

# THE VOICE

Grain Valley Historical Society



**1960  
CHRISTMAS  
PROGRAM  
GRAIN VALLEY  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**

The vocalist are Janice Cogan Pittman, Kathleen Barnard Barnett, & yours truly, Marcia Napier.

## Remembering our Past!

This newsletter is coming out a bit later than usual because I’ve had great difficulty coming up with an historic topic. Then I remembered that anything that happened in my youth is “historic.” Also, I wanted to avoid the “P” word, (pandemic) and ask readers to focus on all that is good about celebrating Hanukkah and the Christmas Season.

While the photograph above was taken 60 years ago, it could have been 10 years or 100 years, as I suppose Christmas celebrations in Grain Valley, or wherever you grew up, have remained pretty much the same over the years. So, as we approach Christmas 2020, I hope we will focus on remembering your “historic” past celebrations with community, church, and family!

In 1960, Christmas trees were still mostly live trees which only went up a week or so before Christmas. Everyday, Mom would faithfully water the tree while Dad lectured on the possibility of our house burning down. Since we never locked out house, (did anyone?) Dad also volunteered to stay home and “guard the tree and gifts” while Mom did all of the last minute shopping!

Our family did all of the community activities surrounding the holidays — Santa’s arrival at the Christmas tree on Main Street on the first Saturday after Thanksgiving, the elementary school Christmas Program, and the high school Band and Choir Program. (In those days schools still had Christmas!) We also did the Church activities, which included the annual Chicken Dinner on the first weekend in December, the children’s Christmas Program, gift exchange and visit from Santa, and open Communion on Christmas Eve.

Some of my best memories are the things we did as a family! Christmas morning when my grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins came to our house to open gifts, Christmas breakfast which was sometimes shared with our Country Club Dairy milkman, Carl. Yes, he delivered milk on Christmas Day.

I remember our yearly trips to Kansas City to see the “talking mechanical Santa” at Macy’s and the lights at the Country Club Plaza. I remembered the year, 1954, when Dad came home from Wyeth’s wholesale house in KC with a beautiful, lighted white plastic musical Church that played “O, Come All Ye Faithful.”

Each year as I decorate my trees (I have 5 this year) I enjoy reminiscing about the good times, places, and vacations when each ornament was purchased. The snowman tree with a Bahamas angel at the top, the Lenox nativity ornaments from my great friend and neighbor who has also given me a Mizzou ornament for the past fifteen years...I could continue for pages, but my hope for you this Christmas is that you will remember only the good times with family and friends and celebrate next year when we’ve all survived the “P” word!



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**Our Next  
Historical Society Meeting  
January 28, 2021  
7:00 PM**



*My Musical Church, circa 1954*

**Visit our website**

[www.grainvalleyhistory.com](http://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**

*Grain Valley’s Community Newspaper*