



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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It will not surprise anyone to know that wherever I go, I am on the outlook for historic buildings, or buildings that resemble them. Traveling far from home in the past few weeks, I spotted two that are worth sharing with my readers.

We have discovered in our travels that bed and breakfasts are a great place to stay for a number of reasons. Both of these fit in that category.

Southeast of Fairbanks, Alaska, before driving through the Alaska Range, is the town of Delta Junction. This is the junction where the Alaska Highway ends and meets the Richardson Highway. The Richardson Highway travels from Valdez on the south to Fairbanks on the north. The area here is relatively flat and covered with spruce trees and open grassy areas.

As we entered town, I called Bonnie Stilles, the owner of the bed and breakfast, for instructions on how to find her. “Go north five miles, then turn right on Tanana Road and go another mile, then go right on the Tanana Extension for three miles and look for the sign.” I will admit to wondering if I had made a mistake when I made the reservations, especially when we turned off on a dirt driveway that led through some low hanging spruce. But after a short distance, the trees opened up and there was the Garden Bed and Breakfast – a large rectangular-shaped two-story house surrounded by evergreens and millions of flowers! It was breathtaking!



Garden Bed & Breakfast

The inside of the home was beautiful as well. We were greeted warmly and shown to our comfortable bedroom on the second floor. Our hosts showed us around the home and we found that one reason for the large size of the house was that it has ten inch walls as insulation from the frigid temperatures that get down to -70 degrees in the winter. The windows are all triple pane and Bonnie admitted to putting duct tape around the door openings to keep out the cold.

Even though the hour was very late, I grabbed my camera to take some snapshots of the garden, just in case we woke up to rain. All of the flowers planted there are annuals, as perennial flowers freeze in the cold winters. I discovered that not only were the flower gardens extensive and colorful, there were also amazing berry patches and vegetable gardens with seven foot fences to keep the moose from having broccoli for lunch.

The next morning, we awakened to the smell of bacon, gooseberry pancakes and scrambled eggs that we ate in a dining room that looked like something out of Better Homes and Gardens. The bay window looked out onto the waterfall in the



Grounds at the Garden Bed & Breakfast

garden and the flowers surrounding it.

At breakfast, we met people from distant places. Among others, a brother and sister from Kansas who sat across from us at breakfast who were there to attend the funeral. Also, a man from England was there on his motorcycle, which he had had shipped from England to Uruguay and then had ridden to the tip of South America for the beginning of a tour that would take him the full length of South and North America. He was nearing the last leg of that trip.

Another bed and breakfast we enjoyed was later in our trip and a spot that had fascinated me as soon as I saw pictures of it. Grandma's Feather Bed is found in a quiet setting not far from the Juneau International Airport and was a great spot to stay in. Located in an old-looking Victorian-style farmhouse, it is the smallest hotel in the largest hotel chain. The rooms were beautifully decorated and we really slept in a feather bed.



Grandma's Feather Bed