



## The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard  
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Along Main Street in Fillmore, as well as in other areas of town and throughout the county, are reminders of perhaps the saddest chapter of Millard County History.

Following the closing of the Topaz Internment Camp in Western Millard County in 1945, many of the buildings were dismantled or moved to other locations where they were remodeled into businesses and homes. A few examples of that are the two business buildings, presently unoccupied, which are just north of Second South and Main Street. While brick fronts have been added, it is easy to see from the side what the buildings originally looked like.

Much harder to distinguish are some of the homes which came from Topaz. The one remodeled years ago by Fred and Joyce Scottorn on the corner of Fourth North and Main is an excellent example how attractive one of these homes could become. It is now owned by Don Anderson. Other homes in town have also been remodeled so they look only a little like the original structure.

The Topaz Camp opened on September 11, 1942 even though some of the building construction was not completed. Japanese-Americans who had been housed at Tanforan Race Track in California were brought by train to Delta, Utah. The population of the camp soon rose to 8,000. The internees finished building the barracks and other buildings on the site, which included two elementary schools, one high school, a hospital and administrative buildings.

People living there were employed at different jobs around the camp and were paid very low wages, ranging from \$16 up to \$19 a month for doctors and other skilled workers. Residents shopped in Delta and some found employment there. It is reported that one man who worked in Delta was actually charged rent at the camp.

In January of 1943, President Roosevelt announced that volunteers would be accepted into a Japanese-American combat unit to fight in the war. One hundred five volunteers soon left Topaz for active duty.

Very little remains at the camp site, but buildings used elsewhere remind us of that chapter of our history.

