



## Face of Fillmore

*By Sherry Shepard*  
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One of the most enjoyable holiday traditions we look forward to each year is the elaborate Christmas decorations, most especially the colorful lights. I dare say there are only a few families in town who have not enjoyed a trip up and down Main Street as well as in other parts of town to enjoy these. Driving through the Territorial Statehouse Park is one of my favorite spots.

I remember a few years back when I picked up an elderly neighbor who lived alone and took her on a ride through the park. The lights were flashing in time with the music on the radio and we just sat and watched. A small herd of deer wandered through and stared at both the lights and us. It was snowing lightly large feathery flakes, adding to the atmosphere. What a great memory now that she has gone on.

It is obvious the early settlers celebrated the holiday but it wasn't until about sixty years later that there were lights on Main Street and it is not clear how much later that the lighted decorations adorned the streets.

The first lights on Main Street were documented in the Progress on January 30, 1913: "Pyper and Anderson have strung a line of electric lights from their moving picture show in the State House to Main Street, and thence to the Court House. To them will belong the honor of having been the first to light our streets."

More is known of early electricity in Fillmore. On January 12, 1917, we read, "Telluride Power

proposed a high voltage line over the mountain from Richfield, if the city will install its own distribution system. In a City Council meeting, Brunson motioned that the proposition be accepted, pending an affirmative vote on the bond." January 25, 1918: "After completing their repair work on the mountain, the lights were turned on in the city on Tuesday evening of last week and electricity is now serving 120 customers with a minimum charge of \$1.00."

It is difficult for me to imagine what Christmases of the pioneer era looked like. I am sure these early settlers used what was available to them to make it a festive time of year. Wouldn't it be fun if we could do a little time travel and bring them back to view what "their" community looks like today?



Millard County Courthouse decorated for the holidays