



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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The history of early Fillmore citizens has been discovered in part from the journals and other writings they left behind. While these people worked long hours to accomplish the building of their homes, the establishing of their community, the planting and harvest of their crops and a myriad of other responsibilities, many found time to write it all down for their posterity.

A glassed-enclosed collection of early journals can be found in the Millard Fillmore Library. These are not checked out to the public as they are old and in a delicate condition, but the information inside has been read and enjoyed by their families and others.

I would like to suggest at the beginning of this new year, that we take time to write a few entries in our own personal journals about the past year.

Beginning at the start of the holiday season, mine would look something like this:
Dear Journal (or whatever you call it),

Christmas 2019 seems like a long time ago. I am sure everyone will agree with that. It began normally enough and then the Corona virus hit and everything changed. No church, no visiting, no big family gatherings, no school for the kids, masks, gloves. New words became part of our everyday vocabulary: COVID-19, pandemic, quarantine, self-distancing, protective masks. Somehow. I had never dreamed any of this would happen, but we are surviving.

We have spent a lot of time visiting with family and friends on the phone. The phone has been a real blessing in keeping us connected to people we would like to see often face to face. No one wants to take a chance on giving us something. We joke about being on the “endangered species list”.

2020 brought us a new great granddaughter and a new grandson-in-law, as well as a few lifestyle changes.

Thanksgiving was a real shock compared to what it normally is. We usually have between 40 and 50 people here for our “Red Neck Thanksgiving Dinner”. We have had to move from the dining room into the garage because of the crowd. We eat on paper plates because my China doesn’t get used on a cement floor. You can’t come if you are not in levis and dinner is followed by a family turkey shoot.

This year it was immediate family only for a very short dinner and no long-lasting activities.

Christmas was unusual as well. Our ward Christmas party that is usually a sit-down dinner with program and Santa, was a drive-by scripture reading with a nativity scene and Santa under a tent on the lawn to wave at and grab a bag of treats. Dinner was handed through the car window in a styrofoam container to take home and eat by yourselves. And it worked!

Christmas neighboring and sharing presents was a quick wave and a sincere “Merry Christmas” as everyone quickly retreated to the safety of their cars.

Christmas gifts included new masks.

A few things happened to make mine a very special Christmas.

It began as my friend Lisa called to suggest a way to play Sacrament Meeting prelude with organ chimes and piano accompaniment. Practicing was great enjoyment, and the prelude was one I will never forget.



The Half Notes Performing Choir

A week before Christmas The Half Notes Performance Choir pulled up in front of our house and a truck and trailer full of girls sang, “Let It Snow” and “Carol of the Bells”. It was beautiful on that very crisp night to hear their young voices add much to our Christmas spirit. Thanks for choosing our house to come to!

We probably all noticed how a large number of people spent time looking at the Christmas Star. Religious people and those who are not usually interested in church were out with binoculars, spotting scopes, cameras and whatever else to see the “planet conjunction” which appeared much as the star that shined over Bethlehem 2000+ years ago.

With the COVID-19 vaccine and hopes for a better New Year, may we all remember 2020 with a sigh and look ahead to our next journal entry.