

Vår Historia

SMOKY VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



**PUBLISHED
BI-MONTHLY**



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GREETED WITH A RAINBOW

Our founding Swedes came to America under warnings of drought, Indian slaughters, and unsettled Civil War. But when Olof Olsson and the passengers of the SS Columbia came across the ocean June of 1869 they were greeted with a rainbow.

After the founding of Lindsborg February 20th, 1869, the United States of America set out to re-vamp its currency, or paper money. The Civil War had prompted the first "legal tender" notes in 1862, simply called green backs due the color created in the printing process. Green was chosen over black as it represented stability. Printers in the private sector quickly replicated these notes so in 1865 President Lincoln established the Secret Service to battle ongoing counterfeiting.



In 1869 a new series of notes was introduced, adding features to deter counterfeiting. These were labeled rainbow notes due to the fading colors used in the back-

ground, which was quite new technology for that time. All Swedish immigrants coming to the USA exchanged their Riksdaler Riksmynnt currency for these rainbow notes. It wasn't until 1873 before Sweden reformed their currency standard and introduced the Krona.



The \$10 note above and \$20 note to the left are examples of the 1869 US "rainbow" currency, which ranged from \$1 to \$1,000 notes.

In case you're wondering, neither of these two notes featured a President. The \$10 has Secretary of State Daniel Webster and the \$20 features Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of Treasury under President George Washington, and founding member of the USA.

Funny trivia, the \$10 note has a second name to collectors, the jackass note. Turn it upside down



and the eagle looks like the head of a donkey.

ZIMMERMAN—AKA THE ZIM

Motorcycle enthusiast, activist, politician, these are just a few words that describe Phil Zimmerman. Phil had five sons with his wife Ethel, Eugene, second to youngest, lived a very short 9 years of life as a result of drowning. Stanley and Vic were born in Marion, KS., the other three, Phil R., Eugene, and Julian were all born in Lindsborg.

Phil E. Zimmerman was born in Missouri April 6th, 1879 and followed his parents to Kansas in his late teens. At the age of 21 he married a (young) Ethel Blanche of Chase, KS. and ran a general store. Phil was a natural salesman, and around 1908 met the Hagstrom Bros., who at the time was building a large factory in Lindsborg. They wanted Phil to be their traveling salesman, so he packed up the family and moved to a house on 2nd street in Lindsborg. Within one year Phil was promoted to Advertising Manager then in another year became General Manager of the factory.

William Hagstrom brought the first motorcycle to Lindsborg in 1902 and had a passion for anything motorized. Phil also became quite an enthusiast and around 1910 help start the Kansas Short Grass Motorcycle Club. Even though it was a Kansas-based club, he was able to set up multi-state rides, mainly out west and promoted them heavily. As a result, the club soon became "the most famous motorcycle club in the world!"

In 1913 Phil got word from Governor Hodges that his proposal to add motorcyclists to the Kansas National Guard had been accepted. The concept was to enlist four companies of twenty-five men each to be sworn in, and their name was to be "Minute Men".

c1912
K.S.G.M.C.
members. Phil
Zimmerman
is far left. The
woman is
daughter to
club founder
Dr. Patterson

Photo courtesy of
K.S.H.S.



Phil was awarded Commander of the group.

Around 1915 the club started phasing out, but Phil, or "Zim" as he was nicknamed, kept his enthusiasm going by leaving Hagstrom and becoming a traveling representative for Excelsior Motorcycles. When the war (WWI) broke out Zim filled out his card but was considered disabled from an injury during the Spanish-American War, so he started his own war. Zim traveled all over the USA in sales, and saw these organizations forming. He would come back to Kansas and go all over giving speeches and warning business men and farmers of these "Balshevik" groups (Russian Socialist), notably the NPL or Non-Partisan League and IWW or Industrial Works of the World. Zim was quoted in 1913 as saying *"Motoring is my passion and the short grass club and Mrs. Zim are the twin shrines at which I worship. Politics, not of the office-seeking variety, is my weakness, and I have a penchant for supporting men who cannot be elected."* What he didn't know was that he would enter that ring in a manner of speaking later on.

In 1922 Zim was elected Manager/Sec. of the Automobile Trade Association of Kansas, and in 1925 was appointed Kansas Hotel Commissioner, which is when he moved to Topeka. Zim remained in Topeka through to his death, and while there was active in many causes. He was a strong supporter of veterans' organizations, founded the National Society of Long Fellows, was an organizer for the National Republican League, and created many horticultural projects like distributing flower seed packets throughout the world. Phil "Zim" Zimmerman passed away Dec. 8th, 1965 from a long illness. One of his sons, Vic, became an illustrator after attending Lindsborg schools and Bethany College. Even the President of the USA gave a nod to his talent. Here is one that is close to home, from 1924.





Coronado Heights Park 100th celebration

Saturday May 18th, 2019

5:00 pm to end of fireworks

Please join us
on top of the Heights
for this once in a
century celebration.

bring a picnic basket!

SVHA 2019 Program Schedule

Once again our Program Chair, Elly Ostlind, has put together a spectacular and informative schedule this academic cycle, here is the final program for this cycle.

May 14, 2019: Broadway RFD – Oldest outdoor theatre in Kansas
Eric Lundstrom

President, Tim Stewart - 785/819-4806

Program Chair, Elly Ostlind - 785/212-0516.

Programs will be held 7:30 pm at:

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

Please cut along the dotted line

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

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

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Memberships are renewed in the first quarter of each year

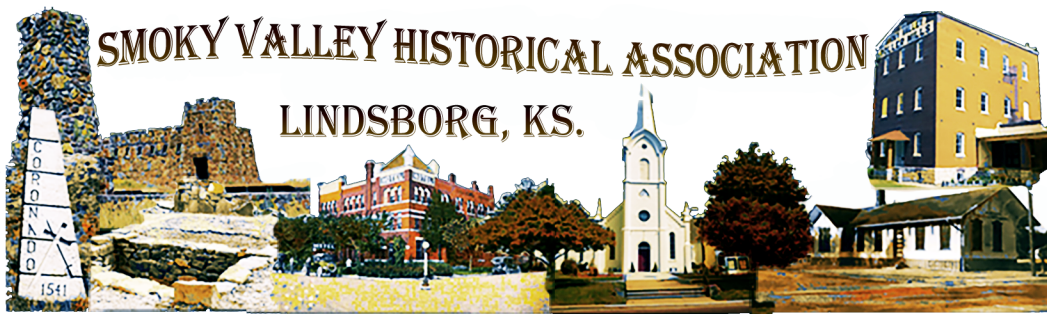


Smoky Valley Historical Association is a non-profit organization and is registered under 501(c)3

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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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.

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.

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