



## Face of Fillmore

*By Sherry Shepard*  
July 1, 2015

Summer has definitely come to the Face of Fillmore and along with that we see the daily trek of youngsters to the swimming pool. In the morning they are headed to swimming lessons and in the afternoons, it is time for a refreshing dip to beat the heat.



Swimming has certainly been a traditional recreation for residents of Fillmore since its earliest days. For the earliest settlers, a swimming hole in Chalk Creek was their means of cooling off. With dams being built in the ensuing years, the water backed up behind them was a great spot to swim.

In 1916 a real swimming pool was built just northwest of what is now the Wildlife Park, up the hill from the parking lot and to the right as you are headed west. The outline of the foundation of this pool is still evident but is difficult to find in the tall weeds and grass.

In the April 7, 1916 issue of the Progress we read:

“Fillmore to Have New Plunge”

“Work was started this week on the new plunge which is being erected by Mr. Joseph S. Smith in Fillmore near his residence. The plunge will be 30 feet wide by 50 feet long and will be made entirely of cement. The depth of the plunge will vary from 2 feet deep at its shallowest part to 7 feet deep at its deepest

part and will accommodate a large number of bathers at one time. Dressing rooms will be built around the plunge and every convenience for his patrons will be furnished by Mr. Smith. The work of building the plunge is being done by contractors Rasmussen and son.

“We have long needed an enterprise of this nature in Fillmore and now that we are about to realize one of our fondest hopes, we should all prepare to patronize it to the utmost of our resources. Mr. Smith is to be congratulated on his determination to give the people of Fillmore one of the things they have far longed for in vain.”

A few months later, on July 14, the completed plunge was advertised in the Progress.

**LET'S ALL SWIM!**

At the Fillmore Sanatorium every day and evening.  
15¢ a person, suits included.

J.S. SMITH, Prop.

While the wording and the lay-out of the advertisements have changed with the years, the need for a refreshing swim has not.

Rollo Brunson, who sent this information to me, also told of how his mother and her sisters lived just a block south of the plunge and used to swim there. He told that his Aunt Rayma had a crush on one of the Geddes boys, and had made arrangements with one of the Smith boys – Jim – to come and tell them when the Geddes boys were swimming at the pool. The girls would then quickly make plans to visit the pool.

While the method of communications these days would be a text on a cell phone instead of a runner, some things don't change.

I have been unable to locate a picture of the old pool. If anyone has one they would be willing to share please call. 743-5357.