

Vår Historia

SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

STAN "THE MAN" ENGDAHL

Four generations—
Stan as a toddler
c1930



**PUBLISHED
BI-MONTHLY**

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SVHA with a membership
renewal**

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To some, Stan is fondly remembered as Marquette Fire Department's thirty plus year Chief. To most though, it's his motorcycle racing and museum that stand out. Since the museum has thrived over the past twenty years, seventeen to date after Stan's death, it makes sense.

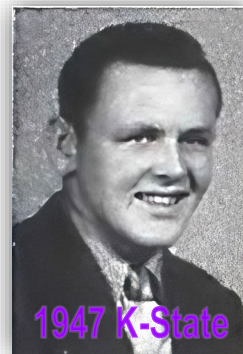
Carl Stanley Engdahl was born November 23rd, 1928 in Marquette, KS. His father, Carl Oscar, was also born in Marquette 1896. In the photo to the left, Carl is holding Stan's arm for support. The other two gentlemen were both born in Sweden. Stan's grandfather, Carl Johan Ludvig, was only three years old when he sailed with his parents to America in 1868. By 1870, Daniel Johansson Engdahl (*pictured with beard*) and family made their way to Kansas, settling in Sharp's Creek. Keep in mind, this was four years before the founding of Marquette! For the first year they lived in a fourteen foot square dug-out.

Dan Engdahl became a successful farmer and as Marquette grew, "Engdahl Grove", as the homestead was called, ended up only two miles west of town. In 1905 Dan and his wife, Lisa Kari, bought a house in Marquette and let the boys take over the farm. Stan's great-grandmother, Lisa, died 1914.

Stan's father, Carl Oscar, graduat-

ed Marquette school then took classes at the County Normal School in Lincoln, KS. For at least two school terms, 1917 and 1918, Carl taught at Olive Springs, which was the schoolhouse in Roxbury. Summer was back to farming, which would be his career, later adding fruit orchards to the other crops on the farm. In 1925 Carl married his long-time girlfriend Hulda Broman, and they had one child.

Carl Stanley, or "Stan" as he went by, grew up farming, hunting, trapping, and fishing, on top of schooling. He met his school crush, LaVona Mae Loomis at Marquette High School. After graduation, Stan attended K-State in Manhattan, KS and as a freshman enrolled in the Engineering and Agriculture program. Stan was also in company B of K-State's ROTC program.



It was during this time that Stan traveled to Topeka and saw his first motorcycle race, that race changed the course of his life. Stan had already been riding for a few years, and thought he could fit right in. College only lasted one year, the farm needed

Stan's help, even if he spent his time

STAN "THE MAN" ENGDAHL {CON'T}

building race tracks on it. During the winter he could race in the field, but summer had to be moved to the orchards, dodging trees with his motorcycle.

Stan helped organize the Salina Coyotes Motorcycle Club in the late 1940s, and started racing at nearby tracks.

In 1952 Stan was drafted in to the Army and sent to Fort Bliss at El Paso, TX. His fiancé, LaVona, moved to El Paso to be near him, and August 9th, 1952 the couple married. Stan attended an electronics school ran by Philco Radio Corp. while serving and two years later was discharged as "Corporal" Engdahl. He and his wife came home to Marquette.

Stan opened a TV and radio repair shop in Marquette, but in hindsight that might have just been a front for his real business (hobby), motorcycle racing and repair. He did make the back section of his TV and radio shop a motorcycle repair shop. His racing and participating in the motorcycle club picked right back up, plus Stan joined the volunteer fire department right out of the service. Stan served on the department for 51 years, 36 years as Chief!

Those mid 1950s were all traveling races, but the Salina Coyotes finally brought back racing to the area in 1958 when they built a track a mile and a half southwest of Salina airport. These were also American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) sanctioned races, something Stan was an advocate for. This was a short-lived course, as an exciting project was nearing completion near Marquette, Kanopolis State Park, and the state approved the Coyotes laying out a track there.

May 1959 the Salina Coyotes sponsored a scramble race, as many back then were, and it was once again sanctioned by the AMA. The track was ½ mile in length and was located just north of Venango Bay on the east shore. The AMA donated a trophy in honor of Kansas' first state park!

Stan won multiple state championships in the years following, but the 1962 race took the cake, so to speak. Stan had broke his right leg in two places just seven weeks before the championship race. When the time arrived, Stan talked the doctor into cutting half his cast off,

without saying why. For the race, he duct taped an oak 2X2 to his leg for stability, then had to sign a waiver because he couldn't get his leather riding pants on, so had to wear jeans, which was against AMA rules. Needless to say, he won the race!

Stan also entered in sidecar races throughout the 1960s, I really sympathize for the passenger. While most races were within a five-state area, Stan did find himself at the famed Daytona 200 in 1962. 282 riders registered, 107 qualified (one lap time trial), and Stan ended up taking 34th, only after breaking a chain and pushing his bike the last ¾ mile.

In 1964, Stan broke the other foot while racing in Nebraska, he still won State that year! It is nearly impossible to list all the races won, favors given, fires put out, accomplishments in general, but some of it can be summed up. Stan took home around 600 trophies, he had stated in an interview that he estimated he got a trophy for every two races. So, around 1,200 races, all on a Harley Davidson, spanning from the late 1940s to 1993 when he retired due to hip issues at the age of 64. Stan had won five National Scramble Championships and sixteen Kansas State Championships throughout his career.

Stan served on city council, spent many hours repairing or rebuilding fire trucks and apparatuses, was always there for the community, even during his racing years. His TV and radio repair business, you remember that "front" I mentioned earlier, was closed in 1999 after Stan made the decision to retire. Members of the community approached the Engdahls and suggested establishing a motorcycle museum, so Stan sold his building to the city for \$1.00 and plans were made.

The museum opened in 2003, and motorcycles from all over the country appeared and filled it up. Stan personally manned the museum daily, except when the fire department was activated. On November 12th, 2007 Stan responded to a fire and once under control suffered a heart attack. He was rushed to Lindsborg hospital but his time had come. Stan is legendary in many ways. The museum continues to grow, if you haven't toured it, plan to do so soon.





photo by Jay Richardson

**NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP
Motorcycle Races**
AMA Sanctioned
— T. T. SCRAMBLES

ENGDAHL Race Track
Kanopolis Lake State Park

Saturday and Sunday
Aug. 16th — Kids 6-14
Minibike
National Championship
Aug. 17th — Motorcycle Race
Practice 11:00 A.M.
Start 12:00 P.M.

Admission \$3.00
Children under 12 Free

Sponsored by
Salina Coyotes Motorcycle Club
Marquette, Kansas

Located on North Side of Kanopolis Dam and Reservoir, 30 miles southwest of Salina, Kansas, on K-141 or 7 miles west and 6 miles north of Marquette, Kansas.



Upcoming SVHA Programs

Attn: Program
changed to
Wednesday



March 13th, 2024

Karl Thomson—Lindsborg's Dane

Steve Borell

Makeup program



April 9th, 2024

History as Muse—the Stories Behind the Sculptures

Susan Whitfield

May 14th, 2024

Camp Phillips—It's History and Impact

Dr. Merle "Boo" Hodges

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

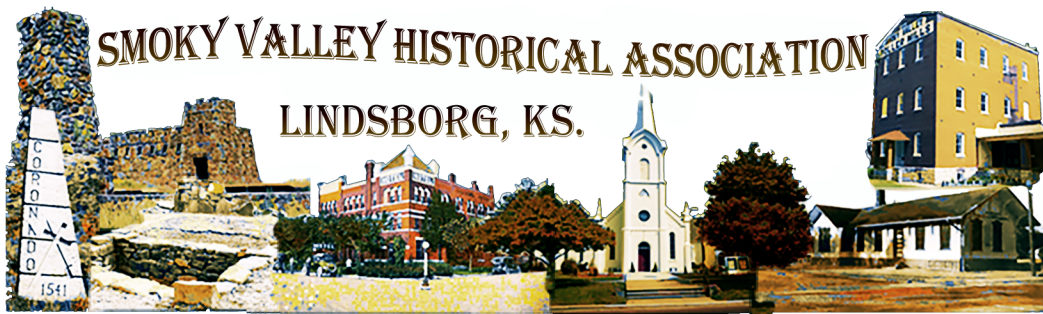


Smoky Valley Historical Association is a non-profit organization and is registered under 501(c)3

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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Smoky Valley Historical Mission

The purpose of this association shall be to collect, arrange and preserve historical data, books, pamphlets and manuscripts 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:

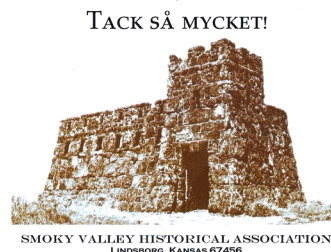
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or mail to:

SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
 PO BOX 255
 LINDSBORG, KS 67456

WWW.SMOKYVALLEYHISTORY.ORG



Bumper Stickers
Available at Old Mill!

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.

Check our Facebook page for the most up to date information concerning the Smoky Valley Historical Association.



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