



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard

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One type of business that has been in Fillmore for over one hundred years is banking. Methods have certainly changed. Taking only a few seconds, money can now change hands pretty much anywhere around the world. Just the touch of a few computer keys does wonders. It is actually possible to go to a bank and do business without even seeing any real money.

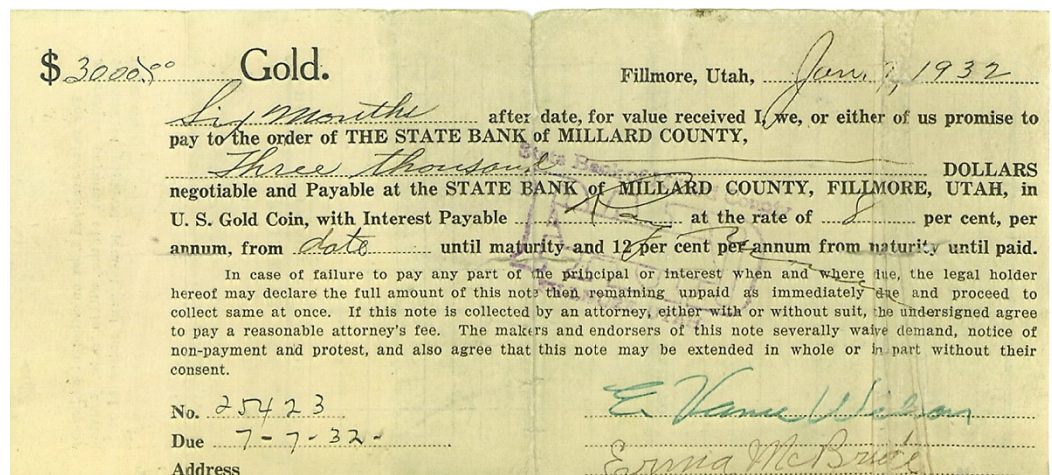
This has changed since the early days, before computers and other modern technology. As seen here with this note for a loan from the 1930's, banking was done in the real thing – gold.

One of the earliest banks in Fillmore was the State Bank of Millard County, established in 1907 by Almon Robison. He was the president, Joshua Greenwood, vice-president, and Rufus Day, cashier. The directors were Almon Robison, Joshua Greenwood, George W. Nixon, George Finlinson, James Alex Melville, George Alma George, and T.J. Pratt.

The bank was capitalized for \$25,000. It opened in the small room in the southeast corner of the old

courthouse. Rufus Day did most of the actual work in the bank. For the first year, the bank got along without a typewriter or adding machine, although these were used at the time in other banks.

The deposits the first day totaled \$150. The first loan was made in February 11, 1907 for the amount of \$163.47. The total



resources of the bank at the end of the first year, February 1908, were \$120,186.47, according to a Progress article dated July 7, 1922.

The article also stated that the State Bank of Millard County was considered one of the two best county banks in Utah.

In the years to follow, a bank building was erected just north of the present Court House building. The picture shows the bank as it appeared in 1920. Martin Hansen and James Frampton were the general contractors. Martin and sons made the brick for the building southwest of Fillmore. Ras and Lars Rasmussen did the plastering. Albert Day and his sons quarried and laid the rock for the foundation.

In 1932, the State Bank of Millard County was forced to close its doors, as were many during the Depression.

Fillmore was without a bank until 1935, when a branch of the Richfield Commercial and Savings Bank was opened at the same location as the previous bank. Ray Monson was the cashier until 1942 when Miles Nielson became manager and cashier. He later bought the assets and opened an independent bank – the Fillmore State Bank. It is unclear what year this bank closed.

In recent years, other banks have moved to Fillmore to serve the financial needs of our citizens.