



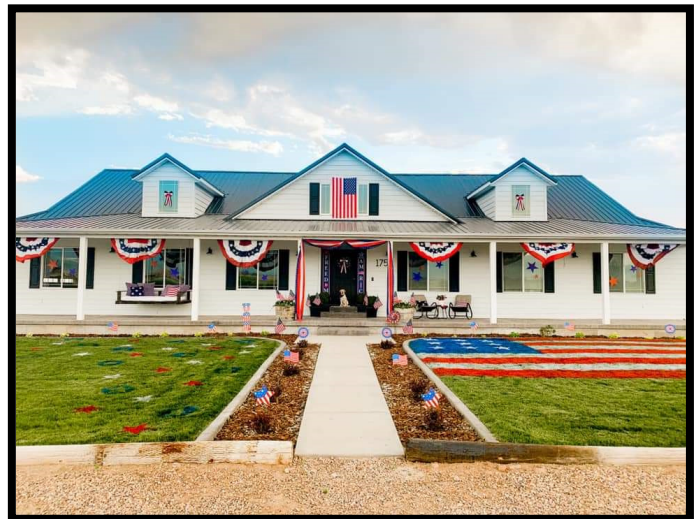
## Face of Fillmore

*By Sherry Shepard*  
September 2, 2020

Patriotism is alive and well in Fillmore! I am happy to report that and what led me to make that conclusion.

From the earliest history of the community, Fillmore has demonstrated its patriotic spirit. We are told how the settlers celebrated their very first Fourth of July. It has to be one of my favorite stories of early Fillmore. From *Milestones of Millard* by Stella Huntsman Day we read, “The celebration of our nation’s birthday has always been a big event in the lives of the Latter-Day Saints; but the little band of freedom-loving saints within the old fort of Fillmore were determined to make this first celebration an extra special one. They erected a bowery by the little schoolhouse and raised the Liberty Pole on Saturday in preparation for the festivities to be held on Monday. At dawn on July 4, the guns were fired in salute. The Indians who were camped on the hill just south of the fort, became excited and sent runners to Corn Creek to notify the Chief, Kanosh, who later arrived on the scene with his warriors demanding an explanation. Anson Call together with some fifty of the biggest men in camp met the chief and explained through an interpreter the reason for the celebration, at the same time inviting the Indians to join them in commemorating Independence Day. A fat ox was barbecued in the public square and the Indians joined in the sports, racing, jumping, target shooting with bows and arrows and sling shots, and so forth, concluding the celebration with dance in the evening. The festivities did much to cement the friendship between the settlers and the Indians.”

This has become a yearly celebration to look forward to. Friends and relatives regularly come to visit and enjoy our awesome celebration. But, as everyone is aware, 2020 was different in yet another way. One of the most attended events, the Fourth of July Parade, was redesigned, thanks to a great city activities committee. Their ingenuity brought on a parade in reverse. Residents were encouraged to decorate their homes for the holiday with prizes being awarded in each of six areas. Money usually spent for candy being thrown to waiting youngsters was instead placed in bags on tables at the winners’ homes for “parade” goers to pick up



Sager's Home

as they enjoyed the patriotic displays at the winners' homes. Addresses of the winning homes were posted and a multitude of people enjoyed the event.

Winners were: House with the Most Red Decorations – the Jaren Larsen home, Most White – the Bevan Johnson home, Most Blue - the Adam Britt home, Most Creative - the Matt Day home, Most Fun - the Mike Rhinehart home, the Most Patriotic – the Lance Sager home and the Mayor's Choice – the Darby Hinton home.

The whole home decorating idea was immensely popular, and participation exceeded everyone's hopes.

Not only did the show of patriotism not end there, it continues as many residents have left out their decorations and continue flying their flags. The city left the American flags flying on the light posts on Main Street for weeks past Independence Day.

One evening we rode up the east end of First North and as we made the turn beyond the river bridge, there was a huge American flag hanging in the trees above the roadway. I will admit to having a lump in my throat at this touching sight. Thanks to Matt Day and his parents Dianna and Lee for this great image I will remember for a long time.

May God bless America and the great people of Fillmore who remember how great our country is!



Flag over First North