



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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The Face of Fillmore this week takes a look at the home at 105 North 200 West, just north of the high school.

The house was originally built in 1871 by Moses Bennett. It is the present residence of Geri and Don Peterson, who have lived in it since 1989. Most of our story comes from a resident four owners before that.

Everett and Florence Ashman were married in 1933 and lived at first with his parents, in a small, red brick home on Main Street just north of the dry cleaners. This home was torn down years ago. The two had met while Florence was teaching school in Meadow.

In 1937, the Ashman's purchased the home on Second West and moved in. Here they raised a family of six children, including their daughter Rosie Ashman Robins, who is responsible for much other information in this article. Rosie's twin sister passed away in infancy but the other family members lived in the home all of their formative years.

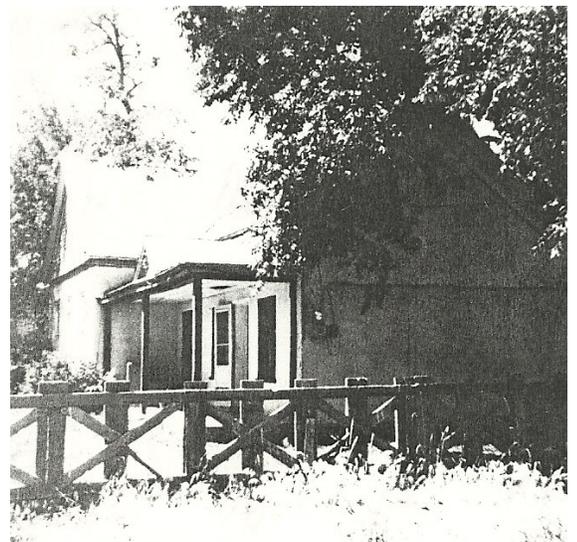
Rosie tells how the home was warm in winter and cool in summer because of the one foot thick walls, which were constructed of a double row of bricks. The front room and kitchen areas were all that was heated, so the children went to bed in the winter with hot water bottles to keep their feet warm.

Their father planted a productive garden and many fruit trees. They also had a large barn in the back where they kept the milk cow and where the children spent hours playing.

The Ashman family never added on to the home, as some did, but rather remodeled and modernized the interior. When Rosie's Grandmother Rackman came to live with the family, the indoor bathroom was added.

Everett supported his family by working in a service station, eventually owning his own. This Phillips 66 station was located where the dollar store is now.

Florence is remembered by her neighbors as a wonderful



lady. Rosie tells how she could play the piano by ear. The children loved to hear her play. She also taught school at Fillmore Elementary.

Interestingly, the block where this home is situated is the block where many of the Ashman's lived. The first Ashman family member to come to Fillmore was Ann Ashman Carling who met Mormon missionaries in England and joined the church. One of those missionaries was Rueben McBride, who is also from Fillmore.

Ann Ashman Carling was sent to Utah at the age of 16, because after the Ashman family's conversion, they wanted to go to Zion. It was agreed that she would go first until her parents could come. Now that Ann was in Utah, the family worked more diligently to earn money to get the rest of the family to Zion.

Anne Wilde Ashman, Ann's mother, asked her father's wealthy bachelor brother, John Wilde, to lend them money to go to Utah. His response, "No. You know that I would lend to you for anything else in the world; but if a pence would take you to Utah and Brigham Young, I would not lend it to you."

Soon after that, Uncle John died and left this fortune to her. There was plenty for the Ashman's fare to America. There are still remnants of the Ashman clan in Fillmore and surrounding communities.

