



## The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard  
September 11, 2013

The Face of Fillmore this week celebrates a person rather than a building. His face is one that will be recognizable to nearly everyone in town.

For 56 years, Jerry Warner has been the friendly face we have all seen as we stop by the drug store to have a prescription filled.

The Warner family is deeply rooted in the history of Fillmore. Maybe that is why Jerry hoped to one day be able to raise his family here. After graduating from Millard, he went on to the University of Utah where he earned his degree in 1957. In June of that year he moved to Fillmore with his wife Louise and baby boy Weston. After settling in Fillmore the couple was blessed with three more children: John, Suzan and Leslie.

Jerry's story cannot be told without including changes in the looks of Main Street.

In the 1940's Chester Baker and John Cooper Sr. bought the Arrowhead Garage which was located where the drug store now stands. They also built the Café Ilene for John and Ilene Cooper. This was located in the building where the dance studio is now. John and Chester put a roof between the café and the garage and enclosed in the building. This became Chester's drug store.

Jerry began working for Chester Baker at Baker Drug just after his graduation from college. Chester had been in business there for ten years at that time. The tenth year he worked alone in the pharmacy, waiting for Jerry to graduate and fill the position he was holding for him.

When Jerry started work with Baker Drug it was a Rexall Drug Store. One will remember the one cent sales they had yearly. They sold many products including veterinary supplies, magazines, candy, fresh nuts, hard ice cream, ammunition, sporting goods, hunting licenses, in addition to items normally found in a drug store.

The pharmacy has changed a lot since those days when everything there was handwritten and the labels were typed on a typewriter. Dr. Evans and the other doctors who practiced in Fillmore would hand write the prescriptions and the patient would take them to the drug store to be filled. The pharmacist would fill them, working without the help of a technician. Years ago the doctor would write a prescription for three days,



then if the medication appeared to be working, they would write another prescription for ten days' worth of medicine.

Ron and Donna Baker bought the drug store from Chester, his father, in 1985. At this point Chester retired, cutting back to only working one day a week to give Jerry a day off.

When Medicare became law, Jerry went to work in the hospital pharmacy as well.

In 1996, Jerry retired the first time and Shirley Boyce took over the pharmacy. Retirement meant that Jerry only worked two days a week at that point. After the Baker's sold Baker Drug two years ago, Jerry continued his shortened schedule.

Jerry has also served his community and his church well here in Fillmore. He served as Bishop of the Third Ward, high counselor and many other church positions. He also served on committees for the community such as the Planning and Zoning Commission.

His latest retirement from the drug store is the real kind where you don't go to work, you just enjoy life.

My personal thanks goes out to Jerry for his suggestions and comments that have helped out in writing some of my columns. It is hoped that we continue to see Jerry's face around Fillmore for years to come.

