


Vår Historia

SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

THE MANY FACES OF THE FAIR BUILDING



JOHN A. JOSEPHSON
Architect,
Contractor
and Builder



Drawings, Plans and
Specifications furnished
Lindsborg, Ks. First Class Work Guaranteed

PUBLISHED
BI-MONTHLY



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I've often been asked "Why is it called the Fair Building?" The question is quite valid, in the sixty plus years the building was in tact, the Fair Department Store was only in it one. The name, however, lingered on the gable, or pediment of the roof for the many faces it took on in its lifetime. It's proper name would have been Jacobson-Holmgren building, the two business men that instigated construction and opened the Fair department Store.

Hugo Jacobson was in the clothing retail business, starting with the J.O. Sundstrom Dept. Store before owning his own business. L.E. Holmgren owned a meat market, before rheumatism prompted him to sell out. Jacobson had been leasing office space above the meat market when the two ventured into opening the Fair.

John Josephson was contracted to design and build, partially using a small brick structure already on the lot. That lot being what now is near 117 W. Lincoln St. It had two fronts and was two stories, the corner entrance faced Lillgaton and Lincoln. Josephson started building mid-April 1901 and the Fair Dept. Store had it's official opening July 1st. Jacobson and Holmgren frequently traveled to Kansas City to stock the

store, making it a "first-class up-to-date dry goods establishment". The land was owned by Carl R. Carlson, who already had a long history with Lindsborg by the time the Fair building was constructed in 1901. He platted out the townsite, owned the only general store in the "Ark" or Community House, and in 1872 partnered with Daniel (D.) Johnson to expand his general store trade. In 1892 Carlson retired from retail and became a full-time landlord, even having "editions" named after him in Lindsborg. I could go on about C. R. Carlson, but that's another story.

The next spring, the second floor was fitted up with rooms similar to a boarding house and Carlson was granted a permit to expand the building. The Lindsborg News moved their office and operation upstairs June 1902. New brick buildings were being added on Main Street, and Jacobson had chose to leave the partnership, so L.E. Holmgren partnered with C.E. Malmberg and moved the Fair Dept. Store to what is now 121 N. Main. Train Brothers, who were out growing their location, leased the Fair building and expanded their implement and hardware line August 1st, 1902.

The Fair Department Store only lasted until 1904 before permanently closing. Holmgren moved to Marquette to once again get back in the meat market business.

THE MANY FACES OF THE FAIR BUILDING {CON'T}



The next entity in the Fair building came in February 1915, when the "Lindborg Community House Organization" formed. Seventeen Board of Directors and Trustees rented the Fair building for the purpose of providing wholesome recreation for the boys.

It was set up similar to a YMCA, as depicted in the photo, but tailored to the community. The main floor was converted to a gymnasium, complete with basketball court, a variety of exercise equipment, shower and bath. In a separate part of the building a reading room was furnished, and was open to the general public. Hours were set for weekdays 10 am to 10 pm for the reading room, and was free. The gym and everything that went with it was only open to members, over 18 years old was \$5 a year, all under \$2.50 a year. Numerous boys joined right away, but failed attempts at membership drives, fundraisers, and renewals caused the board to abandon the project just two years later.

Through transactions between the Nelson brothers and C.A. Peterson, Peterson became the next renter in 1917, setting it up for a Buick showroom. A few months later, Henry Olin moved into one of the 2nd story rooms and opened an auto paint shop in the back. Over the years it had various auto garages in it, plumbing, and a tin shop.

In 1925, Jacob Train bought the produce house behind the Fair building and a few years later Walter Lundstrom moved an ice house in between the two buildings. Seeing how much business it was doing, Train bought the ice business to add to the produce. Delivery of ice and produce became a big business for the Train Brothers, and while visiting an ice house in McPherson Jacob saw some farmers bring in

butchered meat to store in the cold room. That gave him the idea to build Kansas' first food locker. In 1933 Mr. Train built a larger ice storage and meat cutting room, then installed 122 wire cages for lockers. Renters provided their own lock and keys. The next year 125 more lockers were added, and Train bought the east half of the fair building to continue expansion. By 1935 there were 632 lockers. In 1937 Train bought the west half and installed ice manufacturing equipment, then hired two men to operate it full time.

This was still before electric refrigerators were in homes, so delivery also became a big business. Train Bros. had five insulated trucks and delivered to many nearby towns as well as local. They also sold ice boxes for homes, so both could be delivered if needed.

	TRAIN'S PRODUCE	
	POULTRY — CREAM — EGGS	
	COLD STORAGE — MEAT LOCKERS	
	Coolerator Refrigerator	Cooler Number in Town 132

Their cold storage also included meat supplies for Fort Riley and cheese from the Tescott Cheese Co. For a while wild rabbits were stored there, after they were dressed. When enough was ready they were shipped out east by railroad. This came to a halt when the Pure Food and Drug Board stopped the shipping of rabbits for human consumption.

In 1947 Chester and Allen Weide bought the entire ice and produce operation, and along with it the Fair building. By this time though, electric refrigerators were reaching more homes and the ice business saw a decline. Produce kept the business going until the decision to sell in the early 1960s. Both building and land were sold, with intentions to tear the building down.

Carl Oakleaf took on the task of tearing down the 62 year old two-story building February 1963, rumor has it he and he alone did the job. It's hard to picture having this structure on that corner now.



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MID-WEST FORMULA FEEDS
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 Lincoln & Train 607

Upcoming SVHA Programs

Nov. 8th, 2022

The Santa Fe Trail Lives On! 1821-2022

Linda Colle, Santa Fe Trail Association



Jan. 10th, 2023

Swedish Heritage

Gotland Sheep Inspiring Swedish Textiles in the Smoky Valley

Dr. Anna Erickson and Laura Hultquist



March 14th, 2023

Henry Lungstrom: Machinist, Inventor, Genius

Steve Borell



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 \$ _____

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Memberships are renewed in the first quarter of each year

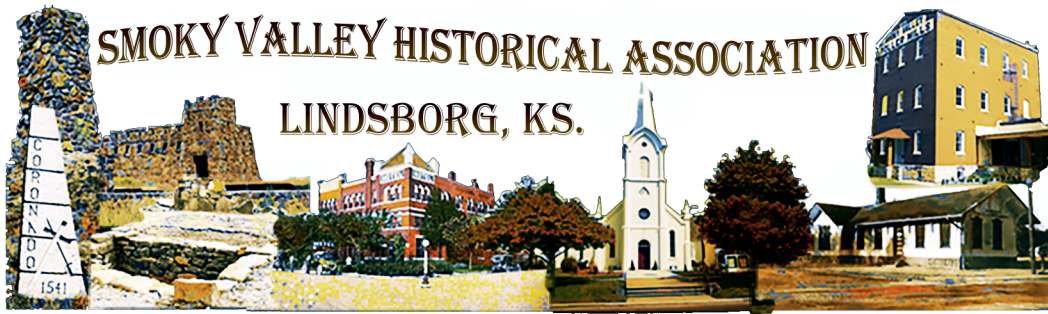


Smoky Valley Historical Association is a non-profit organization and is registered under 501(c)3

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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We currently have one board position open



Meetings/Programs

Smoky Valley Historical Association hosts bi-monthly meetings on the odd months, held on the second Tuesday. 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 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:

email us at:

info@lindsborghistory.org

or mail to:

SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
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 LINDSBORG, KS 67456

WWW.SMOKYVALLEYHISTORY.ORG



TACK SÅ MYCKET!



SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
 LINDSBORG, KANSAS 67456

Bumper Stickers
Available at Old Mill!

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