

The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard

The Face of Fillmore is home to some amazing celebrations through the year. No matter what the important occasion, the celebration is done to perfection. This includes events all year long like the Fourth of July, the National ATV Jamboree, the Car Show, the Christmas lightning celebration and others. Crowds come by the hundreds to enjoy these activities, but the one I personally enjoy the most is the Old Capitol Arts and Living History Festival. With this year marking festival number 26, it promises to be a real treat for the whole family with some new additions for everyone to enjoy.

On September 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day in the Territorial State House Park, history will literally come to life. The theme, "The Pioneering Spirit" will definitely showcase the festival's gradual journey to the exciting event it promises for this year.

The large grassy area directly south of the Statehouse will be the area for the living history. Tents, teepees and other booths will display and explain the way of life of the early settlers. Exhibits and demonstrations highlighting the way of life of these early people will in many cases be a chance to see what life was like in the "old days". Cannons are fired at regular intervals just to give it added excitement.

The Old Time Fiddlers will be located on the southeast corner of the block (on Saturday) with a new addition – a farmers' market just west of them and open both days.

Along this street just east of the old rock schoolhouse will be kids' activities, including the ever-popular log cabin building. Also popular with the younger set are the horse-drawn wagon and stagecoach rides on the south side of the block.

Next to the children's activities, a stage will be set up for the colorful Native American dancing, a real crowd-pleaser.

The annual quilt exhibit promises to be a special treat this year and can be found in the Pod. Quilt guilds from both Fillmore and Delta will be involved with some amazing displays, showcasing the talents of our local quilters. There will even be a display of quilts from the 1880's and 1890's.

The ever-popular gun exhibit will be held in the area east of the Statehouse along with the other art exhibits. This year a real treat will be a gun used by Butch Cassidy as well as other antique guns used by cowboys right out of the history books. Bill Betensen, Butch Cassidy's nephew, will be on hand to explain the exhibit.

In this same area will be old time photo display. This I my personal favorite.

East of the swimming pool will be the site of the Dutch Oven Cooking Competition, with the main entertainment stage just to the north of it. A wide variety of quality talent will be shown off there. In addition, there will be a country music program in the Millard High Auditorium on September 9 at 7 p.m. featuring country music star Brenn Hill.

North of the Statehouse, the food wagons will be circled where a variety of food vendors will offer their delicious cuisine. Additionally, a dinner will be sponsored by the Millard County Farm Bureau – Taste of Millard County -at Millard High on September 9 at 6 p.m.

East of the Statehouse is the area for the art vendors, a popular place to browse and maybe even do some early Christmas shopping.

The armory building will be the home of the county fair exhibits, including field crops, gardening and flowers. This exhibit is also new to the festival and should be a real treat to visit.

It takes a small army of workers to make this event possible: Among those are Abe Johnson, Doug Jolley, Carl Camp, Rachael West, Shanlee Davies, Star Cummings, Woody Johnson, Scott Blackburn, Marcia Rodgers, Kirk Hoggard, Courtney Stephenson, Jeff Reddoor, Eva Timothy, Rozanne Stucky and Teresa Alldredge. My apologies if anyone's name has been omitted. All of their efforts are certainly appreciated.

The Old Capitol Arts and Living History Festival has become an increasingly popular tradition and one I plan not to miss.



