



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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One clear indicator of people's pride in the Face of Fillmore is the way they decorate their yards. The majority of our citizens make an effort to beautify their property and make Fillmore a colorful place to live.

This tradition began years ago as early settlers enclosed their yards with picket fences and planted flowers, the starts of which in some cases came across the plains with them.

One such story told before is of Joseph V. Robison, who went with his father Joseph Robison, back to their former home in Crete, Illinois on a business trip. He had remembered how much his mother loved her peonies (pinies) that had grown there in abundance, so he dug up starts and carried them back to Fillmore in his saddle bag. Not knowing if they would survive, he secretly planted them behind in the barn in a spot where they would not be discovered. In the spring, the plants sprouted and it was then that he showed them to his mother. Starts from these original peonies can be found in several locations in Fillmore.

Several of our local residents have shown great originality and love of Fillmore's past in their yard decorations.

At the home of George and Cheryl Beeston we find an old wagon surrounded by flowers. This wagon was once owned by Albert Swallow and used on his farm in Flowell.

Chris and Vickie Carling's yard is an amazing display of pink petunias that are planted in a variety of spots, including whisky barrels and old bathtubs. Pictured here in full bloom is the only petunia tree in town.

Alan and Lori Roper's front driveway has a small brook cascading over rocks through trees and flowers in its center circle. Looking like something you would see far away from town in a forest, this is my favorite of all the water decorations in town. George O'Camb did the rock work and Lori did all of the planting herself.

Without a doubt, the most interesting yard decoration in Fillmore is the totem pole in the yard of Rick Ransdell on the corner of 100 West and 100 North. A large maple tree had died in the yard and Rick didn't want to cut it down. Instead, he had a man from Orderville use his chain saw to create a "portrait" of the Ransdell family. The largest face on the tree is obviously that of Rick himself. Below that are pictures of his wife, their 17 year old son and eleven year old son. Atop the tree is an eagle which represents the freedom we enjoy.

We compliment all those in town who take great care of their yards for all of us passersby to enjoy.

