



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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Fillmore said “goodbye” this week to a lady whose efforts have brought much excitement for holidays and love of the decorations that go with each one.

Darlene Russell will certainly be missed.

Every holiday throughout the year, she and her husband Phil worked for hours creating what has become one of the most popular corners in town. I am sure most of the residents of Fillmore have driven by to see what is happening with the change of holidays. Ironically, the favorite of many in town is the amazing scene when Halloween rolls around. The witches, ghosts, and other assorted supernatural creatures have become a “must see”. The graveyard on the west side of the lot appears to have become scarier each year, and dozens of other weird items make one a little nervous even in the light of warm afternoon.

Just a few years ago, I had the opportunity to walk around the yard with Darlene Russell. She told me she has been decorating for Halloween for nearly 50 years. She pointed out some of the original decorations which they put up each year as a sentimental remembrance of when the display only covered part of their front yard. As we talked she suggested I clap my hands. A large



spider dropped out of the tree I was standing under and, as I jumped from the scare, one of the ghosts picked up the movement and began laughing. A group of school children were there visiting as well. Mrs. Russell says she enjoyed the company and their suggestions for decorating her

yard. She said, “After all, holidays are for the children”.

It is not only the children but everyone in our community who will miss Mrs. Russell and her love of the holidays. Our sincere condolences to Phil Russell.

