

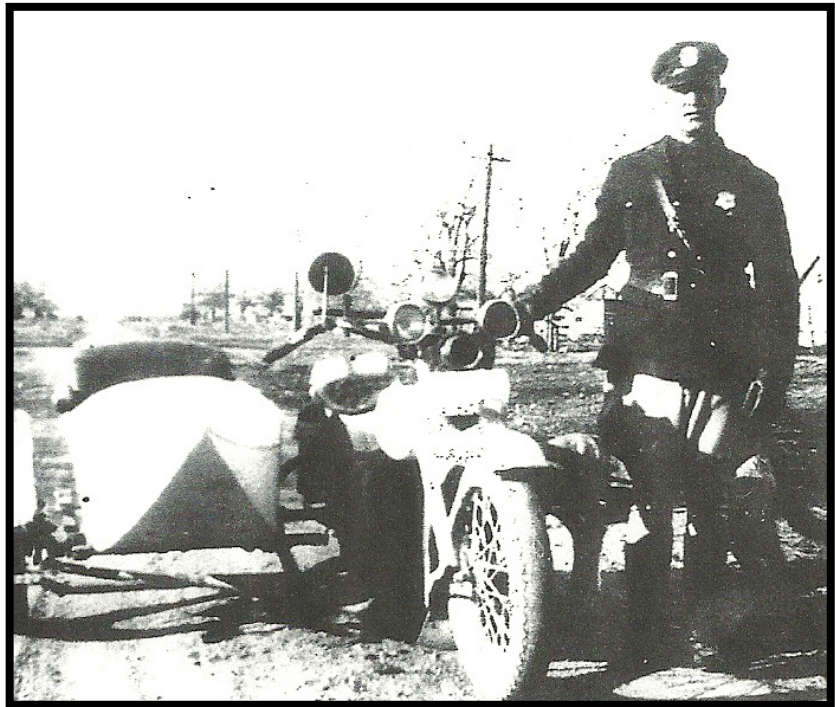


## Face of Fillmore

*By Sherry Shepard*  
December 5, 2018

This week the Face of Fillmore looks at two subjects one would think are unrelated – Elmer Carling and Christmas gift giving. There is a connection. Read on.

A brief glimpse back into the life of Elmer Carling reminds us that Elmer had served as Town Marshall of Fillmore for several years before being hired as the first ever highway patrolman in this section of the state. Appointed during Governor Blood's administration, he was hired on August 10, 1932 and was given Badge #5. His area of service covered the main highways from Chicken Creek on the north to Beaver on the south and Delta on the west. At the time those were all unpaved. Perhaps the most interesting part of his highway patrol beginning was his mode of transportation. He was trained to ride a motorcycle to use as a patrol vehicle. He had ridden horses all his life



Elmer Carling, first highway patrolman in Fillmore

and had trouble making the adjustment. He found out on several occasions that hollering, "Whoa!" doesn't bring a motorcycle to a stop. Stories tell of him hitting trees and ditches before he mastered his new mount. The 1932 Harley he was given came complete with a sidecar, which he used as an ambulance for the injured and even to bring in the victims of fatal accidents. His only backup was his German Shepherd, "Thurn", who sometimes accompanied him. That dog was well trained and also very protective of Officer Carling. He would not let anyone near the sidecar. Elmer had a schedule sent out from the State on a regular basis telling which days of the week he would patrol the different sections of the roads in his area. The days would change each week so no one would know where he was going to be located. His service to the safety of those on the highways is long remembered. He retired in 1952 and passed away the following year.

Recently I received a note and the web address of a YouTube video from Duane Carling. He has spent numerous hours organizing this great video tribute. What a wonderful gift for family and friends to enjoy.

Duane wrote, “I recently made this video tribute to my grandfather for my family. He was a tough guy and patrolled the gravel roads of Utah, winter & summer, on a flat head Harley, sort of a pre-gear head.”

Here is the address so you can enjoy it too.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1J4mlmvOHkg&feature=youtu.be>

Knowing there are not enough hours in the day to complete such a project before Christmas this year, I am hoping it will inspire readers to begin now for a great Christmas present next year.

P.S. If anyone has a picture of the old jail that was located behind the Millard County Courthouse in Fillmore, please call 435-743-5357.