

BARN TALK



Adam Legler Barn 1864

LENEXA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 15 Number 4

July-August 1997

William Armitage Windmill Gift to the LHS Summer of 1997

by Rita DeBrabander

An area landmark was erected on June 16, 1997 on the grounds of Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park, near the northeast corner of the Legler Barn Museum. A 40-foot windmill, which was previously located at the **William and Evelyn (Harvey) Armitage** farm, 119th and Lone Elm Road, Olathe, Kansas for over 65 years.

William Armitage, died on December 13, 1996, of cancer. He willed this windmill to LHS. **Evelyn Harvey Armitage, daughter of Bernice Dillion Harvey**, Lenexa's first female postmaster, commented how Bill always said Lenexa was a community of people that helped each other.

He began working at the Lenexa Lumberyard in 1948, owned at that time by the Hodges brothers of Olathe. Bill started as a truck driver for the firm, then advanced to yardman, and on to manager. He later became one of the partnership owners of the Landmark Lumber Co. (previously the Lenexa Lumber Co.), who had purchased the Hodges Brothers Co.

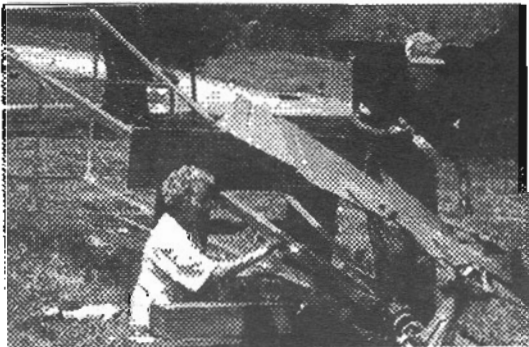
Landmark Lumber closed in 1980 after Bill retired to his farm at 119th and Lone Elm. Bill served on the Lenexa Fire Department for 20 years.

The Lenexa Park and Recreation's employees, **Jeff Carlson, Don Meyers, and Mike Brackhahn**, erected the windmill with the use of the City of Lenexa's crane and hoist.

LHS Board Members **Bob Rose** and myself worked on rust removal and painting wood and metal parts of the historic piece. It is located on the north side of the LHS Herb Garden, northeast of the museum building.

Bob was in charge of the rust removal, which took many hours. I was the designated painter of metal parts; Bob painted wooden parts. Mrs. Armitage and family also contributed \$500 to help with moving costs.

Thank you, Bill, for this wonderful landmark.



Rita DebraBander and Bob Rose work on restoring the Armitage windmill that now stands behind the Legler Barn.

1997

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

General Meeting—July 29

Garden level behind Legler Barn Museum

6:30 p.m. Dinner—Potluck Picnic

Bread and drink will be furnished. Please call 492-0038 to make your reservations and indicate the type of dish you'd like to bring. The general public and guests are welcome.

7:30 p.m. Program

Cathryn Giltemeier, Pat Lierly, Helen Neubert, members of The Quivira Crossing Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, will present a program on the history of the DAR, general patriotism, and history of the American flag.

July 26 & 27—Heartland Trails Festival

August 17 or 24—Tour of Lenexa's Historic Homes (Sunday bus tour)

September 6—Spinach Festival

September 28—Tour of Ghost Towns of Johnson County—noon to 5 p.m.

October 19 or 26—Monticello Tour/Nelson Island Park Picnic

October 22 & 23—Enchanted Forest

November 18—General Meeting—Native American Perspectives

December 28—Proposed Sleigh Rides in the Park

From the President

We had three successful fund raisers at the BBQ this month. The final figures aren't in yet but we raised in the neighborhood of \$3,000 during the event. The Miss Lenexa candidates, their families, and Katie Evans manned a very successful hamburger/hot dog booth and a silent auction. The parking lot crew under the leadership of Bette Wasser braved the heat and survived a Friday evening without any thunderstorms this year. Rita DeBrabander and Pat Lierly and volunteers manned a hamburger/hot dog, popcorn, and popsicle concession at the Children's Carnival. It was a great weekend for LHS.

Our parade entrants on July 4th included the Miss Lenexa Candidates and our surrey. Joe and Bernice Lichtenauer were the surrey passengers, who were driven by Hermes Nursery.

Elizabeth VanDyke was chosen as Miss Lenexa in ceremonies at the Street Fair, Amanda Smith was First Runner-up, and Julie Griffin was selected as Second Runner-up.



The Greater Heartland Trails Festival, July 26th and 27th is up next. We will have a booth again this year so when you are called, please volunteer to work a couple hours. The Miss Lenexa Amber Bendorf Award will be presented at our July General Meeting.

In this newsletter are a couple of sign-up sheets for upcoming tours, Lenexa Historic Homes, and the Ghost Town Tour. These tours are a part of our plan to add some different and exciting programs for our members.

The Thompson House Open House will be held on July 31st. LHS will provide tour guides and persons in period dress. The Open House is from 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. and all LHS members are invited. Beryl and I are looking for volunteers to be tour guides and others to stand near our surrey, sled, buckboard, and wagon. If you're interested please call Beryl at 492-0038 or me at 894-5379.

I hope that you have noticed the windmill at the herb garden and Thompson Memorial site. Kudos to Rita Debrabander and Bob Rose for their efforts. Rita and Bob among other things did the painting of the windmill which was installed by the Parks and Rec group.

Hot Time at the Lenexa BBQ

Thanks to many volunteers, LHS made money on parking, food concessions, and the Miss Lenexa Silent Auction. The parking lot was staffed by **Bette and Lewin Wasser (co-chairs), Eleanor Boley, Ernestine Johnson, Norman Keech, Jane Klein, Eldon Kleinsorge, Bill Lierly, Pat Lierly, Bob Lillie, Diane Linver, Bill Markman, Joan Markman, Bernie McNichols, Bob Rose, and Joe Wilson.**

At the Children's Food Booth, **Rita DeBrabander and Pat Lierly** served as chairwomen. **Jennie Pumphrey and Jean Siefert** helped out.

Irv Hoffman did all the preparation necessary for the Miss Lenexa Silent Auction and hamburger/hot dog concession. In his absence the day of the barbecue, **Katie Evans** was responsible for the auction and keeping the food concessions going. The candidates for Miss Lenexa and their parents helped out all day, cooking, taking money, running errands, wrapping food, and drawing customers to our concession.

Attending the Barn and Depot were **Beryl Hennigh, Lorraine Hill, Janette Marshall, Mary Kay Smith, Newton Smith, and Lewin Wasser.** Thanks to all who volunteered their time that day.

Lackman/Thompson House Antiques Collection Grows

by *Beryl Hennigh*

The Lenexa Historical Society continues to work with and accept items to furnish the L/T historic site. The collection so far includes:

- 10-foot mahogany conference table; mahogany buffet; mahogany library table loaned by LHS, purchased from Peterson Antiques.
- Butcher block used in the Florian and Joe Ryckert grocer store in downtown Lenexa. Loaned by the **Joe and Bernice Ryckert** family.
- Silk tapestry in gilded frame with glass cover loaned by the **Jim Hotchkiss and Robert/Mary Jo Jones** families.
- Walnut drop-leaf dining table loaned by **Bill and Pat Lierly.**
- Oval walnut parlor table w/marble top, from the Shawnee Mission Belle Questers.
- Large mirror in gilded frame from the **Elkanah Harley Haskin** home, loaned by the **Frank and Connie Williams Haskin Andrews** family. Mr. Haskin chartered the First Lenexa Bank, 1904.

The LHS committee working on this project includes **Pat Lierly, Chair; Norman Keech, Vance Carns, Frank Andrews, and Jane Klein.** For information, call Pat at 888-5645.

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Dan L. and Linda W. Cunningham
8425 Greenwood Circle
Lenexa, KS 66215 541-1237

Lois J. Brane
3626 E. Osie
Wichita, KS 67218 (316) 683-3950

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

James and Marilyn Blaufuss
7919 Westgate Ct.
Lenexa, KS 66215

**RESERVATION FOR GHOST
TOWNS OF JOHNSON
COUNTY TOUR**

Barbara Magerl, Moderator

Sunday, September 28 Noon—5:00 p.m.

Light refreshments will be furnished by LHS at a selected stopover during the tour on our air-conditioned bus. Meet at Legler Barn Museum by 11:45 a.m.

Please reserve _____ spaces.

Name of People Attending _____

Phone No. _____

LHS Members and guests are invited to learn about:

- Johnson County's 26 ghost towns
- The oldest settlement in the county (1827) and where it was.
- Railroad communities that still exist.
- Community named after the developer of the KC Southern and Port Arthur, Texas Railroads.
- Which town was noted for its entertainment offerings.
- Name of the park, amusements, live bands, and a dance floor.
- What town/community was founded in 1857.
- What community consisted of 75 homes and 150 tents in 1882. And much more about this county.

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE RETURN THIS
RESERVATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THANK YOU! PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

LHS News and Notes

by Beryl Hennigh

Lackman/Thompson Historic Site Open House

The Lenexa Chamber of Commerce, the Lenexa Convention Office, Visitors' Bureau, and the Lenexa Economic Development are planning the **Lackman/Thompson Historic Open House for Thursday, July 31, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00.** The address is 11180 Lackman Road in Lenexa. Entertainment, historic reenactments, and light refreshments will be offered. Friends and guests are cordially invited to attend.

The Lenexa Historical Society will assist with the event, sharing historical information about the site, and general hosting. They will be exhibiting the Society's surrey, buckboard, and sleigh, with occupants in appropriate attire on the lawn of the structure.

Downtown Lenexa Offers Farmers' Market

The Historical Old Town Lenexa Association is sponsoring their first year of a Farmer's Market in the Municipal Parking Lot on 92nd Street, between Pflumm Road and Haskins Street. Hours are 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., or til "sell-out." For information on vending spaces, please contact **Elaine Hodges**, owner of Elaine's Dusty Attic at 888-4431.

Spinach Cafe Planned for September 6

Rita DeBrabander, LHS Board member in charge of the '97 Spinach Cafe on Saturday, September 6, has called for **your favorite spinach recipes** for the developing menu for this year's event. Please mail in or drop off your choices at the Barn office. For other questions, please call Rita at 894-2825.

Summer Concerts Continue

August 2	"Southern R"	Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park
August 9	"Krazy Kats"	Ad Astra Swimming Pool, 83rd and Mauer

Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. and end at nine. For more information, call **Debbie O'Conner**, 541-0209

History Buffs-Help Wanted - Kansas Travel Info Center Olathe Needs weekend hosts- 768-6155

WELCOME CRAFTERS!

Lenexa Spinach Festival
September 6, 1997

Lenexa Historical Society
14907 W. 87th St. Pkwy
Lenexa, KS 66215

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