



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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As we moved to Fillmore several years ago, I soon became acquainted with a local custom which I found quite interesting. When I would ask people where someone lived, I was often told something like, “just south of the old Robison place” or “across the street from the old Carling home”. I had never received these kinds of directions before, and it was very confusing to someone like me who knew nothing of the town’s history. Right then I promised myself, I would never do that to anyone.

Oddly enough, a few days ago as I was driving west on first south, I passed the new home Dianne Stephenson built just a few years ago and thought to myself, “This was where the old Starley home sat”. So much for my promise of years ago. Have I been giving the same directions I had originally heard without even thinking about it?

Perhaps remembering who lived in a certain place, even if their home is a thing of the past, is a good way to keep our memories of Fillmore alive.

I remember Orvil Starley and enjoyed the few times I stopped to visit for a minute. I can think of lots of questions now that he could have answered for me about our town, but at that point, I was not busy with the Face of Fillmore.

Orvil and his wife Fern lived in a neat little white house with an inviting porch and beautiful yard. It was actually built in 1894, but the Starley’s moved in about 1945. The brick house across the street had been the family home and had been occupied by Orvil’s children and their spouses and their children off and on for years.

When Orvil’s son Dell returned from World War II, he and his wife Renee and son LaVoy moved into the brick home. They shared the home with Heber and Maggie Huntsman. Maggie is Dell’s sister. The Huntsman’s occupied the living room and the lean-to behind it and the Starley’s lived in the kitchen and a bedroom



The Orvil Starley home



Orvil and Fern Starley

with another small bedroom for LaVoy. Orvil and Fern moved into the white one across the street, where they spent the remainder of their years. This is the home their younger children remember most.

A prominent memory of Orvil was his love of gardening and the well-cared for yard he watched over until his health would not allow him to do so. He loved his garden and it showed. No weeds would dare show up there.

Orvil Lewis Starley was born in Fillmore on July 8, 1896 and lived to be nearly 99 years old. He and his wife Alzina Fern Black were the parents of nine children: Arva, Willis, Dell, Maggie, Milton, Florence, Kay Dean, Vernon (Sam) and Phyllis. Phyllis is the only one of the children still living.

Orvil was a farmer, as was his father, John Starley. He and his wife Maggie Wade were the parents of six children and were some of Fillmore's first residents. In a History of Millard County by Edward Leo Lyman and Linda Kae Newell we read about John's farm: "At John Starley's farm, a yearling plum tree bearing quite a quantity of fruit [and] some of the finest black and white mountain currants [that] had ever before seen", were noted. Starley dried much of his fruit and sold it in Salt Lake City and other markets to supplement his income as a blacksmith and farmer."

The Starley's have been an important part of the history of Fillmore for generations and still have a large posterity here.