THE VOICE

Newsletter of the Grain Valley Historical Society

Society News

During 2026, the Historical Society will continue to be opened on Wednesday from 10 AM to 3 PM and by appointment. Although we no longer allow the building to be used by members for private events, we do welcome clubs and organizations to use our building for a meeting. We encourage these groups to consider having a meeting at the Historical Society so they might include a visit to the museum as the "program" for the event.

January Meeting

The first meeting of the new year will be held on **January 22, 2026 at 6 PM** Refreshments will be followed by the program and a brief business meeting. The January program will be about the U. S. Military Museum.

New Direction

Beginning with this issue, ***The Voice*** is taking a slightly new direction. Since *The Grain Valley News* published their last issue on December 11, 2025, I will no longer be writing my weekly column, "Looking Back." At the request of some of my faithful readers I have decided to write a slightly expanded article each month in ***The Voice.*** If you know anyone who would like to receive a copy, please have them send me their email address. I will be happy to add them to my list.

An Appreciation

We wish to express to our customers our appreciation of their co-operation during the past year and to wish them A MERRY XMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Rumbo & Caldwell

Bits & Pieces

Snippets from several issues of The Oak Grove Banner, 100 years ago!

100 years ago:

Mr. & Mrs. T. H. Storms and daughter, of Independence, were Sunday guest of Ellis Storms and wife.

Charley McQuerry is driving a new Ford coupe.

S. M. Turner has purchased a new Essez Sedan.

Dee McAlexander has purchased a new Ford roadster from Myers and Baker of Blue Springs. Mr. McAlexander lost his car in the recent fire, but was lucky in having insurance.

Miss Lucille Rowe spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. & Mrs. A. M. Rowe. She is attending college in Parkville, Missouri.

Mr. P. A. Wright is ill at the home of his daughter, Mrs. David Herrington.

Is Everything Old New Again?

One hundred years ago there was no newspaper published in Grain Valley. Citizens depended on *The Kansas City Star* and *Times*, *The Independence Examiner, The Jackson County Democrat* and some other smaller papers for their news. The neighboring *Oak Grove Banner* featured a Grain Valley page in each edition.

For several months, beginning in October of 1925, the following advertisement was printed at the top of each page.

GRAIN VALLEY NEWS

Spend your Money in Your Home Town Grain Valley

J. W. MINTER
General Merchandise

A full line of Winter Merchandise on hand. Blanket. Tennis Flannels, Underwear, Gloves, Caps, ats, Sweaters and other winter wears, a full line Band Footwear. Buy early while sizes are to d. Our Grocery stock is complete. Also fresh ed Meats. Bring your Produce and let's trade. n Salt on hand.

UR MOTTO IS

come, first served, but e way and serve al- best to everybody.

WHAT WILL THEY DO FOR YOU?

If you buy a new suit, or some hardware, or groceries from an out-of-town dealer or the mail order man, do you think those merchants will help pave the streets of Grain Valley or contribute money towards making this a better place in which to live?

You know that they will not.

And you know that the money you give them can never be used for the benefit of yourself and your home.

But you do know that money spent in Grain Valley remains here and is used for your own good.

The merchants of Grain Valley are here as a vital part and factor in the development of this place.

When You Buy Your Needs Here—
Your Money Stays Here

THAT'S US

We are trying to give Grain Valle people City Service. Come to us anything in the Meat or Fish line.

Williams' Meat Mark

When You're

to build--to repair or rem ber that our flooring, s shingles, lath, sheathi lumber, building paper building material are

The ad was sponsored by J. W. Minter, General Merchandise Store (possibly located in the building currently occupied by the Historical Society and the Chamber of Commerce), A. M. Frost & Son, (currently the Gun Shop), E. E. Emmons, the Cleaner and Dyer (location unknown), Williams Meat Market (on Cypress Street), Grain Valley Lumber & Grain Company (just south of the tracks), The Bank of Grain Valley (current location), and Rumbo & Caldwell Produce & Feed Store (south of the tracks).

What drew me to the advertisements was the heading, "Spend your Money in Your Home Town Grain Valley" and the article printed front and center - - **What will they do for you?** I find this question to be just as relevant today, 100 years later.

If you buy a new suit, or some hardware, or groceries from an out-of-town dealer or the mail order man, do you think these merchants will help pave the streets of Grain Valley or contribute money towards making this a better place in which to live?

You know they will not.

And you know that the money you give them can never be used for the benefit of yourself and your home. But you know that the money spent in Grain Valley remains here and is used for your own good.

The merchants of Grain Valley are here as a vital part and factor in the development of this place.

When You Buy Your Needs Here —
Your Money Stays Here

Some "history" to think about!

2026 Membership in the

Grain Valley Historical Society

It's January and time to renew your membership in the Grain Valley Historical Society! In November, members voted to make the cost of individual and family memberships the same, $50. Dues are payable at our January meeting, or you can mail them to:

Grain Valley Historical Society, PO Box 414, Grain Valley, MO 64029

Of course, we would like to have EVERYONE become a member, attend our bi-monthly meetings, and participate in the activities of the historical society.

If you do not find this opportunity to fit into your lifestyle at this time please consider becoming one of the "Friends of the Society." This would allow you to support the Grain Valley Historical Society and its' mission — Celebrating Our Past. A Legacy for Our Future

Friends of the Society may donate yearly for $50, or any amount you choose. If you donated in 2025 when the program began, you are paid up until 2027.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.