

Achieving the Goals of the MPNHA



The MPNHA is joining with two Utah state agencies to fund restoration of this cabin in Piute County. The cabin was occupied by the parents and siblings of Robert LeRoy Parker, later known as Butch Cassidy. Many people believe he spent his boyhood years in the home. The site attracts up to 90 visitors per day.

green, swift-running Sevier River and through a canyon where the rocks were pinkish and purple...We stopped several times and just enjoyed the scenery. There were nice benches randomly placed. "

In 2016, two private entrepreneurs, one a retired railroad worker, began developing a railroad village at the base of the Big Rock Candy Mountain near the terminus of the one-time D&RG line. Seven old-time cabooses have been placed near the end the old railroad and turned into guest rooms. Plans call for additional cabooses, landscaping and parking.

Headwaters (Piute, Garfield, and Wayne Counties)

Butch Cassidy Cabin: Three miles south of Circleville in Piute County on the west side of U.S. 89 is a

makeshift parking lot and a once-disheveled cabin that is now undergoing restoration.

The site attracts 60 to 90 visitors per day. Why? Because the cabin was once occupied by the family of Robert LeRoy Parker, also known as Butch Cassidy, the outlaw portrayed in the movie, "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid."

In 2016, the MPNHA joined with Utah State Parks and the Utah Office of Historic Preservation to fund a \$138,000 restoration of the structure.

"It's slowly degrading," Piute County Commissioner Darin Bushman said shortly after the Utah Legislature authorized funding to the state agencies for restoration. "It's not on a real foundation, and it's slowly tilting and listing."

An engineering consulting firm has developed the restoration plans, which will require taking apart and reassembling the cabin, piece by piece.

Fred Hayes, director of Utah State Parks, says his agency will develop information signs. The agency will do its best to give the various sides of the debate over whether Butch went to South America and died in a shootout or, as local residents and Cassidy relatives believe, made his way back from South American and quietly lived out the rest of his life near his original family home.

Panguitch Main Street Program: Panguitch, a town of about 1,600, was settled in 1864 by four Mormon families. The original settlers faced harsh winters and, at one point, starvation. Because of Indian troubles, they had to abandon the settlement in 1866, but other determined pioneers reestablished the town in 1871.

The architecture in Panguitch reflects both English and Dutch designs, the nationalities of the

"For folks in Panguitch, history and heritage aren't ideals, they're realities...In fact, they probably wouldn't call it historic preservation—just simple common sense. That red-brick home is worth restoring because it's worth living in. That century-old storefront is worth rehabilitating because it's a good place to do business."

- Article in Utah Heritage Foundation (a statewide nonprofit) newsletter article after Panguitch Main Street, an MPNHA partner organization, received a Heritage Award.