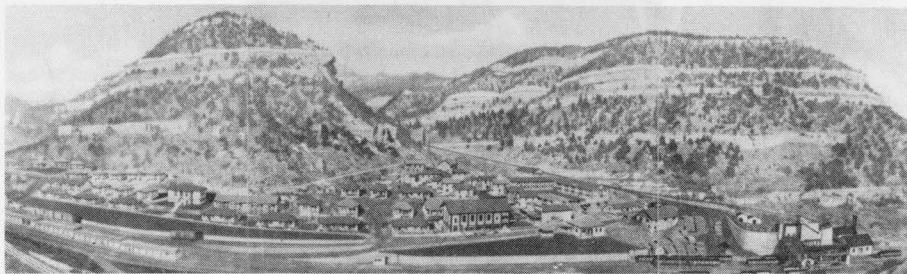
Standardville coal camp (Tour 3, Site 3), was located in Spring Canyon, five miles northwest of Helper, one mile west of Spring Canyon town. Both mine sites were being opened at the same time in 1912. Frederick A. Sweet opened a rich seam of coal on the mountain side about a quarter of a mile north of the town site. In 1914 about 200 tons of coal were mined daily, with 1,000 tons the next year. By 1932, 2,000 tons a day were being produced.

In 1920 a new railroad line, the Utah Railway, was constructed from Helper, thus improving coal transportation out of the district. The coal companies in the canyon claimed that the existing railroad line, owned by their competitor, the D&RGW, handicapped their tonnage by the inadequate transportation facilities.

Standardville received its name from wise planning and building of its town, which became a model or standard for other camps. It had modern houses, steam-heated apartments, a hospital, a general store, butcher shop, recreation hall, tennis courts, ball field, a hospital (1937) and a public school. The school was from grades one to six; junior high students attend school at Latuda. Eventually all junior high students were transported by bus to Helper Jr. High for the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th grades, then to Carbon High School in Price for the 11th and 12th grades. In 1930 the population of Standardville was 504 with 550 at its peak.

During the 1940's most of the easily available coal had been mined out. Expenses increased as the miners penetrated farther into the mountain. The mine closed in 1954. People slowly moved out.

Many remnants of the old town are left; the large cement retaining wall of the old tippie, house foundations, and walls of the hospital. Self contained units will find parking. This is a good spot to hike from and watch for deer and eagles.



Standardville, so named for its wise planning and building, became a model for other coal camps.

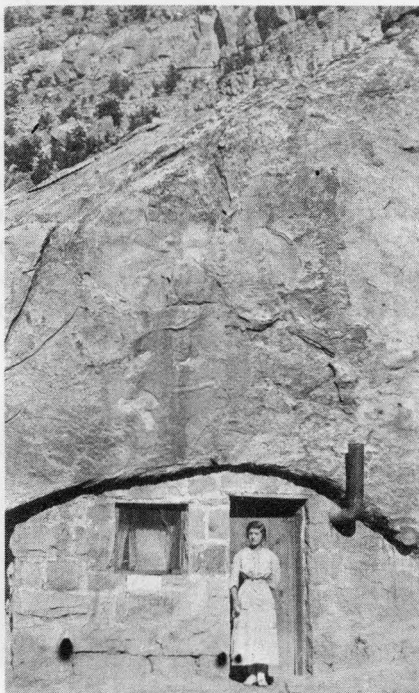
TOUR 3:

MAPLE CREEK MINE

The Maple Creek Mine (Tour 3, Site 4), was one of the first mines owned by Greek-American citizens. The company was organized by E. Francis (Emanuel Fragekakes - Mike Francis, Americanized name). It was incorporated on June 8, 1926. The company was organized with extremely limited capital and operations were crude and haphazard.

In September of 1927, construction of a tippie and boarding house were underway at Maple Creek, located just southeast of Standardville. The tippie was completed on February 15, 1928. The miners tunneled through 800 feet of rock to reach the 6 foot 8 inch coal seam. By December the mine was producing two hundred fifty tons of coal daily. The company made consistent progress and earnings until the fall of 1930.

In April of 1931 a fire of unknown origin destroyed the wooden mine tippie, rendering useless the dump, motor and the scales. A new tippie, and other costly improvements were made. During this period of time the company spent in excess of \$245,000. The depression also contributed to the financial problems of the Maple Creek Coal Company. The company was forced to close on July 20, 1937.



TOUR 3:

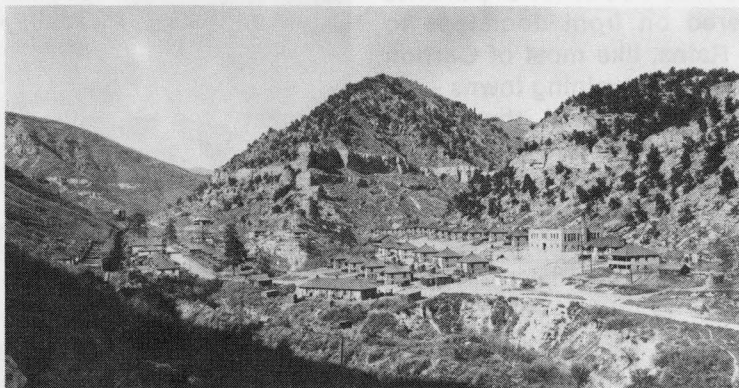
LATUDA/LIBERTY FUEL COMPANY

The coal mining camp of Latuda (Tour 3, Site 5), was located about seven miles west of the mouth of Spring Canyon, at an elevation of 6,700 feet. In 1917 Frank Latuda and Frank Cameron formed the Liberty Fuel Company and opened a seam of coal that varied from six to nine feet. Frank Cameron had previously operated a mine in Bear Canyon, selling his interest that year to Henry H. Rolapp. That town was eventually known as Royal. This new town was called Liberty until a post office was established then renamed Latuda in honor of Frank Latuda.

The miners and their families lived in tents until January 1918, when twenty new houses were completed. As the mine company showed a steady progress, thirty-five more houses were built. Like other mining camps, the work force fluctuated, the average being 110 workers. From 1920 to 1950 the population of Latuda was from 300 to 400 residents.

In 1954 the mine shut down much of its operation. Only twenty families stayed on during the late 1950's and the early 1960's, they were the families of the men working in the Spring Canyon Mine. Many of the houses were bought and moved to other towns. By 1966 the mine had completely closed. The mine site is located 0.5 miles west of Latuda on the south side of the Spring Canyon road. A sealed masonry portal has "Liberty Fuel Co. 1920" inscribed on the concrete top piece.

It was at Latuda that one of the modern mining folklore tales was begun in the late 1960's. Teenagers came back to the "haunted" mine office at night to tell ghost stories and to see the "White Lady". Even after the office was blown apart, and most physical evidences of the town gone, the story still persists and nightly visits are made to catch a glimpse of the "White Lady".



The town of Latuda.

TOUR 3:

RAINS/CARBON FUEL COMPANY

Rains (Tour 3, Site 6), was located just above Latuda at the upper end of Spring Canyon, seven miles west of Helper. In 1915 the Carbon Fuel Company, with Leon F. Rains as president, opened a mine in an eighteen-foot thick seam of coal.

The coal was of excellent quality. It was known as "Hi-Heat" and maintained that it keep up to its name. The demand for this mine's output in 1919 covered the greater portion of the Western states, notably Utah, Idaho and Nevada.

By 1919 sixty houses with all the "latest conveniences" had been built, also a boarding house and a store. In 1921 a schoolhouse was built.

In 1935, a new-comer wondered how her family could live in a two-room house without indoor plumbing, clothes closets and kitchen cabinets. The family found that it could and that the joys out-weighed the hardships of the town. The residents, 500 or fewer, were friendly and generous. Town life was gay with dances, home talent shows, social affairs and school fund-raising events. The trips to the large towns of Helper and Price were highlights and only made for special occasions.

The new modes of living in a mountain settlement were startling and intriguing, such as hanging out the weekly wash on a line operated by a pulley thirty feet up from the ground and disposing of tin cans and garbage by throwing them in the dry creek bed, called "The Wash". Children climbed the high, flat rocks and parents gathered on front doorsteps to visit. Rains, like most of Carbon County's coal mining towns - the people, the homes, the mines, and recently the old Rains bath-house - are gone.

In 1958 the mine finally shut down due to advancing costs and decreasing demands.

Rains, located just west of Latuda, was founded by Leon F. Rains, president of the Carbon Fuel Company.



Rains

TOUR 3:

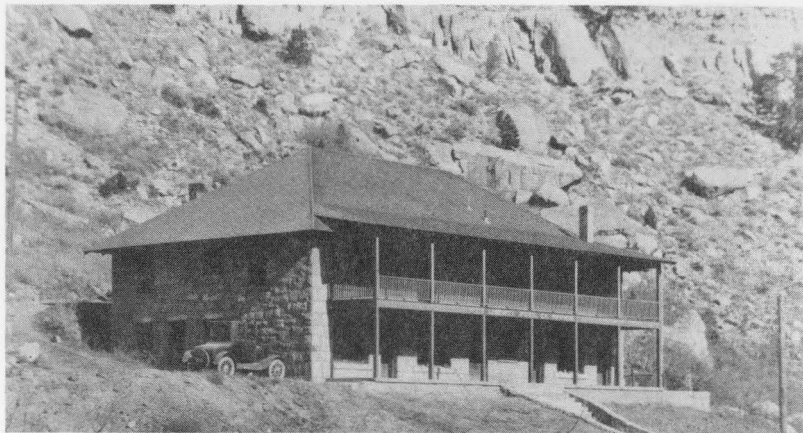
LITTLE STANDARD, VULCAN, DAY AND WESTERN MINES IN MUTUAL AREA

Other small mines existed in the Mutual (Tour 3, Site 9), area. Miners and their families lived in Mutual, Rains and in the left fork of the canyon.

The Little Standard or Maclean Mine (Tour 3, Site 7), was opened in 1919 by the Standard Coal Company. The mine was located high on the left-hand side of the canyon. The tramway was so steep that only 2 to 4 cars could be brought down at a time. The Rains tippie was used to process the coal. The mine closed in the mid-1940's when it caught on fire.

The Western Coal Company Mine (Tour 3, Site 11), and the Day Mine (Tour 3, Site 10), were located up Burnt Tree Canyon. The Day Mine was one-fourth of a mile above the fork and the Western Mine another 200 yards north. Both companies were working the same four foot seam of coal. The Day Mine was owned by brothers Wayne, Golden and Orson Day, and by Mike Mangus. This truck mine opened in 1942 during World War II and closed in 1957. The Western Mine was operated from early 1950's to 1966 by Hal Schultz.

The Vulcan Fuel Company (Lone Pine) (Tour 3, Site 8), incorporated on July 23, 1942 with Michael Gambero (Gamber), president, treasurer and general manager, Mario Picco, vice-president, Virginia R. Gambero, secretary. This group also incorporated under the name of the Victory Fuel Company on July 10, 1942. The inventory list is the same for both companies. The Vulcan Mine had an excellent high grade of low seam coal which was mined until a rock fault was encountered. The company gambled their money in trying to go around the fault, they lost, abandoning the mine in 1957.



Liberty Fuel Company mine office located at Latuda.

TOUR 3:

MUTUAL/MUTUAL COAL COMPANY

Less than a half mile from Rains, at the extreme western end of Spring Canyon, the canyon forks. In the north fork known as Burnt Tree Canyon, the Mutual Coal Company (Tour 3, Site 9), opened a mine and built a town for its workers. In December 1919, the newly organized company advertised for stockholders, prompting the name of Mutual for the cooperative coal company, Fred J. Leonard of Salt Lake City was president.

As soon as weather permitted in 1920, a tippie was built with a surface tramway of a distance of 600 feet to the upper 8 foot vein of coal. Below this seam was another one about fourteen feet thick and a lower one about six and one-half feet thick.

Mutual was often the last stop on the Spring Canyon Stage Line, which started at Helper. Local residents, Joe and Bob Cormani, Peter Laboroi, (Italians) and Harry Eda (Japanese) charged \$1.50 for a roundtrip in 1921 on their bus. Although this fare was comparatively high at the time, people paid it willingly. Passengers helped push when the stage got stuck in the muddy, rutted road. In the winter, the snow was so deep that even residents who owned cars would use the stage bus.

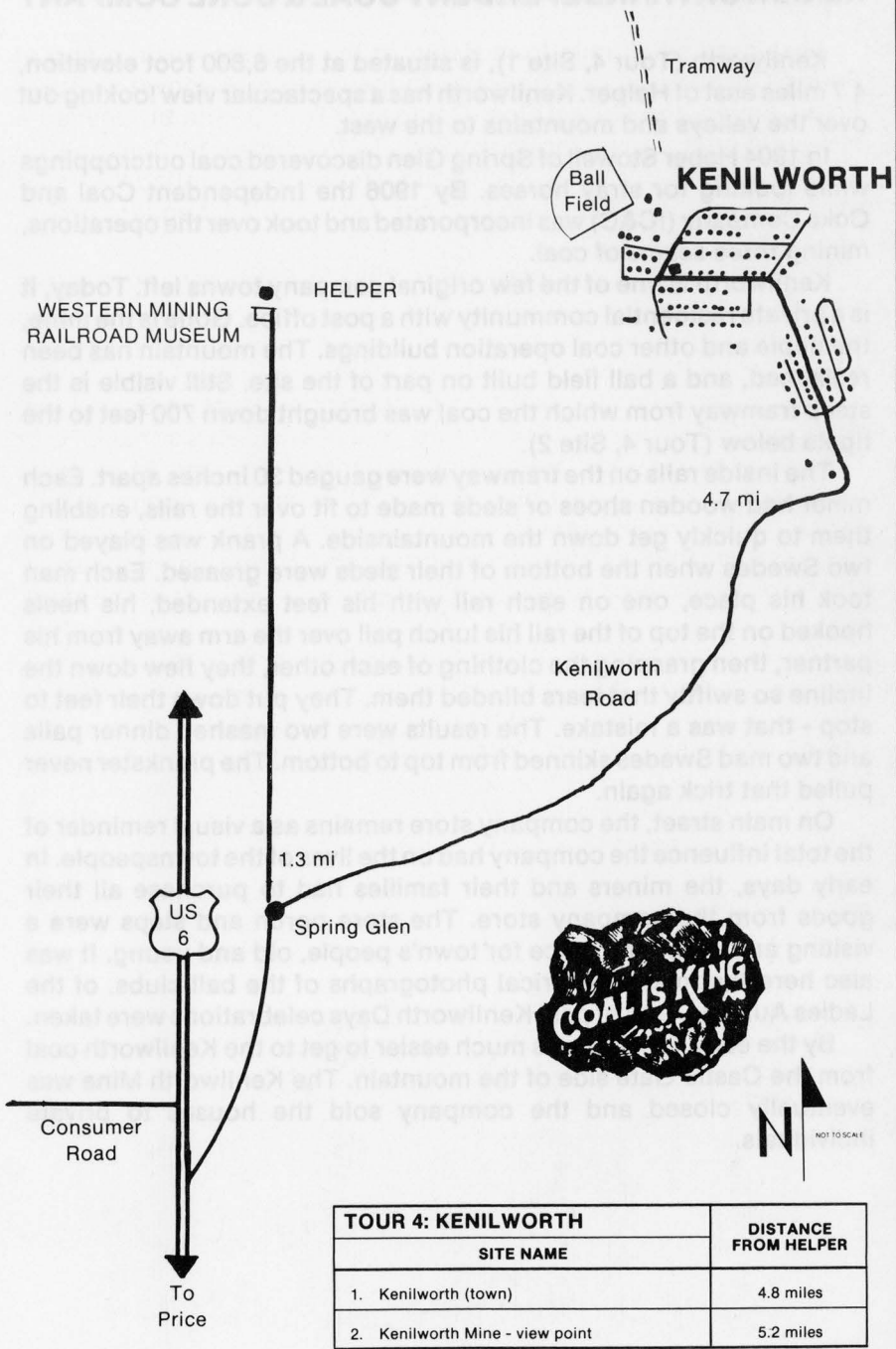
In 1938 the mine quit working. Some of the people left but they were replaced by others that were working in other near-by mines, namely Rains and Little Standard, also known as the Maclean Mine.

The impressive Mutual Company Store walls remain in the right fork of the canyon. The store was built in 1921 by Joe Pavagano, then later sold to Walter and Helen Johnson. It remained opened until 1954 serving the miners in that end of Spring Canyon.



The impressive remains of the Mutual Store, built in 1921.

TOUR 4: KENILWORTH



TOUR 4:

KENILWORTH/INDEPENDENT COAL & COKE COMPANY

Kenilworth (Tour 4, Site 1), is situated at the 6,800 foot elevation, 4.7 miles east of Helper. Kenilworth has a spectacular view looking out over the valleys and mountains to the west.

In 1904 Heber Stowell of Spring Glen discovered coal outcroppings while looking for stray horses. By 1906 the Independent Coal and Coke Company (IC&C) was incorporated and took over the operations, mining three seams of coal.

Kenilworth is one of the few original company towns left. Today, it is a private residential community with a post office. Gone is the mine, the tippie and other coal operation buildings. The mountain has been reclaimed, and a ball field built on part of the site. Still visible is the steep tramway from which the coal was brought down 700 feet to the tippie below (Tour 4, Site 2).

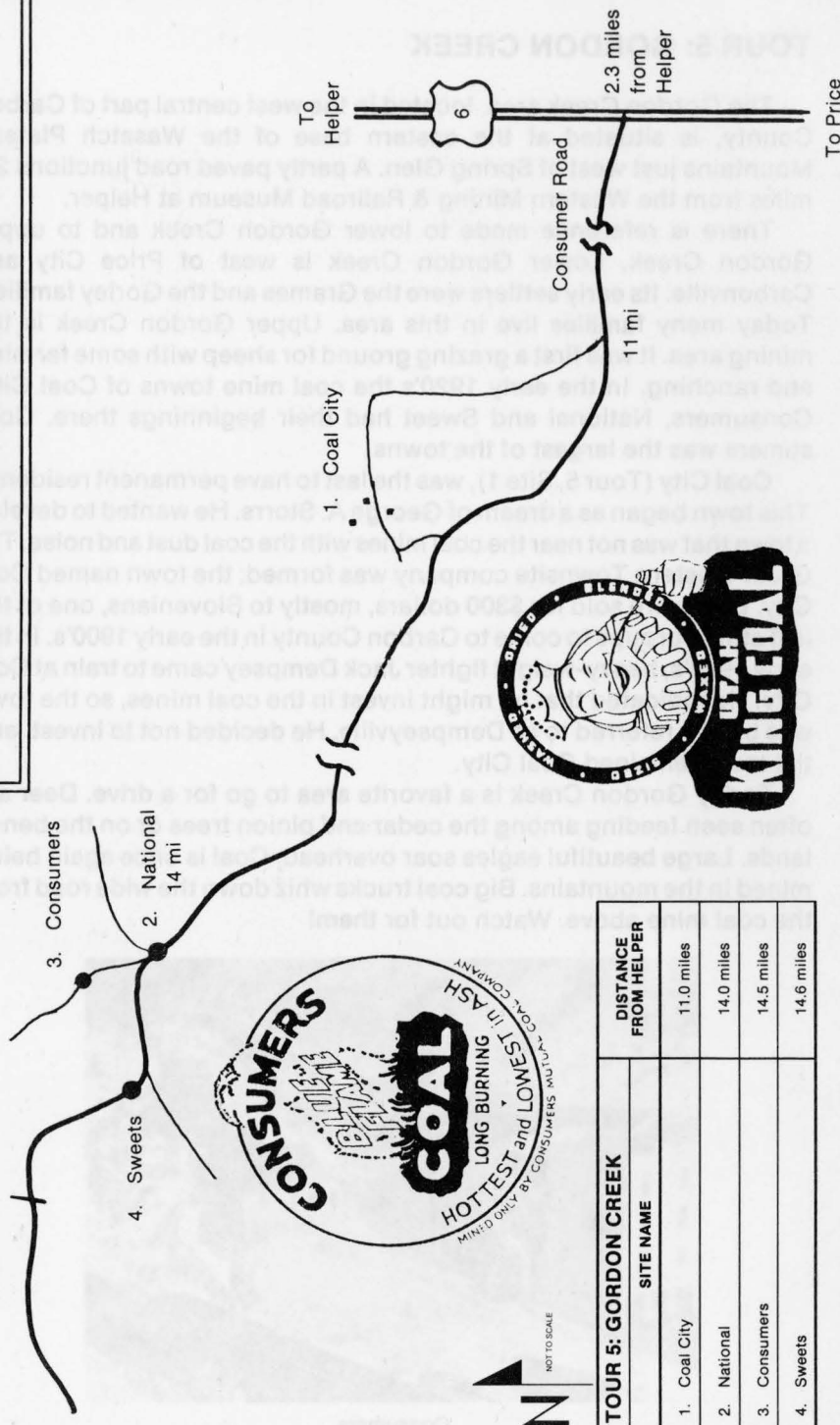
The inside rails on the tramway were gauged 30 inches apart. Each miner had wooden shoes or sleds made to fit over the rails, enabling them to quickly get down the mountainside. A prank was played on two Swedes when the bottom of their sleds were greased. Each man took his place, one on each rail with his feet extended, his heels hooked on the top of the rail his lunch pail over the arm away from his partner, then grasping the clothing of each other, they flew down the incline so swiftly that tears blinded them. They put down their feet to stop - that was a mistake. The results were two mashed dinner pails and two mad Swedes skinned from top to bottom. The prankster never pulled that trick again.

On main street, the company store remains as a visual reminder of the total influence the company had on the lives of the townspeople. In early days, the miners and their families had to purchase all their goods from the company store. The store porch and steps were a visiting and gathering place for town's people, old and young. It was also here that many historical photographs of the ball clubs, of the Ladies Auxiliary and of past Kenilworth Days celebrations were taken.

By the early 1960's it was much easier to get to the Kenilworth coal from the Castle Gate side of the mountain. The Kenilworth Mine was eventually closed and the company sold the houses to private individuals.

Active Mine
KEEP OUT

TOUR 5: GORDON CREEK



| TOUR 5: GORDON CREEK | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| SITE NAME | DISTANCE FROM HELPER |
| 1. Coal City | 11.0 miles |
| 2. National | 14.0 miles |
| 3. Consumers | 14.5 miles |
| 4. Sweets | 14.6 miles |

TOUR 5: GORDON CREEK

The Gordon Creek area, located in the west central part of Carbon County, is situated at the eastern base of the Wasatch Plateau Mountains just west of Spring Glen. A partly paved road junctions 2.3 miles from the Western Mining & Railroad Museum at Helper.

There is reference made to lower Gordon Creek and to upper Gordon Creek. Lower Gordon Creek is west of Price City and Carbonville. Its early settlers were the Grames and the Gorley families. Today many families live in this area. Upper Gordon Creek is the mining area. It was first a grazing ground for sheep with some farming and ranching. In the early 1920's the coal mine towns of Coal City, Consumers, National and Sweet had their beginnings there. Consumers was the largest of the towns.

Coal City (Tour 5, Site 1), was the last to have permanent residents. This town began as a dream of George A. Storrs. He wanted to develop a town that was not near the coal mines with the coal dust and noise. The Great Western Townsite company was formed; the town named Coal City. Lots were sold for \$300 dollars, mostly to Slovenians, one of the last ethnic groups to come to Carbon County in the early 1900's. In the early 1920's, heavy-weight fighter Jack Dempsey came to train at Coal City. He indicated that he might invest in the coal mines, so the town was briefly referred to as Dempseyville. He decided not to invest, and the town remained Coal City.

Today Gordon Creek is a favorite area to go for a drive. Deer are often seen feeding among the cedar and pinion trees or on the bench lands. Large beautiful eagles soar overhead. Coal is once again being mined in the mountains. Big coal trucks whiz down the wide road from the coal mine above. Watch out for them!



Consumers

TOUR 5: NATIONAL/CONSUMERS/SWEETS

The three coal camps of National, Consumers and Sweets (Tour 5, Site 2, 3, & 4), were all located near each other in Upper Gordon Creek. Another small mine located opposite the Sweets Mine was operated by the Gordon Creek Coal Company, formed in July of 1920. In 1921 the National Coal Company and the Gordon Creek Coal Company opened mines and began construction of a railroad line from the Utah Railroad line up Gordon Creek to the mine sites.

The towns shared the National post office and schoolhouse and the Consumers' hospital and amusement hall. Each town had a store and a central water tap where the residents filled five gallon containers with water. The company officials' houses and the large apartment houses were the only ones with indoor plumbing. A row of red-tile block houses were built in 1930 for the mine officials. They can still be seen on the east side of the road.

In the early 1930's a Medical Association was formed by the three camps. A committee made up equally of company and union personnel administered the association. The association charged \$1.50 per month for a man with a family and \$1.00 per month for a single man. Money was automatically taken out of the miners' wages. This paid the company doctor, the nurse, medical bills, office expenses and medicine. Surgical items were usually extra. The company doctor, such as Dr. J. Eldon Dorman, was held in great respect by the miners and their families.

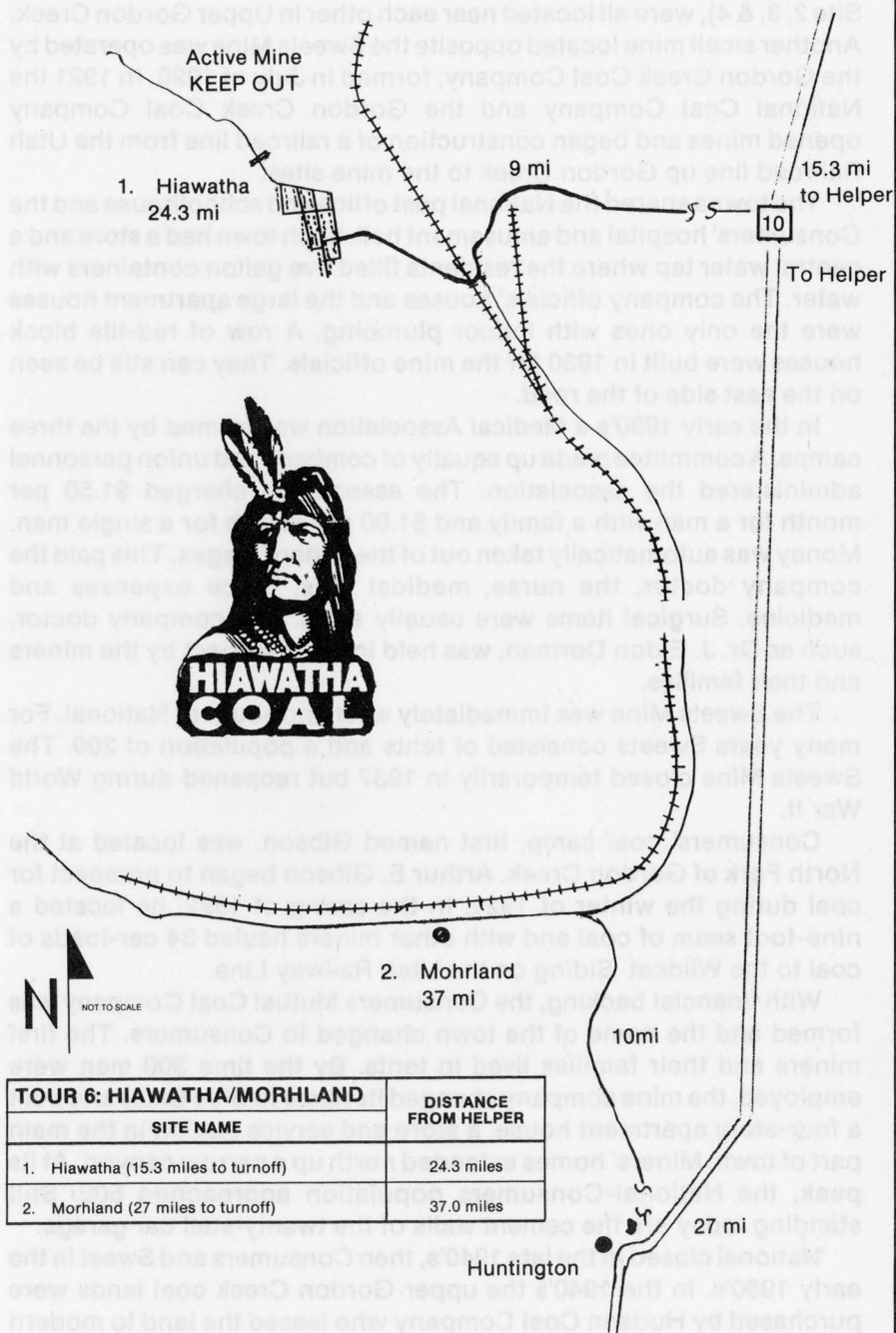
The Sweets Mine was immediately west and south of National. For many years Sweets consisted of tents and a population of 200. The Sweets Mine closed temporarily in 1937 but reopened during World War II.

Consumers' coal camp, first named Gibson, was located at the North Fork of Gordon Creek. Arthur E. Gibson began to prospect for coal during the winter of 1921. In the spring of 1922, he located a nine-foot seam of coal and with other miners hauled 34 car-loads of coal to the Wildcat Siding on the Utah Railway Line.

With financial backing, the Consumers Mutual Coal Company was formed and the name of the town changed to Consumers. The first miners and their families lived in tents. By the time 300 men were employed, the mine company changed its name to Blue Blaze and built a four-story apartment house, a store and service station in the main part of town. Miners' homes extended north up a narrow canyon. At its peak, the National-Consumers population approached 500. Still standing today are the cement walls of the twenty-stall car garage.

National closed in the late 1940's, then Consumers and Sweet in the early 1950's. In the 1940's the upper Gordon Creek coal lands were purchased by Hudson Coal Company who leased the land to modern mining companies.

TOUR 6: HIAWATHA/MORHLAND



TOUR 6:

HIAWATHA/U.S. FUEL COMPANY

Hiawatha (Tour 6, Site 1), located approximately 19 miles south west of Price City on the eastern slope of Gentry Mountain, is the last of the company-owned towns. Most of the houses are gone. Only ten families remain in 1990.

Newspapers of October, 1907, reported the incorporation of the Consolidated Fuel Company by Arthur A. Sweets and associates with plans to develop the Miller Creek Coal section at the Miller ranch and to construct seventeen miles of railroad from Price to the mine site. But due to a lack of funds, the construction of a railroad line was delayed and not completed until 1909. This extremely steep line was abandoned in 1914 when the Utah Railway built a line from Helper.

The name for the town first appeared in 1911 - Hiawatha - believed to be named from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "Hiawatha." September, 1911, the town was incorporated. In June of 1912 the nearby towns of Blackhawk and Morhland, along with Hiawatha, were purchased by the United States Fuel Company. The logo was "King Coal." 1912 was a record year when two thousand tons of coal were dumped in twelve hours and the first moving picture show was shown. Twenty single and double dwellings were built, new equipment placed in the mine and the work force increased.

Hiawatha was the only camp with its own dairy. In January, 1914, the mine company purchased sixteen high grade milk cows and equipment for a dairy on the company's Millerton ranch.

In 1917 the Hiawatha post office closed, and the town of Hiawatha combined with Black Hawk and the whole area became known as Hiawatha.

March 21, 1918 the completion of the Hiawatha Amusement Hall was celebrated with a Grand Ball. Besides a dance floor, the hall included bowling alleys, pool and billiard tables, card tables, lodge rooms, reading and entertainment rooms.

In 1921 the town sported a band and an orchestra, a population of 1,500, three stores, and two pool halls. In 1924 the company built two church buildings, one for the Mormons and one for the other denominations.

The up and down trend of the coal industry has taken its toll. The town has slowly declined; today there are no services, except rural mail delivery and busing of school children to Price. The remaining residents have fought to maintain incorporation of their town. U.S. Fuel still operates the mine under the parent company, Sharon Steel of Miami, Florida. The company employs 150 union and 50 salaried persons; most of them drive from Price. One original Hiawatha resident states that for all the inconveniences, the beauty and serenity of Hiawatha makes living there worthwhile.

TOUR 6: MOHRLAND/CASTLE VALLEY FUEL COMPANY

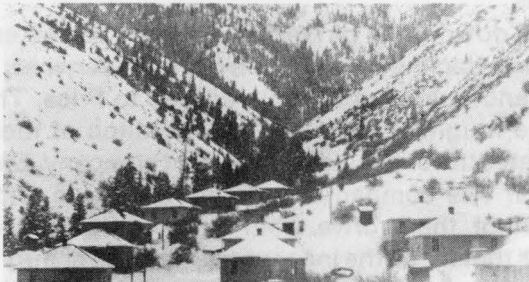
The coal mining town of Mohrland (Tour 6, Site 2), was located in Emery County, four miles north of Huntington. In 1909, it was named for the organizers of the Castle Valley Fuel Company; James H. Mays, W.C. Orem, Moroni Heiner and Windsor V. Rice.

Beginning in 1906, Emery County men operated several wagon mines on this coal property which was later sold to the Castle Valley Fuel Company. The owners also developed the Castle Valley Railroad which joined the Utah Railway a few miles north. The town at first included six buildings: the superintendent's house, the company doctor's office and home, the company store, a boarding house or "Beanery", a company hospital and a house for two workmen. Other families moving in had to live in tents until more houses could be built. In June, 1912, the United States Fuel Company purchased the Mohrland Mine, townsite and connecting railroad.

By 1928 nearly 1,500 people lived in or close by Mohrland, and like other coal mining camps many different nationalities lived there: Finns, Slovenians, Scotch, Irish, Japanese, German, Welsh, Swedish, Greek and Italian. As was the case with many mining communities, ethnic groups desired to settle in its own separate area where language and customs were held in common. The company encouraged this arrangement to discourage unionization. Consequently, boundaries developed and certain sections of a town were designated or named after a particular ethnic group. In Mohrland near the tipple, fifty houses were occupied mainly by the Italian people. Above this came the Greek boarding house, then Japanese town and finally the area for African-Americans just below the mine portal.

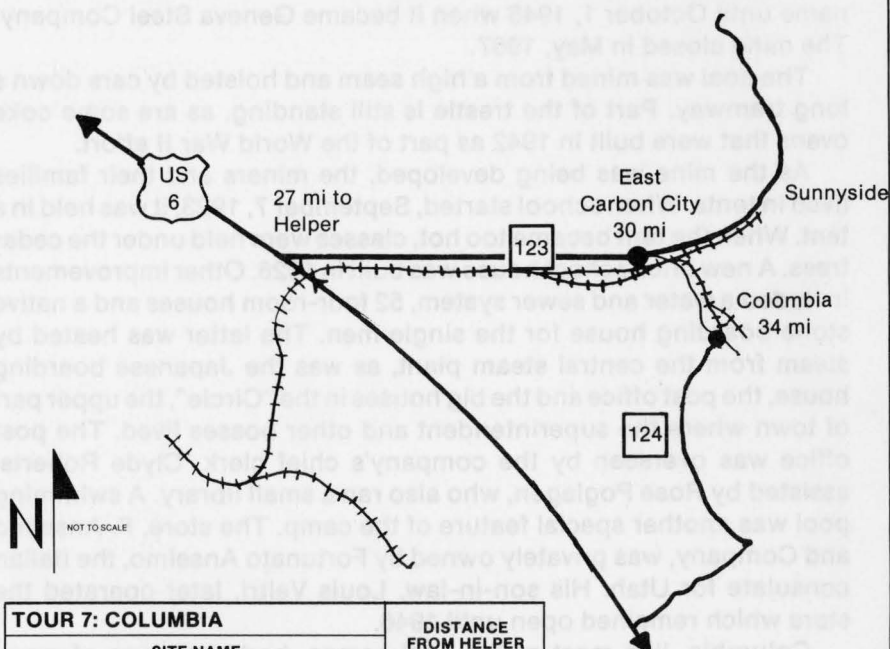
In 1935 the U.S. Fuel Company closed its' town of Mohrland; the people left. The Mohrland Mine was tunneled through to connect with the Hiawatha Mine since both were owned by the same company.

Mohrland is now a coal loading area for active Huntington Canyon mines. The road to it is traveled by large fast-moving coal trucks. Caution should be taken.

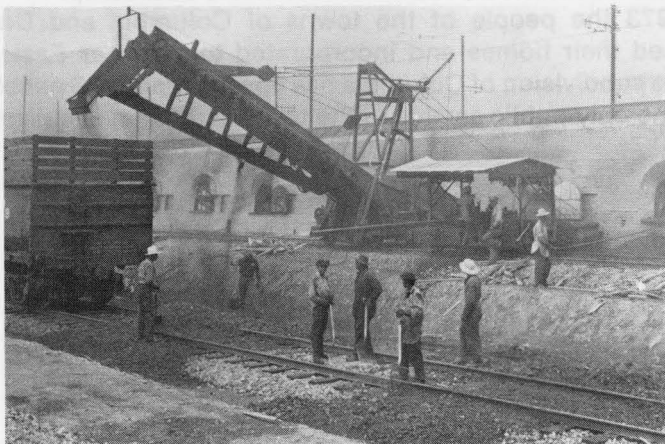


Mohrland, located in Emery County.

TOUR 7: COLUMBIA



| TOUR 7: COLUMBIA | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| SITE NAME | DISTANCE FROM HELPER |
| 1. Columbia (22.4 miles to turnout) | 34.0 miles |



Coke ovens, near Columbia, were built in 1942 as part of the World War II effort.

TOUR 7: COLUMBIA/COLUMBIA STEEL CORPORATION

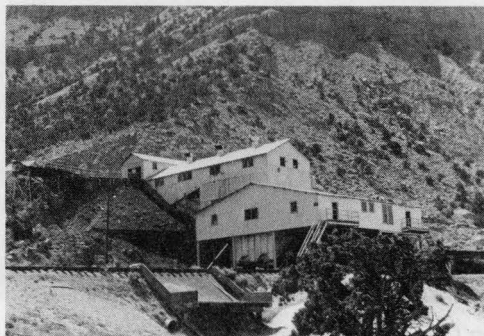
Columbia (Tour 7, Site 1), located 28 miles east of Price, had its beginning in 1922 when the Columbia Steel Corporation, needed coking coal for its' Iron-ton Steel Plant in Provo, Utah. On January 1, 1943 the Columbia Steel Corporation was purchased by the U.S. Steel Corporation and became known as Columbia Steel. It retained that name until October 1, 1946 when it became Geneva Steel Company. The mine closed in May, 1967.

The coal was mined from a high seam and hoisted by cars down a long tramway. Part of the trestle is still standing, as are some coke ovens that were built in 1942 as part of the World War II effort.

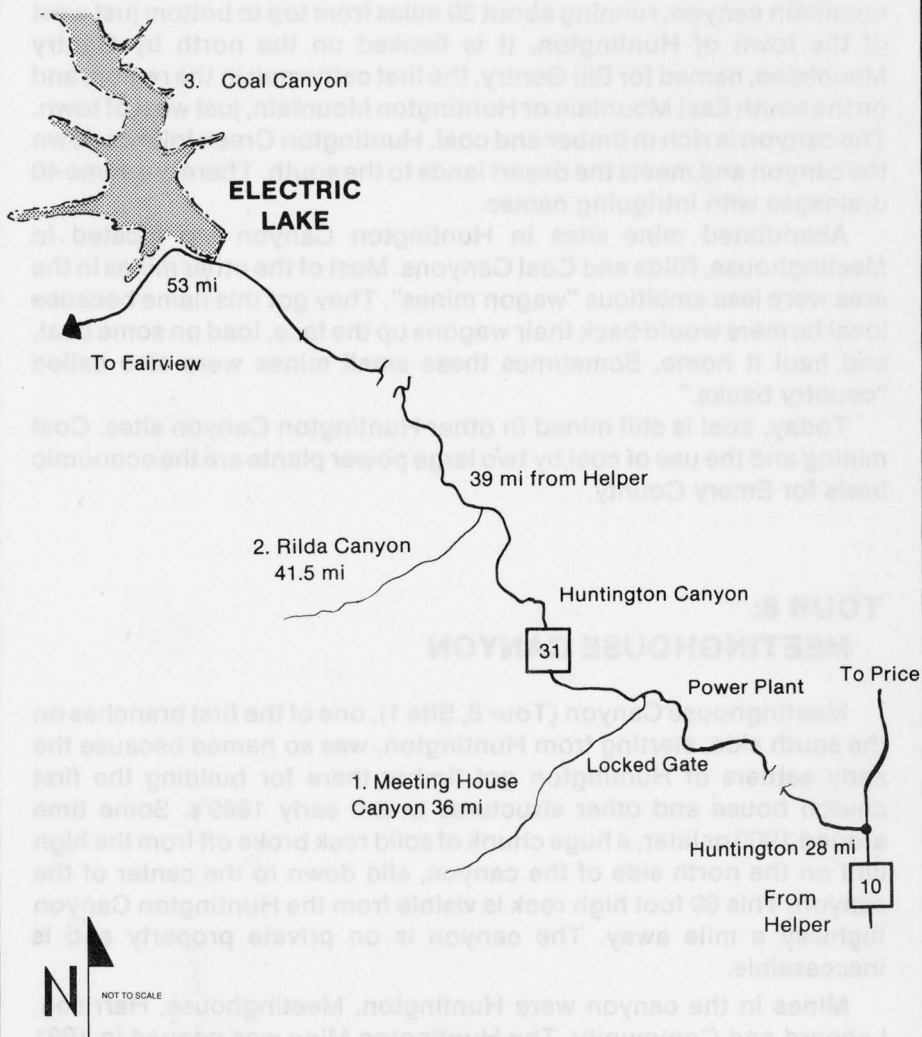
As the mine was being developed, the miners and their families lived in tents. When school started, September 7, 1923, it was held in a tent. When the tent became too hot, classes were held under the cedar trees. A new brick school house was built in 1926. Other improvements included a water and sewer system, 52 four-room houses and a native stone boarding house for the single men. The latter was heated by steam from the central steam plant, as was the Japanese boarding house, the post office and the big houses in the "Circle", the upper part of town where the superintendent and other bosses lived. The post office was overseen by the company's chief clerk, Clyde Roberts, assisted by Rose Poglagen, who also ran a small library. A swimming pool was another special feature of the camp. The store, F. Anselmo and Company, was privately owned by Fortunato Anselmo, the Italian consulate for Utah. His son-in-law, Louis Veltri, later operated the store which remained open until 1946.

Columbia, like most of the coal camps, had a mixture of many nationalities, each with their own ethnic customs, but bonded together by the mine, the school, and social life of the coal camp.

In 1973 the people of the towns of Columbia and Dragerton purchased their homes and incorporated together as East Carbon City. The subdivision of Columbia has approximately 85 people living there. The only public service in the town is home mail delivery.



TOUR 8: HUNTINGTON CANYON



| TOUR 8: HUNTINGTON CANYON | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| SITE NAME | DISTANCE FROM HELPER |
| Huntington Canyon turnoff | 28.0 miles |
| 1. Meetinghouse Mine | 35.0 miles |
| 2. Rilda Canyon Mines | 41.05 miles |
| 3. Coal Canyon vicinity | 53.0 miles |

TOUR 8:

HUNTINGTON CANYON LOOP

Huntington Canyon, part of the Wasatch Plateau, is one of the most scenic and historical areas in Utah. It is a long and continuous mountain canyon, running about 30 miles from top to bottom just west of the town of Huntington. It is flanked on the north by Gentry Mountains, named for Bill Gentry, the first cattleman in the region, and on the south East Mountain or Huntington Mountain, just west of town. The canyon is rich in timber and coal. Huntington Creek follows down the canyon and meets the desert lands to the south. There are some 40 drainages with intriguing names.

Abandoned mine sites in Huntington Canyon are located in Meetinghouse, Rilda and Coal Canyons. Most of the other mines in the area were less ambitious "wagon mines". They got this name because local farmers would back their wagons up the face, load on some coal, and haul it home. Sometimes these small mines were also called "country banks."

Today, coal is still mined in other Huntington Canyon sites. Coal mining and the use of coal by two large power plants are the economic basis for Emery County.

TOUR 8:

MEETINGHOUSE CANYON

Meetinghouse Canyon (Tour 8, Site 1), one of the first branches on the south side, starting from Huntington, was so named because the early settlers of Huntington got timber there for building the first church house and other structures in the early 1880's. Some time around 1900 or later, a huge chunk of solid rock broke off from the high cliff on the north side of the canyon, slid down to the center of the canyon. This 60 foot high rock is visible from the Huntington Canyon highway a mile away. The canyon is on private property and is inaccessible.

Mines in the canyon were Huntington, Meetinghouse, Harrison, Leonard and Community. The Huntington Mine was opened in 1921 and closed in 1952. In the early 1920's a Community Coal Mine was operated by members belonging to a chamber of commerce. Coal at cost was provided to Huntington and other towns of Emery County. A permit obtained from the Bureau of Mines of the U.S. Interior Department was the first of only two such permits to ever be granted. No mines are operating in the canyon at the present time.

TOUR 8: RILDA CANYON

Rilda Canyon (Tour 8, Site 2), was named from Urilda McBride, commonly called Rilda. She was one of the first women to locate in Huntington, first settling with her family in the canyon given her name. From the canyon they cut timber for building dugouts and houses in the new Castle Valley settlements.

Mines that were located in the canyon were the Comfort Mine, active from 1936 to 1954, Helco or Black Magic Mine, active from 1938 to 1969, Johnson Mine active from 1943 to early 1950's, Rominger Mine, intermittently active from 1938 to 1954.

TOUR 8: COAL CANYON

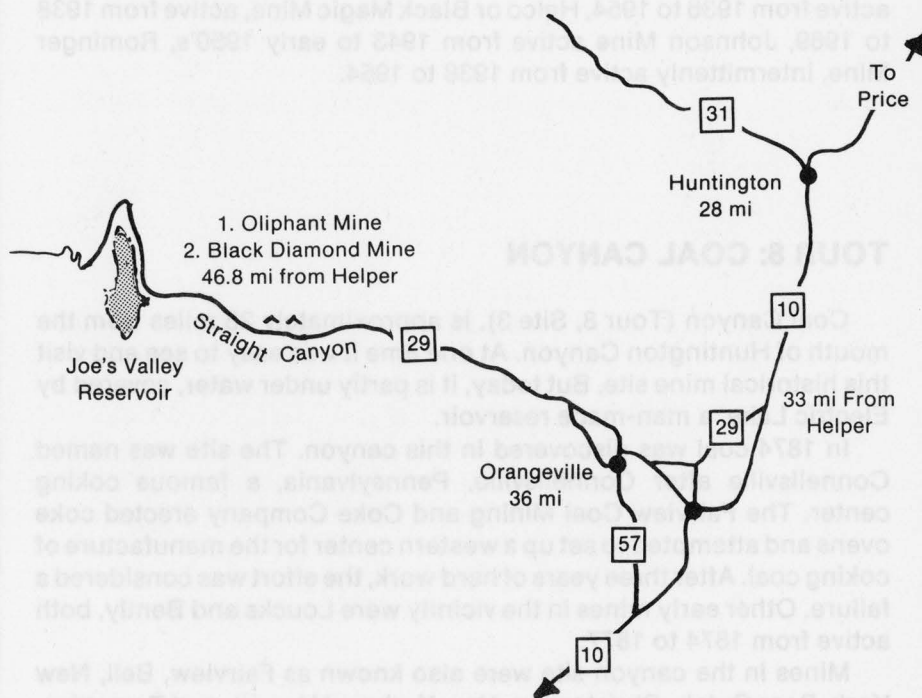
Coal Canyon (Tour 8, Site 3), is approximately 26 miles from the mouth of Huntington Canyon. At one time it was easy to see and visit this historical mine site. But today, it is partly under water, covered by Electric Lake, a man-made reservoir.

In 1874 coal was discovered in this canyon. The site was named Connellsville after Connellsville, Pennsylvania, a famous coking center. The Fairview Coal Mining and Coke Company erected coke ovens and attempted to set up a western center for the manufacture of coking coal. After three years of hard work, the effort was considered a failure. Other early mines in the vicinity were Loucks and Bently, both active from 1874 to 1877.

Mines in the canyon site were also known as Fairview, Bell, New York, Bear Gulch, Christensen, New York and Howell, and Tompkins. The site was active intermittently from 1875 to 1940's.



TOUR 9: STRAIGHT CANYON



| TOUR 9: STRAIGHT CANYON | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| SITE NAME | DISTANCE FROM HELPER |
| Turnoff to Orangeville | 34.0 miles |
| 1. Oliphant Mine | 46.8 miles |
| 2. Black Diamond Mine | 47.0 miles |

TOUR 9:

STRAIGHT CANYON LOOP

Straight Canyon is located northwest on Highway 29, which leads from Orangeville to Joe's Valley in Emery County. The name was given tongue-in-cheek, because it is so winding. Of historical importance are two wagon and truck coal mines, the Black Diamond and Oliphant Mines. Located ten miles from Orangeville, high on the steep, rocky, mountain cliffs, the two mines were developed by individual miners, with the aid of other community members or their own family members, and with very little capital. In the early 1980's both mine properties were owned by the CO-OP Coal Development Company.

A monument, consisting of an iron mine car salvaged from the Black Diamond Mine is located near to the two mine sites. A plaque mounted on the mine car reads:

In recognition of the labors of the early coal miners and their contributions to Emery County.

BLACK DIAMOND & OLIPHANT COAL MINES

These two mines, located nearby, are representative of early Utah coal mines. Production at the two family-operated mines began around the turn of the century and ended when coal markets sagged following World War II. Coal was dug from the ground using hand drills, black powder, shovels, and the aid of a reliable horse or mule. Horse-drawn wagons hauled the coal to communities in Emery County and over the mountains to Sanpete County. By the 1930's trucks and machinery had replaced some of the hand labor, but the work remained difficult and dirty. These hardworking miners helped fuel the transition from the pioneer days to the modern era.

The mine sites were reclaimed in 1983 by the Utah Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program in the Department of Natural Resources in co-operation with the Utah coal producers and the U.S. Forest Service.

TOUR 9:

BLACK DIAMOND MINE

The exact date when mining began at the Black Diamond Mine (Tour 9, Site 2), is uncertain, but by 1911 George W. Fullmer, along with R.O. Justeson, George Fox, William Fell, Milton Tuttle, George Jensen, Howard Reid and J.C. Snow had interests in the mine.

On September 15, 1925, George Brandon of Castle Dale filed a lease for forty acres on the tract of land where the mine entrance and surface facilities were located. The Black Diamond Coal Company protested; however, it had failed to act on its lease terms and the lease was awarded to Brandon. He had problems paying on the lease bid and operating the mine. He became indebted to Carl Wilberg, a Castle Dale rancher and meat grocer. The two men and their sons incorporated the Straight Canyon Coal Company on April 17, 1928. In 1933 the company passed entirely to the Wilberg family.

During the 1930's new expansions to the mine and surface facilities were made. But in the 1940's operation of the mine declined. Cyrus Wilberg's sons left for military service, operations were delayed due to a fire, and finally there was a slump in the coal market. In the spring of 1949, operations of the mine were suspended. The Wilberg family continued to hold the mine lease until 1980 when it was acquired by the CO-OP Coal Development Company.

TOUR 9: OLIPHANT MINE

Two brothers, Ralph and John Oliphant, made filings in 1911 on the land where the mine (Tour 9, Site 1) property was located. The exact date of opening of this mine is uncertain. Apparently some problems with the land or mineral ownership caused a delay in the development of the mine. John Oliphant became the principal operator and patented the land on April 3, 1926. At this time, he became partners with an Orangeville doctor, J.W. Nixon, who financed the operations. With the property mortgaged to Nixon and continuing to borrow money from him, John Oliphant finally turned the coal property completely over to Nixon on January 30, 1930. Nixon then leased the property to Jesse Sitterud of Orangeville.

Twelve years after this, Nixon sold the property to the BLN Investment Company. His son-in-law, Eugene Johansen operated the mine through World War II, closing it when the coal decline occurred. In 1964 the property was sold to Johansen who later sold it in 1975 to A.V. Gustafson, Gustafson in turn sold it to Dan Brown of the CO-OP Coal Development in 1980.

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Frances B. Cunningham authored this booklet. She is a native of Carbon County with 30 years interest in collecting, preserving and teaching its history. She has received commendations from the Utah State Historical Society, Carbon County Historical Society, the American Association for State and Local History, the Utah League of Cities and Towns, the Carbon County Chamber of Commerce, and the College of Eastern Utah. She served as Carbon County Historical Society vice-president, president and publication editor. She has also been associated with the expansion of the Western Mining & Railroad Museum in Helper, Utah.



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