

Vår Historia

SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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THE LINDSBORG FIRE COMPANY

Lindsborg currently maintains a volunteer fire department, with six trucks ranging from two large trucks fit for a very tall building, to a pick-up set up for grass fires. The dedicated volunteers make about 100 calls a year for fire, but also assist medical emergencies such as accidents and other ambulance calls. They attend fundraisers and community support such as the annual community water fight.

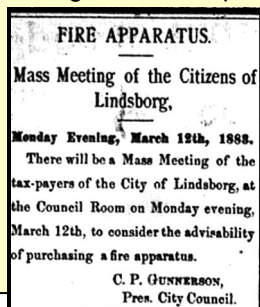
Their beginnings didn't start out so organized though. With fourteen years of building what was called "wood stands" for the town, Lindsborg had a condensed mixture of wood and candles or lanterns. That wasn't the only fire starter though, lightning also provided a great share, as lightning rods weren't in use yet.

The year was 1883 and it was decided Lindsborg needed help.

At this March 12th, 1883 meeting it was voted to purchase a "Hook and Ladder Apparatus" at a cost of \$500 or less. In June it arrived and most agreed it was pretty to look at. Unfortunately they also felt the company it was purchased from misrepresented its quality. The tongue broke while the boys were turning it around, the ladder was made about the same quality, and it came with fourteen leather buckets. But the price made it all acceptable.

One year after Gröndal came to Lindsborg as the new Photographer, he had the first of what would be a few fires in his studio June of 1888. This presented a new kind

of fire, as photography chemicals were highly flammable. So once again the city set out to form the first fire company, called the Lindsborg Hook and Ladder Co., the purpose was to train and prepare men to better fight fires. 30 men was present and Eben Carlsson was elected Chief. The city council agreed to pay half for uniforms and waive their poll tax. This somehow phased out though. The next, and final attempt was made 1901 when once again a meeting was held to form what was called the Lindsborg Fire Company. This time the city was split in to four districts, John Johnson was elected Chief, and they voted to purchase a suitable fire alarm whistle.



1907 Lindsborg Fire Company

FIRE CO. (CON'T)

All foremen, officers, and constitution and by-law committee was elected. Everything went in to place except a home for the fire equipment, it wouldn't be until 1903 before the Ober Hall on south Main St. (where we now have the city parking lot) was made available to house the hook and ladder apparatus and other equipment. Lindsborg's first city hall was also built 1903 at 119 E. Lincoln, the main floor was known as Fire Hall from 1903 to 1926, when the city started moving all city services together. The current Lindsborg Safety Center was built 1988 and houses fire, police, and ambulance all in one.

As you can see in the previous page 1907 photo uniforms were quite elaborate, well fitted and easily recognizable. Lindsborg was one of the most well dressed fire companies in rural Kansas.



Bethany students having fun with (new) telephone poles.

America's favorite pastime, baseball, has been a big influence on Lindsborg and the Smoky Valley since shortly after the Swedes settled in this great country. Lindsborg itself had formed a team by 1876, while in it's very formative years. Everyone needs play and rest to balance out the hard work of building and growing a thriving town.

One baseball player, Del Lundgren, took the sport as far as anyone could, just had bad luck with teams.



Ebenezer Delmar Lundgren was born Sept. 21, 1899 in Lindsborg, KS. Both of his parents were Swedish, Carl, his father was born in Sweden and his mother, Ella was born in Ohio. Carl ran a boarding house at the time of Del's birth and by 1920 had a Dray service. Del went to the Lindsborg public schools for ten years. He stayed near home working, possibly the family farm. It was in 1922 that he first

LINDSBORG IN THE MAJOR LEAGUES

began to play professional baseball, pitching in Class C for the Salina Millers of the Southwestern League. The team's home field was Oakdale Park in Salina, Kansas.

Del was a small fellow compared to most players, 5' 8" 160 lbs. He was also a right-handed pitcher and was watched by all. His first year didn't put up very good numbers, and the second season even less, playing only two games with the Millers. The Pittsburgh Pirates Manager thought he showed great improvement though and in 1924 Del found himself on the Pirates team, pitching in the big leagues. His ERA improved to a 3.77 playing with the Birmingham Barons, a team owned by the Pirates, and October of 1925 Dell was drafted by the Boston Red Sox. The Red Sox was the worst team in the league and had first draft, they took Dell in the second, or 17th overall.

For those that know baseball history might remember the Red Sox sold

Babe Ruth to the NY Yankees in December of 1919. So when Del came to the Red Sox the "curse" had already begun. A curse that lasted over 80 years, when the Boston Red Sox won the World Series in 2004.

Fenway Park, Boston, MA, July 6, 1927 – Emerging power in the A's take on the hapless Red Sox in American League action

Two teams going in opposite directions square off in the first game of a Wednesday doubleheader. With his Red Sox down 3-0 in the third inning to the Philadelphia Athletics, pitcher Del Lundgren, who tripled earlier in the frame, tries to score on a Jack Tobin ground ball but is out at home plate as A's catcher Mickey Cochrane puts on the tag. The Red Sox would go on to lose the game 5-1 and the second game as well 7-6.

The doubleheader losses would drop Boston to 17-56 and already 36 games behind the first place Yankees. They would end up finishing the season with a 51-103 record, their third consecutive 100-loss season, and an astounding 59 games out of first place.

Del would be handed to



LINDSBORG IN THE MAJOR LEAGUE (CON'T)

several minor league teams before ending his baseball career. In 1930, Lundgren pitched for the American Association's Minneapolis Millers but had another disappointing season, going 1-6 with a 7.67 earned run average in the first half of the year. On July 28, the Millers sold his contract to the New Orleans Pelicans. The brief Associated Press story said he "failed to round into form this season." There is no indication that he ever pitched for the Pelicans, reportedly suffering from a sore arm. It was his last year playing professional baseball.

Lundgren had married Ann Lee Enoch in September 1928 in Franklin, Tennessee. The Lundgrens lived in Lindsborg and Topeka, and had a son and three daughters. When he died at home after a short illness at the age of 85 on October 19,

1984, he was survived by his wife, the four children, and 14 grandchildren.



A picture is worth a thousand words: *The Smoky Valley News is ready to hang their sign next to the hotel on the left; Farmer's Bank is just opening in Curtis's old drug store on the right.*



SVHA 2017 - 2018 Program Schedule

Once again the Program Chair, Elly Ostlind, has put together a spectacular and informative schedule this academic cycle. Look for the full schedule in the next issue.

Programs will be held 7:30 pm at:

Bethany Home Activity Room, 321 N. Chestnut, Lindsborg.

Refreshments will be served after the presentations. Hope you can join us!

Please cut along the dotted line

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P.O. Box 255
Lindsborg, KS. 67456

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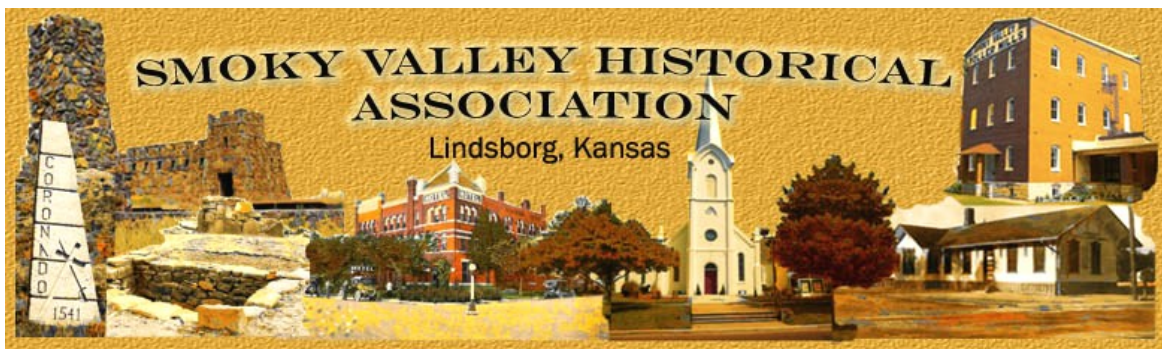


Smoky Valley Historical Association is a non-profit organization and is registered under 501(c)3

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

Please mail to P.O. Box listed above.

Thank You!



The Smoky Valley Historical Association

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Interested?

We have two BOD positions open. Email to info@lindsborghistory.org

Meetings

We have bi-monthly meetings starting with February and held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Bethany Home. All meetings are in the Activities Room. We have five meetings per year as July is skipped. 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 Us

You can e-mail us at:

info@lindsborghistory.org

or mail to:

Smoky Valley Historical
 Association, Inc.

PO Box 255

Lindsborg, KS 67456

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www.smokyvalleyhistory.org

AVAILABLE LOCALLY AT:
Old Mill Museum
 120 E. Mill St.
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 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 preserva-
 tion ongoing and long-lasting.*