



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
November 22, 2017

I am often asked how I come up with ideas for the Face of Fillmore. While life has changed drastically in Fillmore since it was settled in 1851, some events have always been celebrated. It has been entertaining to compare the past and present of these, which often brings up an idea for a column.

This week's column is an example of that.

My husband and I as well as several others, traveled to Manti a week ago, to attend the wedding of some great friends, Doyle Larsen and Pat Rhodes. Certainly, weddings have always been part of the celebrations in our little town and travel to Manti also a regular event, so this was a chance for me to take a look at how some aspects of this have changed while the wedding itself was much the same as it was years ago.

We left Fillmore on a beautiful fall day and picked up some neighbors to go along for the ride with us. Traveling at highway speeds now is much different than a hundred plus years ago, and we arrived at our destination in about an hour and a half. Following the ceremony, the group met to take dozens of pictures of the newlyweds and other family and friends, then all enjoyed a delicious lunch which had been prepared at a local restaurant. Within a couple of hours, we were once again home in Fillmore.

The journal of Solomon Don Carlos Wixom tells of different circumstances going to a wedding in Manti.

In June of 1908, Solomon Don Carlos Wixom and his wife Ellen May Lambert Wixom purchased the home across the street from Cluff's Carhop Café (now the home of the Bunker family) 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.

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



Doyle and Pat Larsen



Wixom Home

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.”

The conveniences in travel and accommodations are certainly much improved today.

In her book, *Milestones of Millard*, Stella Day devoted an entire chapter to “Romance on the Plains”. It seems that in the early days of Fillmore, young men were sent as teamsters to help bring the emigrants to Utah. On several occasions, those young men met their future wives along the trail. Quoting Stella: “Romance blossomed on the plains. Youth with its vision and confidence in the future overcomes all obstacles. Cupid kept busy. M.W. Warner fell in love with his passenger, Christine Brown; Abraham Carling succumbed to the charms of a rosy little English maid, Ann Ashman, who had courageously left her family in the Old Country and traveled alone to Zion; John Cavanagh married one of his passengers and Hostein Warner wed Ann Dewsnap.”

Our friends, Doyle and Pat, have interesting connections to Fillmore. Doyle is a “move-in”, just like us. As a youth, he came to Fillmore in the summers to spend time with his uncle William Russell and his wife Maurene. He became acquainted with some of the local young people and had fond memories of time spent here. Fourteen years ago, as retirement time came, Doyle said his good-byes to the hectic life in Utah County and bought a home in Fillmore where he could relax and enjoyment his retirement.

Pat, on the other hand, comes from a long line of Fillmore’s earliest residents. She grew up in the home at 190 North Main Street in Fillmore where her parents Alma and Florence McKee Iverson lived with their nine children. It is located a short distance from the northwest corner of the old fort and was one of the first houses built after the settlers left the fort. It was built by John Kelly, one of the first schoolteachers in Fillmore, who was Alma’s great grandfather.

As weddings are celebrated here in our historic community, we wish Doyle and Pat as well as other newlywed couples a very sincere happily- ever-after.



Alma Iverson Home