



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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I am always amazed at how resourceful the people of Fillmore have been throughout its history. In the early days when the fort was no longer in use, the building materials from it were used elsewhere. Then as time went on, this same pattern of reusing building materials and whole buildings in some cases continued on.

I sat with an older gentleman in our town one day a while back and we counted Topaz houses that have been reused mostly as homes but some as businesses here in Fillmore. Dozens of them.

Then there were homes and other buildings brought to town from Flowell, Leamington, Clear Lake and other places in the county.

The home at 45 East Canyon Road has given shelter to the same extended family over the course of the last 75 years. Originally the home is thought to have been moved to its present location from the Pahvant area, although at this writing the exact details of that were not available.

The first Fillmore owners were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Whatcott, a name that will be familiar to many of the older residents in town. Mr. Whatcott began his teaching career at Millard High in the music department and later became the math teacher. He was loved by many of his former students and his name is heard from time to time in that context. He served both his community and his church. He held many ward and stake callings in the Sunday School, Young Men's MIA and was stake choir director for 14 years. He also helped organize the East Millard Civic Choir and served as a City Councilman. His wife Hattie was also busy with civic and church activities.

The Whatcott's and their family of seven children (Wilford, Minnie, Garn, Harold, Peggy, Eddie and Marlene) moved into the home about 1943 when their daughter Marlene Whatcott Crosland was just five years old. Marlene still lives in the home.



Crosland Home



T. A. Whatcott Home

The picture of the home here was taken in 1957. Marlene tells that the top door actually came through a closet where they could carry out the upstairs rugs to shake the dust out over the wooden railing.

T.A. remodeled the house in 1962, adding a front addition to the living room and a bedroom to the east. A car port was also added along the east side much later on.

Marlene remembers this as being a great neighborhood to live in with girlfriends in many of the close by homes. Several of her close girlfriends lived very close including Frankie and Sarah Ellen Brunson, Myra and Lois Robison and Ellal and Beth Robison.

Marlene married Bryant Crosland in 1957. The couple lived in several locations here in Fillmore as Bryant worked as the butcher for Kelly's Grocery Store and then served as Millard County Sheriff. In about 1964, Mr. Whatcott asked his daughter and family to move back into her childhood home. At the time, the Crosland's had three daughters: Bonnie, Sheri and Marianne.

This house and others like it are home to countless family memories for future generations to enjoy.