



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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The Face of Fillmore this week tells the story of a prominent home at 245 North Main.

In November 2006, Richard and Jennifer Bunker began the restoration of what had once been a real showplace on Fillmore's Main Street. Jennifer admits the work they have set out to accomplish is a daunting task but is a goal they're determined to complete. Removal of overgrown bushes and a fresh coat of exterior paint began the Bunker's work on the home.

A tour of the home with details of future plans was, indeed, impressive.

A large foyer inside the front door is access to all parts of the house. To the south is the kitchen where partitions have been removed to make the room more open and new cabinets will be installed. The dining area lies in an alcove with a bay window at the front of the house. To the north is another wing with an identical bay window. The stairway straight ahead leads to the bedrooms on both wings of the second floor.

The upstairs was used as sleeping quarters when the building was a hotel in its earliest days. Stagecoach passengers were dropped off at the hotel, then the stagecoach and horses were driven to the livery stable where the fire station now stands. Drivers would stay at the Robison Hotel next door.

Male passengers stayed in the upstairs south wing and female passengers and children stayed in the north wing where there was one room for the children and another for their mothers and other adults, allowing them to visit or read after the children had fallen asleep. Above the main porch entrance is another outside porch with a great view of the mountains. Early occupants mention this fact in their journals.

The home was built in 1868 by John Bourne. The fireplaces and arches were constructed by Nicholas Paul. He came to the area from Africa and is famous for building the keystone arch at Cove Fort. He built many stone fireplaces in the area.

The home is constructed of adobe brick, plastered over and painted white. The lumber for it came from Bowen's Canyon in Oak Creek Canyon.



In June of 1908, Solomon Don Carlos Wixom and his wife Ellen May Lambert Wixom purchased the home from Abe Carling for \$1300. Solomon was a farmer and cheese maker. He had lived earlier in Fillmore and had been living in Scipio before returning to Fillmore.

An interesting account of the marriage of Solomon and his wife was found in his life history.

Solomon had been working on the Central School Building. He tells, "In the fall, when the foundation was completed, we went to the Manti Temple to be married. We went by team in a covered wagon and May's mother and Lyda Melville Webb, Aunt Valley's daughter, went with us. Our first day out we reached Scipio. The second day we got just through Redmond and the third day we landed in Manti. We got a place to stay that night and the next day, October 13, 1897, we went through the temple and were married. We got out of the temple about three or four o'clock in the afternoon settled our accounts and drove out of Manti to the next settlement where we stayed for the night. We made our bed close to the hind wheels of the wagon and Mrs. Lambert and Lyda slept in the wagon. We had been in bed only a little while when it started to rain, so we got up... May took hold of one end of the bedding and I the other and we carried it to a shed not far away and slept on the bumpy ground until morning. The next day we drove to Scipio and stayed there that night. There came quite a snow storm while we were there but we drove back home the next day."

Several others have enjoyed the spacious home, including a Japanese family named Tawa who lived there during World War II and more recently Harold and Flora Huntsman.

It is exciting to witness the improvements to this and other historic homes in Fillmore.