



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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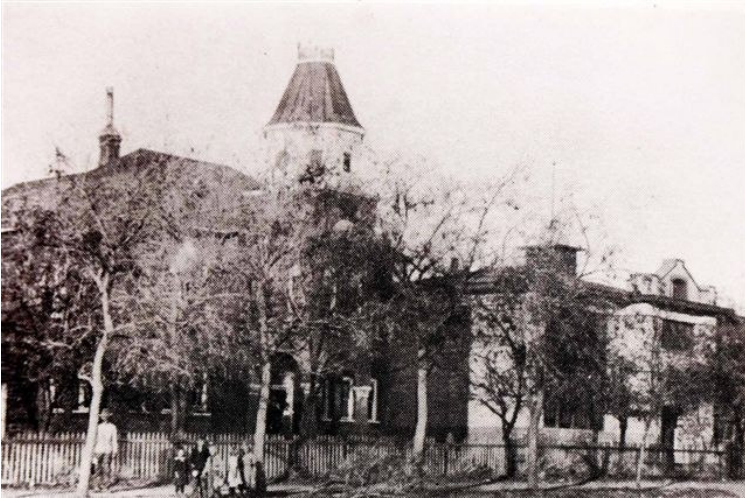
The students are: Front row (left to right): Unidentified, Drew Rasmussen, Rollo Brunson, Lois Carling, Unidentified, Fred Jensen, Unidentified, Laurel Holman, Unidentified, Unidentified, Unidentified.

2nd row (left to right) Unidentified, Unidentified, Unidentified, Unidentified, Unidentified, Norma Jean Rowley?, Cherry Beauregard, Unidentified, Unidentified, Unidentified, Eldon Marshal.

Back row (left to right): Unidentified, Unidentified, Unidentified, Unidentified, Byron Huntsman, Asa Robison, Unidentified, Unidentified, Verna Holman, Unidentified, Unidentified.

The Face of Fillmore this week involved more than reading about Fillmore's past. It involved solving a mystery.

In my January 18th column, I wrote about the students who attended school in the little rock schoolhouse after the devastating fire which demolished their school. The school which burned is the lighter colored building to the right (east) in the picture. The remaining building was used as administrative offices after the new school was built.



I asked readers to let me know if they were among the students who attended the old rock schoolhouse and Jerry Warner came forward with more interesting information. Mark Iverson, son of Jack Iverson, told me that his father was also among the students there and that he was touched that coincidentally his father's obituary appeared in the same issue as the little rock school.

Recently, I was contacted by Rollo Brunson of St. George, who was also a Fillmore student during that time, but his early education happened in a different location. The first, second, and third grades were held in the American Legion Hall. Therein, lies the mystery. Pictured here are students

in those classes. Only part of them have been identified. If you know who the rest are, please contact me at 435-743-5357 or b_s_shepard@frontiernet.net.

In Mr. Brunson's words are some of his memories of that time:

"I started school in 1940. The old school house had burned down. I well remember watching that fire from our front porch listening to the toll of the bell from the Old State Capital, which was the fire alarm. My class was placed in the Legion Hall as were several other classes. We met in the big room, which was divided by portable dividers and blackboards, and there was also a class or two in the kitchen. It was quite an experience for the teachers to try to teach with several classes in one room. My first grade teacher was Barta Bennett (Later she was Mrs. Rex Melville).

"The building's restrooms were down stairs, so you had to go through the classes in the kitchen to get to there. I remember that it was a tradition after lunch for the teacher to read a story to the class – to help them settle down. This would be going on in all the classes. I remember that if one timed his restroom breaks at the right time he could listen to the story in his class, and then go through the 'kitchen' class and sit on the stairs and listen to their story too."

A great thank you to Mr. Brunson for the picture and sharing his experiences. A great way to share Fillmore's past.