

Vår Historia

SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



PUBLISHED
BI-MONTHLY



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THE MOST COLORFUL CELEBRATION IN KANSAS

In the midst of the start of a world war, spirits were kept high with song, dance, and celebrations. 1941 was the 400th anniversary of Francisco Vasquez De Coronado's journey to Kansas, and many towns were planning a celebration to honor it.

For Lindsborg, the three organizations, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, and American Legion all gathered downtown at a restaurant to do the same, that is until Dr. William Holwerda, newly elected President of the Rotary Club, sold the concept of honoring Swedish heritage instead. A central committee was quickly formed, with one member from each organization, Dr. Holwerda being elected chairman. The other two members were C.A. Berggren for the Chamber and Royal Koons representing the Legion.

It was made clear that this festival would not be sponsored by any one club or organization, if it is to succeed it needs to be a community-wide enterprise. So a half-dozen committees were formed to even up the workload. One of those was the costume committee, and Alba Malm-Dahlquist was appointed chairperson. Alba put in the research to produce authentic men's, women's and children's costumes, something that Lindsborg had-

n't done before. Her committee developed patterns and sewn costumes for all that wanted one, and their goal was to put all of Lindsborg in Swedish outfits..

The next thing needed was a name, it was decided to open this up to the public. Through newspaper articles, a contest with a \$5 prize (*from the Central Committee*) was opened up. Erik P. Lenander won out of dozens of names offered. It was felt his name "Svensk Hyllnings Fest" or Swedish honoring festival, summed up best what they were wanting to achieve.

As summer drew on, all was coming into place, and enough costumes were completed to put on a show, so people could see what they look like and place their orders. August 2nd "live" models stood in store front windows, and on the 6th the models walked across the bandshell while the Lindsborg H.S. performed their weekly "summer" concert. Bethany College was planning "Founders Day" as it was the 60th anniversary, and incorporated it with the first two days of the upcoming festival. This festival was planned to be five days in length, October 15th-19th, 1941!



THE MOST COLORFUL CELEBRATION IN KANSAS - CON'T.

The showings of costumes had drawn interest, but not enough, so a parade was scheduled Saturday the 13th for everyone to dress up. It was also announced that there would be cash prizes for various categories of costumes worn during the festival, like oldest couple, largest family, and most outstanding costume for men, women, boys, and girls. Extra inspiration if you hadn't secured a costume yet.

FIRST SHOWING
OF
SWEDISH COSTUMES
ON
SATURDAY, AUGUST 2
(Costumes in Store Windows One Week After Preview)
See These Colorful Garments - Learn How They Are Made
ALL LINDSBORG WILL BE WEARING THEM FOR THE SWEDISH FESTIVAL
October 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
SPECIAL FREE ENTERTAINMENT
Saturday Evening, August 2
Program—Modeling of Costumes by Lindsborg People

Lindsborg had a wet summer in 1941, and the river rose high a few times. In September it was no different, dumping an 8" rainfall that flooded roads for a short time. That didn't stop progress though, in fact toward the end of September Svens Hyllnings Fest went on tour. A caravan was to be formed with the Bethany Blue Dozen, girls in costume, and any citizens wanting to jump in their car and follow along. The county tour was scheduled to visit Marquette, Smolan, Falun, Assaria, Gypsum, Roxbury, Canton, Galva, and McPherson, all in one day. Advertisements were printed to hand out at all stops, and all present were to be in their new costumes. It paid off, as the first festival drew several hundred visitors to Lindsborg, including some from other states. The success of the first festival quickly made the decision to continue this to the next year, and dates were set. That December 7th, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, and the United States of America responded fiercely. It was decided to postpone another festival until the war ended, it would be seven years before the 2nd festival happened in 1948. It was estimated more than 4,000 people came to that 1948 festival, validating its purpose.

The next few years became inconsistent with the festival, largely due to the amount of volunteers needed and lack of someone to organize it. 1949 thru 1951 parades were all Bethany College Homecoming. When it was announced in July '51 that the fest was cancelled again many people

wanted the Chamber to take over and make Hyllnings Fest an annual event.

1952 began a new lease on the festival, there were two days of activity, plus the Sunday community service, now held in Presser Hall in place of Swensson Park's bandshell. Bethany Art students painted downtown windows to enhance the look. The parade was held both Friday and Saturday, as well as the famous Smorgasbord, which was in two locations both days. Bethany Homecoming and football game added to the weekend.

In 1953, there were 48 floats and 4 marching bands in the parade, and once again tied in with homecoming week.

The 1954 festival reported an estimated 10,000 people attending, with 17 H.S. bands featuring 800 students and multiple floats in the parade. One of those floats was a rocket powered by a container of coffee, with the caption "First Swedes on Mars".

In 1955 Bethany College celebrated its 75th anniversary so it was decided to cancel the festival on their behalf. The next year, the Coordinating Council couldn't find someone to Chair the event so 1956 was skipped as well.

1957 came back strong, with more than 8,000 in attendance for the parade. The best float went to Bethany College's Gamma Kappa Alpha, who planted, grew, and plucked more than 3,000 Marigolds to decorate a huge flower float, with a big bee on top. The new Birger Sandzen Memorial Gallery was dedicated at the close of the '57 festival, and Svens Hyllnings Fest officially became bi-annual.

My last entry will be for the 1959 festival, where Broadway RFD got its start. "Annie Get Your Gun" was Max Muller's 1st production under this setting. The festival hasn't skipped a beat since going bi-annual.

Want to see photos and more newspaper clippings? Check our Facebook page.

Seek Talent For Hyllnings Fest Theater Project

LINDSBORG—Talent for a community theater project in connection with the bi-annual Svensk Hyllnings Fest is being sought in the Lindsborg area.

Meetings of the fest committee are scheduled Friday and Monday, both at 8:30 pm at the Lindsborg high school to determine if enough talent can be found for the project.

Anyone interested in taking a part in the project is urged to attend one of the meetings, or call AC73345 in Lindsborg.

The theater group plans to present a "Broadway-type program, with a cast of all ages, during the bi-annual event.

The Hyllnings Fest honors early settlers of the Smoky Hill Valley.



Get your commemorative 2019 100th anniversary t-shirts and now laser-etched mugs while they last!

Buy yours now at the Old Mill Museum's gift store

120 E. Mill St.

Lindsborg, KS. 67456

Shipping/handling fee applies if mailed, Call 785-227-3595 for quote



SVHA PROGRAMS FOR 2019-2020

Nov. 12th, 2019 "Exploring the Nooks and Crannies of Kansas" ---and what else does the Kansas Sampler Foundation do?

Presented by Marci Penner and WenDee Howe

Jan. 14th, 2020 "Swedish Settlements",
Presented by Tom Holmquist.

March 10th, 2020 "Who is A.R.? Presenting the Slöjd Craft and other crafts at Bethany College". *Presented by Dr. Marlasue Esping Holmquist.*

May 12th, 2020 "History and Stories of the Smoky Valley Roller Mill"
Presented by Lorna Nelson, Director.

All Tuesday programs start at 7:30 pm

**Bethany Home Activity Center—321 N. Chestnut St.
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: _____

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Memberships are renewed in the first quarter of each year

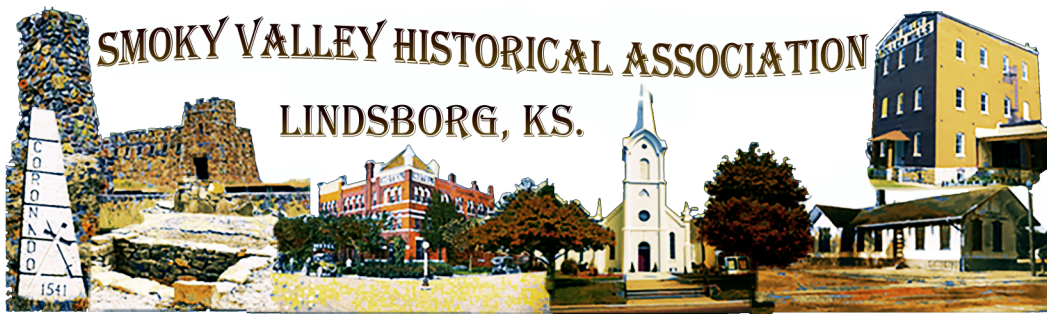


Smoky Valley Historical Association is a non-profit organization and is registered under 501(c)3

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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Interested?

We have one BOD position open.

Meetings

We have bi-monthly meetings from September thru May and held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Bethany Home. All meetings are in the Activities Room. There are five meetings per academic year (Sept.-May). Program starts at 7:30 p.m. with topics of local historical interest. 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 in the 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, 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:

e-mail us at:

info@lindsborghistory.org

or mail to:

Smoky Valley Historical
Association, Inc.

PO Box 255

Lindsborg, KS 67456

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.

Is a member of the
SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, Inc.
which has headquarters in Lindsborg, Kansas

Was born in a log cabin
Was born in Sweden
Great-grandparents came from Sweden
Forefathers were here before the Swedes
Great-grandparents homesteaded in the Valley
Attended one-room school
Attended Bethany
Has worked at The Old Mill in operation
Has sung in the Messiah Chorus

TACK SÅ MYCKET!



SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
LINDSBORG, KANSAS 67456