



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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The Face of Fillmore is dotted with trees, which are its greatest asset as far as adding a touch of beauty and variety to its landscape.

At the very beginnings of the First Capitol Beautification Committee four years ago, assignments were given to members and Lori Roper was given the challenge to see if Fillmore could become a Tree City USA. After much investigation and paper work, Fillmore was awarded that designation, which will be posted at the city's entrances for all to see at some point in the future.

According to the National Arbor Day Foundation, "A community's public image is enhanced by being a Tree City USA and that it makes the community a better place to live and helps attract and keep or conduct business. Further, the Tree City USA signs at community entrances tell visitors that the city or town cares about its environment. It also is an indication to prospective businesses that the quality of life may be better because of trees."

Additionally, NADF states preference is sometimes given to Tree City USA communities over other communities when allocations of grant money are made for trees or forestry programs. This is because some officials tend to have more confidence in communities that have demonstrated the foresight of becoming a Tree City USA.

Recently, Fillmore City has planted more trees to add to the beauty of our surroundings. These were planted at the North Park, the Wildlife Park and at the City Park near the Territorial Statehouse.

A ride around Fillmore gives one a great perspective of the importance of trees.

The earliest large planting of trees was done by Oscar Anderson. He raised pine trees from tiny saplings in an arbor behind his home on the south end of Main Street. When the trees were large enough to transplant, he went to the city council and asked permission to plant them around the cemetery. He was told there was no money for planting and watering. He explained this was not about the money, but an act of service to the community that he would like to do. His sons Harold and Grant helped him water the small trees by hand until a watering system was installed in the cemetery. Today visitors to the Fillmore Cemetery enjoy the fruits of their labors as stately pine trees make this one of the most attractive cemeteries in the state.

When noticing large, older trees, one cannot help but see the beauty created by the huge ash trees on the grounds of the Territorial Statehouse. These form a canopy for a variety of local events and are enjoyed by literally thousands of visitors each year.



A more recent addition of trees has been done by Alan Roper along the highway as it enters Fillmore from the south. Young maple trees line the roadway from the hospital and Public Safety Building nearly to Fourth West. The planting and care of these trees is because of the volunteer effort of Mr. Roper.

Another grove of trees near the Millard County Courthouse is a temporary addition to the decorations we enjoy this time of year. Memory Lane may be made up of artificial Christmas trees, but the ornaments on them celebrate the gift of life. These ornaments contain the names of loved ones who have passed on, most of which were victims of cancer. Others celebrate the person's victory over the disease, while others are a tribute to local military and law



enforcement personnel. The beginning of Memory Lane came as Marlene Whicker and Deaun Bean wanted to do something to remember the passing of their sister Nan Adams Smith in 2000 after a long battle with cancer. They were assured by the people at the Huntsman Cancer Center that all of the proceeds from this would go to cancer research. This tradition has been going on for 11 years under the direction of the Committee of Hope, with thousands of dollars being donated each year. Our thanks to Julie Olsen, who has been the coordinator of the project this Christmas season.

With trees being such an important part of the Face of Fillmore, it is hoped our Tree City USA designation will be celebrated on Arbor Day this coming spring.