

GRAPEVINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On The Vine

DEDICATED TO PRESERVING GRAPEVINE HISTORY

Renew Your Membership Online!

Just because we are the Grapevine Historical Society doesn't mean we are always looking backward - we can also stay current with modern trends. One trend that has become critical - this year more than ever - is to move activities online. To that end, the GHS website, grapevinehistory.org, has been updated with e-commerce features, and you can now create or renew your GHS membership online.

It's online shopping just like you get from any internet store: simple and secure. Click or touch the "JOIN" menu and you can then select from our standard membership levels. The "Purchase" button asks if this is a new or renewing membership, and asks if you are interested in helping with some of the Society's activities. You can pay with any credit card, and the whole process will take only a few moments.

Annual memberships come due at the start of the calendar year, so this is just the right time to visit the website and renew your commitment to our forward-thinking Historical Society. Traditional mail-in membership renewals and applications are also available to download on the website.

January 1, 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR and aren't we all happy to say goodbye to 2020! What a crazy, scary, sad, hopeful and eventful year it was! I have to say the one good thing for me was getting to spend uninterrupted time with my husband, kids and grandkids. I cooked a lot, read a lot, never cleaned out a closet, had open-heart surgery and really, thoroughly enjoyed the time spent with my family. I can also say for sure that home-schooling grandkids is not my forte! But I have a whole new appreciation for our teachers!



Sadly, I lost several friends to COVID and many family members and friends had a bout with the virus. Now that we're seeing a light at the end of this nightmare tunnel with several vaccines, I am hopeful 2021 may see us getting back to "normal" again - whatever that means!

My thanks to our Grapevine Historical Society Board members who continued to meet monthly throughout the past year via "Zoom". Special thanks to Dr. John Boyd who creates our wonderful newsletters each month to keep our Society members "connected." I enjoy reading them each month because I always learn some new and interesting facts about Grapevine that I didn't know. I am hoping we will see enough improvement in terms of the virus to start meeting again in March when we will celebrate Texas Independence Day and re-open our wonderful Museum to the public. We'll keep you posted as the new year progresses.

We are so blessed to live in Grapevine. Despite the drastic loss of sales tax revenue that operates our City, we managed to make Christmas as spectacular as ever with a few COVID adjustments! A "reverse" parade and a drive-through Carol of Lights experience with Santa in a mask were certainly different but we celebrated just the same and kept the Christmas Capital of Texas going in full swing.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you again soon in person and I wish you all a blessed, safe and happy New Year!

Duff O'Dell, President, Grapevine Historical Society

Grapevine's Twinkle Light Boat Parade



Grapevine's "Twinkle Light Boat Parade" on December 5 was one Christmas event that required minimal changes due to COVID-19. While the post "Anchor" party for participants was canceled, the event did not appear any different for spectators. About 40 lighted and decorated boats traveled between the Twin Coves, Scott's Landing and Silver Lake Marina - passing by the Gaylord Texan on the way. Viewing is good from several of Grapevine's area lake parks. This year's event was capped off with a fireworks display, once a regular weekly event in Summer, this was the first display since July 4.

There are winners in several categories, but the overall winner was John Sinclair from Twin Coves Marina for his red Christmas truck themed boat. While the date of the first boat parade is uncertain, *The Grapevine Sun* reported it as early as 1988, making it at least 32 years old and probably older.

John Boyd



Historic Lucas House Suffers Major Fire



Saturday afternoon December 5, the word on social media spread as fast as the flames and smoke rising from the spot near downtown - one of Grapevine's historic buildings was on fire. Flames shot through the roof of the 125-year old one-story home at 211 East Worth street as Grapevine firefighters worked to save the structure, cutting holes in the roof to gain access to the burning timbers and tracking hotspots via an infrared-camera-equipped drone.

The unfussy T-shaped wooden Queen Anne-style house has stood on 211 East Worth since about 1895 when it was built for Dave Lucas. Dave was one of three sons of Wingate Lucas, whose home still sits next door at 221 East Worth. Dave and his brothers helped run the Lucas family general store.

By 1902, local grocer O. P. Turnage moved to town from Richardson and into the property, while Dave Lucas and his family shifted to a new home on Wall Street. The place had many residents over the next hundred years, including Grapevine High School principal Bill Stubbs and his wife in the middle decades of the 20th century. By 1970 it was being rented out as a duplex.

In 1998 P.W. McCallum, who now owned the property, oversaw a zoning change to enable the home to be used commercially. He leased it to Homestead Winery, a 120-year-old winemaking business run by the Parker family of Ivanhoe Texas (between Lufkin and Beaumont). It had been a three-year process to bring in Homestead as the city's fourth tasting room. Homestead opened in May 1998 and stayed for 21 years.

This year the building was being renovated to serve another winery when the fire broke out. Roof damage was extensive. A massive hole in the roof has exposed the house to the elements. Although most of the structure below the roofline wasn't burned, it has suffered smoke and water damage. As of the time of this writing, P. W. McCallum has not revealed his plans for the building. Dave Lucas' grand-niece Helen Jean Lucas observed that "I hated that this historic Lucas home burned. It's a loss to our town."

Larry Groebe

Lake Grapevine

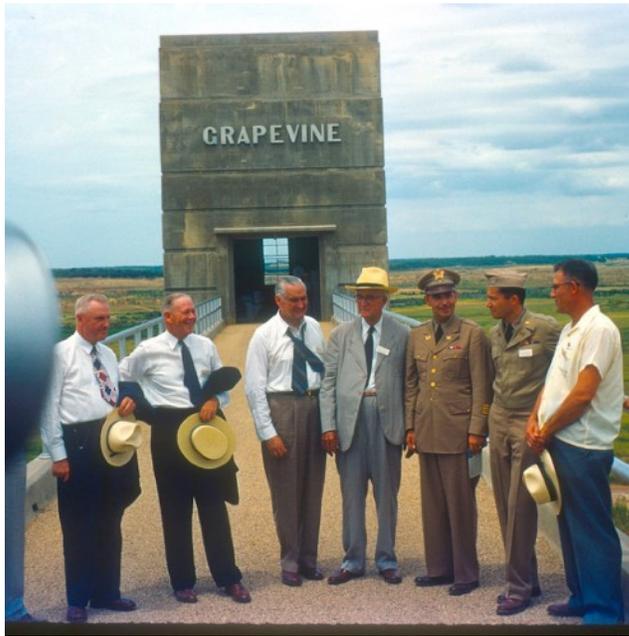
Grapevine Lake attracts over a million visitors each year, hosting two golf courses, the Gaylord Texan Resort, and plenty of recreational activities. It's an important part of Grapevine as we know it, but how did it get here?

The Grapevine Lake Dam was initially built to turn Denton Creek, called *Tahwahkaro* by the Native Americans, into Grapevine Lake. The "Grapevine Dam and Reservoir Project" started in January of 1948 to help with flood control and provide drinking water. The Dam was completed in June of 1952 and the impounding of water began in July of the same year. Interestingly enough, after the Dam was finished Grapevine experienced so much heavy rain that much of the construction equipment is still stuck at the bottom of the lake.

The project not only created the lake as one of the foundational parts of Grapevine tourism but also helped develop Grapevine's community. Workers from all over relocated to Grapevine to help build the dam, especially Black workers, who started a Black community, church, and school in an area called "the Hill." The lake and dam hold so much of the history of Grapevine. As a child, our own mayor William D. Tate, even placed the first fish in the lake when it was stocked.

Grapevine Lake was one of DFW's first large navigable lakes and has 60 miles of shoreline across Tarrant and Denton counties. It's an essential part of Grapevine's present, but it's also an essential part of our past.

Aislyn Gaddis



This Kodachrome photo was taken by Dr. William Wilkerson on July 3, 1952 during the ceremonial closing of the dam gates. Left to right: Mayor R. C. Coffee of University Park; Alderman C. C. English of Highland Park; Mayor J. B. Adoue Jr. of Dallas; John W. Carpenter, president of the Trinity Improvement Association; Col. Herbert D. Vogel, Southwest division engineer at Dallas; Acting District Engineer H. R. Hallock of Fort Worth; and Mayor Gordon Tate of Grapevine. Photo courtesy Damon Wilkerson.

