

## The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard

Women's History Month is commemorated during the month of March each year to highlight the "contributions of women to the events in history and contemporary society". It is celebrated for the entire month of March in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia with International Women's Day on March 8. In Canada the month is celebrated in October to correspond with Persons' Day on October 18.

This began in 1978 as Women's History Day in Sonoma County, California and was extended to a week and later a whole month of celebrations, spreading internationally after that.

With Women's History Month in mind, I gave thought to who I would suggest honoring at this time here in Fillmore and an obvious choice came to mind.

Since Fillmore became a city and elected its first mayor in January, 1859, just seven years and two months after being settled, 42 men have served as mayor and one woman – Doris Rasmussen.

Doris Rasmussen was born in Long Beach, California, in 1932. She grew up in Southern California and Southern Oregon along with her two brothers and a sister.

Doris was always an achiever. She graduated high school early in December of 1950 on a Friday and began at college on the following Monday.

She moved to Fillmore with her first husband, Robert (Bob) Kessler in 1960. They bought the old mill that was located where the credit union is now. Bob died in an automobile accident not long after that.

Doris married drew Rasmussen in 1966 and they had two children, Jeff Rasmussen and Patty Rasmussen Carter.

Doris worked in different banks in California, Arizona and Utah. While her in Fillmore, she worked at First Security.

Doris is recognized for her great example of public service. She was the first woman to serve on Fillmore's City Council from 1978-1981. Also in 1980 she was president of the Utah State Fireman's Auxiliary. She served as mayor from 1982-1985. In that capacity, she served our community well and was able to meet with state officials on many occasions, including such men as Jake Garn and Governor Scott Matheson.

At Doris's swearing in ceremony in 1982, two firsts were marked. It was the first time that the city had had a formal swearing in ceremony and the first female mayor of the city. Two new councilman were also sworn in to their offices – Dallin S. Nielsen and Terry Scottorn. Retiring mayor Mark Paxton spoke briefly expressing his thanks to those he had worked with as did retiring councilman Ag Nielson. In his usual witty way, Ag told that they were sworn into office when they got the job and after that they were "sworn at."

Doris noted after thanking the outgoing mayor, "It is difficult to see things from all angles. I have a lot of experience but no promises."

Our thanks to Doris for her years of service to our community and for being the only women mayor Fillmore has ever had.

