

IMPORTANT NOTE: MEETING LOCATION

Our meeting is May 20th 11:30am sharp @ John A. Dubiski Career High School, 2990 S. Hwy 161, Grand Prairie, Tx 75052

Followed by: a tour of the Summit, GP's new premier 50+ club, 2975 Esplanade, GP, 75052 @ 12:30

GRAND PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1943

Seventeen classmates and friends attended the 67th class reunion on April 24, 2010 at Eddlemons at Prairie Lakes Golf Course, Grand Prairie, Texas. Left to right, Seated-LaVera Knox Kimbrel, Goldene Williamson Wammack, Jean Frank Fuller and Daphne Harkey Motheral-Jose. Standing-Neva Bridges Wetmore, Robert Archer, Norma Robertson Hale and Zelma Black Adkins. All enjoyed the food, fellowship, letters, pictures and calls. Their next reunion will be April 30, 2011. If you need more information, contact Brian Bingham @ 214-808-1913



Help us keep our Organization running by paying your GPHO dues today. Make checks payable to GPHO for a \$15 annual (individual), or \$200 for a Life Membership

Quote of the Month
"How do we know where we're going if we don't know where we've been?"

Mary Virginia Simmons

If anyone has any old Post-cards they would like to sell, I'm interested in purchasing them — especially cards of buildings and events in the Dallas Fort Worth area.

Thanks

Brian W. Bingham

Brian Bingham
214-808-1913

L.O. Turner Funeral Home 500 E. Main Street

Researched and written by
Kathy A. Goolsby – February 2010

The funeral home at 500 E. Main St. in Grand Prairie was constructed in 1941 by Lovell O. Turner, a longtime Grand Prairie resident who served as mayor from 1917-1919.

Mr. Turner moved to Grand Prairie in 1913 and opened Turner Hardware and Furniture Company in the downtown business district. In the early 1900s, many furniture stores built not only tables and chairs, but also coffins, prompting Mr. Turner to start a funeral business. For years, Hugh Moore, a licensed embalmer in Arlington, prepared the bodies in a tin shed behind Mr. Turner's store or the bodies were sent to Mr. Moore in Arlington for embalming. The deceased were then placed in their coffin and transported home for viewing, as was the common practice at that time.

The Turners also provided 24-hour ambulance service for Grand Prairie and the surrounding area. Eventually, Mr. Turner and his wife, Minnie, became licensed embalmers and in the late 1930s built a funeral home at 213 E. Main St. that was large enough for viewings to be done there rather than in the home of the deceased.

In 1940, Mr. Turner announced plans for a larger facility at 500 E. Main Street at Alamo Street, three blocks east of the downtown business district. Construction began in June 1941 on the \$15,000 funeral home, making it one of Grand Prairie's first businesses built following the housing boom tied to World War II and the town's new defense industry.

The new L.O. Turner Funeral Home opened in 1942. The 80-by-80-foot building was designed to resemble a residential home. The ground floor fea-



Life Members of the Grand Prairie Historical Organization

Judy Armstrong, Billy Joe Armstrong, Carol Bell, Grant Bell, Brian W. Bingham, Verna Brown, Jo Robertson Campbell, L.R. Cannon, Ouida Chapman Lewis, Lisa Chennault Brown, Helen Chennault, Thomas Chennault *, Thomas B Chennault, City of Grand Prairie Marketing, Joe W. Colwell, Marge Copeland, H. Victor Copeland *, Jerry Corley, Cheryl Friman Dover, Charles and Janice England, Kirk and Marcy England, Olive Galloway, Norma Hale, Marvin J (Jack) Hays, Lee D. Herring, Thomas Hight, Jorja Jackson Clemson, Vera Jinks, Marie Kerr Stufflebeme*, Blythe Kizziar, Duane McGuffey, Kenneth R. Miller, Lynn Motley, Betty Phillips, Charles Powers, Bob Roberts, Susan Shuffler, Fynlon and Eugenia Simpson, Ouida Daugherty Smith, Amy Sprinkles, Donald Stanfield, Joyce Colwell Stanfield, Angela Sutton Giessner, Donald Taylor, Ruthe Thompson Jackson, Laura Thompson Potter, Paul and Madie Vernon

* Deceased

tured a chapel, large living room, display room, music room, two “slumber” rooms and a preparation room. The employees’ upstairs living quarters included a sitting room, dining room and kitchen, as well as guest bedrooms for out-of-town friends attending funerals. Outside was a garage to house the hearse and ambulances and a covered portico on the building’s east side.

Mr. Turner co-founded Southland Memorial Park in 1947 and served as its president. He owned and operated the funeral home until March 1965 when he sold the business to Bruce Bean, Duke Burge and Olen Massey. Mr. Turner retained ownership of the building; he died at age 80 on May 27, 1967.

The new partners changed the name to Southland Funeral Home. In November 1970, they moved the business to a larger facility on Southwest Third Street.

The home at 500 E. Main St. essentially remained vacant for more than a decade although at least twice during that time funeral businesses were started there. None lasted more than a few months until Joe and Monte Brown purchased it in 1984



www.guerrerodean.com

and established Brown’s Grand Prairie Funeral Home.

Sylvia Guerrero-Dean and her husband, Mark Dean, took over the business operations in November 2000. Their purchase of the business was finalized in January 2001, and the name was changed to Guerrero-Dean Funeral Home.

The building’s interior has been remodeled with some offices removed to open up the downstairs space and the narrow staircase replaced with a wider, more open staircase.

The ground floor includes offices, a sitting area, restrooms, a kitchen, preparation room, family room, foyer and a 125-seat chapel. Upstairs, there is a casket display room, offices, dor-

mitory and kitchen.

Sources:

- *The Grand Prairie Texan* – Nov. 28, 1940; May 26, 1963
- *The Dallas Morning News* – Sept. 21, 1941; June 22, 1941; May 28, 1967
- Interview with Bruce Bean, co-owner of Bean-Massey-Burge Funeral Home (formerly Southland Funeral Home)
- Mark Dean and Sylvia Guerrero-Dean, via Grand Prairie Significant Landmark application
- Grand Prairie telephone books and cross directories, 1948, 1963-1985 (housed in the Grand Prairie Memorial Library, 901 Conover Drive)



Grand Prairie
Historical
Organization

COMPLIMENTS and
SUGGESTIONS TO:

Brian W. Bingham

P.O. Box 532173

Grand Prairie, Texas 75053-

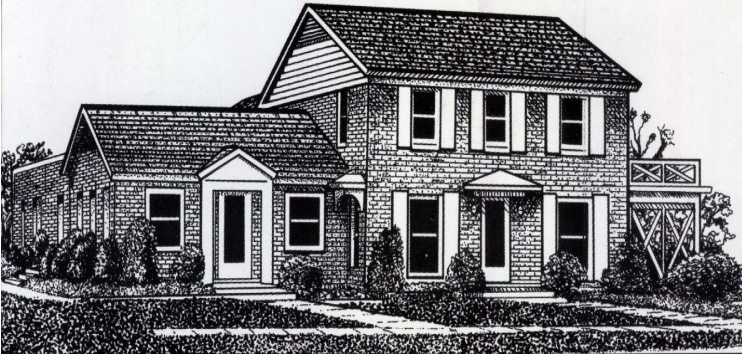


GRAND PRAIRIE HISTORICAL ORGANIZATION BY-LAW REVISION

In the May meeting a new set of by-laws will be presented for approval by the members. There will be a copy of those by-laws available at the meeting for review. However, if you would like a copy prior to the meeting, please send an email request to bingham@alliance-services.com and you will have time to read it in detail. This is your chance to add value to the new by-laws.

A CITY LANDMARK

*Grand Prairie's Oldest Funeral
Location Has A New Name...*



GUERRERO-DEAN FUNERAL HOME

Sylvia Guerrero-Dean and Mark Dean have a combined 25 years experience in the Funeral Home business. They are local residents and Bi-Lingual. Both Mark and Sylvia are licensed embalmers and funeral directors.

www.guerrerodean.com

*Mark and Sylvia are located at 500 E. Main Street.
Their phone number is 972-263-5570.*

In the next meeting, the nominating committee chairman, Bobby Donaldson, will present a slate of officers for your vote.

That slate to be presented will be:

President—Brian W. Bingham

VP—Janette Skrasek

Treasurer—Carol Bell

Secretary—Susie Roberts

Outgoing President: Lynn Motley

Board Member: Angela Giessner

Board Member: Bobby Donaldson

Membership Chair: Bobby Donaldson

*If you have any suggestions for other officers please contact
Bobby Donaldson at 972-641-1312 or*

r-donaldson@sbcglobal.net prior to the meeting.

Grand Prairie Genealogical Society

The June meeting will be June 3, 2010 at 6:30 pm for the meet and greet and 7:00pm for the program. The meeting will be at the GP Memorial Library (901 Conover Drive). The guest speaker in June will be David Appleton. His program topic will be "One Approach to Writing Your Family History". David Appleton (B.S., History) is an internationally known lecturer and author. He has written and published several books.

I think it will be an interesting and informative program. The society always welcomes visitors.