

Vår Historia

SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



1924 Schedule and Pricing Sand Pit Swimming Pool Come On In—The Water's Fine

Fine Free Picnic Grounds, Fully Equipped With Tables Seats and Fire Places. Clean Sand Beach, Sand-Bottom Pool. Courteous Service. Clean Dressing Rooms. Shower Baths. Plan to spend a quiet hour picnicking in the Sand Pit Park and then enjoy the most refreshing swim of your life in the clean sand-bottom pool. Lie on the sand beach and watch the children play in the sand. Swim in the cool, refreshing water, coming from deep flowing springs through banks of sand.

SCHEDULE

Week Days — Pool Opens 9:30 a. m., closes 9:30 p. m.
Sundays — Pool Opens 1:30 p. m., Closes 10:00 p. m.

PRICES

Season Ticket — Family \$5.00; Individual \$2.50.
Single Admission 25 cents. Bathing Suit 25 cents.
Towel 10 cents. Check Stand 10 cents.

SPECIAL — Swim, Bathing Suit, Towel, Check Stand all for 50 cents.

The Lindsborg Recreation Club is an Organization of Business Men, Cooperative in form, which makes Sand Pit Pool and Picnic Grounds possible. This pool is not operated for profit, but is maintained for the enjoyment of the most healthy sport by the general public.

The First Water Festival of the Season Will Be Held SUNDAY, JUNE 22nd

Buy a Season Ticket and Swim Every Day
Ten Swims Cost the Same as an Individual Season Ticket.

In assuming the management of the Sand Pit Swimming Pool and surrounding grounds, I wish to announce that I wish to cooperate with, and to receive the co-operation of each and every person in Lindsborg and community. The Recreation Club is not promoting the work because of any personal gain. All expenses incurred in operating and improving this splendid natural gift will be met and paid from the proceeds of the money paid in charges. The grounds and pool will be improved, as has before, July 4th, the Sand Pit will be one of the finest Picnic Grounds to be found anywhere. Seats and tables for the use of picnickers will be constructed, and everything possible will be done for the benefit of the public.

Boy Scouts will have an active part in the improvement program, since they will thus be improving the grounds for the use of the general public, and at the same time will be doing their "good turn" to humanity. Strict regulation of the pool and grounds will be maintained, and while everyone will be invited to make full use of the grounds, at the same time, certain regulations regarding both in the pool and on the picnic grounds will be enforced.

As often as possible special prices and added attractions will be provided for the enjoyment of both swimmers and spectators. I wish to express my desire to serve the public and the people of Lindsborg, and only request that if you find any existing violations of good conduct that you call it to my attention and I will do my best to have it remedied.

FRED R. BURNETT,
Manager, Lindsborg Recreation Club.

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY

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LINDSBORG SWIMMING-SAND PIT TO CEMENT POND

"Come on in, the water's fine", that's music to our ears on a hot summer day. Finding a place to bath or cool down was never an issue in the early days, with the river being so close, but the river in those days wasn't restricted by man-made lakes or irrigation so often flooded or was running too fast.

One of those "natural swimming holes" in the river was under the Union Pacific bridge, there were shallow areas near there, but was over most kids' heads directly under the bridge. Carl Wallerstedt shared a story in his book "The Second Generation" about how the boys would swim naked under the bridge and when a passenger train rolled over they would get out, bare-naked, and wave to the passengers. Since they were kids, most people smiled and waved back.

A little ways past where South Main St. ends, there was a sand pit. It was about fifty feet from the river, but the river water filtered through the sand to fill this pit up. The more sand that companies sucked out, the bigger the filtered pit would get. It was good sand, so local sand companies leased it from property owners, Alfred and Axel Clark. In 1916 when the Meridian Road construction was under way tons of sand came from this pit for the highway. Sometimes the companies faced theft or vandalism, and tried to place bans

on people swimming there, but Lindsborg people had a better idea.

In 1919 talks became serious about Lindsborg getting a swimming pool, M.T. Blomgren proposed a plan to put in a 50'X100' pool just east of his coal office on Lincoln St. He claimed they could use the water waisted at the ice plant to keep it full. Blomgren claimed 3,000 gallons of water was waisted every hour at that plant. In the meantime, the sand pit kept getting sand sucked out, and groups started having picnics and swimming parties. These groups included businessmen, Bethany College students, and in 1920, the Lindsborg Swimming Club.

The Sand Pit also started drawing in people from neighboring towns, it seemed cool, clean water with a sandy beach was appealing and word spread. By July 1921, Marion Norstrom and David Young took charge of adding a diving board and swing rope.

At this time, McPherson was also trying to get support for adding a pool, and out of retaliation placed a column in their newspaper stating Lindsborg swimming pool was closed due to a Typhoid outbreak. A few days later, Lindsborg News-Record responded that the water has been tested and found to be 98% pure, and fit to drink. The pool had never closed.

By the spring of 1922, more than \$500 had been donated to creating "Recreation Park". That contributed to the building of men's and women's dressing rooms, check stand, refreshment stand, the tow-

LINDSBORG SWIMMING-SAND PIT TO CEMENT POND {CON'T}

er for high diving, a spring board, rope swing, and a slippery slide. William Hagstrom laid out the plans and oversaw construction of a new road getting to the sand pit, it was an extension of Riverside Drive. This all resulted by the creation of the "Riverside Recreation Club" in March, a contract was drawn up between the club and Christian and Ehnstedt, for a period of three years at \$225 per year to lease the swimming pit. Alfred Clark, owner of the property, was a member of this club, but the pit was also still leased out to the sand company.

Later that summer, the county health inspector visited the sand pit and stated the water was in excellent condition.

This inspection was requested due to planning the first "Water Carnival", which took place August 13, 1922. It was estimated that over 1,000 people came, from as far as Wichita to wit-



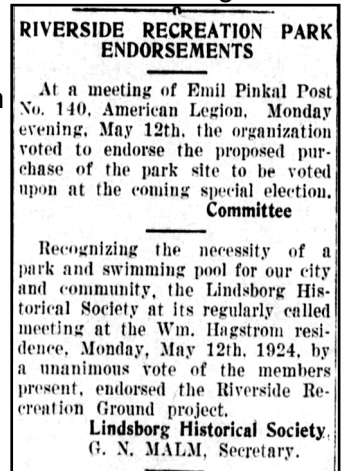
ness the greatest swimming hole in the state. It profited \$212.40 which was needed to offset costs in maintaining the new park and swimming pool.

The sand pit was 300' wide and 500' in length by the time it became Lindsborg's official swimming pool in 1922. Water and sand was still being pumped out, which meant new water was being filtered underground to keep it full and clean. What it had in volunteer support, it lacked in big financial support. In March 1923 a petition was presented for Lindsborg city to buy the 44 acres owned by the Clarks and take over the park with \$10,000.00 in bonds, by the time it came up for a vote the amount had dropped to \$7,500.00, but was overwhelmingly voted down. It was decided the Lindsborg Recreation Club should elect directors to get better organized, William Hagstrom was elected President, Dr. Arvid Pihlblad Vice-President, C. Bergstrom Secretary, and C.M. Norstrom Treasurer.

The Rec. Committee continued on, and raised enough money to build a shallow kiddie beach on the east end, more changing rooms, and an arch at the entrance. Safety was always on their mind, so the Red Cross was asked to provide "Life Saving Classes" to older kids who were good swimmers. What we know as "life guards" were called "life sav-

ers" back then. July 29th, 1923, the 2nd annual water carnival was another success, with many prizes given out to kids in several categories.

1924 was even bigger for the park, organizations, businesses, and Lindsborg citizens were sending in letters of support, the Mayor provided a proclamation, but still, when it came to vote again to buy the 44 acres (listed for \$6,500.00) and run the park, it once again failed. Despite the city taking over, the pool continued to draw in hundreds of swimmers and picnickers. A manager had been hired, Red Cross continued holding safety classes, and the water carnival was another success. Riverside Recreation Park changed to Lindsborg Recreation Park during the year as well.



The next swimming pool project came September 1947, when a vote to approve \$61,500.00 in bonds for a cement (pond) swimming pool across from the Smoky Valley Flour Mills. The Lindsborg Municipal Swimming Pool was much smaller than the sand pit, but also had filtered city water with chlorine added. This pool cooled countless people for the next forty six years.

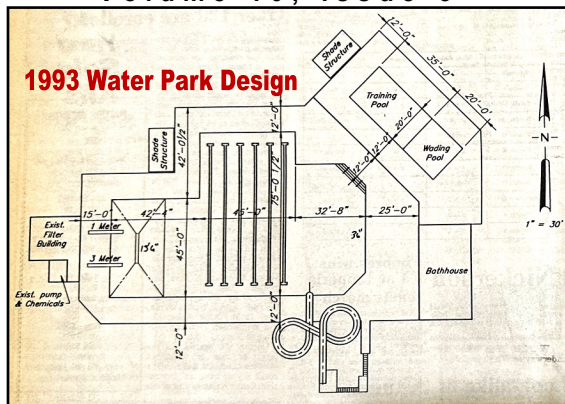


The '47 pool was in desperate need of major renovation by the early 1990s, 1993 saw a proposal for a complete new water park at the cost of \$750,000.00. The bond passed and plans were drawn up. August 22nd, 1993 the pool closed for the year, work started the next day on the new design. It was hoped to have it completed by May or June '94 for the new season.

Once again, Lindsborg had the best pool in the state! Thor's Revenge, a 153 foot super slide clenched that status. Throughout the late 1990s, Salina newspapers wrote many articles complaining that their residents prefer Lindsborg over their two municipal pools.

This year, 2025 the pool has been going through some renovations, and taking longer than expected. Please be patient, it won't be long until someone says, "Come on in, the water's fine."

1993 Water Park Design



Water Exhibition

BY

Y. M. C. A. and Ladies of Life Saving
Department Red Cross Teams of Salina
Sam Green, Examiner, in charge

Sunday Afternoon, Aug. 3

3:00 to 4:00 o'clock
At "Recreation Park" Swimming Pool, Lindsborg

COMEDY--4:00 to 4:30

Mr. and Mrs. Charley Johnson -- "55 years later"
taking a swim and using their own boat

ADMISSION

25c for adults 15c for children under 15 yrs.
Children under 6 free. No charge for the swim

c1924 Sand Pit Diving Tower



Upcoming SVHA Programs

July 8th, 2025

Lindsborg's Elmwood Cemetery History

Judy Pilewski

Sept. 9th, 2025

The History of Bee Keeping

Erik Peterson

Nov. 11th, 2025

The Old Mill Photo Project

Lenora Lynam and Tim Stewart

All programs
start at:
7:30 pm

Location:

Messiah Lutheran Church—Fellowship Hall
402 N. 1st Street—Lindsborg, KS.

Please cut along the dotted line

Smoky Valley Historical Association
P.O. Box 255
Lindsborg, KS. 67456

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Memberships are renewed in the first quarter of each year



Smoky Valley Historical Association is a non-profit organization and is registered under 501(c)3

All Membership Donations, Bequests, Trusts, and Legacy Donations are tax deductible.

Please mail to P.O. Box listed above.

Thank You!



SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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Meetings/Programs

Smoky Valley Historical Association hosts bi-monthly meetings on the odd months, held on the second Tuesday, unless otherwise noted. Programs start at 7:30 pm with topics of local historical interest. Location is listed on page three along with schedule.

Come join us!

Funding

Membership contributions are the SVHA's major source of on-going funding. A free-will donation in any amount will secure your membership in the Association for the year.

Memberships are renewed first quarter of each year.

Grants, such as those awarded by the Kansas Humanities Council, are also available from time-to-time to further the mission of the SVHA.

Smoky Valley Historical Mission

The purpose of this association shall be to collect and preserve historical photographs, manuscripts, and other items pertaining to the early history and settlement of our community in general and the City of Lindsborg in particular; to preserve and beautify places of historical interest in our city, its vicinity, and properties entrusted to the association; and to promote the study of history of our settlement and its cultural growth by lectures and other available means.

Contact info:

Email or visit our website:

smokyvalleyhistory@gmail.com
www.smokyvalley-history.org

Smoky Valley Historical Association
 P.O. Box 255
 Lindsborg, KS 67456

"History preservation and education"

TACK SÅ MYCKET!



SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
 LINDSBORG, KANSAS 67456



Thank you for your contributions, and supporting the historical preservation of Lindsborg and the Smoky Valley of Central Kansas.

Our pioneers left their legacy long after they were gone, so can you. Managing estates, bequests, and gifts through retirement plans can help keep our preservation ongoing and long-lasting.

All donations are tax exempt, we are a 501-(c)3 organization.