

## **Excerpt from Gunnison Valley's Centennial (1959, p9)**

Gunnison was settled-but looking to the south across the Sanpitch River, a wide expanse of unclaimed valley came to view. The tall sagebrush and willows covering this area indicated deep, fertile soil. To our sturdy pioneers, who had conquered so many hardships, it seemed to be "a land choice above all other lands." For them it held the promise of an adventurous awakening as no other place had ever done.

No water ran through these acres east of the Sevier River, but to the far-seeing pioneers this did not seem too much of a problem. Hard work and unwavering faith would overcome this obstacle. They would get the water from the Sanpitch River and they did. From this humble beginning, Centerfield has developed into an important agricultural and industrial center-s-a place with good opportunities and hope for the future-a-a good place to live and raise a family.

Today this peaceful little town is dotted with farm homes and their surroundings. In summer the lush green trees and the cool shade near the homes give an air of contentment and quiet beauty. Instead of brush and willows-wheat, oats, barley, corn, alfalfa and sugar beets grow in our spacious fields. Sheep, range cattle and many head of purebred dairy cows graze contentedly in the pastures. Hogs, turkeys and chickens are also an important part of our economy. Most of the grain and forage crops are fed to livestock locally, resulting in a profitable business . The sugar beets from Gunnison and Sevier valleys are processed at the Gunnison Sugar, Inc. which provides employment for many of the valley residents.v-The only saw mill now operating in the valley is located here.

Grocery stores, service stations and the post office are conveniently located to serve the townspeople and the tourists who travel Highway 89. This highway, one of the most popular in America, is noted for its superb and contrasting grandeur- lofty mountains, fertile valleys, sparkling streams, vividly painted canyons, colorful mesa and incredible desert mirage-s-to constantly amaze and delight the traveler. Our pure drinking water is piped from a mountain spring. The fresh air and temperate climate, at an elevation of 5,040 feet, adds to the health and vigor of this happy people.

A new Latter-day Saint chapel with spacious lawns, and an adjacent park with a fireplace, grandstand and lighted ball diamond, grace our town. Many homes and the business places have the telephone, and all homes have electricity, with the convenience of many modern appliances for the homemaker and also for the farmer in his work. We have a good elementary school, which is well staffed and attended by the children from Centerfield and other surrounding valley areas.

We are bordered on the west by the Valley Mountains, and from them we have' gained so much-hundreds of loads of wood to be used as fuel have been hauled, and countless cedar posts have been used to build fences and farm buildings. The table land between the Valley Mountains and Sevier River, known as Clarion, produces some of Utah's best celery, cabbage and cauliflower. To the east we are terraced by the White Hills and beyond them we see beautiful Mt. Baldy framed between the verdant, timbered plateaus of Twelve Mile Canyon. We are well protected from the adversities of nature such as floods, cyclones and tornadoes.

We humbly say thanks to our pioneers for the abundant life we enjoy today.