

BUSINESS



**SHELBY COUNTY
STATE BANK**

Harlan • Elk Horn • Panama
Portsmouth • Irwin • Shelby

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

Edge



Elk Horn's Danish Windmill uses heritage to boost economy

One man's "crazy idea" may have been Elk Horn's saving grace.

In 1975, Harvey Sornson's proposal to bring an authentic Danish Windmill to Elk Horn was embraced by this rural community as a way to keep the small town from dying. Today, the presence of Elk Horn's Danish Windmill has generated a rebirth to this town's economy.

At that time, the cost of replacing the



DANISH WINDMILL MUSEUM AND WELCOME CENTER

4038 Main St., Elk Horn, Iowa
9-5 Mon.-Sat., Noon-5 Sun., fall and
winter; 8-7 Mon.-Sat., 10-7 Sun.,
spring and summer.

<http://www.danishwindmill.com>

mill's rotted beams, dismantling it, shipping it from Denmark to Elk Horn and reconstructing it totaled nearly \$100,000. Donations of \$30,000 had already been raised, but the mill needed another way to pay off the rest of its debt and Shelby County State Bank was able to provide the necessary financing.

"Every time we've had a new remodeling or restoration project since then we've been able to obtain a line of credit from the bank," said Lisa Riggs. Lisa has been the manager of the Danish Mill Corporation since 1977. "Lamont Christensen (who was SCSB branch manager in Elk Horn at the time) was personally responsible for lining up the 300 volunteers needed to assemble the mill," she said.

Soon after the mill was complete, things really began to roll. In 1985, the mill became an official Iowa Welcome Center. Then, the increased traffic created by the mill merited SCSB's Elk Horn office to host the town's first Automatic

Teller Machine (ATM). In 1990, the Danish Windmill won Iowa's top tourism attraction award. Today the mill has 11 employees, three full-time and all eleven have been certified Tourism Counselors.

The Windmill's museum gift shop includes anything and everything Danish from imported food products to music and collectibles. "We stock everything from 5-cent stickers to a \$3500



Lisa Riggs, Manager of the Danish Windmill Corp. displays some stoneground flour made and sold at the Danish Windmill. Elk Horn is host to the only authentic, working, Danish windmill in America and is the largest Danish settlement in the U.S.

fine porcelain statue," said Lisa. "We have things you can't find just anywhere." About half of the mill's sales are from Danish Christmas plates. The mill has plates from every year since they originated in 1895. "We stock heavily in the Christmas items," she said. "The Danes love Christmas."

The Danish Windmill is one of the largest Danish import shops in the

– Continued on back

Danish Windmill . . .

Continued from front

United States. Lisa travels to Denmark once a year to purchase the latest in Danish giftware, and because of that, they have to utilize SCSB's foreign currency services and international wires. "Sometimes, for fun, we like to show the customers how much the purchase would have been in Kroner (Danish currency)," she said.

The mill's website, www.danishwindmill.com, features over 900 products. Catalog and online orders

account for half of their business and they have one employee dedicated specifically to fulfilling mail orders.

"The mill was built for the betterment of Elk Horn and our economy," said Lisa. "At the time the initial idea was proposed, businesses were leaving. Today the mill brings an average of 65,000-80,000 visitors every year to our town and has included visitors from every state in the union including 56 nations."



Hair stylists treated to a night out

On May 1, Shelby County State Bank treated area hair stylists to Beauty Shop Outing. The evening included a meal in the downtown bank lobby and a ticket to the movie, "Beauty Shop". There were a total of 24 hair stylists in attendance from Shelby, Earling, Harlan, Elk Horn, Portsmouth and Panama.

SCSB – At work!

Neil Pauley (center), operator of Paulee Limited, Neola was the first winner of SCSB's Free Employee promotion. On May 10, SCSB employees Jim Zimmerman (left) and Mathew Freund joined Neil on his rural Neola farm for an afternoon of seeding terraces.

The Free Employee contest runs from April 1 through September 30, 2005. One winner is drawn each month and any current business customer of SCSB may enter. There is a limit of one entry per business, per month.

Five more winners will be drawn so there's still plenty of time to enter. For full contest details, stop in any SCSB location or log on to www.scsbnet.com.



Shelby County State Bank
(712) 755-5112 and
1-800-574-3531

XPRESS BANKING:

Local 755-7921;

Others 1-888-755-5112

Web Page: www.scsbnet.com

HARLAN LOCATIONS

Dwtn. Bank (712) 755-5112
508 Court Street - P. O. Box 29
Harlan, IA 51537-0029

Lobby (712) 755-5112
Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Drive-In (712) 755-5112
Mon. - Thurs. 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Friday 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturday 8:00 AM - 12 Noon

West Branch (712) 755-7671

Mon. - Thurs. 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Friday 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturday 7:30 AM - 12 Noon

ELK HORN (712) 764-5067

4039 Main Street, Elk Horn, IA 51531

Lobby and Drive-In

Mon. - Thurs. 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

PANAMA (712) 489-2424

102 Main Street, Panama, IA 51562

Mon. - Thurs. 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

PORTSMOUTH (712) 743-2715

111 Main Street, Portsmouth, IA 51565

Mon. - Thurs. 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

IRWIN (712) 782-3155

512 Ann Street, Irwin, IA 51446

Mon. - Thurs. 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

SHELBY (712) 544-2626

425 East Street, Shelby, IA 51570

Lobby

Mon. - Friday 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Saturday 8:30 AM - 12 Noon

Drive-In

Mon. - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Saturday 8:00 AM - 12 Noon

24 Hour Depository at all locations

24 Hour XPress Banking by telephone

- Locally at (712) 755-7921

all others 1-888-755-5112

24 HOUR ATM MACHINES at the following locations:

- Dwtn. Bank and West Branch in Harlan
- Elk Horn Bank
- Taylor Oil Texaco Station, Shelby Exit, Interstate 80

