



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
April 10, 2019

The Face of Fillmore this week has some fun information for car lovers, thanks to Duane Carling, who writes articles about them on a regular basis.

The make of car that brings back memories for me is the Studebaker. I would guess there are many readers who are not familiar with them, but there was a time when they were quite popular.



Elmer Carling with his 1919 Studebaker and his family

Duane shares with us this picture of his family taken with a Studebaker. The photo is of Albert Robinson with four of his children. Duane's grandfather Elmer Carling (1887-1954) is holding Duane's father Gerald (1919-1991). Note that newborn boys in those days were dressed just like the girls. Duane's grandmother Christa (1886-1954) is standing next to him. The three children in white are probably Clora, age 3; June, age 7; and Wanda, age 5. The lady in white is Albert's wife Catherine holding their fifth child. The photo appears to have been taken up Chalk Creek Canyon east of Fillmore.

Duane asked his friend and writer, John Clark for some help with information about the car in the picture. John publishes the series MOTOR TALES, www.motortales.com. John was able to tell right away that this was a 1919 Studebaker. The low number 48 on the plates points out that was a dealer plate used to take prospective customers on rides. The small number 20 indicates the plate was current in 1920. John also suggested to Duane that he visit the Utah State Historical Archives in the Rio Grande Building for more information.

More information about the make of car – the Studebaker - was found. Stutenbecker was a family of German metal workers from Solingen, Germany who immigrated in 1736 and settled in South Bend, Indiana. One of the brothers returned home after hitting it big in the California gold fields making wheelbarrows and other tools. In the 1850's the family started making wagons. The family was the largest manufacturer of wagons in the United States by 1876. In 1902, they began making electric cars, but in 1904, they changed their design to gasoline. Wilson Motors in Richfield was the Studebaker dealer closest to Fillmore in 1920, although Elmer Carling may have purchased the pictured car from Warner Motors in Fillmore as it was used when he bought it.

Interestingly, Elmer Carling was the town marshal and the Studebaker like the one he owned was the vehicle of choice of the bootleggers of the 1920's prohibition era because it was bigger and faster than the four-cylinder Ford's. With a little imagination, one can visualize Elmer Carling chasing down bootleggers in a car they hadn't intended to deal with.

My own fond memories of Studebaker's come with a loving connection to my cousin's grandmother. Effie Alleman was an icon in her home town of Kemmerer, Wyoming. Born in Pennsylvania in 1872, she lived to the ripe old age of 107. In her later years, up until nearly her 100th birthday, she drove a dark green Studebaker. I remember as a child thinking it was the shape of a flying saucer and hard to tell when it was stopped which direction it was headed.

Grandma Alleman always treated me like one of her own. She and my maternal grandmother were close friends. She was upset when I was born because my parents named me Sherry. Dad's name was George and she thought I should have been named Georgia, so that is what she called me.

Grandma Alleman was left a widow with six young children at an early age. She raised those children alone in Cokeville, Wyoming, and left them to take care of each other at times while she finished her college degree. She taught school and was later the Superintendent of Schools in Lincoln County Wyoming for a number of years, traveling throughout the district to fulfill her duties until she was nearly 90. I asked her one day how she had gotten the school district to let her keep working when she was as old as she was. She said, "I lied about my age."



Grandma Effie Alleman with her brother