



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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The Face of Fillmore is undergoing a change on the north end of Main Street. The old Truck Stop Café is being torn down, and with its demise comes thoughts of a great couple in Fillmore's history who were an example of hard work and dedication to their businesses.

John and Ilene Cooper went into the restaurant business in July 1945 when they bought an existing café from Olive Starley. Shortly after its purchase, on October 20, the café was destroyed by fire because of defective electrical wiring. Despite the fact that they had little insurance on the building, John and Ilene were not discouraged. They immediately began plans for building a modern café at a cost of \$60,000. The grand opening for their new facility was October 15, 1946, almost a year to the day after the fire.

The proud owners were short of modern equipment but not short of enthusiasm. As business grew, so did the purchase of more modern conveniences to help them out. This café was known as the Café Ilene and was located just south of the drug store. In its heyday, it was also the stop for busses coming through Fillmore. It has been closed for years and the building now houses a dance studio.

John and Ilene expanded their business years ago when they built John's Frontier Station and Café at the north end of Main Street in the building that is now being demolished. For years the couple and their family kept both businesses thriving. After the Café Ilene closed, the Truck Stop became the bus station.

The Truck Stop was known for its homemade pies and cakes and was the location for club meetings and banquets as well as always being busy with regular café customers and visitors to Fillmore.

John and Ilene have both gone on but their dedication to our community will long be remembered.



An added note: If you enjoy postcards of Utah's cities, go to www.flickrriver.com/photos to see some great views of the past.