

THE VOICE

Grain Valley Historical Society

Free Ice Water

Historical Society Museum Open

Saturday, September 7 Grain Valley Fair Parade

We will be open for 1 hour before and after the parade. Stop in and see our new exhibits.

- **Chicago & Alton Railroad**
- **Sni-A-Bar Show Cattle**
- **Toys from the 1940s thru the 1960s**



See you at the Fair

September 6 & 7, 2019

Armstrong Park

Let the Fair Begin

After digging through several archival boxes of old newspapers, the information I was seeking appeared in the *1983 Guide to Grain Valley*, published by *The Examiner*.

Community fair will be a first-time event for town

By Alyson Fortney

After two years of planning, Grain Valley will have its first annual fair this fall.

Dennis Bundren, chairperson of the Grain Valley Fair Association, explained the idea originated as a brainstorm of his two years ago. Burden chose representatives from various organizations in town to serve in the 10-member association.

The Grain Valley Fair, scheduled for Sept. 29, 30 and October 1, promises to be full of thrills, food, contest and exhibits.

The article went on to discuss the rides and games of chance, crafts and baked goods from local 4-H clubs, a hot-air balloon race, a demolition derby, a '66 Mustang display by the Mustang Club of Kansas City and a beer garden. There was no mention of a parade.

In 1993 the fair was held at the 94-acre Grain Valley Memorial Fairground on Old U.S. 40 east of Main Street. In 1995, the board purchased Gannon-Thomas Hall, formerly owned by the VFW, on Old 40 just west of the fairgrounds. In addition to the fair, the facilities were used for community and private functions, sand drag races and the Kansas City Indian Club Pow-Wow.

In the *1997 Guide to Grain Valley*, Bill Bushey, president of the Grain Valley Fair Association boasted the fair was “one of the biggest activities in the city this year”. The fair must have been held in June for a few years, because in 1997 the association changed the date to July 24-27 to have a lesser chance of rain. The parade that year was the biggest in history as some 300 Shriners were there with motorcycles and trick cars, bands and flashy outfits!

Historical Society Meeting

**September 26,
2019**

Join us for a potluck dinner at 6:00 PM followed by our program and meeting. New officers for 2020-22 will be discussed.

NEW EXHIBITS COMING SOON



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

Grain Valley's Community Newspaper

Marty's Musings

For the past few months I have been attempting to research and write history about the Grain Valley Schools for our local *Valley News*. More recently, I was asked to write a very brief history for my church, Faith United Methodist. I only mention this because these two projects have made me come to realize two things. For history to be entirely accurate it must be correctly recorded when it happens and it must be properly stored for safe keeping. Perhaps I should add a third point; for accuracy one must determine how and where to verify the source.

Unfortunately, most of the information I have gathered has been written by one or more persons years after the fact. Sometimes the source has been exposed to air, bright sunlight, a damp basement and all too often spiders and rodents! Finally, I often must rely on previously written accounts, newspaper stories, hearsay, and memories.

I usually rely on the oldest written histories for correct information because I tend to believe they contain more "first hand" knowledge. Sometimes old newspaper are good sources, but the first journalism school wasn't founded until September 8, 1908. (University of Missouri) Early copies of some of our local newspapers, *The Voice*, *The Herald*, *The Jackson County Democrat*, *The Banner*, and others are great reading if you want to know who was sick, who was visiting from out of town, who had dinner with whom on Sunday, the weather, and so forth. But when I'm trying to research schools, churches and businesses, they don't provide a lot of basic information like who, what, when and where (Journalism 101).

I like it when a reader calls or emails to let me know I've gotten something WRONG. It lets me know someone is actually reading my story. On the other hand, I would love to have you send me YOUR stories for publication, even if they are just hearsay or a memory!

Methodist Church, 1953



While writing the history for Faith United Methodist, I discovered this photograph taken after the addition on the back which eliminated the need for the small building seen in the lower right...the outhouse!

