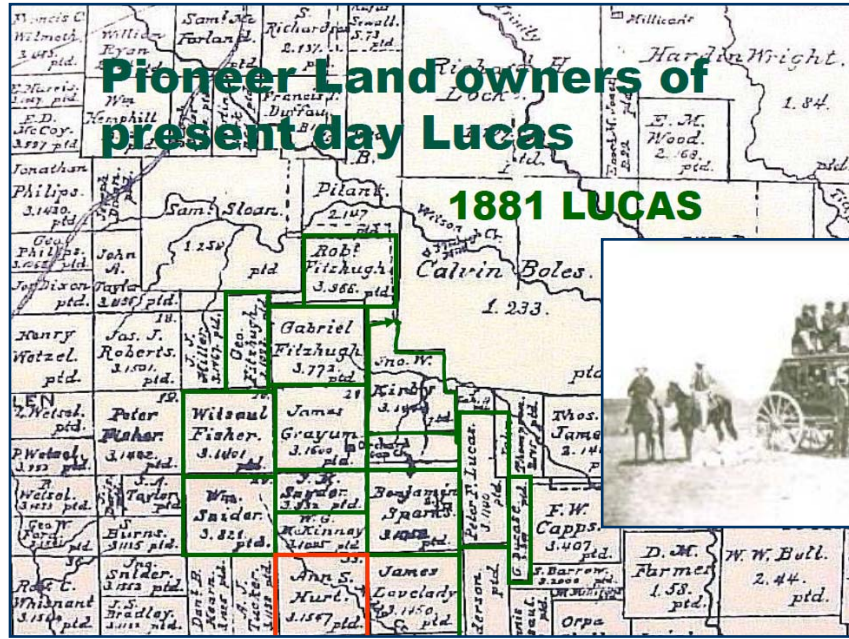


How Lucas Began

By Councilmember Debbie Fisher



While the local area had been called Lucas since the establishment of a Post Office in 1888, with Postmaster and city namesake Gabriel Lucas, it wasn't until February 19, 1959 that our city was incorporated and recognized by Collin County and the State of Texas as the Town of Lucas. This accomplishment took many hours of work and study. O. E. (Cotton) Spurgin is listed as the official who took the petition



to the County Judge with 31 signatures of residents who wanted to be incorporated and a detailed survey of the area included. On December 9, 1958, the County Judge called for an election to be held on December 20, 1958. The recorded

vote of that election was 49 votes "For" Corporation and 25 votes "Against" Corporation.

Why did these people want to incorporate? After all, this area was mostly a bunch of farms. According to Dale Spurgin, one of the original petitioners and Mayor of Lucas from March 1965 to May 1965, these land owners wanted to protect their community and lifestyle from being taken over by neighboring cities that were looking to annex the area. They also wanted to be governed by like-minded people who would develop regulations that related to their farming community.

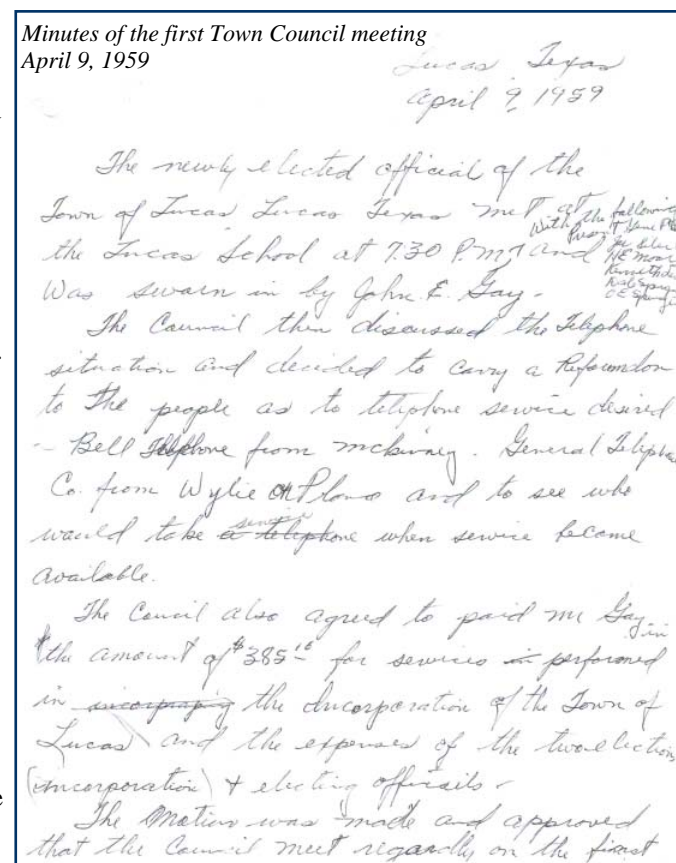
As part of becoming an incorporated town, it was necessary to elect a Town Council to run the new Town of Lucas. In March 1959, Gene Biggs was elected Mayor along with Councilmembers Joe Siler, Horace E. Mann, Sr., Kenneth Lewis, O.E. Spurgin and constable Dale Spurgin. At their first meeting on April 9, 1959 at the Lucas School, O.E. Spurgin was elected Town Secretary and Treasurer. The background of the first elected Council reflected the community they represented, as four members were farmers, one member was an engineer, and one member was a postal worker.

The minutes of the first meeting are hand written. They discussed the "telephone situation", much as we are currently studying the "internet situation" and agreed to pay Mr. Gay, a lawyer, for services connected to the incorporation and two elections that were held. Again, these costs were shared among those land owners agreeing to be part of the town.

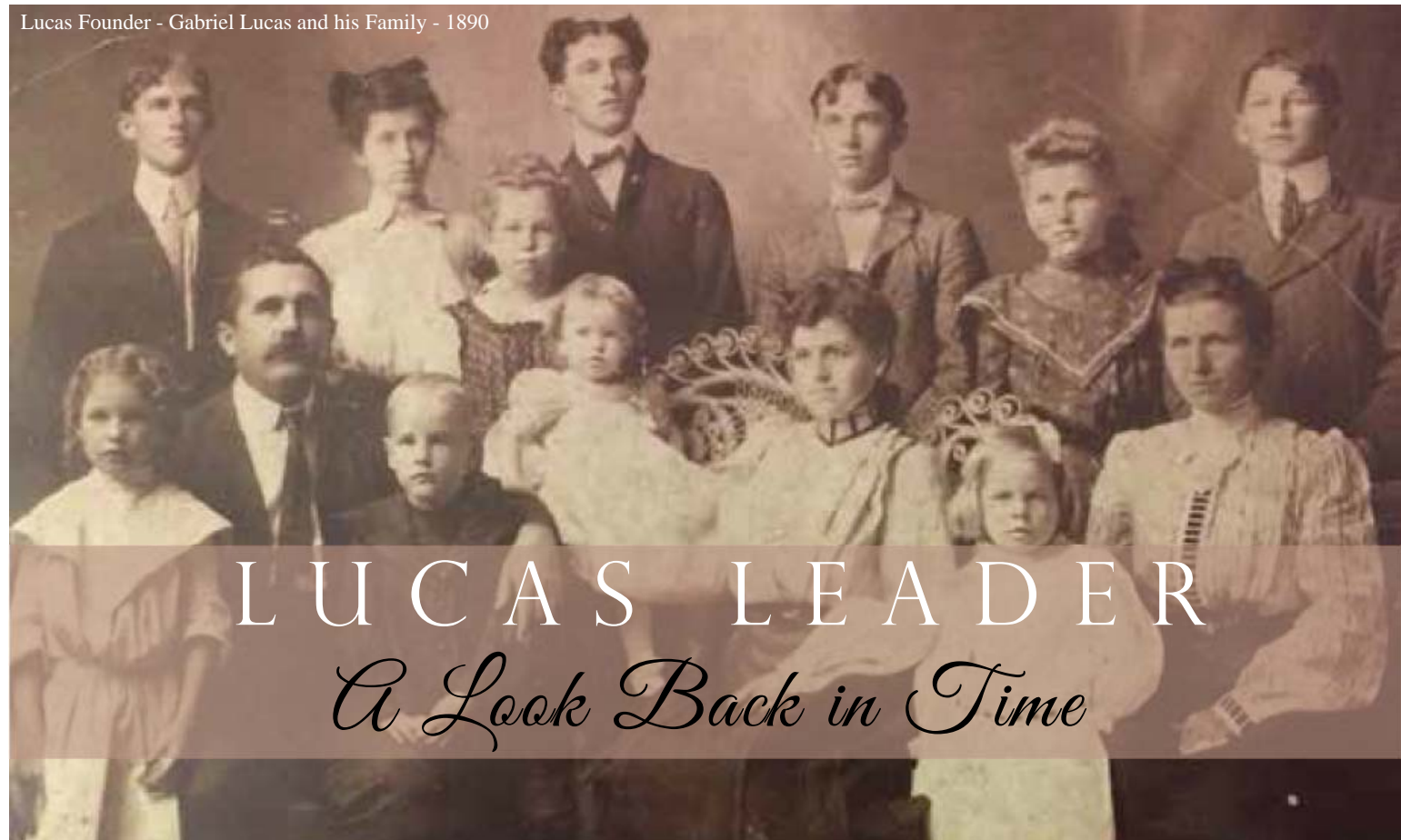
One of the first challenges for the Town of Lucas was to develop a water system. The Lake Lavon Dam had been completed, but the residents in the area still all provided their own water, often having to haul it in, according to John Hoelzel, Mayor (1979-1981). When O. E. Spurgin was Mayor, 1967-1971, a loan was issued to develop a water system. Each resident had to pay for the water to come to them, and no property taxes were collected until later. In 1979, the Public Utility Commission of the State of Texas granted the City of Lucas a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to be the water provider of the area.

As you drive around the City, you will see streets named for many of those early community leaders. Surnames on the original petition included Spurgin, Lewis, Biggs, Gunter, Pharr, Chandler, Heifner, O'Kern, Click, Moore, Harvey, and Taylor. These are the people who had the foresight to preserve our area to be something special.

Sixty years has brought a lot of changes to the area. Lucas has grown from these humble beginnings to a city of almost 8,000 residents. Our volunteer Fire Department started in 1973, and now has both paid fire personnel and valuable volunteers who care about the City. Lucas remains a family oriented city with residents valuing both a quality education for all our students and the preservation of our way of life. It is exciting to think what the next 60 years will bring. Please join us as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of Lucas at our Open House on February 19.



Lucas Founder - Gabriel Lucas and his Family - 1890



LUCAS LEADER

A Look Back in Time

Celebrating 60 Years

February 19

Open House at City Hall | 5 - 7 pm

Historical Information Displays - Fill the Time Capsule - Cake and Refreshments Served

Reflections

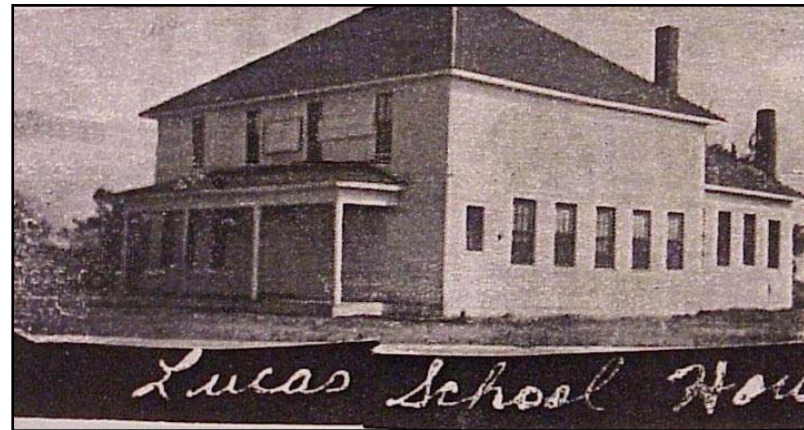
Mayor Jim Olk

I think I will spend my "Corner" on a little reflection this month. As you know, in February we will be celebrating our 60th anniversary as an incorporated municipality in Texas. There is much more of the history in this newsletter, but I wanted to focus on what I see is still the driving force of Lucas. In Councilwoman Fisher's article, *How Lucas Began*, she reflects on the community wanting to stave off surrounding communities from annexing the rural areas into their metropolis. Now, I like the amenities, shopping, dining, and entertainment that I can easily access in Allen, McKinney or Plano, but more than that, I like the openness, and the quiet and peace that I find just entering into Lucas. I am no longer in a wooden fence box community, isolating my family from the surrounding neighborhood. The breeze can blow across my porch swing as I look out over the back yard. It just eases my mind as I think about it.

As Mrs. Fisher wrote about like-minded people wanting to keep what they dearly loved, I do not believe that part has changed here in Lucas. In all my time here in Lucas, I have only spoken to one person that thought we should allow more dense housing so that we would draw in the shopping, dining and entertainment. Everyone else I have spoken to wants to keep what they see as a desired quality of life. They love the open space, the neighborly feel, and the community that is Lucas. So as to our history, that part is not repeating itself, it is ongoing, strong and binding. It is what your City Council and City Staff use as a focusing point to continue to guide us for the next 60 years and hopefully beyond. Please plan to attend the Open House here at City Hall on February 19 at 5 pm to help celebrate the City of Lucas, the gem of Collin County.

Then & Now

Lucas Schools



Lucas School House

Opening in 1874, the Willow Springs School was originally located at the corner of Estelle Lane and Gold Dust Trail supporting the many farming families in the area. Due to all the mud and rising creeks in the area, the school was moved to higher land near West Lucas Road in 1884. The school name changed in 1936 to the Lucas School, but in 1963, because both Lucas and Lovejoy schools had so few students, it was voted to consolidate the schools choosing Lovejoy as the area school since the building was in better condition. The Lucas School was used as a community center until 1970 when the building burned down. Today, the City of Lucas is home to Hart Elementary, Willow Springs Middle School, Lovejoy High School, and Lucas Christian Academy, and includes six different school districts within its city limits.

Historical Markers in Lucas



Forest Grove Church 2565 Country Club
Winningkoff School 745 East Winningkoff
McKinney Family Cemetery 285 Forest Grove



Hart Elementary
Lovejoy High School
Willow Springs Middle School
Lucas Christian Academy



Lucas School Class of 1933



1936 Lucas School Baseball Champs

(First Row) Clarence Horton, Maurell Heifner, Charlie Copus, Loyd Gooch, P.Q. Russell (Second Row) Earl Goforth, Willard Pharr, Wallace Christian, Arlis Thomas, Curtis Reeder, Glenn Spears, and Travis Gooch.

Dave Morrow's Store

295 West Lucas Road



Dave Morrow's Store was a General Store located on West Lucas Road near the original fire station and the Lucas School. The building still stands today, minus the hitching post, and now operates as a commercial property for a small business.



Lucas Fire Rescue

West Lucas Road



Lucas Fire-Rescue was established in June of 1973 by a group of 18 volunteers. This group of volunteers borrowed \$1,200 and purchased a 1949 pumper engine affectionally called "Old Streaker" that was used to respond to fire calls. The original fire station was located on West Lucas Road just north of Dave Morrow's Store. You can find the new fire station, renovated in 2015, now located at the intersection of West Lucas Road and Country Club.



Forest Grove Christian Church

2565 Country Club

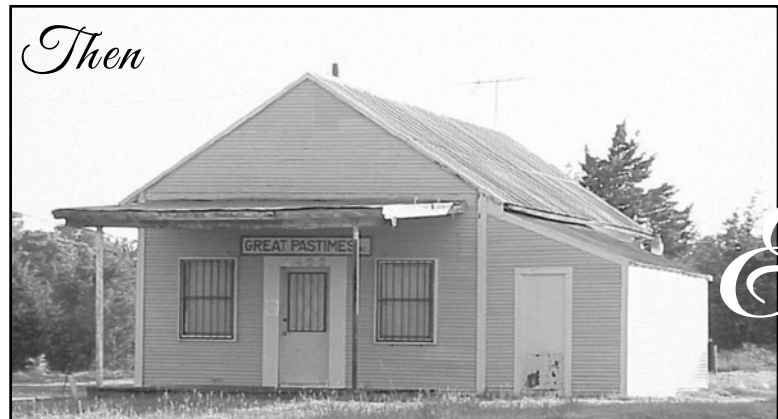


Forest Grove Christian Church located on Country Club Road, just north of Forest Grove Road was established in 1858. American Revolutionary war veterans and original settlers to the area were among the first members of the congregation. Adjoining Forest Grove Church is the Fitzhugh Cemetery which has graves dating back to 1852. Forest Grove Christian Church has been dedicated as a Historical Site by the Collin County Historical Commission, and as you can see, the church has maintained its charm and original structure throughout the last 167 years.



Forest Grove Store

2565 Country Club



Forest Grove was a community with historical significance to Lucas and Collin County, eventually with a roadway named after the community. Forest Grove was home to a school, post office, and general store called "Great Pastimes" located near the intersection of Country Club Road and Forest Grove. Today the building still stands, and while it is vacant, still very much a part of Lucas' past.

