



## Gazette



### Happy Birthday Harvey Jones!



This past Tuesday, August 19, we celebrated the birthday of Harvey D. Jones (1900–1989)—an Arkansas-born entrepreneur whose grit and generosity helped shape communities across the Ozarks and northeastern Oklahoma. Jones began hauling goods with a wagon and two mules in 1918, a small venture that grew into Jones Truck Lines, later one of the nation’s largest privately owned carriers.

Together with his wife, Bernice Young Jones, Harvey’s success fueled a lifetime of philanthropy. In 1968, the couple created Har-Ber Village Museum on the shores of Grand Lake — an open-air pioneer village conceived as a gift to the public, preserving everyday artifacts and places that tell the story of frontier life. The name “Har-Ber” blends Harvey and Bernice, a nod to the partnership at the heart of their giving.

Har-Ber Village continues that legacy today—inviting visitors, students, and families to connect with the region’s history through immersive exhibits, seasonal programs, and trails overlooking Grand Lake. The spirit of the Joneses lives on in every restored cabin, every school field trip, and every volunteer who keeps history alive.

As we mark Harvey Jones’s birthday, we honor a life that turned hard work into opportunity—and opportunity into lasting public good. The Village he and Bernice envisioned remains a place of discovery and community, where the stories of our

past illuminate the path forward.

### Facebook comments regarding Harvey's Birthday

**Connie** – “My Daddy worked for him a Jones Truck Lines! I loved to watch him fill out his logbooks. His name is on the sidewalk. Had pins and awards for no accidents and lots of miles!! We went to Har-Ber village too, what wonderful memories!”

**Wayne** – “My Dad (Tulsa) and my Aunt (Memphis) were Rate Clerk's for JTL. Both started in Springdale, Harvey promised them jobs if they went to UA and finished their education.”

**Wayne** – “My family knew Harvey and Bernice in Springdale. Both were compassionate and giving and Harber Village is a prime example. What a great celebration of life for a great man and his wife Bernice for many!!”

**Barbara** – “What an amazing and generous man! Har-Ber Village is quite a legacy thanks to Harvey and his wife, Bernice!♥♥”

**Juanita** – “Happy Birthday Harvey!!”

**Terry** – “A great place to visit and take family”

Check out and follow our Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/HarBerVillageMuseum>



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The Mercantile





*Harvey Jones loved sitting on the porch at the Har-Ber Village Mercantile where he would welcome and chat with visitors to the Village.*



## General history of a mercantile

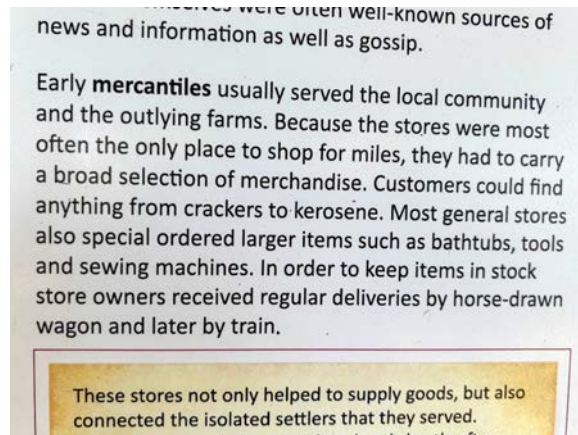
From the late 1800s through the 1930s, the mercantile—or general store—was the heartbeat of many towns. Part warehouse, part post office, part newsstand, it supplied families with staples like flour, coffee, sugar, calico, tools, kerosene, and medicines. Goods arrived by wagon or rail and were sold for cash or on credit, recorded in a ledger; barter (eggs, hides, produce) was common. Many stores housed the community's mail, served as an informal bank, and later became catalog pick-up points when mail-order outfits like Sears expanded rural choices.



The wide porch was more than shade—it was the social hub where neighbors traded stories, hired help, read notices, and sealed deals with a handshake. As



highways, chain stores, and modern logistics spread, the all-purpose mercantile faded, but its role as a gathering place—and its “everything under one roof” spirit—endures in memories and museums like Har-Ber Village.



## On the shelves - typical stock

Dry goods • canned foods • coffee/tea • cloth & notions • boots • tools & hardware  
• nails & lamp oil • patent medicines • school slates • candy & penny goods.

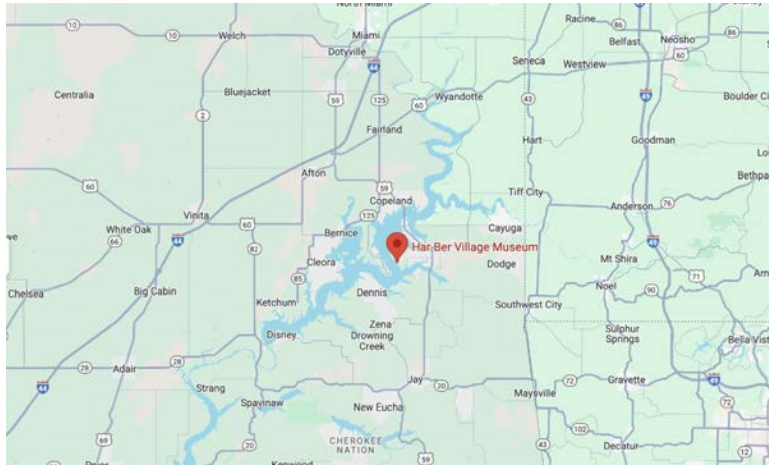


## Services often provided

Post and parcels • store credit/layaway • catalog orders • bulletin board for jobs & notices • weigh scale • community meeting spot.



**Visit the Village**



## Current Ways to Support the Village

Due to your generous support, Har-Ber Village will be able to preserve and restore historic buildings like the Village Drug Store, expand hands-on educational programming, and improve our hiking trails and outdoor spaces. As a vital economic driver and regional tourism anchor, Har-Ber Village draws thousands of visitors to Grove each year—supporting local businesses, strengthening community partnerships, and enhancing quality of life. Thanks to you, Har-Ber Village continues to be more than a museum—it's a gathering place, a learning hub, and a proud symbol of why Grove is such a great place to live, work, and visit. Here are some ways you can help the Village thrive:

**Leave us a review | Free:** One of the best ways to let others know about the Village is to leave us a review! This enables them to see our pages on sites like Google and Facebook. [Click here to leave a Google review.](#)

**Become a donor | \$5+:** You can now become an official Har-Ber Village resident. Donations and memberships directly benefit the Village. [Donate!](#)

**Come to our events:** One of the main goals of the Village is to provide a place for the community to come and gather. By participating in events, you help us meet that goal. [Check out upcoming events.](#)

**Spread the word! | Free:** Do you enjoy the Village? Tell your neighbors or share pictures on social media! Tag The Village in your social posts so we can hear about your great time and your friends can see it, too! [Facebook link.](#)

## Tour the Village with the Mayor

Jeff McSweeney has joined the Village as Mayor (aka Development Director). Reach out to Jeff for a personal tour of the Village campus to learn what we do for the community, our vision for the future, and how you are crucial to the Village's long-term success.



Jeff McSweeney - Mayor  
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