



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
March 16, 2011

The Face of Fillmore this week celebrates the birthday of the oldest resident of Fillmore – Mrs. Leora Allen – who will turn 98 years young on March 17th. Certainly, she has seen more changes to the Face of Fillmore than any other living person.

Mrs. Allen's longevity appears to be inherited. Her father Merritt Carling lived to be 87 years old and his wife Vilate lived to be 101. They are pictured here on their wedding day.

Mrs. Allen was born and raised in Fillmore with pioneer roots in the area. Carling is one of the earliest surnames found in Fillmore's records.

Mrs. Allen currently lives in at 350 West 100 North with her son Jim. This two story brick home was constructed about 1914 when Mrs. Allen was only a year old and was the home of Mrs. Allen's parents and family. The family remembers the age of the home by the fact that they moved in shortly before the second son's birth. Their children are Claude, Leora, Fred and Grover.

Leora Carling married Rial A. Allen on July 5, 1934. They are the parents of two sons and two daughters: Duane R., Dorothy Hurst, Virginia Larsen, and James. Not long after their marriage they moved to several different communities including Salt Lake City and Spanish Fork, but eventually ended up back in Fillmore where it all began.

Mrs. Allen worked as a lunch lady a great deal of her married life, beginning in 1963 and continuing to 1978 when she retired.

In 1978 she moved back into her childhood home to care for her parents. Her husband joined her shortly afterward upon his retirement.

Mrs. Allen has a large posterity with four children, 16 grandchildren, 49 great grandchildren and 12 great great grandchildren.

To Mrs. Allen, congratulations on another year in Fillmore and "Happy Birthday."

This type of article seems to always need a disclaimer. Somewhere in Fillmore there might be a person who is over 98 years of age, thus making me wrong about Mrs. Allen being the oldest person in Fillmore. If this is the case, please let me know and a follow-up story would be in order.

