



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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With temperatures still hovering in the 90 degree range, the Face of Fillmore looks this week at ways people have dealt with that heat throughout our history.

It is not hard to let your imagination wander back to pioneers days without the comfort of air conditioning. Chalk Creek became the best method of cooling off on a sweltering summer day after time in the farm fields, on the statehouse construction or other strenuous work. The youth of the mid-1850's must have enjoyed a dip in the cool water. Because there was no irrigation pond at that time to hold back the water, one would assume water flowed down the creek through the old fort all year long, even though the water levels were probably very low in the late summer.



Very early on the settlers saw the need for a dam. The first one was built up the canyon just past the dugway section of the road. This is not far downstream from the bridge over Chalk Creek near where the ATV trail begins. Interestingly, near this spot was also the site of a dance hall floor where outdoor dances were held years ago.

Sometime in the 1800's a log and rock dam was constructed about 1/2 block east of the Wildlife Park for flood control. What a great swimming hole this made! Pictured here is Ancil Robison below the dam on the horse and his half-brother Homer Robison on his horse on top of the dam. These pictures were taken in 1903. This dam was eventually washed out by floods.



In the mid-1930's the CCC's built the cement dam farther east, but this was short-lived as it silted in from canyon floods not long after its construction. Residents from that era tell of people boating on the lake. The dam is still there but the access is privately owned and posted to

trespassers. Before the posting, this was a popular place for swimmers especially in the spring when the water was going over the spillway.

When our family moved to Fillmore forty years ago, a public swimming pool was located just south of the Statehouse Museum. Here youngsters splashed in the cold water during the summer months. Those who frequented this spot will remember that it was definitely COLD water.

In recent years a new swimming pool was built on the west side of that same block. Here a number of water activities take place year round: swimming lessons, lap swimming, water exercising, swim teams and public swimming. The water is warm and inviting and the pool is a very attractive building. Terry Cummings is in charge and along with her staff does an excellent job. At the present time the pool is closed for maintenance and scheduled to reopen about the second week in September.

Although the locations have changed considerably over the years, a dip in a refreshing pool still seems to be the popular method of beating the heat in Fillmore.

