



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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Concentrating on our little community and its history has been difficult this week. My mind is almost 100 miles to the north. I am sure certain others' thoughts have been in the same location. Several families in Fillmore have connections to the people affected by the Bald Mountain and Pole Canyon Fires in Utah County. Many of us have relatives evacuated from their homes for their safety as the inferno rages on. Many also have relatives who are fighting these fires. Others with connections to Fillmore are among the many providing shelter and other help.

This all hits close to home for us, as our daughter and her family fall into these categories. She and her family are now staying at the home of good friends in Salem, Dennis and Cheri Stevens, who used to live in Fillmore and who is the son of long-time Fillmore friends, Paul and Greta Stevens. Dennis and Cheri's daughter Andrea and her husband Eli have been extremely supportive as well. Their hospitality and enormous help in countless ways has been a God-send.



Our son-in-law has been fighting the Bald Mountain Fire since it began which means he is not with his family during this difficult time for all of them.

Just before the evacuation came, a BLM engine from Fillmore pulled up at the driveway to their home. Familiar faces helped our uneasy feelings.

We were there when the evacuation order came. There was the chilling sound of the town's fire alarm and the voice announcing that mandatory evacuations were in place and everyone needed to leave immediately. This is something I will not soon forget. It was raining ash as we looked in our rear-view mirrors at their home and prayed it would be safe to return to soon.

The fire continues, worsening in some areas and prayers for everyone's safety have been become part of our daily ritual – actually, several times a day.

Our thanks to good friends and family who are always there when you need them. Our thanks too to the many firefighters in harm's way to watch over the homes and people living near the fires. Through their heroic efforts, no homes have been lost. May it all end without tragedy of any kind.

