



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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In the early days, log cabins dotted the Face of Fillmore. Some of those early ones are still standing and remind us of days gone by.

One of the earliest is located at 240 West 200 South. Although it is currently unoccupied, it is well preserved and looks as though a pioneer family could move in today.

The home was constructed of logs in 1871. The builder is unknown but it was originally occupied by Sarah Olmstead. In 1888 George and Charlotte Russell Rose purchased the home and family members have great memories of times spent there. Mrs. Rose was the mother of Frank and Dick Russell, and the grandmother of Dan Russell. He told stories of many Thanksgivings and Christmases spent in the home.

During the course of the 140 years since the house was built, it has had at least eleven different owners. It is interesting to note that on more than one occasion the house was sold because of unpaid taxes, some of which were only a few dollars.

The log cabin is currently owned by Helen Starley. In 1936, it was purchased by Helen's grandparents, John and Virginia Edwards. There they raised their two daughters RaNee Edwards Starley and Koye Edwards Nielson. RaNee was just eleven when the family moved in and Koye was five. Both lived in the home until they were married. John lived there until his death in 1971 and Virginia stayed until her health prevented her from living alone.

One interesting fact about the tiny cabin is that the scroll work along the top of the front porch is original and has never been changed except for an occasional paint job.

In contrast to this early log cabin and a few others around town, we still see new ones being built in Fillmore. One example of this is the home of Gary and Diana Hone on West Center Street. This spacious and attractive log cabin was built four years ago and is beautifully landscaped. Quite a change from its earlier predecessors.

Gary explained that ever since he and his dad visited Fish Lake many years ago, he had dreamed of owning his own log cabin. This one can certainly be described as a dream come true.

