



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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For eleven years, I have enjoyed sharing the history of the Face of Fillmore with the Chronicle's readers. Just when I think I have run out of stories of our little town, someone comes along with another suggestion, sometimes in the most unlikely place. This week's idea came from a young man, Dustin Smith, who I originally met while working at the Fillmore Middle School. He and many others are frequent contributors to Fillmore Old and New on Facebook. It was there he shared a few family pictures and comments and was readily willing to share with me to make this story happen. Thanks, Dustin!

In 1934 Richard Bunker, Dustin's step-father, was born in the older section of the home at 45 South 100 East. This home has an interesting historical background as does the story of its builder.

The home surprisingly was originally a two-room adobe house at the time Owen Bunker acquired it. The adobe bricks used in the old part of the home were some of the first made in Fillmore. The brick kiln was owned by Henry J. Faust and was in operation by 1854. The date on the Bunker home is 1857.

Owen remodeled and added on, planting a beautiful yard to make the home what is it today. Rumor has it that Brigham Young stayed in the home a few times on his trips throughout the Mormon settlements.

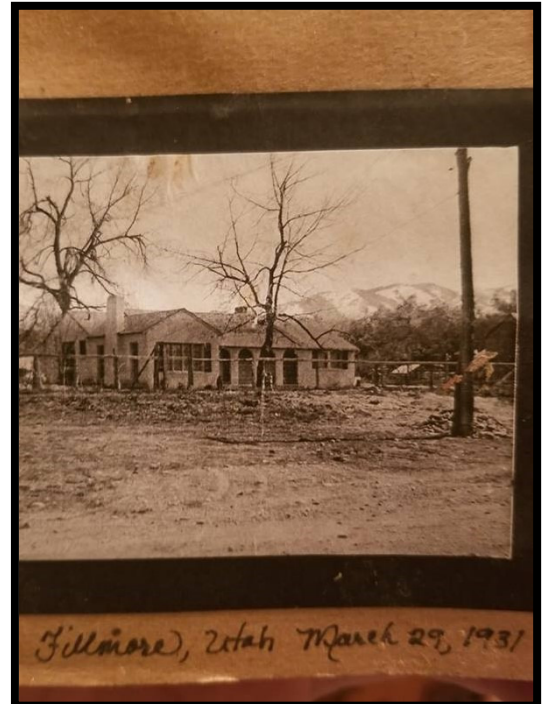


Richard Bunker in 1935

Owen married Ruth Robison, a sister to A. Paul Robison. She died just nine days after Richard was born, leaving Owen to care for four small children. He later married Merodean Huntsman.

Owen was the Fillmore City Treasurer and Millard County Assessor. He was in the military and served when he returned as commander of the American Legion Post. In addition, he fulfilled many church callings.

Owen was also a poet. For some time, he wrote poems for the local newspaper under a pseudonym. One of his poems is part of the introduction to Stella Day's *Milestones of Millard*.



Bunker home in 1931

Monuments

By Owen W. Bunker

It's the old things as I see
Come to mean the most to me.
After all, old things that stay
Part of what has passed away;
Quaint old-fashioned things that we
Foster in our memory. . .

Fathers living in the art
Of the builded counterpart
Of their souls that we might do
Noble works, to weather through
Our short breath of moral span,
Monuments that keep the man.

In the 1930's, the Bunker's sold the home to Dr. Ralph Freeman and his family. The remodeling continued with the addition of a medical clinic and lab. Stories are told of the care people received there, including things like tonsillectomies. In the 1940's a garage was also added.

Mrs. Freeman was also well known in the community as she taught second and third grade to many devoted students in the area.

In 1997 Richard Bunker bought the home back. He lived there until his death in 2014, which interestingly, was also in the old adobe section of the home, just ten feet from where he was born.



Bunker home today



Ruth Robison Bunker in 1923