



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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Washington, D.C. has its impressive monuments to Presidents of the United States: Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln, as well as to war veterans and other important Americans. New York has its Statue of Liberty standing guard over the harbor. Paris has its Eiffel Tower and Arch de Triumph. And Fillmore has its monuments, while not as impressive in size and national importance, still unique to our community.

One of those stands at the southwest corner of the North Park and has to be a one of a kind. It is doubtful that anywhere else has a monument to a sewer system.

In the August 2, 1972 minutes of the city council, we read: “Plans for a monument at the North Park were presented. The monument will be constructed of some large rocks uncovered in digging the sewer trenches.”

Those plans were carried out and Dell Allgood was commissioned by Mayor Golden Wright to erect this monument. Dell’s son Shane says this was a “monument to modernization” or maybe to bankruptcy, as the project turned into a financial disaster for the contractor. When the contract was bid, he had no idea of the great monetary set-backs because of the added hours and damage to machines these huge boulders were cause.

Shane also remembers that he and his brother Ryan as youngsters helped their father by putting in place the smaller stones at the base of the monument. A steel pipe protrudes out of the top. He thinks that the original plans were for an eagle to be put there, but he is not certain.

Whatever the original plans were, Fillmore certainly is home to a unusual monument.

Oops!

A week ago I received a phone call from Larry Peterson who said, “Sherry, you have made a mistake.” He went on to remind me of the story just two weeks ago about the Parley Payne home and how I had written that Parley and his wife had a baby son Laurence who died and then had no other children. Larry went on to say, “Parley Payne was my grandfather.” He gave me a list Parley’s children: Newell, Reva, Lola, Nina, June, Charles, Teen, Lloyd, Vonda and Buster. Indeed, Laurence was not an only child.

I appreciate this phone call and extend my sincere apologies to the many of Parley Payne’s posterity who I didn’t know existed. Obviously, you can’t believe everything you read on the internet.

