



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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The changing seasons bring variety and beauty to the Face of Fillmore. No time of year is more spectacular than right after a new snow fall. Trees frosted sparkling white against the contrast of a bright blue winter sky.

Winter does bring with it a share of inconveniences – snow to shovel, being the first order of business after a storm. Here in Fillmore we are very fortunate to have some of that taken care of by one of our city employees, Jamie Gorrell, with the plow used on the city sidewalks to make property owners' shoveling jobs less difficult and clear the sidewalks for students to walk to school.

The tradition of clearing the sidewalks began over eighty years ago in about 1928 with a man named James Edward Peterson who was born in 1888, the oldest of nine children. He was hired by the city to plow the sidewalks, and for this he was paid 2 ½ cents a block. When he first started he used a regular scraper. Later he designed a V-shaped wooden plow that was built for him. He was dedicated to this job and very dependable.

On snowy mornings he would be up before daylight, sometimes as early as 4 a.m., to start his day of clearing the walks. He would begin by going from Fourth North up Canyon Road to make sure the Nichol girls had a path to school. His own children and others who lived on Third West and Fourth North would wait anxiously for him to come so they wouldn't be late for school. He always showed up in time for them to follow all the way behind the horses and plow. Often he would put sleigh bells on the horses and the young people could hear when he was coming down their street. When the snow was still falling he would sometimes return home for a dry set of clothes before finishing the job. He wouldn't quit until all of the sidewalks were cleared. He did this service for the city for about 35 years.

The plow he used is on display at the home of his son and daughter-in-law Carl and Ivie Peterson at Fourth North and Third West.

