



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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Tales of the Old West always include the hitching posts along Main Street, the general store, the bank that got robbed by the masked gunmen, the old church with its steeple, log cabins, fancier homes with picket fences, dirt streets, and, of course, a saloon or two.

While much of this would have described early Fillmore, there was no mention of a bank robbery in our history and certainly there is very little mention of the old saloons.

The only saloon told about in Stella Day's *Milestones of Millard* was the Fillmore Branch of the Richfield Commercial Club which began as a bank and later transitioned to a bar known as the Arrowhead. Fillmore was without a bank until 1935, when this branch opened. Ray Monson was the cashier until 1942 when Miles Nielson became manager and cashier. He later bought the assets and opened an independent bank – the Fillmore State Bank. It is unclear what year this changing over to a bar happened.

When we moved here nearly 50 years ago there was a bar on the south end of town which we believe was named the Mae's Wagon Wheel.

While searching for old pictures of Fillmore, I came across one of my favorites. This is a saloon from early days in Fillmore. I do not know any details of it but found it an entertaining picture of surprisingly good quality.



Recently Brent and Cindy Bartholomew have built their own version of an old saloon in her mother's backyard. This one houses their collection of garden tools, but the outside is a great addition to the neighborhood. The building is also lit up at night and worth a drive by. It is best seen looking north while driving west on Second North just before Fourth West.

Brent says he is happy to have people stop by to take a look, but you have to “check your spurs and guns” at the door. Building materials from many old-time locations were used in its construction. Wanted posters hang on the outside along with a sign that reads, “No Trespassing. We're tired of hiding the bodies.”

