



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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The Face of Fillmore's Main Street is changing. Right now, the construction cones make through travel a little more awkward, but these are a great sign of things to come. More blocks of Main Street will soon be beautified by the new light poles, just the beginning of a much more eye-pleasing Fillmore.

Along with these improvements will come the stone benches and trees to be planted in the future. Studies have shown that Main Streets with trees and other improvements have more shoppers and people linger longer to enjoy the pleasant atmosphere.

A new addition to the street lights are the colorful blue and gold banners which welcome people to "Historic Fillmore".

Businesses along Main Street have also gotten into the improvement mode. I cannot mention them by name, as I do not advertise in this column, but taking a ride down Main, one cannot help but notice new paint and trim on buildings. Thanks to those business owners who have helped give Fillmore's Main Street a brighter look.

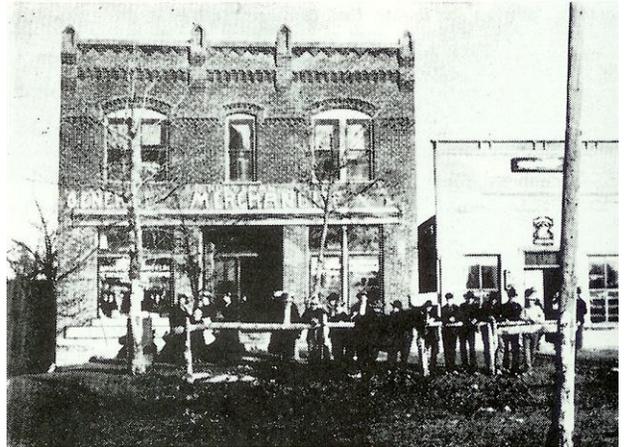
One building I would like to point out this week, and can do so because it is not in business at this time, was the former home of Bradshaw Auto Parts. For the past few years, the vacant building just south of Center Street has been a bright blue color. Thanks to the owners Robert and Krista Iverson for the great new coat of paint on this historic building. The shades of tan with rust trim fit right in with other buildings along the street and have added to the great look.

This building is one of the more historic on Main Street and was originally the Huntsman Store. Krista told how during the remodeling process they found evidences of businesses of yesteryear as walls and ceilings were replaced.

She said there was even evidence that the building has been on fire more than once at some point in its history.

G.R. Huntsman began his business career in 1894 near the corner of First South and Main Street where he operated a meat market in the basement of John Kelly's store. Later he bought a frame building built by John King, which was on the corner of Second North and Main. He thought this was too far from the center of business in town so he had it brought to the spot just south of the brick building that Bradshaw's was in. He had bought the property from Brigham Tompkinson.

The moving of the building brought quite a stir in town. Those who were partial to using oxen for pulling were certain they could out-pull the teams of horses. Three teams of horses were hitched to one side of the building and three teams of oxen to the other. The oxen were owned by Baldy Allen, husband of Fannie Huntsman Stewart and the horses were owned by Nelson Beauregard. Many dollars changed hands during the move, which took several days as the pull was all uphill. According the Alonzo Huntsman who later wrote about the event in the *Milestones of Millard*, the oxen were the superior pullers.



Mr. Huntsman operated a business in this building for several years. In 1899, he began the large two-story brick building. In an article in the *Deseret News* dated March 31, 1900, this was the largest mercantile institution in southern Utah, with an inventory worth nearly \$50,000.

The brick building was constructed by Albert Day and sons. The thousands of bricks were made by hand by Mr. Day's men and sandstone from the basement came from the old Hoyt tannery and some was also quarried up Chalk Creek Canyon. The large pine floor joists were once part of the old grist mill built by Noah Bartholomew.

The store's bookkeeper was his wife Helen and Hattie Carling Critchley was a clerk in all departments.

The store featured all types of merchandise. As business grew, Mr. Huntsman added the building just to the north. At the time, it shared a wall in common with the old Huntsman Hotel that took up the corner lot.

Mr. and Mrs. Huntsman operated the business until 1912 when their son George took over. He operated it until World War II.

Following those years, the building became the home of Utah Poultry Company, then Rowley's Variety Store and finally Bradshaw Auto Parts. It now sits awaiting the next chapter in the life of one of Fillmore's historic buildings.

