

Fillmore Hardware Says Goodbye

Dear customers, friends, neighbors and fellow merchants,

Our grandfather, Jack Hayes, started Fillmore Glass on Post Street near Fillmore in the 1940s. The glass shop moved to the top of Bush Street behind Jack's home, where he worked with his son John. Jack built Fillmore Hardware, replacing his parking lot at 1930 and 1932 Fillmore Street. His eldest son, Jim, was a San Francisco police officer who married Mickey and they had 3 daughters, Nancy, Patti and Terri. Mickey ran the hardware store, which opened in 1961. When she died unexpectedly in 1966, Jim retired from the force and asked his son-in-law, Nancy's husband Phil, to help out for a while. Patti and Terri worked at the store at different times over the years, but moved away with families of their own. Patti came back to stay in 1984 and Terri in 1999 and both worked once again at the store.

We had a fire in 1972 and Jim decided to divide the store in two and rent out one half. Phil continued on as manager and Jim was happy to work from home. Years later Jim taught himself the computer and tried to single-handedly bar code the store, which kept him going until he died in March 2009. Phil retired at the end of 2005, but continues to come by once a week to sell his eggs to his Fillmore friends. This now brings us up to the present and the reason for this letter.

Simply put, we are tired. Retail takes its toll on the body and retirement sounds pretty good to the two of us. We considered staying one more year so we could celebrate 50 years in business, but when you have to spend at least a full day in the easy chair getting over the days you just worked and ready for the days to come, it just isn't worth it. We're not the spring chickens we used to be.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Phil for staying with us almost 40 years and allowing us the freedom to pursue our lives outside the store until we returned home. Thanks to Patti's daughter Katie for 18 years, and bringing the fun and "cute stuff" to our shelves. Thanks to Phil's son Eric for 13 years and taking us out of the dark ages by replacing our old hand-built shelving system with the ones you see today. Thanks to our workers, who seem more like brothers and sons. Nate, our captain and MacGyver — almost 11 years. Ken, our "Irish guy" who never lets us down — 7 years, and Tony, our fix-it guy, almost 5 years. You guys made the days fun and helped us out in more ways than you will know.

Lastly, a big thank you to our customers, who seem more like friends. Hearing so many of you call us your favorite store made it all worthwhile. Thank you for your support which kept us going for all these years. We will miss this part of our lives but look forward to a little easier life in the not too distant future.

Sincerely,

Patti & Terri

1930 Fillmore Street (between Pine & Bush) • 346-5240

Serving the neighborhood since 1961