



Volume 50, Issue 1

Spring 2024

CAMPGROUND/TRANSPORTATION PROJECT UPDATE

With help from a Destination Iowa Grant, a CAT Grant, Enhance Henry County Foundation Grant and financial support from the OT Foundation, Midwest Old Threshers broke ground in December starting a major campground improvement project in the South 40.

There will be 70 full hook-up sites and 30 regular sites. The GOMACO Trolley Co. is working on the open-air 1779 car belonging to the Midwest Electric Railway, as well as building a new Milan Car (see page 3.) The total cost of these improvements will be \$1.6 million.

(At right) All eyes have been on the transformation of the South 40, the area of the Campground south of the Log Village.



HOBBS JOINS THRESHERS BOARD

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Midwest Old Settlers and Threshers Association Board of Directors welcomes Maddy Hobbs. Maddy is the newest board member and will be the director over the Midwest Electric Railway.

Maddy is no stranger to Mount Pleasant or Old Threshers. Born in Mount Pleasant, she grew up coming to the Reunion with her dad when would be the plumber on call—Murphy's Plumbing. In 2011, she was introduced to the trolley area during Midwest Haunted Rails and was immediately hooked. She hasn't missed a Reunion since and considers her Old Threshers friends her

second family.

She and her husband, Jeremy, and their two sons, Jackson (6) and Murphy (2) have moved back to Iowa after spending a few years in Colorado. Jeremy was on the board prior to their move West.

Maddy joined the board to help her have more of a broad understanding of the Association and all it takes to keep it running. "The trolleys are just one part of a large group of things that makes this organization so special," says Maddy. "I hope to make a positive impact on the areas that need it the most and add a new and exciting twist to the future." She is looking forward to getting to know more people from the other areas of Old Threshers and better understand what it takes in the different areas to keep things running. Maddy takes over for Tim Imhoff, who stepped down earlier this year.



Dear Friends of Old Threshers,



**Terry McWilliams, CEO
Midwest Old Threshers**

I recently attend the International Association of Fairs and Expositions Management Conference, for management level folks only to get together and talk about the industry concerns. The designed topics and sessions lead us all in talking about our industry problems, crisis management issues, staffing our events, safety, threats to our events, new methods and ideas for solving our problems. It doesn't matter today if you are the Iowa State Fair, the Texas State Fair, the local county fair or even the Old Threshers Reunion we all have similar concerns and issues to face in order to put on our fairs, festivals and events. Thanks to the Old Threshers Board of Directors for sending me to the conference, I feel it will benefit Old Threshers as we move forward in providing the highest level of events as we can in the future.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much!"

At the conference I was asked about the Old Threshers set up of the Board, the staff and even volunteers, which I enjoyed explaining our set up every time. So, I wish to highlight, remind you, explain to you how Old Threshers operates each and every day of the year. Midwest Old Threshers has a 12-member board of directors, which is a volunteer working board that represents many different areas of operations. The board is tasked with leading the ship down the right path, make the tough decisions and even some changes that will not be liked by all but it keeps us moving forward so that our association will continue thrive for years to come.

To the board, **THANK YOU!** **Dr. Bob Welander** (President) – Log Village, **Melinda Huisinga** – Museums & Carousel, **Paul Bishop** – Horse Area, **Bob Myers** – Campgrounds, **Ralph Oliver** – Tractor Area, **Alan Buckert** (Treasurer) - Tractor Area, **Rich Seberg** – North Village, **Maddy Hobbs** – Trolleys, **Carl Thompson** – Gas Engines, **Bob Gerdes** (Vice President) – Cars and Trucks, **Chris Heaton** – Steam Engines, **Phil McMeins** (Secretary) – Fundraising & Grants.

When, I spoke about my staff, the overwhelming response was "amazement." "That is all the staff you have, to do all the events and programs that you do at Old Threshers and the Reunion." So, to my staff that keeps me on the straight and narrow, but I'm not saying "out of trouble." **THANK YOU, THANK YOU!** **Gregg Crew** – Maintenance, **Jody McLeland** – Maintenance, **Julie Scott** – Administrative Assistant, **Kat Zeglen** – Administrative Assistant, **Grant Davidson** – Public Relations & Marketing, **Lori Baylor** – Accounting, **Kirsten Heerdt** – Chaff Publication, **Monie Hayes**, **Grace Davis**, - Theatre Museum.

So, I ask you when you bump into them on grounds, around town, or during the Reunion, tell them all **THANKS!** Their hard work and dedication is what keeps this association moving forward every single day. We as an association, can't do it without them.

We as an association can't do it without our **VOLUNTEERS!** We are blessed with amazing Volunteer support, from over 1,000 of you. When I spoke about our Volunteers, they were all very jealous of what we have in Volunteer support. **THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!**

From the bottom of my heart to all of you, **THANK YOU** all so very much for what you do to make it all happen each and every day at Old Threshers. See you all soon at the Old Threshers Reunion, August 29 to September 2, 2024.

A stylized, handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Terry".

MIDWEST ELECTRIC TO WELCOME NEW TROLLEY

Thanks to funding from the Destination Iowa Grant as well as many other sources, the Midwest Electric Railway will welcome a new trolley to their fleet. The Gomaco Trolley Company is refurbishing a Peter Witt style Milanese trolley (pictured at right—Gomaco Trolley Co photo) to be delivered to Old Threshers. It will be renumbered 1811, its original number, and repainted in a color scheme that will meet with Hawkeye fans' approval.

Rio de Janeiro car 1779 is also in Ida Grove at Gomaco getting a much needed overhaul. Also paid for by grant money, both local and federal.

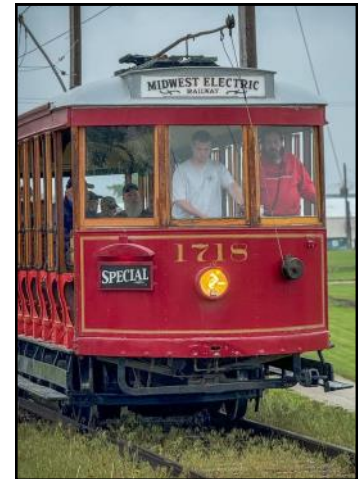


TROLLEY SCHOOL 2024

Thank you to the volunteers who came out to help with the 2024 Trolley School. The sold out event saw students take part in the classroom learning about how trolleys work and how to operate them as well as the history of the Midwest Electric Railway.

Students were also able to get hands-on experience with car 1718, built in Rio de Janeiro in 1911, and Milan Italy Car No. 1945, built in 1927.

Anyone interested in the 2025 Trolley School should get a hold of Grant in the OT office at 319-385-8937.



MOUNT PLEASANT, THRESHERS GEARING UP FOR RAGBRAI



Several Iowa communities south of I-80 are gearing up for RAGBRAI Li. The famous bike ride across Iowa will land in Henry County and Mount Pleasant on Friday, July 26th. With an average number of 30,000 riders, the Old Threshers Campground makes for an ideal place to house many of those riders who camp for the week-long event.

Old Threshers needs help hosting these visitors. Volunteers are needed to help manage the shower and bathroom facilities on the grounds. Riders are charged \$8 a shower, a fee charged at all of the overnight towns for public facilities. There are also other volunteer opportunities available in the community. Please call the OT office or scan this code to find out more.



FEATURED AT THE 2024 OLD THRESHERS REUNION



2024 Featured Tractor
1936 Massey Harris
GP 4WD
Owned by: Tim &
Konnie Pace of
Muscatine, IA



2024 Featured Garden Tractor
1968
Massey Ferguson
MF10
Owned by: Alex
Peterson of Mt.
Pleasant, IA

2024 Featured Antique Truck
1919 REO Speed wagon Model F
Owned by: David Sewell of Kahoka, MO



2024 Featured Traction Steam Engine
1914 Advance
20HP
Owned by: Aaron
Bixler of
Blandinsville, IL



2024 Featured Antique Car
1927 Ford Model T Sedan
Owned by: Marc Thannert of New London, IA



2024 Featured Horse
"Miniature Horses"



2024 Featured Antique Gas Engine
Fractional
Horsepower Gas
Engines
Owned by: Reynolds
Family of
Mt. Pleasant, IA

PRESERVE IOWA SUMMIT 2024 VISITS OLD THRESHERS

by Kyle Waldeck



The Preserve Iowa Summit is an annual conference hosted by the State Historic Preservation Office of Iowa which focuses on the care, restoration and use of historical Iowan buildings. The local host of the event was the Mount Pleasant Historic Preservation Commission and the City of Mount Pleasant.

There were several different conference sessions that had presentations on local topics and tours as well as many from several other Iowa communities.

One of the conference sessions was hosted at Old Threshers at North Village in the Pleasant Lawn School House. The School house was built in the 1930s and moved to the Old Threshers grounds in the 1960s as the North Village was being created.

The window rehabilitation presentation was presented by Terry Philips and his team. Philips knew that the 2024 Preserve Iowa Summit would be in Mount Pleasant and wanted to do something to show off Old Threshers and window rehabilitation. He visited the 2023 Old Threshers Reunion for two days and looked at most of the historic buildings' windows around the grounds before settling on the Pleasant Lawn School.

The reason Philips chose to use the windows of the Pleasant Lawn School for the window rehabilitation presentation was that they are the most similar to typical residential historic windows. The schoolhouse windows are a four pane rope and pulley system.

The goal of Philips' presentation was to show all stages of a historic window rehabilitation. For Philips and his team this consists of removing the top and bottom sash, removing the paint and the glazing and the glass. Then Philips and team will review all the parts of the window and rebuild and replace

what is necessary. Once these steps are completed the windows are carefully put back together then reinstalled in the building. When the rehabilitation is complete the windows will be as close to the original as possible; the only addition that is made is a small piece of weather striping.

When in use a window like this would be opened from the top and bottom to let the heat rise out though the top of the building and cool air come in through the bottom.

When Philips is finished with the rehabilitation the windows in the school house will work as originally intended.

Terry Philips worked as a painting contractor for over 60 years before changing focus to historic windows. This refocus took place about 15 years ago. The reason he wanted to change focus was he saw a need for window rehabilitation. Philips would be working on the entire building's project and noted no one was addressing the windows. He decided to take up this niche role. Philips and his team travel all over the country working on historic window rehabilitation projects.

Be sure to come to the 2024 Old Threshers Reunion August 29th to September 2nd to see the finished windows in the Pleasant Lawn Schoolhouse.



Terry Philips and a window from an Akron, Ohio opera house.

Photo at left: Terry Philips discusses window restoration with participants inside the Pleasant Lawn School. Below: Terry's crew working on windows.

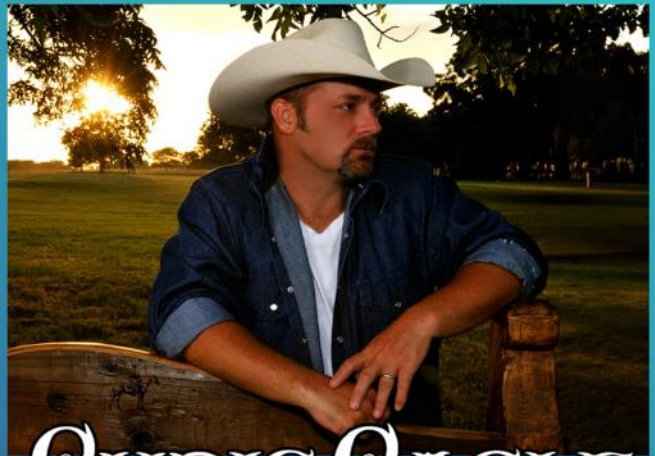


Midwest
Old Threshers
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

**FREE WITH
REUNION
GATE ADMISSION**



The Oak Ridge Boys
THURS., AUG. 29



CHRIS CAGLE
FRI., AUG. 30



LOCASH!
SAT., AUG. 31



THE FRONTMEN
SUN., SEPT. 1

GRANDSTAND OPENS AT 6:30 PM
CONCERT STARTS AT 8:00 PM

OT HOSTS TWO STEAM SCHOOL WEEKENDS IN 2024



Old Threshers hosted two steam schools in 2024. Participants got a little wet the last weekend in April, but the rain didn't stop the learning process. Thank you to Frank Tharp and Jay Sigafosse for teaching the classes and to all the Traction Steam Area volunteers who spent their time and talents giving hands-on experience.



SCHOOL TOURS BRING MORE THAN 900 KIDS TO OT

The 2024 School Tour season brought more than 900 students to Midwest Old Threshers where they learned about life in a one-room school, how steam engines and trains operate, the history of dolls, and much, much more. As with many things at Old Threshers, this event could not happen without the many volunteers who act as guides and teachers.



IOWA STATE FAIR SIGN-UP!

We need YOUR help to make the Mount Pleasant Booth at the Iowa State Fair a success! Join us for a fun and rewarding experience. Whether you can spare a few hours or a whole day, your time and enthusiasm will make a difference!

Volunteering is a fantastic way to support our community, meet new people, and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere of the fair. Plus, you'll get a chance to be part of one of Iowa's most beloved events!

Ready to sign up? Head over to www.oldthreshers.org/fairsignup and secure your spot today!

Don't miss the Annual Harvest Day Parade Wednesday August 28 3:30pm

2024 HARVEST DAY PARADE
Grand Marshals

JIM AND MARLENE DEPRIEST

NOT TOO EARLY FOR HALLOWEEN

The Thrashers House of Terror core team met May 9th to discuss this year's spine-chilling layout! They can't wait to reveal the terrifying surprises they have in store for you. Less than 100 days until they start building for the October 3rd opening night!



IowaStateFair

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers for the Mount Pleasant Booth at the Iowa State Fair.

NOTHING COMPARES

JOIN NOW

www.oldthreshers.org/fairsignup

OLD THRESHERS' CORN PICKER GETS A TUNE UP



Volunteers from the Gas Engine Area prepare to harvest corn used for demonstrations at the Old Threshers Reunion. They used the downtime of the off-season to install husker rolls and new bearings in the corn picker.

At left, Jim Dawson finds himself in close quarters while Randy Belknap helps from outside the machine.

The corn will be used by the Gas Engine, Gas Tractor, and Traction Steam Areas.



PLANNING AND PREP WORK FOR REUNION IS YEAR ROUND



Planning and preparing for any given Old Threshers Reunion takes place year round. The corn and wheat used in the demonstrations needs to be grown, harvested and stored. There are 11 acres of farmland used to grow crops for OT. The OT Campground and West Parking Lot are also used to grow hay throughout the summer.

Grandstand entertainment and the slew of free entertainment around the grounds is searched for sometimes a year in advance.

The featured items in the main areas are chosen the year before allowing time for the owners to prep their equipment to be in the spotlight. This also allows time for the souvenir button to be designed as well as the area cloisonné pins.

Souvenir planning starts at the first of the year, often times relying on notes from the previous year of suggestions and ideas put to paper so as not to be forgotten.

There is always work to be done around the grounds, whether it's repairing buildings, fixing fences or cutting grass.

While organizing everything for the Reunion, staff and volunteers are also planning the year's Thrashers House of Terror and Festival of Lights. Other special events throughout the year are also in the mix.



Are you currently restoring a tractor, gas engine, steam engine or other piece of equipment? We'd love to hear your story and publish your progress in *The Chaff*. Restoration projects aren't just limited to machinery. Cars, buildings, quilts, tools, the list goes on. Send a photo and a description of your project to otchaff@oldthreshers.org or mail to The Chaff, 405 E. Thresher Rd, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

WHAT IS IT? WHERE IS IT?

Can you tell what these things are? And if so, where can one find them during the Old Threshers Reunion?
Answers are at the bottom of page 14.

A**B****C****D****E****F**

OBITUARIES

Howard Lee Collinge

Howard Lee Collinge, 89, of Erie, IL, passed away July 14, 2023 at home.

Howard was born on April 23, 1934 in Emporia, KS, to Ellis and Lura (Dunfield) Collinge. Howard married Roberta Hervey on January 23, 1955 with whom he shares three daughters, Joyce, Jacque, and Julie. He later married Shirley Templeton-Knott on December 26, 1964 in Moline, IL.

Howard served in the Army National Guard, and then went on to work for various railroads for the next 43 years, many of which were spent working on passenger trains, and later for Iowa Interstate Railroad as an Engineer where he eventually retired. In addition to working for the railroad, he spent most of his life farming on the side.

Howard loved to travel. He traveled to Australia, New Zealand, Alaska, Germany, Austria, Ireland, and Panama. He also loved NASCAR. He traveled to Michigan and Texas to watch races. He also attended the Daytona 500 for 50 years in a row, and actually saw the first race when it was on the beach. Howard's love of the motorcycle took him many miles. One trip took him to Colorado and through the mountains, and the next year to California and many times to Key West, FL. He loved to camp and spent many summers camping at the Iowa State Fair where he met up with his grandson, Bluegrass Festivals, and Oktoberfest in the Amanas. He was a volunteer in Mt. Pleasant for the Midwest Central Railroad, a member of NARVRE, and also a member of Flying Country Club.

Howard is survived by his wife Shirley; his daughters, Joyce Davidson of Lexington, KY, Jacque Collinge of Indianapolis, IN, Julie (Greg) Hostetler of Barrington, IL; stepdaughter, Candice Knott of Blue Springs, MO; a sister, Frances (Harlan) Northup of Okahumpka, FL; grandchildren, Rebecca Davidson (Matt Kramer), Gavin Hostetler, Rachel

Hostetler; great grandchildren, Owen Koenig and Harper Kramer. He was preceded in death by his parents, and a brother in infancy, Ellis Eugene.

Memorials may be made to the Leukemia Foundation.

Peggy Dodds

Peggy Diane Dodds, 71, died peacefully after a long courageous battle with cancer on December 26, 2023, at the EveryStep Hospice Kavanagh House in Des Moines. Her amazing faith carried her through.

Peggy was born November 1, 1952, in Mount Pleasant, the daughter of Orrie Albert and Della Viola (Kirkpatrick) Gray. Peggy graduated from Mount Pleasant with the class of 1971. On January 26, 1990, Peggy was united in marriage to Randy Dodds. The couple enjoyed 33 wonderful years of marriage.

Peggy worked as a banker for over 23 years, sold cars for Shottenkirk, and finally retired as a hairdresser. She loved knitting, crocheting, quilting, and playing cards. Through the years Peggy enjoyed teaching Sunday School, singing in Sweet Adelines and church choir. She also coached little league baseball, acted in the Toby and Susie plays, and was a boy scout leader. Peggy played softball, basketball and bowled. Her family was extremely important and so very loved.

Peggy is survived by the love of her life, Randy Dodds; two sons Terry (Wyndie) Gholson of Ankeny, Travis Gholson of Mount Pleasant; daughter Belinda (Chuck) Allen of Mount Pleasant; six grandchildren Brady, Morgan, Madisyn Gholson, Lydia (Keegan) Pullis of Des Moines, Leah Allen of Mount Pleasant, Ethan Beaver of Dubuque; sister Lana (Keith) Zihlman; lots of nieces and nephews; and bunches of great Christian friends.

Waiting for her in Heaven are her grandparents, her parents, and four brothers, Richard, Larry, Bruce, and Brian.

A memorial fund has been established for EveryStep Hospice Kavanagh House, 900 56th Street, Des Moines, Iowa, 50312.

Dolores "Dee" Mathews

Dolores L. "Dee" Mathews, 95, of Mt. Pleasant, and formerly of Mt. Union, Iowa, died January 7, 2024 at Edencrest at Green Meadows, Johnston, Iowa.

Dee was born in 1928 to John and Cora Lauer in Mt. Pleasant. She married Stanley E. Mathews September 18, 1948, in Mt. Union, Iowa. He preceded her in death September 13, 1994. Dee was a homemaker who took great pride in raising her four children on their farm "Paramount Place" in Canaan Township, Henry County, where she lived a total of 50 years before moving to Mt. Pleasant. She attended MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois prior to her marriage. While raising her children, she actively served in the Pleasant Lawn PTA, was a leader with the Girl Scouts, assisted with 4-H Club meetings, taught Sunday school and Bible School at Wesley Chapel, and was a member of Mt. Pleasant Women's Club. She later became a member of the United Methodist Church, Mt. Pleasant.

Her love of the countryside was embodied in her children, who grew up to appreciate wide open spaces, the stars on moonlit gravel road walks, the deer, pheasants, fox and birds which found haven on their farm and above all, the comforting peace of the scents generated by all seasons of fieldwork. She was an extension of her husband's love of steam railroading and traveled with him throughout the US and Japan in his work to build Midwest Central Railroad and later Shop Services, Inc. She founded the Red Caboose Gift shop and managed it for many years during the Midwest Old Settlers and Threshers Reunions. In 2010, she was honored as the first Grand Marshall for MCRR and for its 50th Anniversary, of which Stan

OBITUARIES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

was one of the founders. In addition to caring for her eight acres of lawn and gardens when she lived on the farm, she enjoyed holidays and the change of seasons, celebrating each with her decorative style indoors—a talent she has passed on to each of her daughters and grandchildren.

Survivors include her children: Vicki L. Adlfinger (Harlen Briggs) of Riverdale, IA; Rob (Janette) Mathews of Davenport, IA/Peoria, AZ; Sharri (Denny) Bahlmann of Johnston, IA; and Sharon (Darrel) Christensen of Grimes, IA; grandchildren Ryan (Ginella) Adlfinger of Bettendorf, IA; Shay (Katelyn) Mathews of Otsego, MN; Jason (Becca) Mathews of Riverdale, IA; Danielle (Erin) Kelaher of Urbandale, IA; Derek (Brittany) Bahlmann of Littleton, CO; Stacey (Todd) Vander Schoor of West Des Moines, IA; and Tekyn (Nate) Tackett of Grimes, IA; and 14 great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband Stan, she was preceded in death by her brother Gerald, sister Gwen, and son-in-law Vern Adlfinger.

Dr. Steven M. Wettach

Steven Mark Wettach, 70, of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, died January 10, 2024. He was born at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City on April 12, 1953, to Dr. Robert Stewart Wettach and Betty Elaine (Preuss) Wettach. He was baptized on Easter Sunday at the First Methodist Church in Mt. Pleasant.

Steve grew up in Mt. Pleasant, where he graduated from high school in 1971. He was a member of Boy Scouts Troop 28, where he received the Eagle Scout Award in 1969 and was honored with the God and Country Award in 1970. After high school, he attended and graduated with a degree in Biology (BA, 1975) from Luther College, in Decorah, Iowa. He continued his education at and graduated from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry (DDS, 1979). After graduation, he returned home and started his dental practice in Mt. Pleasant. While practicing

dentistry, he obtained a postdoctoral degree from the University of Iowa College of Business (MBA, 1991).

Steve was a strong supporter of professional and community organizations serving as President of the Southeast Iowa District Dental Association, Vice President of the Mt. Pleasant Community School Board, President of the Midwest Old Threshers Board of Directors, and Director of the Southeast Iowa Community Action Board. He would volunteer his time and labor to friends and strangers alike; showing up with tools or paint brush and ladder to help without being asked. Steve was also in many community theater productions; including Cinderella, Oliver, and Fiddler on the Roof.

He married Mary Halverson at Memorial Lutheran Church December 29, 1979, in Nevada, Iowa. Following her graduation from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry in 1981, she joined his dental practice Mt. Pleasant and Winfield.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, of 44 years, along with his two children, Megan (Beau) Bergmann and Matthew (Allison) Wettach, and his two grandchildren, Alexandra and Drake Bergmann. Steve is also survived by siblings; Dr. David (Sandy) Wettach of Muscatine, Jeff (Barb) Wettach of Decorah, and Jody Wettach, Urbandale, along with brother-in-law, Paul Huser of Sac City. Additional survivors include numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Robert and Betty Wettach, and his sister, Leigh Ann (Wettach) Huser.

The family requests memorials to Luther College, Midwest Old Threshers or Swedesburg Lutheran church.

Joseph J. Sitar Sr.

Joseph J. Sitar, Sr. passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his loving family on January 10, 2024. Born in Riverside, New Jersey, February 11, 1939, to Joseph and Anne (Nee Bodine) Sitar. In 1949, his family moved to Joliet, Illinois. Joe proudly served his country in the

United States Marine Corps from March 30, 1956, to March 29, 1958. On October 24, 1959, he married his love, Sally (Nee Brennan). Their love story spanned 64 years. They made their home in Minooka, Illinois. Joe was employed by the EJ&E railroad as a switchman where he dedicated 44 years. Upon retiring, Joe found joy following his grandchildren, claiming to be “their greatest fan”, to all sporting events. He was a member of Midwest Old Threshers, volunteering countless hours to “the greatest steam show on earth.” He completed Steam School, worked on steam engines, and drove his John Deere tractor each day of the 5-day reunion. Joe shared his love for shark tooth hunting with his grandchildren taking them on “great shark hunts” and bragging on how many they would find. He especially enjoyed his time on Nokomis Beach with Sally.

Joe was preceded in death by one son in infancy, John E. Sitar (1971), his parents, two sisters Anne Carey and Veronica Chapla; and his brothers-in-law Edward (late JoAnne) Brennan, Jack Blatti and Lou Maffeo.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Sally, his four cherished children Michelle (Scott) Hunckler, Joe (Denise) Sitar Jr., Jeff (Missy) Sitar, and Jennifer (Patrick) O’Neil, eleven adoring grandchildren, Kristie (Rob) Anderson, Kelli Hunckler (Jerum Hubbert), Scott Hunckler Jr., Kevin Hunckler, Elizabeth, Matthew and Meaghan Sitar, Marie and J.C. Sitar, and Shae and Ryan O’Neil. Six great grandchildren, Rylee, Grace and Conner Anderson, Riley, Havana and Hailee Hubbert. One brother, James (Bonnie) Sitar, two brothers-in-law, Bob Carey and Lenny Chapla, three sisters-in-law, Judy Blatti, Janet (Jerry) Kiernan, and Terri Maffeo, numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

Memorials to Midwest Old Threshers, or Lightways Hospice in Joe’s name would be greatly appreciated.

OBITUARIES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Steven G. Voyles

Steven Gregory Voyles, 61, of Burlington, died January 24, 2024 at his home. He was born March 4, 1962, in Marshfield, Wisconsin to John "Jack" L. and Glenna J. Hess Voyles. He was a 1980 graduate of New London High School and attended Hawkeye Technical College in Waterloo. On March 23, 1985, he married Teresa Marie Wilson in New London; she died February 26, 2023.

He worked at Burlington Basket Company for over twenty years, then at O'Reillys Auto Parts in Burlington for the past several years. Steve enjoyed fishing; going to Geode; NASCAR races; and was a fan of the St. Louis Cardinals, Iowa Hawkeyes, and Chicago Bears. He was very artistic and had a great sense of humor. He loved spending time with his family, especially his kids and grandchildren.

Steve is survived by his mother of New London; two sons, Christopher (Amber) Voyles of New London and Jordan (Alexandra) Voyles of Burlington; two daughters, Stephanie (Dan) Housh of Mt. Pleasant and Abigail Voyles of Mediapolis; six grandchildren; one brother John (Heather) Voyles of Blakesburg, Iowa; and four sisters, Cindy (Curt) Watson, Sharon (Scott) Barron, Karen (Tim) Conrad, and Denise (Russ) Wolfe, all of Mt. Pleasant; many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, his wife, and nephew Ethan Conrad.

A memorial in his honor has been established.

Dennis Krogmann

Dennis Paul Krogmann, 66, of Dundee, Iowa, passed away February 12, 2024, at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids. He was born on October 5, 1957, the son of James and Marian (Recker) Krogmann in Dubuque. Dennis was raised and educated in the Strawberry Point area, graduating from Starmont High School in 1976.

On February 21, 1987, Dennis was united in marriage to Jean Millard at St. Mary Catholic Church in Strawberry Point. Three children were born to this union. Dennis worked at AMPI for 28 years. He also worked at Viafield Company in Arlington, Ra-ly Trucking in Earlville, and Walmart in Manchester.

Dennis enjoyed fishing, camping, hunting, and going to Mount Pleasant for the Old Threshers Reunion. Most of all Dennis enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife of almost 37 years, Jean Krogmann of Dundee; his children, Timothy (Amanda) Krogmann of Lamont, Austin Krogmann of Ryan, Nichole (Adam) Riniker of Strawberry Point, and Crystal Crow of Oelwein; his eight grandchildren; his father, James Krogmann of Masonville; 11 siblings, Jeanne (Doug) Lentz of Aurora, Janice Krogmann of Meza, Arizona, Diane (Randy) Koch of Independence, Joan (Jim) Finnegan of Independence, Connie (Ronald) Fish of Shellsburg, Larry Krogmann of Masonville, Julie Henke of Strawberry Point, James John (Shannon) Krogmann of Lamont, Lori (Chad) Postel of Independence, Martin (Bonnie) Krogmann of Dundee, and Gary (Heather) Krogmann of Winthrop; and many nieces and nephews.

Dennis was preceded in death by his mother, Marian Krogmann; two brothers, Charles and James David Krogmann.

The family requests that memorials be directed to the Dennis Krogmann Memorial Fund.

Tod R. Sercich

Tod R. Sercich, 58, of Dekalb, Illinois, passed away April 15, 2024 at his home. He was born May 18, 1965 in Chicago, Illinois to Milan and Patricia (Olfanos) Sercich.

Tod was a humble man with many interests and passions. Following graduation from St. Charles High School, he earned certification from Wyoming

Technical School and had a successful career as an automotive technician for more than a decade before shifting gears and careers to Information Technology. He spent the past 13 years as a Microsoft Systems Engineer working for Future Link IT of Elgin.

A true renaissance man, Tod excelled in his many hobbies. He was an excellent cook and grill master and was as skilled in the kitchen as he was in the garden, workshop and garage. He enjoyed tinkering and lovingly restored his classic cars, including a 1970 Plymouth GTX and 1972 Plymouth Duster. Other interests included model trains, gardening, and building guitars. He was a self-taught guitar luthier, and created beautiful instruments out of wood, shaping, painting, and buffing them until they became works of art visually and musically. In true Tod fashion, he taught himself to play guitar and enjoyed creating music. Another interest was restoring antique gas engines, a passion he shared with his best buddy Steve Alt in Iowa. The two had been friends since 1983 and had met during their time at Wyoming Tech. Each Labor Day Weekend they would get the engines ready to transport and display them at the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion in Mount Pleasant.

One of Tod's greatest joys was spending time with family and friends. He leaves behind beloved sister and best friend Donielle Jones and her children and grandchildren; Jesse (Lauren) Jones and Kristin Jones (fiancé Eric Walsh) and Ryan and Mallory Lukas and Khaleesi, and Kayden Jones. He will be missed by his big, fat Greek family, including Aunt Tina and Uncle Alex Linardos and Uncle Nick Contos., and cousins in the Bravos, Contos, Foster, Linardos, and Vamvakos families.

He was preceded in death by his parents Milan and Patricia Sercich, grandparents Kalliope and Nick Olfanos,

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Bessie and Nick Gligich, and Aunt Stella Contos.

While Tod was born in Chicago and spent more than two decades living in Florida before moving back, he was a life-long Packers fan and enjoyed the rivalry between the Bears and the Pack. He loved to tease his cousins who were rooting for Chicago or for the Pittsburgh Steelers and could discuss sports as easily as a conversation about politics or music. Although he could appear shy and quiet, Tod had an unmistakable twinkle in his eye that matched his intellect, quick wit, and wonderfully sarcastic sense of humor. He will be remembered for making the mundane fun, and for his caring, giving, and generous ways.

Donations may be made to Fox Valley Hands of Hope in Geneva or plant a tree in Tod's memory.

David L. Gross

David Lee Gross, 84, died June 2, 2024, from complications due to the West Nile Virus.

Dave was born on October 21, 1939, in Denver, Colorado to Leland C. and Claire Y. Gross. He married Jean Claire Gallas on August 6, 1966. They have a daughter, Kirsten Anne (Eric) Heerdt of Mount Pleasant, Iowa and two grandchildren, Russell David (Jenifer) Heerdt, Aztec, New Mexico, and Elizabeth Claire Heerdt of Durango, Colorado.

In his teenage years, Dave worked at the Denver Stockyards and City Floral Greenhouses. His time at City Floral lead to a long career in horticulture with the Ball Seed Company where he was a salesman and national sales manager, eventually moving to St. Charles, Illinois. He and his family later returned to Denver and City Floral, becoming part owner with Ron Brady in 1978 until his retirement in 2007. He continued to use his horticulture knowledge and skills while maintaining the landscape at St.

Michaels and as an avid garden railroad enthusiast.

In his retirement, Dave and Jean traveled extensively. Dave left an indelible mark on the steam railroading community with his efforts to record the last breath of steam at various locations across the globe. His love of railroading began at 15-years-old, when he grabbed a camera and headed out on his first railfanning trip with life-long friend Jim Ehernberger.

His photography and videography will forever be a part of railroading history. As a founding partner in the High Country Railroad in Golden, Colorado, one of the first members of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club, a member of The Lexington Group, a volunteer for Midwest Old Threshers Association in the Traction Steam Area, and a first-generation steam preservationist, his legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of those who follow in his footsteps.

Memorials may be made to Saint Michael and All Angels' Church Denver, The Center for Railroad Photography and Art or Midwest Old Threshers.

Timothy Ronald Tedrow

Timothy "Tim" Ronald Tedrow, 60, of Fairfield, passed away peacefully at his farm on June 16, 2024. Born on October 16, 1963, in Fairfield, Tim was the beloved son of Rex and Karen Haas Tedrow. He spent his early years in the Douds and Libertyville area, graduating from Fairfield High School in 1982. Tim's life was rich with love, laughter, and hard work, leaving a legacy of dedication and joy that will be remembered by all who knew him.

After high school Tim worked as veterinary assistant with both Dr. Gene Hoy and Dr. Robert Weland and they remained very close friends ever since. During this time, he worked construction, but he soon found his calling in the meticulous craft of hand-

digging graves with Fred Carter, a skill he honed alongside his lifelong commitment to farming and running his trenching and backhoe. Tim worked with cattle all of his life, at the peak of his agricultural career, he ran a herd of over 100 cows. His professional journey further led him to a 21-year tenure with the Iowa Department of Transportation, where he expanded his expertise through studies in building bridges and engineering. Tim also owned and maintained several rental properties in his free time.

One of Tim's most cherished endeavors was his 44-year involvement with Old Threshers in Mount Pleasant, where he dedicated his time to maintaining and operating a loader feeding logs to a 54 inch circular saw mill. His passion for mechanics was matched by his love for the great outdoors, with hunting and traveling being among his favorite pastimes. However, it was the time spent with family and friends that truly brought Tim joy. He was known for organizing Sunday gatherings throughout Southeast Iowa and relished the camaraderie of his monthly card club with former classmates. Tim enjoyed attending services at Mount Moriah Church.

Tim's journey through life was shared with his loving family. He married Sherry Ludwig in May 1982, and although their paths later diverged, the union was a significant part of his story. In 1997, Tim's heart was captured by Mary Sirdoreus, and the two were married on May 9, 2003, in a ceremony aboard a retired sister ship to the Titanic, set against the scenic backdrop of the Florida coast.

Tim's memory will be treasured by his six children: Randy Tedrow of Douds, Eric Wade Tedrow (Jennifer) of Fairfield, Ashtine Stickles (Ryan) of Richland, Rodney Tedrow (Jill) of Fairfield Eric Lee Steward of Bondurant, Chad Steward of

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Ottumwa and Dean Sears "Tim's favorite son". His legacy will live on through his ten grandchildren, with an eleventh expected in November (he had a special nickname for each of them) who will grow up hearing tales of their grandfather's strength, humor, and kindness. Tim is also survived by two sisters, Marie Tedrow (Jake Saner) of

Douds and Grace Korkee Tedrow of Mt. Pleasant, and a host of other distant relatives and friends who will miss him dearly. He was preceded in death by his parents, Rex and Karen, a sister, Jolene Tedrow and in-laws Clarence and Thelma Sirdoreus.

Tim Tedrow's life was a testament to the enduring power of love, hard work,

and community. His spirit will continue to inspire those he touched, and his memory will be carried forward with every steam whistle, every harvest, and every cherished gathering of loved ones.

Memorials in Tim's honor may be directed to the Make a Wish Foundation and may be mailed to the family at 2385 Mint Blvd, Fairfield, IA 52556.

2024 Calendar of Events

July 4—Community 4th of July Celebration
 July 17-22—Henry County Fair
 July 26—RAGBRAI in Mount Pleasant
 August 2-4—Western Illinois Threshers
 August 8-17—Iowa State Fair
 August 14—Reunion Briefing Meeting
 August 17—Campground Opens
 August 28—Harvest Day Parade
 August 29-September 2—2024 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion
 September 12-14—Printers' Fair
 October 3-5, 10-12, 17-19, 24-26, 31—Thrashers House of Terror
 October 11-12, 18-19, 25-26—Haunted Rails
 November 9—Old Threshers Annual Meeting | Foundation Annual Meeting
 November 23-24—Walk-thru Nights Festival of Lights
 November 27-December 31—Festival of Lights
 November 28-29—Office Closed for Thanksgiving
 December 21-January 5, 2025—Office Closed



OLD THRESHERS REUNION

Aug. 29 - Sept. 2, 2024 * Mount Pleasant, Iowa

WHAT IS IT? WHERE IS IT? FROM PAGE 10

A) Sparks from a steam engine—Nightly at the Demonstration Area at dusk. B. Murray Corliss engine in the Steam Powerhouse. C) Inside a steam engine's smokebox cleaning flues. D) Horse collar on a draft horse—Don Carlson Memorial Horse Pull. E) Pedal Tractor—Pedal Tractor Contest at Tractorland HQ, check program for time. B. F) Fly wheel of a steam engine.