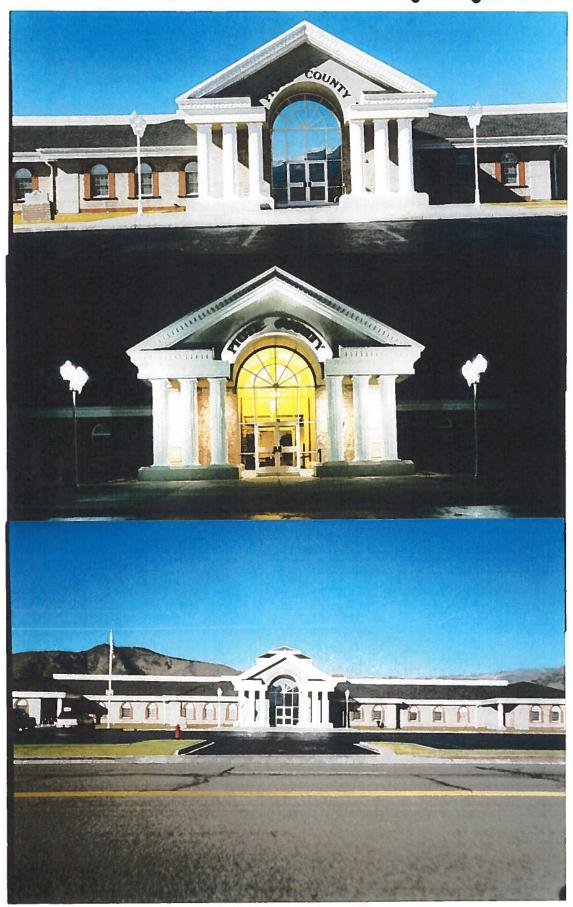
# PIUTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE



Piute County Page 1 of 4



# **Piute County**

**Ouick facts** Interesting facts What the land is like A bit of prehistory A bit of history A little about the economy

# Back to **Utah Counties Map**

# Quick facts

Area: 754 square miles

Population

County Seat: Junction How it got its name: after

Paiute Indians

Main towns: Circleville, Marysvale, Junction

Economy: agriculture (primarily beef and dairy cattle), education

Interesting places: Tushar Mountains, Otter Creek and Piute reservoirs, Piute County Courthouse, Parker ranch/Butch Cassidy home

# **Interesting facts**

Piute has attracted prospectors and miners for gold, mercury, silver, and uranium.

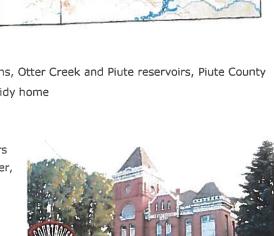
\* A family-based United Order formed at Kingston in 1877 lasted

\* Butch Cassidy moved here in 1879, age 13, and met the man who taught him how to steal cattle.

★ Otter Creek and Piute reservoirs lie in the county.

\* Marie Bertelsen, born in Marysvale, was a Days of '47 Queen and went on to star in 150 movies as Marie Windsor.

The 1903 Piute County Courthouse in Junction is now an inn and is on the National Register. Photo by J. Stephen Conn on Flickr.



# What the land is like

30 million years ago, volcanoes began to erupt in what is now Piute
County. For 25 million
years, volcanoes exploded
or oozed every now and
then—laying down 10,000
feet of volcanic rock. The
Tushar Mountains, which
rise up at the west of the
county, are volcanic rock.

These mountains are the highest part of the High Plateaus section of the Colorado Plateau. During the volcanic era, hot



The Tushar Mountains. Photo by Utah~Dave AA7IZ.

solutions of minerals such as silver, gold, copper, mercury, and iron flowed into cracks in the rocks—leaving behind rich ore veins.

At the east of the county the Parker Range, and the Sevier Plateau extends into the middle of the county. On either side of that plateau two main streams flow: the Sevier River and Otter Creek. Now they have been dammed to form Piute and Otter Creek reservoirs.

# A bit of prehistory

A <u>PaleoIndian</u> site has been found in the sagebrush north of Circleville. It looks like it *might* be a settlement, rather than a temporary camp—which is a rare kind of PaleoIndian site indeed. But it needs more study.

8,000 years ago the Desert <u>Archaic</u> people, with a different culture, moved through and lived in Sevier County. Nearby, in Sevier County, archaeologists have studied an Archaic site sheltered under a cliff. In this site, the people roasted plant foods and meat, and used the site for about 350 years.

Archaeologists have also found and studied sites in Piute County. They have learned that people didn't settle in one place; instead, they might hunt in the mountains in summer and come to the valleys to gather plant foods in the fall. They used more than 40 plant species for food.

1000 years ago the <u>Fremont</u> culture emerged. These people grew corn, beans, and squash and lived in villages. But they also moved around to hunt and gather food.

Before farmers plowed and cultivated fields, there were many Fremont mounds in Piute County. In 1880, one was left near Marysvale: three feet high, 88 feet long, and 72 feet wide. The mounds covered Fremont villages.

Probably before the Fremont left about 750 years ago, ancestors of today's <u>Paiutes</u> and <u>Utes</u> moved in. Skilled at gathering foods—instead of growing them—the Paiute moved around in small bands. They lived successfully in a pretty harsh landscape. Utes

acquired horses from the Spanish and became skilled at using horses for hunting, raiding, and trading.

# A bit of history

The Old Spanish Trail ran through Plute County. Spanish and Mexican trading parties used the trail to trade with the Indians: guns, blankets, and horses for furs and slaves.

American trappers also passed through, including William Wolfskill and George Yount, who were the first we know to travel the length of the Old Spanish Trail. Kit Carson and John C. Fremont came through. So did Mormon explorers.

### **Settlers**

Looking for land for grazing and farming, in 1864 groups of pioneers from Ephraim traveled down to settle Circleville and Junction.

There they found a few challenges. Oluf Larsen wrote that the wind blew all the time at Circleville. Whenever they cooked or made coffee, they would get "dust and sand in everything."



Grass Valley, with the Sevier Plateau in the background. Photo by <u>Ken Lund</u> on Flickr.

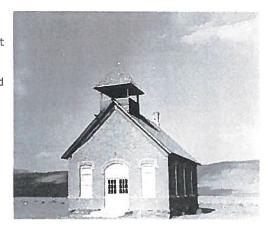
When the settlers tried to irrigate, the water often

disappeared into the porous soil and gopher holes and bubbled up through the holes in another field. The settlers had a tough time keeping their fields watered.

The Sevier Valley did provide good grazing, and livestock remains important to the economy. Wild hay, alfalfa, grain, and pastures provide feed for the limited beef and dairy production. Earthcovered potato cellars remain as evidence of a successful crop in an earlier era.

## Circleville Massacre

During the Black Hawk War, settlers "arrested" around 30 peaceable Paiute Indians and imprisoned them in the cellar of the church at Circleville. In the



The red-brick school at Greenwich, in 1960.

hysteria of war, the settlers lost their reason and humanity and killed the men, women, and children, sparing only a few of the youngest children.

# A little about the economy

Earth's riches once really fueled the economy. A gold and silver boom in the Tushars spawned such towns as Bullion, Kimberly, and Marysvale. Miners organized the Ohio Mining District in 1868, and by 1872 Bullion Canyon boasted 50 buildings and hundreds of eager miners.

Kimberly, in the Gold Mountain
District, developed around the
rich Annie Laurie claim, located in
1891. The completion of a Denver
and Rio Grande Railroad branch
line to Marysvale in 1900 linked
Piute's mines and farms to the
marketplace.



The Kimberley Mine.

Later, mines produced lead, zinc, alunite, and uranium. Piute's huge reserves of high-grade alunite ores were especially important during World Wars I and II. Mining, now in a bust mode, could boom again.

Today, the Piute School District employs around 50 residents. Less obvious contributors to the local economy are a few retirees who have moved to the larger towns. As in most of Utah's rural counties, "home" has a strong pull on the natives, while economic forces tend to push recent high school graduates toward the opportunities of urban areas. Piute residents depend on nearby Richfield north on Highway 89 for major services.

Recreational activities also create some job opportunities. Piute and Otter Creek reservoirs provide good boating, water skiing, and fishing. Tourists also like to visit the Parker ranch just south of Circleville because of its association with outlaw Butch Cassidy.



Ivy Baker Priest, who was born to a poor family in Piute County, grew up to become the U.S. Treasurer under Pres. Eisenhower.

# PIUTE COUNTY, UTAH

AREA: 763 SQUARE MILES - .92 percent of state - 25th County in size.

POPULATION: 1,535

ESTABLISHED: 1865 - Piute County was created from part of Beaver County in 1865 by

a legislative enactment.

TERRAIN: RUGGED - Piute County is quite mountainous. The western boarder of the

County is situated astride the summit of the Tushar Range which is the highest range in southeastern Utah. The eastern section of the county includes parts of the high Sevier Plateau and the Parker Range. The balance of the county consists of

the Sevier River Valley and the Grass Valley regions.

ECONOMY: AGRICULTURE AND MINING

COUNTY SEAT: JUNCTION, UTAH

INCORPORATED TOWNS: MARYSVALE, JUNCTION, KINGSTON & CIRCLEVILLE NATURAL RESOURCES: MINERALS, Uranium, Alunite, Gold, Silver, Lead, Zinc, Talc.

Mercury, Perlinte, and Manganese TIMBER, Red Pine, White Pine, Spruce and Aspen

On April 21, 1869, Probate Judge Joseph H. Wing, proceeded to organize the County of Piute, Territory of Utah, at Bullion City. The name Piute was taken from the Piute Indian Tribe, the name Bullion from the gold-laden mountains of the Tushar Range. Today Bullion City no longer exists but Piute County is one of Utah's most promising counties.

Piute County is located in the central southern portion of the State and at present is one of the smallest in both area and population of Utah's twenty-nine counties. Its area is largely covered with mountain. In fact, it would probably be one of Utah's largest counties if it were ironed out flat.

There are two narrow valleys in the County, one east and one west, that furnish tillable land for agriculture. The western valley of the Sevier River runs from Marysvale on the north to Junction, Kingston and Circleville on the south. This valley is about 27 miles long and 6 miles wide at its widest point. The eastern valley is the Otter Creek Valley. It is about the same length and width beginning at Greenwich area on the north and running to the Angle-Antimony area on the south. These valleys produce some of the finest potatoes in the world due to the high altitude and rich soil. They are truly mountain grown.

Kingston is a beautiful area for picnicking, camping, hiking and fishing. The rock formations in the canyon are varied and interesting with many Indian caves to explore. The town of Kingston is a treat to visit. It is beautifully rural and has many historic and human interest sights. The crumbled remains of three open air dance halls in the County are reminders of the excitement and romance of the 1930 to 1950's. The open air dance hall just outside of Kingston was called "PURPLE HAZE." It has had some work done on it and has been used for dancing on special occasions through the years.

There are three reservoirs located within the county boundaries. The two largest, Piute and Otter Creek, supply water for the counties to the west and north of Piute. The other, the Box Creek

Reservoir, supplies water for the Greenwich area.

The Kingston-Circleville area is irrigated from the waters of the Sevier River. The balance of the county's farms and ranches are irrigated from the numerous mountain streams.

Junction is the County seat. A beautiful old courthouse built with hand made adobe bricks was built in Junction in 1903. It has been in use as County offices and very functional until March 1, 1997. In 1971 it was placed on the National Register of Historical Buildings.

Ground breaking for a new Piute County Courthouse Complex was held April 1, 1996 at 1:00 p.m. It will be on 550 North main street in front of the Piute High School. In one year the Complex was finished and operating. The old courthouse was sold and remodeled on the inside for a possible a Bed and Breakfast. The outside of the building is to be kept as it was. The open house was held February 28, for the completed new courthouse. All offices moved into the building March 1, 1997. There is also new post office and District school offices in this complex. It is beautiful, and the County is enjoying the beauty and space provided.

Highway 153 which goes from Junction to Beaver is a special scenic drive climbing from 6000 to 10,000 feet in beautiful mountain country abounding with deer and elk. Snowmobiling and skiing are becoming a growing sport and this highway takes sportsmen to good snow county.

Our major source of income is from beef cattle. Dairy cattle and sheep also contribute to the economy of the county. There is considerable summer range in the high mountains and spring and winter range in the low hills.

Piute County at one time held a vast mineral wealth, from uranium to alunite, from gold to talc. Piute County has the world's largest alunite deposits and is the largest producer of primary type uranium ore (Autunite Uraninite) in the United States. The rail yards of the D. & R. G. W. Railway which ended at Marysvale accommodated the shipments of ore and other machinery and materials to and from the county. The mountains of Marysvale would produce a steady stream of mineral wealth for nearly a hundred years and each year would bring forth new finds of promising prospects. Uranium was unknown in Piute County until 1948. It was found then by a local prospector and since then has produced millions of dollars worth of uranium ore. As said before mining was once a booming industry in Piute County. Gold Silver and other valuable metals brought prospectors and miners to the area from the 1860's through the early 1900's. Some of the mining camps like Bullion, Webster, and Alunite became large communities in their heyday.

The Kimberly Mine, located in the Tushar Mountains, was once the Queen of Utah gold camps, employing 300 miners around the turn of the century. The town flourished until its mines closed in 1907. It is now a ghost town. Visitors can see some of the old mines along the 2.5 mile "Canyon of Gold Driving Tour" that starts at the Fishlake National Forest boundary in Bullion Canyon west of Marysvale. A brochure, available at the trail head, interprets 10 historic mining features including old mill sites, mines, the foundation of a boarding house, remnants of an 1870's toll road and an arrastra which may be of Spanish origin. The highlight of the tour is Miners' Park. An easy quarter-mile trail winds around interpretive displays of authentic late 1800

and early 1900 mining equipment. Other features include a mine portal and shaft, a fully furnished cabin, and a blacksmith's shed. A picnic area is available.

Piute County is rich in mineral treasure and rich in scenery, too. Several scenic drives takes you into the heart of the mountains and unfold magnificent mountain views.

The Tushar Mountains and Parker Range, laced by mountain streams, form the roots for recreational areas and as we are located in the midst of the largest mule deer herd in the United States. Many hunters enjoy the beauty of Piute County during the fall deer hunting season. Fishing is also good in Piute County and there are State Boating Parks at both Piute and Otter Creek Reservoirs. These Parks offer boat docks and camping areas for the water skier, fisherman, camper and boating enthusiasts.

Circleville boasts of their famous (or infamous), George Leroy Parker better known as Butch Cassidy, who spent his youth there during the 1870's and 1880's and his boyhood home still stands, near U.S. 89, two miles south of town and in the summer months it is open for visitors. Piute County is Butch Cassidy Country in more ways than one, and here he is thought of with a little more kindness and tolerance than one might expect. It was in Circleville that he grew up, and here that he learned how to change cattle brands and evade the law.

In the GLOBE newspaper the following item was written and published on December 20, 1988. YOU CAN'T BELIEVE THE MOVIES! BUTCH CASSIDY DIED IN BED Romantic outlaw Butch Cassidy didn't die with his six-guns blazing in a murderous shootout with soldiers in Bolivia, as many historians believe. He passed away peacefully in bed--with his boots off. Cassidy's nephew, John Betenson, says his uncle and his fast-draw partner Harry Longabough, the Sundance Kind, spread the story about their deaths so that detectives, who were hot on their trail, would call off their manhunt.

"There was a battle with soldiers and two men did die that afternoon," explains Betenson, a 68year-old retired rancher in Circleville, Utah. "It was two lesser members of the outlaw gang who bit the dust. Butch and Sundance simply assumed their identities. "The Bolivian soldiers who captured them were told they had killed the infamous train robbers, and the troopers were happy enough to believe it." The trick worked, and once the trail was cold, Butch and Sundance rode off into the sunset and anonymous retirement. "I know that's the chain of events" says Betenson. "My mother, who died in 1980 at the age of 96, was Butch's sister, and he visited her in 1925. when I was just five years old. "I remember that if the subject of my uncle came up at the dinner table, we were taught to act as if we had never heard of him. Of course, everybody around these parts knew he was my mother's brother." True or false, the Bolivian shootout provided a riproaring finish to the smash-hit movie, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kind, which starred Paul Newman and Robert Redford. Betenson told GLOBE that Butch was using the alias William Philips when he died of cancer in 1937. But he won't say where the outlaw is buried for fear that trophy hunters might try to unearth his remains. "My uncle's real name was Robert Leroy Parker," he says. "An outlaw named Mike Cassidy took a liking to him when he was 16 and showed him how to shoot. He was so fond of Cassidy that he took his last name." Betenson adds: "Butch told my mother he had run into the Sundance Kid in Texas a few years before, so we know both men escaped death in South America."

The little tree-covered town of Kingston is interesting because of its unusual history where during the years 1878-1884, the people lived under the Mormon United Order. The old woolen mill, grist mill, etc., stood for many years but all were burned in a fire.

Kimberly, one of Utah's most beautifully situated but least known ghost towns has had a varied career of boom, death, and resurrection. Today little remains to testify of its days of vibrant activity except some huge waste deposits and a few crumbled or crumbling buildings, but a good graded road leads to the site—and the drive alone is worth a visit to Kimberly which is located at about 9,000 feet, high in the Tushar Mountains, nestled in an evergreen forest and overlooked by majestic peaks

Marie Bertleson, now known as MARIE WINDSOR was born and raised in Marysvale, Utah. She was a graduate of Marysvale High School. She attended Brigham Young University in Provo and determined to become an actress, she made her way to Hollywood, staying at the then famous Hollywood Studio Club for aspiring actresses, and studied acting with veteran star MARIA OUSPENSKAYA. She was given her first screen role in "ALL AMERICAN CO-ED," with Frances Langford, John Hall, Wallace Beery, Jr. and Alan Hale Jr. She has since gone on to make 73 additional films, and on television she has been seen in episodes of "Fantasy Island," "Simon and Simon," "Charlie's Angels," "The Incredible Hulk," and "Barnaby Jones."

FISHING- Anglers will want to have a good grip on their poles when they fish at Otter Creek Reservoir. The magic in the water makes rainbow, cutthroat, and German brown trout grow big and fast, producing some of Utah's largest and fastest growing trophy size fish. Boat rentals are available and shore fishing is also excellent. Open all year, the large reservoir is popular for ice fishing in the winter.

Nearby Piute Reservoir is also a popular year round fishery. The trout-stocked mountain lake is located seven miles north of Junction. A large boat ramp provides boating access to the lake's 2250 acres of water.

The Sevier River along US 89 and the East Fork of the Sevier River above Otter Creek Reservoir offer good trout fishing. During the Summer, anglers can cast their lines for rainbow, brook and cutthroat trout at LaBaron and Puffer Lake located high in the forested Tushar Mountains.

RECREATION- Exploring Piute County unveils a world of things to see and do, all year round. Outdoor enthusiasts will discover a recreational paradise on the 12,000 foot high Tushar Mountains and the Fishlake and Dixie National Forests. Mountain biking, hiking, horseback and ATV riding, fishing, rock hounding, camping and picnicking are some of the popular warm weather activities. In winter, the snow-covered mountains are perfect for snowmobiling, cross country skiing, and downhill skiing at Elk Meadows Ski and Summer Resort. In the fall, the forests are ablaze with brilliant golden aspens and deep green pines and spruce.

In the lower elevations there are rodeos, rafting, gold panning, horseback riding, and sightseeing. Otter creek and Piute Lake State Parks offer boating, fishing and water sports in the summer, and ice fishing in the winter.

Visitors will find interesting buildings with Victorian architecture in the small old western towns located throughout Piute County. They'll want to browse the unique, old-fashioned shops like the general stores where they can step back in time, search for antiques and crafts at the Hawks Nest,

or watch rag rugs being woven on antique floor looms at Lizzy and Charlie's Rug Rugs in Marysvale. They can drive by Hamptons Western Village, and stop for a snack at the old fashioned Ice Cream Parlor in Circleville.

Five national parks are within an easy drive of Piute County: Bryce Canyon, Zion, Capitol Reef, Grand Canyon North Rim, and Canyon lands National Parks, and Lake Power/Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

PAIUTE ATV TRAIL- ATV riders will find leisurely family type riding along the Paiute ATV trail. The Paiute ATV Trail is a 272 mile-long loop course that crosses mountain ranges, rugged canyons and deserts in south central Utah. The unique trail has been rated one of the best 15 trails in the country by Dirt Wheels magazine.

With the diverse terrain and climate, riders can experience the thrill of descending from mountains to dense forest, stop to see vistas of the surrounding countryside or watch herds of deer or elk.

Riders can enter the trail at any point: there is no beginning or end. Mountain bikers are also welcome.

Circleville, Marysvale, and other towns along the trail permit ATVs on designated streets so riders can go directly from the dirt trail to motels, restaurants, grocery stores and service stations. Otter Creek and Piute State Parks are also easily accessible from the trail.

At lease two ATV events are scheduled in Piute County each year. Write for information.

ORIGIN of the COUNTY NAME- was evolved from the Paiute ( Pah Ute) Indians.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND-Originally, the Piute County region was possibly inhabited by cliff dwellers. However, the only inhabitants discovered by the first white men to enter the County area were the Piute or Pah Ute Indians. Denis Julian was one of the first white men to pass through the Piute County area. Julian's name, along with the date 1836, can be found scratched on rocks within the county boundaries. In the late 1850's and early 1860's a few adventurous men, searching for new places to settle, wandered into the Piute County region where they found grasses suitable for grazing stock. In March 1864, Circleville was settled by a group of Mormon colonist from Ephriam and Sanpete County. Junction, the present county seat, was settled in the same year.

The original spelling of the Indian name was PAIUTE but the "A" was dropped. Before the Mormon settlers came they had learned to raise wheat, melons, amaranth and indigo. To water these crops they built crude irrigation ditches leading from the small streams. They occupied mostly small places where the land was flat. During the warm months they needed little shelter but in winter they built wickiups. They wore little clothing, children wore none, except in the cold months when they wore rabbit skins for covering, at times the men wore leggings, moccasins were known but seldom worn. The women wore basketry hats to protect them from pitch while gathering pinon nuts. They made basketry hats, burden baskets, seed beaters, winnowing and parching trays, flat trays, water jugs or ollas, and bowls.

The Paiutes were a peaceful people, weapons were used almost exclusively for hunting and food gathering. Besides the bow and arrow, they used a club and flint knife. Rodent hooks were used in helping to dig small animals from their holes, they were long sticks with a slightly forked end.

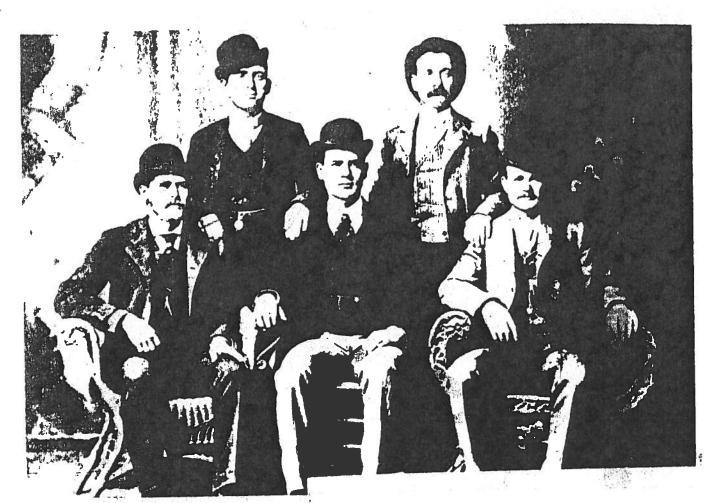
Fire was made by use of a stick drill twirled between the palms of the hands while an assistant held some bark tinder in which to catch the spark.

Indian writings are hard to find now because of the wind and weather covering and erasing them but they have been found, along with arrow heads, in many parts of the County both north, south, east and west. They are especially to be found around Circleville and in Kingston Canyon where there are still Indian Caves, along highway 62.

There were three different expeditions through Piute County. The Old Spanish Trial became the established route of the Spanish slave trader, before 1830. These slave traders terrorized the Paiutes by stealing their children and taking them to California to be sold as slaves, sometimes they would take the women also. The second expedition was sent out in the fall of 1849 by Brigham Young, President of the L.D.S. Church. He selected fifty men to go into southern Utah and explore the country for settlement, with Parley P. Pratt as President, David Fullmer and W.W. Philips as councilmen and John Brown as Captain.

The third expedition was the party of Colonel John C. Fremont, a party without a guide. They left Westport (now Kansas City) in late September 1853. From a point near the town of Green River, Utah, the explorers present Emery County then proceeded southwestwardly through Wayne County, exploring carefully the valleys and streams of this noted wonderland. They crossed the mountains into Circle Valley, Piute County and thence proceeded southward to a point near the modern town of Panguitch, near Bear Valley, where they turned westward across the mountains into Parowan. They had a very rough time getting over the mountain. It was February 8, 1954, when the 400 Mormon citizens of Parowan, welcomed and gave relief to Fremont's party, who had been for forty-eight hours without food of any kind. From Parowan Fremont followed the old Spanish Trail to Southern California.

Approx. Population Breakdown - Marysvale	453
Junction	157
Kingston	137
Angle/Greenwich	160
Circleville	628





# **ROBBERS ROOST GANG**

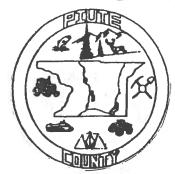
Butch Cassidy
Big Nose George Curry
Kid Curry
Deaf Charlie Hanks
Sundance Kid

Lula and Mark Betensen at the old home of Butch Cassidy, Circleville, Utah. Butch was Lula's brother Marks Uncle.

You could make a small replica of Butch Cassidy's cabin out of sticks to show as a visual aid.

You could made a small Piute County flag, out of material, felt or paper drawing on the figures a coloring them as outlined on the sketch on the other side of this page. Gold fringe is around the outside of the flag.

# PIUTE COUNTY



Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Clerk/Auditor
Recorder/Treasurer
Assessor/Appraiser
Sheriff
County Attorney

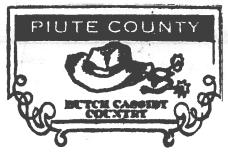
Richard W. Blackwell Circleville **Darin Bushman** Marysvale Will Talbot Greenwich Kali L. Gleave Kingston Shane A. Millett Kingston Dale R. Bagley Marysvale Marty S. Gleave **Kingston Scott Burns Cedar City** 

Sixth District Court Judges
Paul D. Lyman
Marvin D. Bagley
Wallace A. Lee
Justice Court Judge
Mark McIff

Richfield Richfield Panguitch

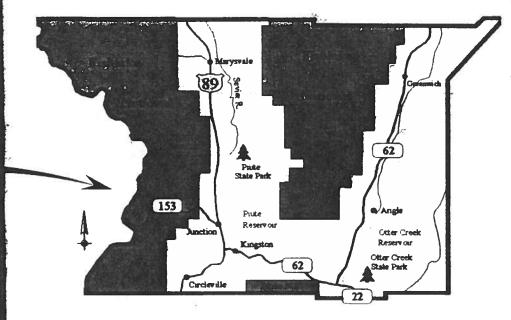
**Richfield** 

# www.piutecounty.org



**Piute County's Centennial Stamp** 

# Pierte County Mass



# GET TO KNOW YOUR



The Piute County Chamber of Commerce welcomes you to the greatest playground in Central Utah. Although Piute County's roots are deeply set in agriculture, recreational resources have always been here and have been developed for your enjoyment. Piute County is in the heart of the Paiute ATV Trail with multiple trail access points throughout the county. The Sevier River runs through the county and provides for

an exciting rafting trip. Other recreation opportunities are found with horseback riding, hiking, rockhounding and just plain beautiful scenery. Accommodations can be found with primitive camping, RV parks, motels, cabins and bed and breakfast. If you don't have your wheeled toys they can be rented too. Come and "Discover the magic and beauty of the land where the rainbow ends."

