

Helper circa 1930's



Historic Main Street

Funded in Part By:

Helper Western Mining and Railroad Museum

294 South Main Street
Helper, Utah 84526
435-472-3009
www.wmrrm.org

Call or visit our website for dates and hours of operation.



UTAH'S CASTLE COUNTRY

CARBON COUNTY OFFICE OF TOURISM

81 North 200 East
Price, Utah 84501
435-636-3701

www.castlecountry.com

Historic Helper Highlights

Some of the featured stops in Historic Helper, Utah are:

- Balance Rock: Look to the north of Main Street to see this geological feature as it stands out among the mountains.
- "Big John": A high-gloss, black metal, iconic statue that stands over 20 feet tall and commemorates the roots of this historical coal mining community.
- The convenient Amtrak Depot, in the center of town is convenient if you plan to visit by train.
- Western Mining and Railroad Museum: See antique items and more in theme rooms featuring the life as early immigrants in Helper.
- Helper Train Mosaic: Located next to the museum, this local art piece was created by famous artists and children alike.
- Gigliotti Pond: An easily accessible fishing pond, perfect for families needing a break from the road.
- Spring Canyon: See the remains and ruins of the very coal camps that were the foundation for Helper and the surrounding areas.

Historic HELPER, UTAH



DAVID JOHNSON

Gateway to Utah's Castle Country

Helper's Rich History

Helper was first settled in 1881 by Teancum Pratt and his plural wives. He then settled into what he described as "a lonely wilderness" where he sought to escape the "hunters, trappers and bachelors and raveheads" in the area of his previous farm along Gordon Creek. The railroad was coming and less than six months after he filed for his homestead, he sold parts of his family's property to the DR&G railroad. Soon, a railyard was born.

Helper's Main Street circa 1920s



Helper's name arrived with the railyard and its necessity of "helper" steam engines. These engines were attached to the trains traveling to Northern Utah, "helping" the trains with the steep grades found in Price Canyon.

At that time trains needed steam. Steam required coal, and mining coal required men. Soon immigrants arrived in Helper by the hundreds, searching for the "American dream." Italians, Greeks, Yugoslavians, Japanese, Slovenians and Chinese flooded the area. Many labored in the mines throughout Helper and the surrounding areas but some soon left mining to create businesses. Photos of Helper from the early 1900s show Greek coffeehouses, Italian bakeries, Japanese restaurants, Jewish and Italian mercantile stores together with saloons, billiard parlors, and hotels of all ethnic origins. By 1920, 27 different languages were spoken in Helper.



Young Coal Miner

The Western Mining and Railroad Museum

A must see in Helper is The Western Mining and Railroad Museum. The stories of the mines and railroads and the immigrants who worked them is shown in the many exhibits. Explore the basement mine, stand where Butch Cassidy stood when he robbed the Castlegate payroll, shop the company store and be awed at life in the coal camps. Housed in the old Helper Hotel, the Museum provides a trip back in time to the beginnings of Helper and the hard-working people who formed its character.

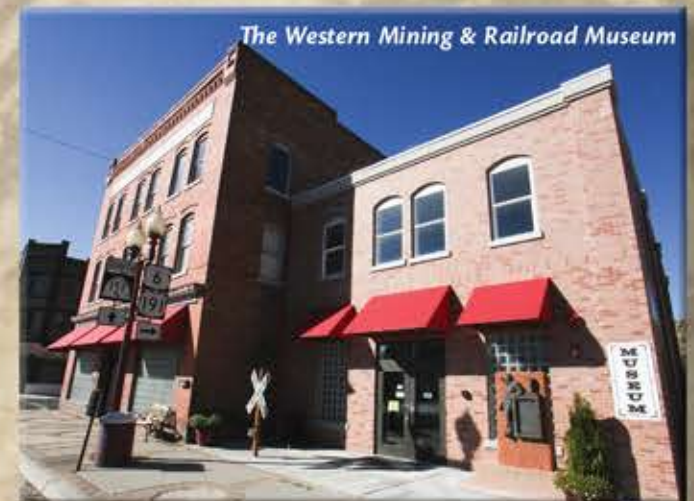
Also, make sure to stop by the mining equipment and museum yard to see the amazing machines used in the coal mines today. You will also see train cars and the Helper Train Mosaic.



Train with Balance Rock



The Helper Train Mosaic



The Western Mining & Railroad Museum