



## Face of Fillmore

*By Sherry Shepard*  
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Volunteerism is alive and well in Fillmore. I witnessed a great example of this just a few weeks ago as I was driving down Main Street.

Larry Gehre was perched on a step ladder in front of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneer Monument on Main and Center. I turned the corner and pulled in next to his truck. By the time I got out he had put the ladder in the truck, but he graciously took it back out to pose for this picture. He appeared to be having a great time, just the right attitude for someone helping out their community.



Larry Gehre repairing the Daughters of the Pioneers Monument.

I asked him what he was doing, and he told me he had been working on repairing the monument. He had been putting new mortar between the rocks and applying a thick coat of sealant to the top to keep the water from running down through the rocks and pushing them apart as the freezing and thawing processes take over through the winter.

He told me he “was volunteered” for the project at his wife’s afternoon bridge game. It seems Georgia Starley, who is a Daughter of the Pioneers, brought three rocks to his home and explained that they had fallen off the monument. She asked if he could somehow reattach them. Larry has for years been known as “The Rock Man” so she was sure he was the one for the job.

Georgia talked with Julie Olsen, who is the current leader of the D.U.P. in Fillmore, to get permission to have the work done.

Larry took the rocks and went to examine the monument. He found a few others completely missing but had some petrified wood in his stash that just matched the color and texture of the rocks. He mixed mortar to match the original color and put the monument back together, along with applying the sealant.

It should be noted that the cement and sealant for the project was donated by Roper Lumber and the time and effort to get the work done was all volunteer.

It is actually amazing to see how well the monument has withstood the passing of time. It was originally completed on August 5, 1935 as Monument #8.

The inscription on the brass marker reads: **“Fillmore Pioneer Fort. This marks the southwest corner of the fort, built in October and November 1851 as protection from Indians, by first 17 families under direction of Anson Call, Jesse W. Fox, surveyor. About 2 city blocks in size. The front wall 8 to 10 feet high was built of cobblestones, other walls of mud, straw, and rocks. The east wall followed the foothills in circular form. Fort walls were used as back walls of homes, mail station, church, school. Recreation grounds, gardens and corral were within and Chalk Creek ran thru the fort. East Millard County Company”**.

Our thanks to Larry and others like him who take the time and effort to keep the historical mementos of the Face of Fillmore in good condition for our posterity.