



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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This week we are looking at the history of another of the 100+ year old homes in Fillmore. Located at 245 West 100 South, the home was constructed in 1894 by Will Critchley of the locally made brick we see in many of the older homes in town.

This was the first home of Parley M. and Mary Payne. Parley and Mary had one son Laurence who died at the age of one month. They had no other children.

Parley was the son of James Payne and a freighter by trade. He delivered oats and other items to towns around the area and was part of the system of mail carriers in early Fillmore.

According to a note on some records loaned to me by the Daughters of the Pioneers, the home was purchased by Alexander Melville about 1898. Whether or not he ever lived there is unclear.

In 1917 Orvil Starley and his wife were married. It is this family that lived in the home for several years as their children were growing up – all nine of them.

In 1943, Orvil's son Dell and his wife Renee were married while Dell was on a ten day furlough from the Army. He was then shipped to Germany where he joined the fighting of World War II. For a time Renee lived with Berna and Murray Davies in the home on the next corner to the east where the Jolley family now lives. LaVoy, their oldest son, was born in March of 1944. In December 1945, Dell saw his son for the first time.

Following his return from the war, Dell, Renee, and LaVoy moved into the family home and Dell's parents moved across the street into a little white house where they spent the remainder of their lives. This is the place their younger children remember most.

For a time, Dell and Renee shared the home with Heber and Maggie Huntsman. Maggie is Dell's sister. The Huntsman's occupied the living room and the lean-to behind it and the Starley's lived in the kitchen and a bedroom with another small bedroom for LaVoy.

The couples dug a basement with pick and shovel to increase the size of the home, one bucketful of dirt at a time. The huge boulders in the basement were a real problem. One of those boulders was removed by breaking it into pieces with a sledge hammer. When this large obstacle was removed, one of the rooms was nearly complete. Dell filled his one ton truck two and half times before that one boulder was disposed of.

After the Huntsman's moved to their new home, Florence and Casey Caswell lived with the Starley's for a short period of time. Florence was another sister.



The Starley's spent their summers on the ranch in Pahvant and moved the dairy cows into town for the winter months.

Dell and Renee had five more children: Wayne, Helen (Quarnberg), John, Scott and Geneal (Mays). Helen was, in fact, born in the living room of the family home. Dell had sent for Dr. Freeman to come, but he didn't get there in time and Dell delivered Helen with the help of a neighbor Eva Warner.

Della and Renee continued to live in this little brick house until their passings when their family sold it to Chris and Vickie Carling.

This recent picture shows that except for the construction of the carport and obvious plumbing and electricity, the home has been changed little through the years and still continues to be a historical spot in the Face of Fillmore.