



THE VOICE



Grain Valley Historical Society

Grandmother's Garden

Last week, hallelujah, I took my first road trip since January, 2020! Through Missouri to Memphis, Tennessee, I traveled the interstates. But in Mississippi I traveled the "Blue Highways." Other than noting that the mobile home industry is alive and well in the South, I enjoyed the scenery and actually driving through the small towns. And I could not help but notice the gardens!

Today, many people have a garden; a 4' x 6' area near the fence, a small plot in a community garden or a few large pots on their deck or patio. In Mississippi I saw lots of BIG gardens.



When my family moved to the farm we had a big garden behind the house for two or three years. But then Charlie and I got involved in 4-H activities and Mom and Dad were busy taking us to meetings and fairs all summer long. There was no time for cultivating a garden.

And besides, Grandma had one of the biggest gardens in Grain Valley. If a vegetable wasn't in her garden it was in Aunt Opal and Uncle Clyde's (Fristoe). Early in March, Mr. Armstrong would bring his plow and mules to till the soil. Potatoes were planted at the back, and up near the front were the turnips and radishes. Does anyone eat radishes any more?

Later, when the ground warmed up a row of lettuce and two rows of peas were planted. Later still, corn, beets and green beans went



June Museum Hours
Wednesday: 10 am - 3 pm
Saturday: 11 am - 3 pm

If you plan to visit on Saturday you may want to call first.

(816) 686-7582

If the building is rented then we do not open



Grain Valley Historical Society Meeting
July 22, 2021
6:00 PM

Details to follow

into the ground. As I remember, the last vegetables to be planted were the cucumbers, along with the tomato and pepper plants Grandmother has carefully nurtured along on the back porch. Around the edges of both gardens there were roses and flowers. At the front of Aunt Opal's garden she always had four rows of gladioli bulbs which provided beautiful flowers in the summer to compliment Uncle Clyde's roses! Around Grandma's garden there was rhubarb under the shade tree and asparagus in the sunshine. The leaves from the asparagus plants were used as greenery when the roses were cut for bouquets. Grandma also had a strawberry bed behind the smokehouse.

With the garden came lots of work. While I thought being in the garden was lots of fun, the planting was always better than the weeding and hoeing. I think I did more picking of the produce and less of the weeding!

And then, on the hottest day of the summer (and long before air conditioning!) it was time to can our crop. As a young girl I had a healthy fear of the pressure canner. It seemed as though every year as the beans were being snapped or the tomatoes were being blanched my mother, grandmother or aunt would bring up a story of someone being badly burned from the explosion of their pressure cooker. Aunt Opal used a large copper pot on a two-burner propane stove in her basement. I stayed out of the basement while the jars were being "sealed" in that frightening kettle!

Once the jars were removed and the lids popped the rewards were great. First everyone admired the "beautiful" color of the fruits or vegetables in the jars. After they cooled we lined them up on the shelves in the basement to enjoy all winter...green beans, pickled beets, tomatoes, tomato sauce, green tomato ketchup, strawberry jam, cherries; yum, yum, yum!

Memorial Gift Funds



Our new swinging document display has arrived! We ended up with a slightly different style than we had originally thought we would buy. We purchased 10 display panels for 20 pages of display. The frame will hold 10 more panels for future expansion. If you would be interested in filling a panel with your family history or some event related to Grain Valley's history, please contact me for details.



If you are looking for a small gift that celebrates our town, look no further. The Grain Valley Historical Society offers a variety of items.



*2021 Christmas Ornament
Sponsored by The Bank of Grain Valley*

Building for Rent

The Historical Society is available for rent at reasonable rates - - The half-day rate is \$75 and a full-day rental is only \$100. A great location for birthdays, bridal or baby showers, graduation parties and more!

For additional information call: (816) 867-5158 or (816) 392-4873

Visit our website

www.grainvalleyhistory.com

For information on museum hours, meetings, special events and building rental, check out our website. The website is provided and maintained courtesy of the

Valley News