

The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard

I learned a valuable lesson recently that I am going to pass on this week. We all know of the importance of taking pictures and labeling them, but I saw a great example of what this looks like over time and am now determined to do better in this area. While we don't all own 100- year- old homes, we do have homes that are going through the passage of time and seeing changes. And, someday, they will all hit that 100-year mark and more - real historical heritage for the occupants now and in the future.

We are all familiar with the old Robison Hotel located on the corner of Main Street and First South. Now the home to the Kevin Orton family, it was built by Joseph Vickory Robison in the late 1870's and early 1880's.

The hotel was a showcase in its early times, as I have mentioned before, hosting dignitaries who came to Fillmore. Tradition has it that Brigham Young, President of the L.D.S. Church and governor was always accommodated in the upstairs front facing bedroom with its spacious balcony, which may have given him a vantage point for addressing crowds of people.

Over the years, the house changed hands. After Joseph's passing, it was run by his son Albert, and eventually became a maternity hospital during the 1940's where hundreds of babies were born.

Among the owners that followed the Robison family were Helen Winget and Karen George.

Not far passed its centennial birthday, the home was purchased by Lee Davis and his wife Kay.

Pictures tell the story that it needed some TLC. Buildings that size are difficult and expensive to maintain. Lee had plans for it and he went after that dream with a great deal of enthusiasm. Pictures show what the paint looked like after a serious power washing. Then the enormous job of repainting began. The interior also saw detailed restoration and improving.

The point I am coming to is the fact that Lee and his wife recorded all of this in detail. They collected older pictures of the home. Not just regular size prints, but some large pictures, even an oil painting and my favorite, a watercolor by Wayne Glaus in 1991 shown here. Another one I especially like is too dark to share, but shows the house in a snowstorm, with several inches of snow on the ground and huge flakes still falling.

I received a phone call from Lee Davis earlier this summer, asking me to stop by his home in Delta. He had something he wanted me to have. He said he is getting older and wanted to make sure it was in good hands with someone who would appreciate it. That

something turned out to be this picture collection. It is certainly now in the hands of someone who will take good care of it and be inspired to gather pictures of my home and others to record their history as time passes.

Thank you, Lee.

