

Lewisville's 90th birthday poem

As folks return to the homes of their youth,
they often say that "It's not the same,"
and anyone who grew up in Lewisville
could easily make that claim. If you left home
in 1970 you left a sleepy town of 9,000,
and if you returned in 2014, you came back
to a city of 100,000 busy residents. Indeed, it's not
the same. And if you were Basdeal Lewis,
the man who founded and named the area
after himself once he purchased Holford's
Prairie in 1853, how would you regard
2015 Lewisville? You would most likely
smile with pride when you learned the city
incorporated in 1925, 44 years after railroad
tracks gave Lewisville a big town aura
although its population reached just 500
in 1888. In 1930, five years after incorporation,
Lewisville's numbers increased to 853
and began to show the promise of becoming
a city. The next year, Lewisville
celebrated the U.S. Route 77 paving
with a "Coming Out of the Mud" ceremony,
thus closing the "Lewisville Gap" and allowing
the road from Dallas to Denton to be completely paved.
Now Lewisville has IH-35, an updated 77.

The land's the thing, but now we have
Lewisville Lake, plus LLELA, the Lewisville
Lake Environmental Learning Area,
a green space where lessons are learned and taught
about what this prairie was and is. LLELA transforms
Lewisville into an outside classroom
where what the city was, is,
and can be is taught and learned every day.

And Old Town has not been forgotten.
The new city hall exudes dignity
as municipal affairs are conducted
within its walls, and the MCL Grand
Theater offers a distinguished setting
where the arts flourish.

But what's in Lewisville's future? That's
the question city planners considered

as they began laying out Lewisville 2025.
Like proud parents of a growing child,
these planners set about to understand
the current status of their source of pride,
how citizens wanted the city to develop,
and what could be done to influence
that development. The plan is complete.
The city celebrates its ninetieth birthday
with a completed plan for what Lewisville
will be as it turns one hundred in ten years.

And if Basdeal could come back tonight
he would most certainly be astounded
at how things have changed, but I
am sure he would grin, then laugh
and help us all shout,

Happy 90th birthday, Lewisville!

J. Paul Holcomb

Lewisville Poet Laureate, 2014-2016

birthday, Lewisville!