



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
August 24, 2016

Planning ahead in our busy lives is always a great idea. With that in mind, I will tell you that two weeks from now, I plan to be attending a great event in Fillmore. The Old Capitol Arts and Living History Festival is fast becoming a rival of the Fourth of July in size with literally tens of thousands of people in attendance over the four day a period. Marking its twentieth anniversary, the festival has grown by leaps and bounds and for good reason.

A variety of activities are available to the public. These not only are entertaining and fun, many are also educational and promote a feeling of kinship with our early settlers.

In the Living History area, you can watch a variety of



demonstrations, participate in hands-on activities, and look at interesting displays, including: a mountain men camp, a black-smith, broom-making, barrel-making, Native American dancing, spinning, and cooking, and many more. You can enjoy the horse-drawn wagon and stagecoach rides. Original handmade items are also available for purchase. This is really a step back into the past.

Handmade arts and crafts are for sale on Friday and Saturday with usually about 40 to 50 artists and crafters in the park selling a variety of handmade items.

The Fine Art Show (formerly "Judged Art Show") features the original work of many local artists, and is located in the National Guard Armory just north of the park. It is hoped that by

not having the items judged, more people will be willing to share their art work.

Many beautiful quilts created by members of the local Quilt Guild will also be on display in the National Guard Armory.

The food court attracts long lines of people with appetites for a variety of foods from many cultures.

New this year will be the storytelling section. This will include professional storytellers and even recording your own story.

The festival includes its own gun show. This is held on Friday and Saturday in the Pod with a variety of fire arms.



In conjunction with that, on Saturday at 9 a.m. at the gun range northeast of town, the Ed Owens Memorial Gatling Gun Shoot will be held. Anyone interested in firing the gun is welcome, as well as onlookers. The cost for this is only the cost of the ammunition you use. This gun is the buffalo hunting variety that shoots a 45/70 bullet. In fact, it fires off 300 of those a minute, making it the fastest model of Gatling gun. In past years, a few local people who own large caliber guns including machine guns have shown up to fire theirs off as well. One man even brought a cannon that shoots bowling balls. This promises to be a fun morning for gun lovers.

On a personal note: One of the items on my bucket list has been to shoot the National Guard howitzer, but since I don't think that is ever going to happen, this may be the next best thing.

Evening entertainment this year includes the Bar D Wranglers on Friday and Saturday evenings and Foreign Figures on Wednesday and Thursday.

Thanks to organizers like AB Johnson and Doug Jolley, the festival lives up to its motto to celebrate and Promote the Arts and Living History.