



## Contact Us:

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 Caneyhistoricalmuseum.org

### Board Officers:

**President:** Dale McBride  
**Vice President:** Debbie Hartig  
**Secretary:** Becky Parker  
**Treasurer:** Gina McBride

### Members:

Joel Dodson, Donna Ritter,  
 Jeff Kitterman, Roy McDaniel,  
 Gene Vaughan, Cheryl Kopfman,  
 & Roy Shafer

### Museum Curator:

Nicole Parker-Hardesty

HOURS: MON, WED, & FRI 9AM-3PM (CLOSED FOR LUNCH)

AUGUST 2019

## Historical Society celebrates 35 years

Compiled by Andy Taylor

### Caney Valley Historical Society Through the Years

**1984** First meeting of the Caney Valley Historical Society was held on May 5. First officers were Ivan Pfalser, president; Louie Hill Jr., vice president; Dorothy McBurney, secretary; Pearl Wilson, treasurer; and Stephanie Borgman, Nancy Hopkins and Tom Hubbard, directors.

**1985** Efforts begin to rehabilitate Caney's first Post Office building, a one-room, clapboard building located in the 100 block of South State Street. The Post Office building would become the first museum of the Caney Valley Historical Society.

**1990** Discovery made that Caney's first school building, ultimately known as the Little White Schoolhouse, remained standing at 8th and Foreman Streets. The building, suffering from years of neglect, was donated to the Caney Valley Historical Society for eventual relocation to the society's museum complex in downtown Caney.

**1993** Little White Schoolhouse moved to its current location at Fourth and Wood streets. Efforts begin to replicate the original schoolhouse structure.

**1995** Little White Schoolhouse opened and dedicated in May.

**1996** Caney Valley Historical Society acquires the former Waller Building in downtown Caney. Renovations begin to convert the building into a museum and shared offices of the Caney Valley Historical Society and Caney Chamber of Commerce.

**1999** Post Office building is relocated adjacent to the Little White Schoolhouse and repurposed as a museum dedicated to the Caney medical profession.

**2002** Caney Valley Historical Society develops the gazebo at Wark Memorial Park, using the original architectural "ring" elements from the front porch of a home at 105 E. 6th.

**2007** Caney Valley Historical Society acquires the Sandstone Building at Fourth and State streets. Renovation begins to convert the building into an additional community meeting area and to hold an expanded museum inventory.

**2018** Sandstone Building renamed the Sandstone Event Center.

The Caney Valley Historical Society is marking its 35<sup>th</sup> year in Caney in 2019. Throughout the three-and-a-half decades, there have been many changes to the organization.

The Historical Society was the vision of three people, who saw the need to begin collecting and preserving our history. Ivan Pfalser, Bud Bridenstine and Nancy Roe had the foresight to begin that tedious process. They met at the Roe residence on May 5, 1984 and invited local citizens and representatives from other area historical groups to discuss how to get started. Nancy remembers this night and recalls being excited about the evening. "Everyone there knew that we needed to do something to start collecting and preserving our history. We got so many donations of historical items from people... it was overwhelming! For many years, we also had a lot of people that cared about keeping the Museum funded, so they donated money all year long to keep it going. I hope that we can keep the interest in our history alive, so it survives for the next generation to see."

There was a strong interest in starting this group among community members. Some served as Board members, and some on an Associate board. A couple of our current Board Members started on the Associate Board and have served the community for many years. We are always looking for additional help and support, so if someone has a desire to serve on our Board, please let us know.

To celebrate this milestone, there will be a celebration in the Sandstone Event Center on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. This will be in conjunction with the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Caney Cornhole Tournament held in downtown Caney. Cake will be served in the Sandstone Event Center all afternoon, courtesy of Danny and Norma Scott.

The Historical Society will be kicking off a Pledge Drive in the near future too. "We have to make sure we can keep our doors open. It's that simple." Says Dale McBride, President. "We need the community's financial support in order to stay open. Even \$5 a month would be helpful, if everyone pitched in. There are a lot of great charities to support in the country, but we hope folks will help a local charity first. After all, we all call Caney our home!"

# Caney Valley High School celebrates Golden Anniversary

by Gene Vaughan



The Caney High School built in 1914, served until 1973     Caney Valley High School dedicated on April 19, 1973

While the building is only 46 years old, the consolidation of area schools occurred in 1968. The graduating class of 1969 was the first to graduate from Caney Valley High School, instead of Caney High School.

If one researches the school history, they will find that there were three grade schools in Caney & two rural schools that only went to the eighth grade & then transferred into Caney for High School. The old Lincoln Grade School was located where it is today, built in 1891 serving grades 1, 2 and 3 until the School Board voted to abandon the building in 1952. The new Lincoln school was dedicated on March 11, 1954 and held Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes. McKinley school was built in 1908 and held classes of 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It was torn down in 1954 after the new Lincoln Memorial Grade School opened. The only remaining part of the McKinley school is the old cement steps as they still climb the small hill on the east side of the Caney swimming pool on south High Street. Washington School was located between 2nd & 3rd streets on the west side of Fawn Street. The old school was destroyed by a fire in the mid 1960's. One rural school, The Caney Center School was one that only went to the eighth grade & was located near the golf course. This school closed in the late 1950's as it consolidated with the other rural school - Pleasant Hill. Pleasant Hill was located about one half of a mile north of the old highway to Tyro on road 2100. All the students at Pleasant Hill from 1st thru 8th grade were in one classroom with the same teacher.

During this same era, the Caney School system began to see many changes" The first change was the addition of the upper four classes from the Tyro School District. Tyro kept their elementary & Junior High open but closed the High School. Tyro's rural School, Ringo, remained open as well as students also went thru the eighth grade. Ringo was located about one mile south & two miles east of Tyro. The next change came about 1962 as Niotaze closed their high school but kept their elementary school open.

In 1962 another change happened that affected the Wayside & Havana school districts. Wayside schools covered an area to the east & south as far as Bolton & Jefferson, while Havana covered an area to the north & west of town. These two schools consolidated with Havana maintaining the elementary school & Wayside getting the high school - Wayside High School.

The changes in the Caney schools began again in 1967. The elementary schools in Tyro & Niotaze, along with the rural schools Ringo & Pleasant Hill all closed in 1967. The state of Kansas then forced the consolidation of Wayside High School & Caney High School after the 1968 school year and Wayside shuttered the doors as Caney Valley High School was formed. The first graduating class of the new school was the class of 1969. The Havana elementary school remained open for a few more years, finally closing in the 1970's. The increase in the number of students in the new school district forced the building of a new high school & several additions to the Lincoln Elementary building. Caney continues to improve its school campuses to accommodate growth and ensure safety for the staff and students.

While you're thinking about your school days, why not honor a special teacher with an honor plaque?

The plaque consists of a photo of the honored person and some personal information. They can be purchased from the Historical Society for \$100 each.

The plaque is a great way to honor a teacher or faculty member that was a family member, class sponsor or friend.

Plaques are still needed for: Richard Anderson, Cheryl Arwine, Larry Bale, Twila Bales, Jimmie Barton, Jeannette Bellmyer, Patsy Bowers, John Brooks, Thomas Brown, Ferne Brownlee, Cynthia Carter, Sharlyn Coke, Mary Ann Egan, Bill Ellis, Sammy Evans, Danny Fulton, Marilyn Fuqua, Lana Grayum, John Heady, Debi Hiner, Sondra Huff, Rhonda Inman, George Jackson, Sherman Jones, Cliff Keller, Shirley Leahew, Helen Mantooth, Lafama McBride, Kenneth Melton, Dwayne Messner, Connie Morris, Janice Orcutt, John Redfern, Stephanie Rigdon, Karen Roper, Stella Rosewicz, Carla Ruark, Karen Schultheiss, Mary Stromberg, Carla Sullivan, Goldenia Sullivan, Dan Vernon, Gloria White, Paula White, Charline Wilmoth, Rose Wilmoth & Jeff Wyrick.



## FIND & SUPPORT US ONLINE



Remember that dues and donations can be made electronically with credit or debit cards using PayPal. We can take your donation at the Museum, on Facebook or on our website: [www.caneyhistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.caneyhistoricalmuseum.org).



Be sure to like us on Facebook and invite your friends to follow us! Stay up to date on our activities as they occur.



Have you been to our Museum? Please log in to Trip Advisor and give us a rating. Many tourists and visitors use Trip Advisor to get information, and we want to be noticed!

## \*\* Souvenirs for sale \*\*

Coffee Mugs, Keychains, Postcards, Books, T-shirts, mailable vintage postcards and MORE! All reasonably priced to benefit the Museum.



## News from Nicole

For most of the summer, my focus has been on organizing and inventorying the Roe Room storage facility here at the museum. Quite a few items that have been donated or loaned over the last year or so still need to be examined and accessioned into our collection. I have continued to implement the new inventory, collections management, conservation, & preservation protocols. However, since the beginning of August, we have decided to shift the focus of the inventory process from the Roe Room storage facility and the permanent museum displays to the Research Center section of the Caney Valley Historical Society & Museum Complex as this is the section that garners the most questions. Research requests come in on a daily basis and we need a more efficient system in place to help streamline the process of answering these inquiries. This is a more complicated endeavor because each individual object/book/folder within the Research Center is filled with hundreds of pages, photographs, and documents. It requires a slightly different approach than the rest of CVHS's collection. I am currently in the process of developing the required changes to the normal inventory process in order to better suit the needs of this specific section.

Most of July and August have also been devoted to researching grants. I have tried to take advantage of every available opportunity to expand my knowledge of grant writing. I have attended monthly meetings of the Grant Writers of Montgomery County. I have also participated in grant writing webinars for several different organizations that have grants the Caney Valley Historical Society is interested in pursuing. I am also in the process of creating an internship program for the Caney Valley Historical Society & Museum Complex. My first step was reaching out to several different area colleges to see if any current students would be interested in an internship. After ascertaining a certain level of interest, I spent most of August creating the appropriate paperwork and internship program guidelines necessary for this program to be successfully implemented for years to come. We hope to have an intern for the Spring semester. Internships are such a valuable resource to both the internee and our museum. I am very excited about this internship program and I cannot wait to share my love of museum collections care with students who want to pursue a career in the museum and historical society field!

*Remember: If we want the Caney Valley Historical Society and the history contained within to remain available to the public, WE NEED YOUR HELP!*

**Financial support is essential to continue preserving the legacy of Caney.**

*Please take a moment to check with your employer about matching grants for donations or for volunteer hours. Conoco Phillips will match a donation made by an employee or retiree, and 20 hours of donated time will equal a \$500 grant. Textron Aviation also matches donations made by their employees. This is an easy way to DOUBLE your donation!*

*Memberships & Donations are accepted at any time during the year. There is no obligation to volunteer or donate – we just need your financial support. You can complete the forms in this newsletter, donate with a check or with PayPal on Facebook.*

## What's ahead...

### September

14<sup>th</sup> – Kan-Okla 100-mile sale

21<sup>st</sup> – SEK Museum Coalition meeting in St. Paul, KS

### October

TBA – Football Tailgate Fundraiser

5<sup>th</sup> – Caney's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cornhole Tournament – celebrating our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary

18<sup>th</sup> – Grant Writers of Montgomery County meeting – Independence Library

### November

15<sup>th</sup> – Grant Writers of Montgomery County meeting – Independence Library

21<sup>st</sup> – Deadline for online registration to participate in Caney Christmas Parade

### December

5<sup>th</sup> – Caney Christmas Parade

7<sup>th</sup> – Daddy/Daughter Dance

2020 Membership Drive begins



Did you know?...

Caney had an Opera House in 1907, but it burned in 1910 sustaining a \$50,000 loss. It was located on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Spring Street and Main Street and is currently part of the New to You business. It is known by the round windows at the top of the building.

## PROJECTS NEEDING DONATIONS

Your financial support is needed!



**Museum outdoor wall repair** - \$3500 to replace and reseal an outer wall on the second story of the Museum.



**Security system for Complex** - \$1500 for equipment purchase and three years of monitoring service. We need to protect all our buildings and assets with a security system.



**New steps for School house & Dr.'s Building** - \$2500 to replace broken steps, platforms and handrails with durable material.



### **Flowers in bloom at Schoolhouse**

A rainy spring caused a lot of issues for this part of the country, but it did create a lovely display of color in front of the Schoolhouse. The flower box is maintained by the Caney Garden Club, and it's a nice addition to the yard.



### **New bricks placed near schoolhouse**

Our most recent brick order has been completed and several granite bricks were purchased. They have all been placed in the sidewalk around the Little White Schoolhouse. Another campaign to order bricks will begin soon, so anyone wishing to order a brick may do so.



The Caney Municipal Swimming Pool was built in 1957 for \$25,000. It has been a summertime staple to kids throughout the area. Hundreds of children have learned to swim at this pool and lots of memories were made here during the past 62 years. As with everything, wear & tear has taken its toll, and the time has come for a new pool. Thanks to a one-million-dollar grant, the dream of a new pool will become reality in 2021. The pool will close in 2019, as preparations begin for demolition and construction at this site.





## Rivercane display completed

Our newest display is finally complete! In January, we shared how Brad Johnson contacted us and offered to assist us with creating a display of Rivercane, which is what our city's name is derived from. Mr. Johnson has done extensive research about the plant, its origins and preservation. He created the verbiage for the sign, which was created by Thornton Graphics here in Caney. After many weather-related delays, the sign has finally been placed near the display. Many thanks to Dale McBride and Roy Shafer for volunteering their time to finish the display.



### Participation/Volunteer Form

Your participation is greatly needed for the Historical Society to survive. We must increase our participation and membership, or the organization will not be here for future generations. Only 13% of our yearly budget is funded from the county — the rest of our income is SOLELY from dues and donations. We are not funded by the City of Caney or any other entity. There are several ways to help:

- ✓ Please consider helping us in some of the areas listed below. Your help would be needed only a few hours each month, but would greatly help reduce the strain on our volunteers.
- ✓ Please consider helping with 2 fundraisers this year — either physically or monetarily.  
We will only contact you for the events you choose to participate in.

- ☐ I would like to help with the Research Committee – finding answers to inquiries about people or events in the surrounding area.
- ☐ I would like to help with the new Inventory process – recording the items in each of the buildings on our new Inventory system.
- ☐ I would like to help with special activities of the Society - Kansas Day activities with 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students, special tours of the Museum Complex, Special Events, etc.
- ☐ I would like to help take care of the Complex - assisting with repairs, helping to update & care for the displays, changing out window decorations or by cleaning occasionally.

**\*\* PLEASE CIRCLE THE FUNDRAISER YOU CAN HELP WITH AND MARK YOUR DONATION \*\***

#### SPRING FUNDRAISER

- ☐ Volunteer to help at the event
- ☐ Donate cash for expenses

#### MAY – Mayfest Activities/Fundraiser

- ☐ Volunteer to help at the event
- ☐ Donate food items or paper goods
- ☐ Donate cash for expenses

#### SEPTEMBER - Ice Cream Social /Shoot-the-U

- ☐ Volunteer to help at the event
- ☐ Donate food items or paper goods
- ☐ Donate cash for expenses

#### FALL FUNDRAISER

- ☐ Volunteer to help at the event
- ☐ Donate cash for expenses

#### DECEMBER – Daddy Daughter Dance

- ☐ Volunteer to help at the event
- ☐ Donate food items or paper goods
- ☐ Donate cash for expenses

**Membership Form**

YES! I (we) want to join the Caney Valley Historical Society, because preserving Caney's history is important!

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Minimum Membership dues: \$10 per person

☐ \$25 membership

☐ \$50 membership  
(10% discount on souvenirs)

☐ \$100 membership  
(20% discount on souvenirs)

☐ \$200 membership  
(1 free rental of the Sandstone Bldg.  
& 10% discount on souvenirs)

☐ \$500 membership  
(2 free rentals of the Sandstone Bldg.  
& 20% discount on souvenirs)

☐ YES! I (we) want to help - by volunteering to assist with projects & events at the Museum  
- by volunteering/donating for 2 events of my choice!

*Thank you for helping us preserve our Historical Society & Museum for the future!*