



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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Now is probably a good time to tell the final chapter of the old Fillmore Elementary School. This building was located just south of the Territorial Statehouse and was built of yellow brick.

In 1931 W.A. Paxton became the superintendent of schools and under his administration this building was constructed. It was completed in 1942.

In the 48 years after that hundreds of students attended school there, from entering school to the sixth grade. In 1979 the new Fillmore Elementary building in the southwest corner of Fillmore was finished and the supplies for the school moved to that location. It was a giant project and the older students helped out.

In May 1979, after the completion of the school year, demolition of the building began. Contractor in charge Rick Brown had previously estimated it would take between 30 and 40 days to completely raze the building, but that time was shortened considerably.

The demolition was speeded up when the building caught fire on about May 18. Fillmore City police Office George Poff discovered the blaze at about 6:30 a.m. while he was on his daily patrol on the streets. No one was in the building at the time of the fire. It was determined that sparks from a cutting torch the previous day had smoldered all night, breaking into flames the next morning.

The fire burned the interior of the building, but the exterior walls were left standing. Bricks from the building were given to those who wanted a memento of their school days, although they were slightly blacker than they had been when school was in session.



Fillmore Elementary 1958



Fillmore Elementary fire 1979