



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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The Old Capitol Storytelling Festival promises to be a great event in three locations and in five days here in Millard County. Organized jointly by the Friends of the Territorial Statehouse State Park and Museum, the Territorial Statehouse State Park and Utah Pioneer Heritage Arts, the event will be held on March 22-26. Some big names in storytelling will highlight the event, including Emmy Award winner Ken Verdoia, the One Voice Children's Choir, Cheri Call and Lyndy Butler, Sam Payne, Clive Romney and others.

On Friday, March 23, at the Delta High School Auditorium at 7 p.m., the topic of the stories is Topaz-Prisoners in their Homeland as well as others.

Saturday, March 24, will see a series of topics beginning at 9 a.m. at the Millard High Auditorium. Some of those include "Great Basin Blues and How to Beat Them", "Native America Speak – Who Has a Heart to Listen?", "The Outlaw Trail", "Claim Your Territory – with many tellers", "Snake Valley Water Fight", and "Tales of the Old Spanish Trail".

Saturday, March 24, there will be food vendors and an open mic for all to enjoy.

An art exhibit by Donald Beauregard will also be on display at the Territorial Statehouse for that weekend only.

Sunday, March 25, the event moves to Snake Valley at the Eskdale High School for "Monuments of Faith – Tangible Manifestations" and Monday, March 26, at the Border Inn for "Community – We Must All Hang Together, Or...".

Several local storytellers and entertainers will be present: Scott Bassett, Dean Draper, Sue Whetmore, Denys Koyle, to name a few.

One of the goals of the storytelling festival, named "Claim Your Territory", is to create a hub of storytelling for the vast area that was once the Utah Territory. Before statehood, the territory covered all of Utah, most of Nevada, almost half of Colorado and a little corner of Wyoming. Stories of the region include, of course, stories of Mormon pioneers, but include much, much more. This storytelling will be a celebration of our shared history, culture and heritage.

If you have never listened to a professional storyteller, now is your opportunity. You will be pleasantly entertained and informed and go away wanting to try it yourself.

Remember to "Claim Your Territory" by gathering your stories. Tell them and retell them so that our heritage will not be lost and those yet to come will know what happened when we were here.

