



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
August 17, 2011



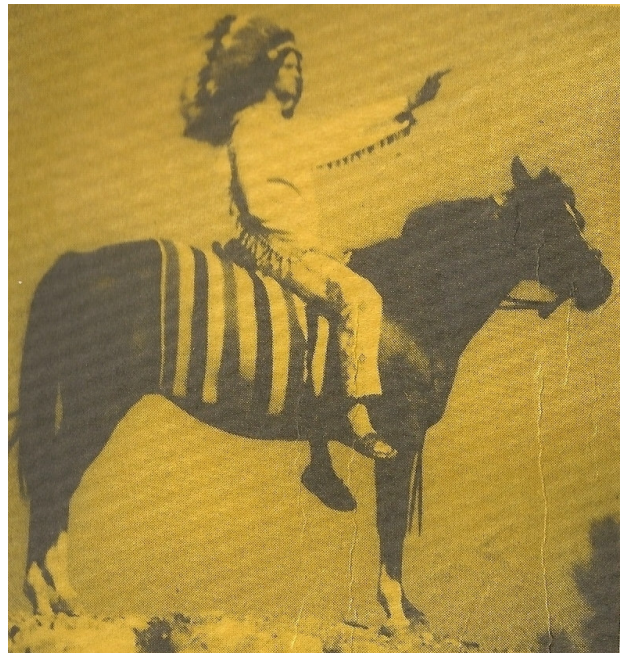
One prominent feature on the north end of Fillmore's Main Street is the Old Capitol Amphitheater. Built as part of the North Park, this structure has seen an amazing amount of entertainment in last nearly half century. Through the memories of several local citizens, a brief overview of this theater has been pieced together.

The amphitheater was the brain child of Stella Day, who envisioned watching live plays and other entertainment in the out of doors with the Pahvant Mountains as the backdrop. The amphitheater was designed by Blaine Huntsman. In conjunction with

the Bicentennial in 1976, grants were awarded to help just such ideas come to reality. The state road crews surveying the site, then construction began.

One of the early productions to take place there was Gwen Hunter's version of the Keystone Cops.

Another prominent production was that of the Chief Kanosh Pageant during the late 1970's and through the 1980's. This involved a huge number of local actors, directors, sound people, and many others for support. The original script was adapted by Dorothy Kimball from writings by her Aunt Nell Paxton from Kanosh and was first done as a program for the Fine Arts Guild. The first year 1978 it was presented by the Civic Arts Council at the amphitheater and was a play with no music. With the help of people like Edith Callister and many others, it grew into a major event complete with horses and wagons and over 100 cast members, and a musical score with lighting and sound done by BYU. In the years to follow a recorded sound track made the production easier. The original costume designer had done



costumes for Hollywood productions. The Paiute Tribe also played in important part in the production with many tribe members doing dances and in acting roles.

In the years that followed, there was a time span where the amphitheater was rarely used.

During the past several years, DJ Productions has used it for their annual community musical with such productions as “Oklahoma” and “Calamity Jane” with a cast of local singers and actors and Doug Jenkins as director. This year the production of “Nunsense The Mega Musical” will be held on August 18, 19, 20 and 22 on the newly renovated stage of the Old Capitol Amphitheater.