



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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At the very south end of Main Street in Fillmore stands the historical home of David and Maureen Gren which the Face of Fillmore has chosen to visit this week. Dating back to the earliest days of our town, this home has undergone a series of renovations since its beginning.

John and Mary Clark Day left England in August of 1869 with their two-week-old son Rufus and arrived in Fillmore in September. They bought the lot where the home now stands and later on a farm that was adjacent to it. They began by excavating a dug-out with a dirt roof where they lived for about 10 years. Their children Arthur, Elizabeth, Edward, Emma and possibly Alfred were born in their make-shift home.

In about 1879 they build the home pictured here of rock masonry with two bedrooms, a living room, kitchen and two large porches on the northeast corner of their property. Their other two children Annie and Will were born there.

Just a few steps from the kitchen door was the well house. The floor was of planking and under a trap door was the settling well. Just above the water line were series of shelves where milk, butter, eggs, vegetables and left-overs were kept cool. A stream of water from the irrigation ditch ran into the well replenishing the supply and maintaining its freshness. It didn't seem to matter that this stream came past a neighbor's corral and was frequently crossed by farm animals. This was the only source of water. The stream was also used once a week for irrigation for the garden and fields. From this small plot of ground John raised nearly everything the family ate and the crops that fed his cattle, horses, hogs and chickens.



The home and property were purchased in the early 1930's by Oscar and Agnes Anderson. Oscar raised chickens on the property at the Anderson Poultry Barn. At any given time he had between 3,000 and 4,000 laying hens.

Oscar had seen a picture of a stucco house and decided that was exactly what he wanted, so his sons Brooks and Alma remodeled the home for him in 1936 to fit his vision of a stucco house. Their finished product is pictured here.

Along the north side of the house, lining what used to be the ninety degree turn on Main Street is a row of older trees. While many early citizens planted similar trees for their wood, the Anderson's planted them to keep cars from skidding into their yard when the roads were icy. Eventually the city acquired the property where the Blue Star Park is located from the Ashman Family and Main Street was changed to the gradual curve that is there now.



Oscar Anderson's life before moving to Fillmore is interesting to take a brief look at. In about 1927, he had a livery contract with the gold mine at Kimberly and freighted gold bullion from the mine to the railhead at the mouth of Clear Creek Canyon. At the mouth of the canyon he also built a café and motel. These structures were burned in a fire near the time the Kimberly mines shut down, so Oscar sold his property there and moved his family to Delta before coming to Fillmore.

Oscar is also remembered as we look at the huge pine trees in the Fillmore City Cemetery. He raised the trees from saplings in the arbor behind his Fillmore home. At one point when the trees were large enough to transplant, he went to the city council and asked if trees could be planted in the cemetery. The council explained to him that there was no money to plant trees, and he told them it was not about money. With the help of his grandsons Harold and Grant, the pine trees around the cemetery were planted and watered by hand for years, until the city installed a sprinkling system.

In December 1946, Oscar's son Brooks and his wife Melva purchased the home from Oscar and did some further remodeling on the inside. They continued the chicken business.

David and Maureen Gren bought the property from the Anderson family in the early 1990's. David is a professional brick layer and has added brick to the home as well as an upper floor, creating a whole new look for the home.

