The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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Today I speak for many who would like to give a pat on the back to the members of the Friends of the Territorial Statehouse Museum under the direction of Abe Johnson who, along with the staff at the Territorial Museum have done such an excellent job with the Old Capitol Arts and Living History Festival. Several local businesses and government agencies helped to sponsor this event. Our thanks to them for their support.

The primary goal of the Face of Fillmore has been to show how the citizens of our community are interested in preserving their pioneer heritage. This was show-cased well in the three day event which began September 4. The normally pristine grounds of the statehouse were transformed into many facets of days gone by. Teepees and tents dotted the grounds where mountain men, Indians, pioneer women and many others greeted visitors and demonstrated their prowess at early skills necessary to keep the community going.

Other demonstrations were of special interest. I especially enjoyed the falconer, Ben Woodruff. He showed his audiences several birds of prey – falcons, hawks, owls, and an enormous golden eagle – while giving one fascinating fact after another in his lively presentation.

Food and crafts booths were also set up for visitors to enjoy, along with the works by several local artists. A more entertaining and enjoyable day could not have been had elsewhere. Thank you to everyone involved for your hard work, making this possible.

It is also time for another thank you. This one to my readers who are so good to give a kind work of approval about the Face of Fillmore as well as offer suggestions, information, pictures, and other comments. Seven years ago – 2007 – was an important year in my life. My husband retired, my youngest granddaughter was born and I began writing this column from which I have gained a great appreciation for the early people of our area, adding countless new friends throughout our community along the way.