



Volume 50, Issue 2

Summer 2024

RAGBRAI ROLLS THROUGH MOUNT PLEASANT & OT



More than 18,000 bicycle riders and support people swarmed across southern Iowa in July conquering the hills from Glenwood to Burlington. The last overnight town was Mount Pleasant.

As riders streamed down the side streets, they were welcomed by antique cars and tractors courtesy of OT and the Wayland Tractor Club, as well as a town square full of activities. Foundation Executive Director



Melinda Huisinga and her crew had her 1915 65hp Case steamed up offering Trash Can Sweet Corn. Proceeds from the sale of nearly 1,000 ears of corn went to Old Threshers and the OT Foundation. Volunteers helped monitor bathrooms and showers for those camping at McMillan Park and the OT Campground. The Heritage Museums were open and the carousel and trolleys were running. Several participants said they never knew of Old Threshers and said they planned to come back for the Reunion.

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SOUTH 40 OPENS FOR 2024 REUNION



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. A mild winter helped the project move along and the new sites opened for

reservations in July. There are 70 full hook-up sites and 30 regular sites.

Also included in the project is the refurbishment of the open-air 1779 car belonging to the Midwest Electric Railway, as well as the building a new Milan Car.

The total cost of all these improvements will be \$1.6 million.

Dear Friends of Old Threshers,



**Terry McWilliams, CEO
Midwest Old Threshers**

Change is always around us, whether we see it or not, and whether we like it or not. The prices of goods and services are always changing. Old Threshers is always changing, and I have been talking about a lot of changes lately. From the large capital improvement project with the development of our south 40 campground and transportation project we are in the final stages of, to many other improvements around the grounds, change happens at Old Threshers from year to year. However, as much as we change and improve our grounds, I still hear that the Old Threshers Reunion is the same from year to year. As much as I enjoy countering these comments, I think its time to throw in the towel, give up and agree that those comments are correct. So, rather than spend more time talking about all of the changes, I will focus on what remains the same.

Professor Farquar and Polecat Annie are still in the Log Village and their medicine show remains one of the best in the Midwest. Whether you have seen the show in years past, or your first time, make it a point during the Reunion to get down to the Log Village and stop by for one of their shows.

The OT Gunslingers and the Golden Slipper Saloon Girls are still providing great entertainment in the North Village. With several shows each day, it is hard to miss or not hear them performing.

The carousel is still going around in circles and is still generating the same smiles from both young and old faces.

The sound of the noon whistles, still at noon as it always has been the start to the daily Cavalcade of Power, remains the same.

The smell in the air from the steam engines that first time you arrive on the grounds is the same.

The exhibit areas behind the stage continue to entertain our visitors with demonstrations from horses, gas tractors, and steam engines, remains the same.

Of course, our volunteers are still one of the most vital things that make the Reunion a success. Their contributions are vital in the success of our event and providing enjoyment for all.

I could continue to make this list, but you get the point. When you arrive this year for the Reunion, expect to see some changes, but also expect to see things that remain the same. I am proud of the progress we have made and the improvements to the Association and the Reunion. When you come in my office, on the shelf is a coffee cup, given to me as a joke, that says "worlds okayest boss." I would rather be an "okayest" boss to my great team of staff and volunteers than the best boss somewhere else.

So yes, somethings are the same here year after year.

See you at the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion.

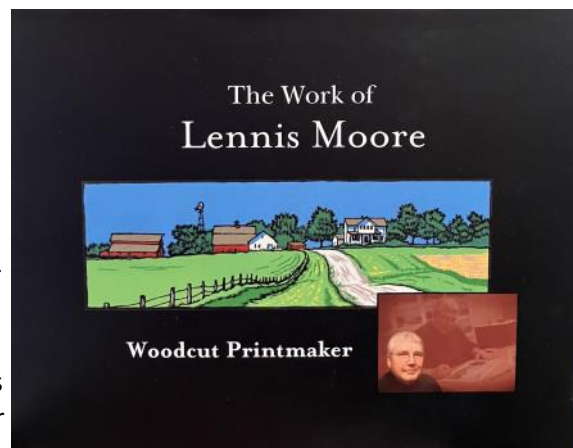
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry".

A BOOK REVIEW FROM THE SHELVES OF THE MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS' LIBRARY

Editor's Note: This issue of the Threshers Chaff features the first of many book reviews by Threshers volunteer Joan Alt Belknap. Over the last year Joan has made a detailed list of all the books in the Old Threshers' Library in the conference room. "Many of them are amazing for different reasons. It seems a shame for them to just sit there with many people not even realizing they are there," says Joan. "The first book I thought would be great to review is The Work of Lennis Moore: Woodcut Printmaker."

Being relatively new to the Midwest Old Thresher's family, I did not have the pleasure of knowing Lennis Moore. After looking through this book and reading about him, I really can't find the words to express his massive contribution to Midwest Old Thresher's and to the art world. I thought it fitting to make this first book review about his book.

The Work of Lennis Moore: Woodcut Printmaker was published after his death, and designed and edited by Erin MacGorman Moore, with much of the text provided by daughter Catie Scott from conversations with him. Woodcut prints fill the book, starting with his first, *Snow*, cut while at Luther College, and ending with *High Summer* 2014.

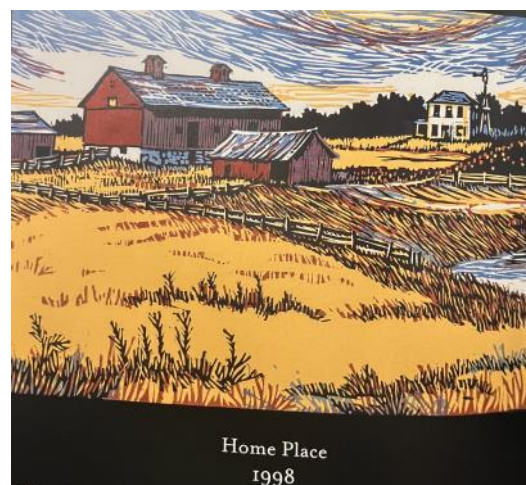
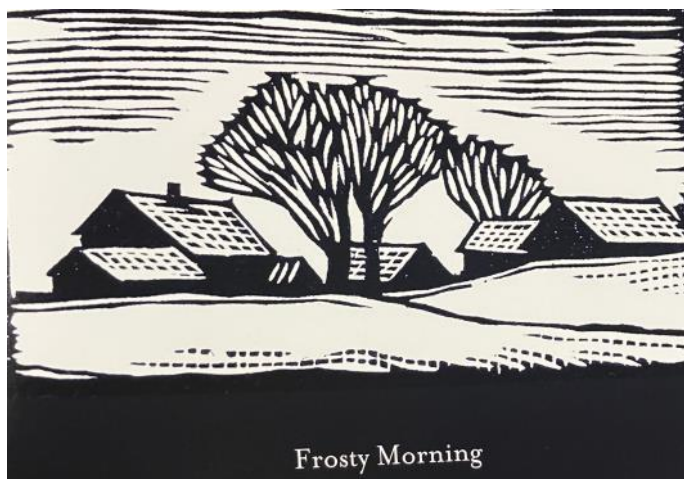


Many of his works are of the farm and rural landscape. At first glance they seem to be clean and simple with minimal detail, but in Moore's own words, "You don't have to put in all the details because the mind of the viewer will add in all those details based on their own experience." I found that to be true, as my mind filled with vivid memories of my past.

Each print is accompanied by a bit of conversation from Lennis. In addition to the powerful woodcuts, an enthusiast might be interested in his process of printing which sometimes involved an antique printing press. If you visit the documentary by Derek Nelson at <https://vimeo.com/119958270> you can learn more about that process from Lennis himself.

If you stop at the Office at Midwest Old Thresher's and would like to treat yourself to browsing through this special and powerful book, the staff can help you. (shelf 3)

If you would like to read more about Lennis, you can look up the Thresher's Chaff, vol 40, no 2, Summer of 2014 where his obituary was shared. <https://www.oldthreshers.com/sites/oldthreshers/assets/File/Chaff%20Summer%202014.pdf>



FEATURED TRUCK



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

David Sewell found his diamond in the rough in a barn in Colchester, Ill. The 1910 REO Speed Wagon Model F was protected by the weather for close to 40 years. It became David's in August of 2020.

The truck was in pieces and missing the correct wooden wheels. The fenders weren't on it and were just primed. He painted them black along with the hood. Once David got it running, it smoked something terrible. A new style of oil ring cleared that problem up.

The son of the past owners came by to take a look at the restored truck and was amazed as he always thought it was black, when indeed it was green.

This is the first year this truck is being exhibited at Old Threshers, but it's no stranger to being on display. David has taken his truck to Ohio, Michigan, Texas, and Tennessee.

David says he is looking forward to sitting with his truck and answering people's questions. He and his wife, Christine, will be joined by their youngest son as they parade in the Cavalcade of Power.

FEATURED CAR

Marc Thannert grew up in a family who collects Model Ts. In 2022, Marc bought his 1927 Ford Model T Sedan at an auction. He only had to do minor repairs to get the car in working order.

Marc has worked on Model Ts his whole life. Due to the fact his kids don't like riding in an open car, Marc was pleased to find the 1927 sedan.

Marc has exhibited off and on for the last 10 years with his grandfather's Model T as well as a 1942 John Deere B. He is in the process of restoring an open touring car.

His kids are excited to see the Model T Sedan on the turntable in the Antique Car Building, the designated space for the featured car.

Being on the turntable means it can't be in the Cavalcade of Power so Marc and his family will have the opportunity to parade a Model T owned by Old Threshers.

Marc will be at the Reunion with his wife, Kelly, son Parker and daughter Olivia.



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

FEATURED TRACTOR



2024 Featured Tractor

1936 Massey Harris GP 4WD

Owned by: Tim & Konnie Pace of Muscatine, IA

Tim Pace's farm has been in the family since the 1930s. Continuing to follow in the footsteps of his ancestors, Tim began searching for a Massey Harris GP 4WD tractor because his great grandfather owned some.

Tim found one in Minnesota and asked a friend to go pick it up. His friend was no stranger to these tractors and let Tim know that it was not the right tread width. Luckily for Tim, his friend had just the one he needed in his collection of 30 4WD tractors and they ended up swapping tractors.

The 1936 Massey Harris had been restored previously but was painted green with red wheels. In the preparations for being featured this year, the Paces had it painted gray, but it still sports red wheels.

Tim's dad is 93 and remembers driving his father's 4WD when he was little. He had to slide to the end of the seat to stop it because he was so short. Tim's dad has always talked about owning one of his own.

Tim and his wife, Konnie, will be at the Reunion along with their granddaughters who will have a MH Mustang and Pony to exhibit.

FEATURED GARDEN TRACTOR

In high school, Alex Peterson watched as his father restored a 1968 Massey Ferguson MF10 into what looks like a miniature version of a Massey Harris 1100 series tractor complete with a 3-point hitch and blade. Little did Alex know that the red tractor would be his graduation present.

Alex graduated from high school in 2012 and has been a tractor exhibitor ever since.

Alex and his father, Dan, have one advantage when it comes to working on tractors—The Peterson Implement Co.

Just north of Mt. Pleasant sits the now closed implement dealer. The buildings are still there as well as inventory from the parts department. It makes it kind of handy when working on tractors.

Alex and his family exhibits about 5-8 tractors depending on the year as well as cars. They also have a Rumely Oil Pull tractor.

Alex looks forward to exhibiting this year's featured garden tractor and talking to people about his tractor as well as hearing stories and experiences from others. He will attend the Reunion with his wife, Bailey, and kids.



2024 Featured Garden Tractor

1968 Massey Ferguson MF10

Owned by: Alex Peterson of Mt. Pleasant, IA

FRACTIONAL HORSEPOWER – ENGINES LESS THAN A HORSE

by Barry Tuller & Danny Reynolds

The featured gas engine for 2024 at Midwest Old Threshers are Fractional Horsepower engines, or engines of less than one horsepower.

In order to have an engine capable of providing power for running tools and machines, it had to put out sufficient power. Most manufacturers by 1900 were focused on building gasoline engines of 2 horsepower and upwards. However, a few companies took a different approach and began offering engines of less than one horsepower, making engines of $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$,

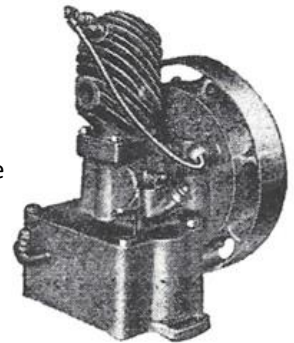
and even $\frac{1}{4}$ horsepower. The big producers ignored fractional horsepower engines, leaving the segment to new companies. Carlisle & Finch of Cincinnati, OH was an early entrant in 1897 offering $\frac{1}{4}$ hp engines as casting kits,

then later as complete operational engines. They claimed the engine was just the right size to run a lathe or small dynamo, and would do so at less expense than an electric motor or steam engine. Over the next decade, several other companies would bring other unique versions of small engines to market as well.

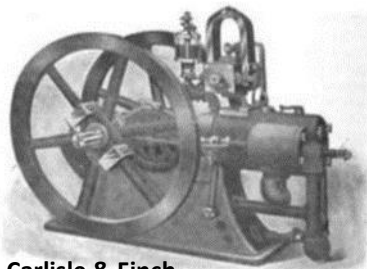
By the teens the engine marketplace really got interesting. Competition was driving prices lower and lower, and most companies, including the large ones, brought smaller 1 and 1-1/2 horsepower engines to the market. Some companies also brought new fractional horsepower engines, including New Holland of PA with a $\frac{1}{2}$ hp model, and Gilson of WI with a $\frac{3}{4}$ hp Pony.

Elgin Wheel & Engine Co. of Elgin, IL introduced small two cycle upright engines to the market in 1911. Advertised initially as great gifts for your boy, as they were instructive, useful, and entertaining, and may also be profitable providing power to items around the farm or home. Fred Maytag happened upon an Elgin engine on display on a Chicago business trip. The idea of a washing machine with an engine, led to Maytag purchasing Elgin engines, and eventually the company. Maytag went on to make over a million fractional horsepower engines, with production ending in 1952.

Another of the big success stories for small power engines also began in the teens. First offered in 1914 in the US was the Smith motor wheel, a unique engine coupled to a wheel for the powering of a bicycle or small vehicle. Briggs & Stratton would purchase the Smith Motor Wheel in 1919, and enjoyed good sales for a few years. Looking for new markets, a stationary version of the engine was developed in 1920. This became the prime product for Briggs & Stratton, with many models and variations developed. Engines of $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ horsepower were offered from the early 1920s on into the 1930s. Old Threshers is looking forward to seeing a large variety of the feature engines at the 2024 show. Maytag and Briggs & Stratton engines survived in great quantities. Examples of many of the other manufacturers of fractional horsepower engines also survive. Other small engines, such as model gas engines, are also included in the feature for the year. Truly the year of the little engine – Be sure to check them out at the show!



Maytag



Carlisle & Finch

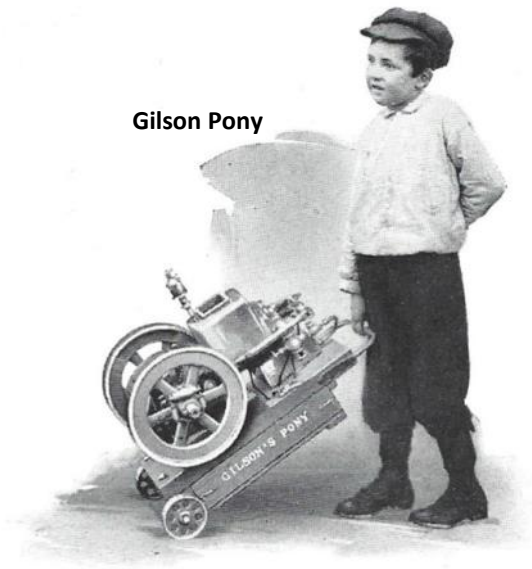


Briggs & Stratton



New Holland

Gilson Pony



FEATURED GAS ENGINE EXHIBITORS FOR 2024 by Danny Reynolds

Our featured gas engine exhibitors for 2024 are brothers Dan and Tim Reynolds, and their dad Alan, all of Mt. Pleasant.

The start of a 5-generation collection and 50+ years of playing with engines: In the early 1970s, Earl Reynolds became the coordinator for the antique car area of Midwest Old Threshers, and in 1978 he joined the Threshers board as a director. From these early beginnings, who could have imagined that it would lead to 50+ years of collecting and playing with hundreds of gas engines. Earl, and his son Alan (pictured at right—center,) already enjoyed showing cars and tractors but Earl also wanted to get his father (Leonard), a lifetime farmer, involved in the show as more than just an observer. His method for doing this, buy him a gas engine. A 2½ hp Ottawa found in a local garage in Mt. Pleasant would do the trick. Within a couple years Earl's dad Leonard's collection had grown to about 5 engines that he would bring to the show on a custom-built wood trailer of his making from wood from his family's farm. Leonard would continue to bring and show his trailer load of engines for almost 25 years until his passing in 2001. Alan, Leonard's grandson, would spend time with Leonard at the gas engine display in between activities in car and tractor areas. Over the years, the operation of Leonard's engines transitioned to Alan, as Earl continued his support of the show on the board of directors covering various areas. After Leonard's passing, Alan took over full responsibility to continue the showing of his grandpa's engines, which have continued to be shown annually to today.

Alan's (Bev) two son's; Dan (pictured above—left) and Tim (pictured above—right,) have both took to expanding their family's interest in antique engines, each establishing their own unique collections.

Dan's Story (4th Generation): As an annual attendee of the Old Threshers reunion from birth, Alan's son Dan Reynolds grew up watching his dad run his great-grandfather's (Leonard's) engines. With the octane in his veins and fumes in his lungs, at 16 Dan decided he wanted an engine of his own. During the show that year, he set out to buy a Maytag, remembering one his dad (Alan) had and sold when he was young. He achieved his goal and bought a non-running common Maytag 92 for \$60. Over that winter, it got rebuilt and repainted and was at the show the following year. Well of course once you have one of something and you find a different variation you must have it! One year after buying his first Maytag, Dan bought a twin cylinder, again during the Old Threshers Reunion. That was it, the bug was caught, now over 20 years later, he has over 60 different (yes different) Maytag and Elgin engines that together show the evolution of the engine designs. His collection also includes several Maytag powered items, factory built by other companies who would purchase the Multi-Motors and apply them to their applications. This includes reel and rotary mowers, garden tractors, generators, and water and air pumps. Dan joined and has since been elected the President of the Maytag Collector's Club. "I never intended to start a lifelong hobby when buying that first 92, but I love the 'hunt', the stories the engines tell us, the thrill of seeing them come to life, the friends I have made and now the excitement my son (Oliver (2)) has when we fire



one up," said Dan.

Early in their relationship, Dan bought his then girlfriend, now wife, Kelly, an Iron Horse gas engine. As she worked to get it going again, the collecting bug spread, Kelly has since expanded her collection to include roughly 30 variations of Lauson Air Cooled Engines. Now the only real question is, what will their son, Oliver collect?

Tim's Story (4th Generation): "I always grew up around my family's flywheel engines and had a love for antique gas engines. As I grew up watching my brother play with Maytags, I felt I needed to collect something" Tim stated. He continued to say "When I was 12, I got my first Briggs and Stratton engine. It was a common model 6S but was a great starter engine and something to get the hobby started. I never would have imagined that one engine would lead to a collection of almost 300 different Briggs and Strattons almost 20 years later! One thing that always intrigued me about Briggs was all the different models and sub models they made and the changes along the way! You can collect your whole life and still not have them all. It's been a fun journey that has led me to a lot of fun and interesting places and to meet a lot of new friends. I'm blessed and thankful for the collection I have built so far including some very rare and low production engines. I can't wait to see what the future holds and what is left out there to find hiding in barns and on auctions to add to my fleet."

Feature Engines at long last! In the 50 years of showing engines at Midwest Old Threshers, no Reynolds owned engine has been selected as the feature show engine. With fractional horsepower engines selected in 2024 to be featured, many Maytags, Briggs and Strattons, Lausons and model engines fit into this category. A model Olds hit and miss engine from Alan's collection, a Maytag Fruit Jar engine from Dan's collection and a Briggs and Stratton Model F from Tim's collection will jointly share the feature engine honor at the Reunion. "We're very excited to have been selected as feature exhibitors for gas engines" said Dan, "I know Great-Grandpa (Leonard) and Grandpa (Earl) are both looking down on us with pride and excitement, to see how far what they started has come and that we all can share this feature honor this year." The Reynolds family intends to bring a large variety of engines from their collection to this year's Reunion and looks forward to creating more memories for generations to come.

Button Collectors' Update 2024

By Carolyn Sidebottom
Plymouth, Minnesota

2024 Button Collector's Forum

Button collectors will meet for the 22nd Annual Button Collectors' forum in Colfax School on Sunday morning September 1, 2024. Colfax School is located just south of Campground Hospitality and the Theater Museum. Mark your Old Threshers daily schedule. I will be opening the building about an hour earlier to set up for the meeting.



2024 Souvenir Button Design

Aaron Bixler is the owner of the 1914 20 hp Advance engine featured on the 2024 Souvenir Button. His engine was manufactured by the Advance Thresher Company in Battle Creek, Michigan. Advance Traction Engines were manufactured from 1885 until 1917. The company was reorganized under the name Advance-Rumely in 1915.

A friend located this engine on a farm near Navada, Missouri. The engine was for sale, so Aaron and his friend hopped on a plane and flew down to check it out. A month later, Aaron was the proud owner of the engine.

It took about six months to get it into running condition. Although it didn't need a complete restoration, a good deal of mechanical work was required including adding a boiler jacket and canopy. This year, we get to see the results of Aaron's hard work in action.

2024 Button Design Artist

Steven Paul Mendenhall, a native of Mount Pleasant, is the artistic designer of the 2024 button. Steve has been involved in many Old Threshers areas and programs since 1985. He is the long-time digital layout designer of the Old Threshers button. This is Steve's fourth year as the button's major designer, designing both the engine portrait



and the button layout. He has been a member of the Old Threshers button design team since 1987.

Steve's initials appear on the button, but you might need a magnifying glass, or maybe the giant Souvenir button to find it!

The exceptional skills of the Old Threshers button designer ensures that Old Threshers buttons are created with a very high standard of design quality rarely present in similar event pin-backs. The hours the artists spend on the button projects continue to be noticed and appreciated among the many Old Threshers visitors and button collectors. I think this is one of the reasons button collecting is so popular with Old Threshers attendees.

2024 Button Construction

The 56 mm diameter button is constructed as many previous buttons have been—a plastic coated paper formed over a metal shell and held together by a silver-colored metal backing disk. The attached silver-colored pin has the loop style catch.

Button Varieties

As of late May 2024, no new varieties of past years button have been reported.

Our collector's group's sharp-eyed variety collectors keep me up to date on new varieties for the current and past years. So far, no varieties of the 2024 button have been discovered, but major or minor varieties may turn up closer to the Reunion date, or during the Reunion.

2024 Engine of the Year Special Souvenir Button

Due to the continuing popularity of the giant four-inch buttons, Old Threshers has issued a limited quantity of the 2024 Souvenir button in the large format. This fifteenth "giant button" makes an interesting supplemental button for the core collection. It also allows one to view the artwork in greater detail. These giant buttons have limited availability from the Old Threshers Gift Shop and official OT souvenir stands while supplies last.

Official Supplements

The 10-hour Volunteer button for 2024 coordinates with the colors of the main Souvenir button (blue and white). The button measures 56 mm in diameter with a name window. Interesting fact: Terry McWilliams reports that the 10-hour Volunteer button is produced by a different company than the one that manufactures the souvenir button. Although they use the same Pantone color system, the blue on the 10-hour Volunteer button appears slightly darker.

The 10-hour Volunteer button is given by Old Threshers to

Continued on page 9

Button Collectors' Update 2024

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8



those individuals who have completed (or will complete) their 10-hour volunteer commitment to Old Threshers prior to the opening of the Reunion. The 2025 "volunteer year" begins at the end of the 2024 Reunion. I don't get involved in the details of these Old Threshers programs, but someone at the Old Threshers office can give you more information on how to apply for this volunteer program. Old Threshers is always looking for volunteers to help prepare for and put away after the Reunion.

In late May, the 2024 Exhibitor/Staff button was unavailable for examination. In past years, this oval name-window button has closely resembled the design of the Volunteer Button. An attached, coordinating ribbon will identify the main Old Threshers activity area of the wearer.



Both the Volunteer Button and the E/S Button and Ribbon are earned for volunteer work at Old Threshers, and tend to remain in the collections of the individuals who earned them. Old Threshers has never sold either of these buttons. These supplemental buttons do, on occasion, show up in the secondary market; but collectors must hunt diligently for them. If you are interested in earning either or both of these volunteer buttons, contact the Old Threshers Office, the first step in becoming involved in Old Threshers rewarding volunteer service.

Updates:

The following charts summarize updated facts about the 2024 Old Threshers Button collections. Be sure to add this important information to the inventory charts in your copy of *The Elusive '54, The Complete Guide to Old Threshers Button Collecting, third edition.*

ENGINE PORTRAITS

YEAR	MODEL	OWNER
2024	1914 20 hp Advance	Aaron Bixler, Blandinsville, Illinois

MEMBERSHIP/SOUVENIR BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBVERSE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2024	56 mm	2192C Blue Black White	Silver	Silver L	None	\$1.00

EARLY BIRD/VOLUNTEER BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBVERSE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2024	56 mm	2192C Blue White	Silver	Silver L	None	Market, Not Sold by OT

EXHIBITOR/STAFF BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBVERSE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2023	46 mm by 71 mm	2299C Green Black White	Silver	Silver L	None	Market, Not Sold by OT
2024	Likely Will be 46 mm by 71 mm	Likely Will be 2192C Blue Black White	Likely Will be Silver	Likely Will be Silver L	Likely Will be None	Market, Not Sold by OT

Answers to What is it? Where is it? From page 19

A) Murray "Special" Corliss Steam-Powered Generator—Steam Powerhouse, east end of Heritage Museum A. B) Professor Farquar's Medicine Wagon in the Log Village. C) Old Threshers Diamond Logo D) Draw Knife Demonstration in the Log Village E) Headlight of trolley 1718—Midwest Electric Railway. F) Pilot on Engine #6—Midwest Central Railway.

DEPRIESTS TO LEAD ANNUAL HARVEST DAY PARADE

This year's Harvest Parade will be lead by Mt. Pleasant's Jim and Marlene DePriest.

Easily considered Mt. Pleasant royalty, Jim and Marlene retired in 2023 from the Mt. Pleasant Community School District's music department.

They are no strangers to the Harvest Day Parade route as they walked along side the Mt. Pleasant Panther Marching Band for 31 years—Jim keeping the band in check and Marlene the color guard.

Jim is from Rockford, Ill., Marlene from Brooklyn, Iowa. The two met at Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant. They eventually married and lived and worked in Burlington, Iowa. In the fall of 1992, they applied for positions with the MPCSD and the rest is history.

"We will have the best seat in the house," says the couple when talking about leading the Harvest Parade. "Right in front of the band!"

"We are honored to have been asked to be the parade marshals this year!"



MIDWEST AND GREAT NORTHERN PRINTER'S F·A·I·R PRINTERS' HALL MOUNT PLEASANT

SEPTEMBER
12-14
TWENTY
24



October 3-5, 10-12, 17-19, 24-26, 31
14 and Under Must Be Accompanied by an Adult
Admission:
General \$15
Fast Pass \$25

Thursdays 6:30 to 10 PM
Fridays & Saturdays 6 to Midnight

\$15 Per Person!
Ages 4 and under FREE!

MIDWEST HAUNTED RAILS
 MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

Ghost Train of No Return & The Ghostly Trolley
October 11-12, 18-19, 25-26
Fridays 6 to 10 PM
Saturdays 6 to 10:30 PM
Last Ticket Sold 30 Mins before Closing

THE STORY OF LITTLE TOOT: RESTORING A HALF-SCALE RUMELY

In 1975, at 10-years-old, Pub Melsha found himself on a bus from Cedar Rapids, IA to Hamilton, MO to learn how to operate a 4HP, half-scale, Rumely steam engine. Knowing his obsession with the model steam engines at the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion, Pub's father and grandfather purchased the engine for him, picking both the youngster and engine up later that week. Built in 1964, and lovingly nick-named "Little Toot," the model engine has never missed a Reunion.

Little Toot has been driven and ridden by nearly everyone who has grown up in the Steam Area. Over the past fifty years, Little Toot likely has traveled more miles than any other engine on the grounds. It has engaged many young children in steam, often pulling a wagon where guests, young and old, enjoy rides. Almost everyone in the steam area has a memory involving Little Toot.

During the 2023 Reunion, the 4HP Rumely appeared a little tired and worn down. At this point, Pub and his daughter Sarah, the father-daughter owners, decided it was time for restoration.

- Toot's restoration began in February 2024 with the removal of Little Toot's wheels by Ryker Carruthers and Pub Melsha.
- Toot underwent extensive machine work, refurbishing, and restoration.
- Toot's wheels, axel, and pedestal were taken to Lenox, Iowa, to be powder-coated by Dalton Ag.
- Toot was washed, needled, and buffed by Sarah Melsha, Tyler Pender, and Pub Melsha until it was bare.
- Once the wheels were completed, they were pinstriped by Sarah Melsha and Ryker Carruthers.
- Sarah spent the winter in her garage painting the rest of the engine.
- The wheels returned from Lenox in June, and the engine, now fully painted, had its wheels reattached by Pub, Sarah,



Pub Melsha circa 1979 with his 4hp half-scale Rumely.

and Tyler Pender.

- The rest of the engine was pinstriped, and the brass polished by Sarah Melsha, with help from Ryker Carruthers.
- Little Toot now boasts a custom gauge created by Ryker Carruthers.
- Little Toot has a new wooden "seat" on the coal bunker created by Kenny Hansen.
- Little Toot features hand-painted lettering on the tanks by Hugh Hoffman of Mount Vernon, Iowa.
- Little Toot has other new amenities that we are excited to present at Old Threshers.

Toot's water wagon and two hayracks were also rebuilt, painted, and pinstriped this winter.

Little Toot's first show after its restoration was in Grand Mound, IA, at Eastern Iowa Threshers, just a week after its completion.

"We are excited for Toot to be back at Old Threshers for its 48th (thanks COVID) Reunion," says Sarah. "Next year Pub will have had Toot for 50 years."

Photos courtesy of the Melsha Family



Little Toot (above) after restoration, and entertaining the littles.



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

INTRODUCING THE 2024 SWEET 16 PARTICIPANTS

Ashlynn Beauchamp New London, Iowa

Parents: Tara and Brandon Beauchamp



Ashlynn is involved with color guard, show choir, dance team, golf, softball, 4-H, youth group, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Empower U, silver cord, church

service projects, bell choir at her church, band, and volleyball. She enjoys hunting with her dad, thrifting, re-decorating her room, making static projects for the Henry County Fair, baking and taking care of her pets. She was also lucky enough to play a mermaid and this spring's musical, "The Little Mermaid" and hopes to participate in more upcoming theater.

The week of Midwest Old Threshers has been her highest anticipated week of the year for as long as she can remember. She has helped with the St Alphonsus food tent preparation as well as the spaghetti supper at the First Presbyterian Church (which funds Iowa Wins). She has also helped with the North Village School activities where she lead games for children.

Ashlynn wants to be the 2024 Miss Sweet 16 as she feels she can be a good role model for all the little girls and boys at Old Threshers and show them how joyful and fulfilling it is to be kind, generous, work hard, and live a life that glorifies God. She believes that kindness should be one's utmost quality.

Roma Bride Macomb, Illinois

Parents: Rachel Bride & Spencer Kemble



Roma is involved with FFA, 4-H Blandinsville Blue Ribbons acting as treasurer for three years. Roma shows Rex rabbits with the American Rabbit Breeders

Association. She also participates in cheerleading, wrestling, softball. Roma participates in early settler reenactment rendezvous; she works as a server/cook at the Full Scoop Ice Cream shop and is lifeguard certified.

Roma has been involved at Tractorland, exhibiting her family's tractors since she was born. She has been a Junior Conductor with the Midwest Central Railroad for the past four years. As a junior conductor she helps with loading and unloading of passengers along with punching their tickets for the ride.

Roma has been involved with Old Threshers for as long as she can remember, and it is a big tradition with her family. She has always looked up to the Sweet 16 girls when she would see them walking around the grounds in their pretty dresses and has looked forward to being able to do it herself. As Miss Sweet 16 she would be able to share the heritage of Old Threshers and all the fun things that it has to offer. She would like to be able to share her love for Old Threshers with others and show them why Old Threshers is a great place to be with family and friends that become family.

Jacie Campbell Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Missy Campbell & Jason Campbell



Jacie participates in 4-H, FFA, Science Fair and Silver Cord Volunteer Program. She enjoys helping the Henry County Cattlemen, and farming with her

dad and grandpa on the family farm. She also enjoys spending time with family. She feels blessed to be able to raise cattle and pigs as well as row crop farm with her family.

Jacie has volunteered at Old Threshers for a few years. She has volunteered on the ground train, working the gates and at the Threshers House of Terror. She has also helped in the pork producers' tent and Drive-a-Tractor with her FFA chapter.

Jacie believes it would be an honor to be the next Miss Sweet 16 as she would be able to further advocate for Midwest Old Threshers, the Miss Sweet 16 Program and some of the earliest foundations of agriculture. For Jacie, being a part of the program is a family tradition wearing the dresses made by her family.

Mac Tyrrell West Des Moines, Iowa

Parents: Josh and Tory Tyrrell



Mac is the President of the Valley High School Young Republican Club. She is the head sports commentator for varsity boys' basketball for the

radio station 88.7 KDWM The Point. She plays the wing position in Rugby and is involved with bowling, synchronized



Be sure to get a seat in the east end of Museum B in time to play BINGO!

The Old Threshers Foundation will host BINGO starting at 1 pm on Thursday and throughout the Reunion.

Thurs-Sun: 1-5pm | Mon 9am-1pm

Check the official Old Threshers programs for details. All proceeds from BINGO are invested in the Foundation's endowment

Continued on page 13

SWEET 16 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

swimming, and golf teams. She enjoys swimming and running daily. She does Mock Trial and is in the Air Force JROTC. She is currently doing a real estate apprenticeship. Mac is in multiple mentor/big sister programs as well as being vice president of the mentor club at her school. Most of all, she loves spending time with her three younger brothers and her family.

Mac has helped at the St Alphonsus Church where her grandparents are involved. As she is getting older, she hopes to become more involved with Old Threshers starting with her involvement in the Sweet 16 Program.

Mac has attended Old Threshers for as long as she can remember. Living in Mt. Pleasant for a few years, and having her grandparents, Bill and Tammy Tyrell, still in Mt. Pleasant, the town holds some of her favorite memories. One of them is seeing Miss Sweet 16 participants and thinking how beautiful they were, how they looked like princesses, and how kind they were to her. She wants to be this for other kids. Mac strives to make a positive impact on others' lives and to be the inspiration for another little girl to compete in the Miss Sweet 16 Program at Old Threshers.

Sydney Graber Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Nathen Graber & Misty Graber



Pleasant High School.

Sydney has volunteered at the carousel during the Haunted Rails event, the food pavilion and performs with the Panther Marching Band performances. She has helped her family with their tractors or cars during the Cavalcade of Power.

Sydney draws, plays the tuba, writes poetry, and plays video games. She enjoys music, art, reading and animals. Sydney also belongs to the IJAG program at Mt

Sydney has always been interested in doing Sweet 16 since she was a younger child and saw all the girls in the pretty dresses. She thinks it would be a fun way to participate in Old Threshers this year. Being a part of the Sweet 16 Program will give her experience helping in her community as well as getting her out of her comfort zone.

Eliana Watkinson Crawfordsville, Iowa

Parents: Trevor and Liza Watkinson

Eliana likes to participate in soccer and



track and field. She enjoys rollerblading and writing. She babysits and likes to have fun with family and friends. Eliana has been involved with Prairie Gem Church at

Midwest Old Threshers, cleaning and helping along with attending. She has also been coming to the Reunion since she was little.

Although Eliana believes it would be an honor to be the next Miss Sweet 16, she is participating because she has always looked forward to doing it and being a volunteer around the people at Old Threshers. She has always wanted to do the Sweet 16 Program!

Piper Nelson Waterloo, Iowa

Parents: Brad and Christina Nelson



Piper enjoys art, Legos, music, and hiking in her free time. She loves playing the violin for the orchestra. Since 2021, she has been a part of the Iowa National Guard Child

and Youth Teen Panel, which puts on events across the state connected to military youth.

Piper has been to Old Threshers almost every year of her life and loves to

spend time seeing everything. Last year was the first time she volunteered by working at the ticket gates and on the ground train.

When Piper was a little girl, her favorite part of Old Threshers was meeting the Sweet 16 girls and she always inspired to be just like them. She would like to inspire the next generations of little girls.

Meadow Carter Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Ki Krabill & Wade Carter



Meadow is involved with musical activities including show choir, band, and color guard. She enjoys playing volleyball and running track. Over the years, she has

had the opportunity to provide care and supervision to many children.

Meadow has volunteered at the admission gates and has worked the ground train. She also performs with the Mt Pleasant Panther Marching Band in front of the grandstand.

Meadow has always looked up to the Sweet 16 participants, and is looking forward to the amazing experience. Meadow believes that being Miss Sweet 16 will be an amazing opportunity to represent Mt Pleasant and meet many new people. She has loved to watch other girls get crowned in previous years and finds it incredible to be an inspiration to the younger girls.

Continued on page 14



SWEET 16 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Zatori Williams Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parent: Tabatha Kelley



Zatori is involved with the Mt. Pleasant Marching Band and Concert Band where she plays the tuba. Zatori is involved with entrepreneurship through school and

is interested in pursuing business further. She loves art, music, and theater. She is also involved with the Silver Cord Program at Mt. Pleasant High School.

Zatori has been volunteered for Midwest Old Threshers as an actor at the Thrashers House of Terror for the last five years. She was recently recognized for her acting talents along with her pet, "T" (a trained naked rat.) Zatori also helped a new food vendor at the Reunion, Paul Reveres Pizza, last year.

Zatori would like to be the next Sweet 16 because she wants to be known by more people and to show that anyone can be anything if they put their mind to it, to not be afraid to try something new, and to be a leader not a follower.

Tia Willey Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Wes and Stephanie Willey
Tiffany Ford and Travis Baker



Tia performs with the Mt. Pleasant High School band. She is interested in crafts, make-up, painting, volunteering, music, learning languages, baking, and

babysitting. She likes to spend time with her family.

Tia has performed with the Panther Marching Band at the Old Threshers Reunion. She looks forward to participating more this year wherever she can.

Becoming the next Sweet 16 offers her an opportunity to represent her community. It provides a platform to inspire and empower young women. Holding this title opens doors to exciting experiences while allowing for personal growth and development. As Sweet 16, she has the chance to make a positive impact on her community, serving as a role model for others and leaving a lasting impact.

Aunika Bruns Fort Madison, Iowa

Parents: Alexandra Bruns and
Raymond King



Aunika's hobbies include reading, cooking, and traveling. Her next trip is to Europe with her school. Her most recent interest has been in learning sign language. She

especially enjoys swimming and hanging out with friends. She spent this summer volunteering at Wesley Woods Church Camp as a Junior Counselor.

Aunika has volunteered at the Thrashers House of Terror for the past two years. Aunika is a zone leader, which entails providing security for the actors and assistance to guests. Aunika is looking forward to October again this year. This will be the first time that Aunika has volunteered for the Reunion.

Aunika would like to be the next Sweet 16 because she thinks it would be a good opportunity to volunteer for her community and to be of service. Aunika also enjoys learning new things while meeting new people and making new friends.



Natalie Parrott Middletown, Iowa

Parents: Luke and Jennifer Parrott



Natalie is involved with cross country, cheerleading, and track. As a freshman she wrestled for Mt Pleasant Panther Girls Team. Besides sports, Natalie is in choir, show choir, speech, plays and 4-H. Natalie is also a member of Udder Chaos Dairy Club, and Share a Heifer Program with her brown Swiss cow named Dawn.

Natalie has been involved at Midwest Old Threshers as a 5th generation exhibitor in the Gas Engine Area. She works on the ground train during the show. Natalie has helped with Spring School Tours and is a 2023 Trolley school graduate. She has also helped with the Thrashers House of Terror since 2019.

Natalie has wanted to be the next Sweet 16 ever since she was a little girl. She could be found wearing her dresses all around the grounds pretending. She is excited that its finally her year to be a true hostess. Natalie will be the fourth family member to participate in the Sweet 16 Program.

Zenlynn Lee Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Adam and Holli Lee



Zenlynn is involved in the following through the Mt Pleasant High School, trap shooting, wrestling, band, and silver cord. She is also involved with 4-H, 4

-H teen council, FFA and showing various species of livestock. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, fishing, being outside, and volunteering. She also enjoys woodworking with her grandpa and baking with her grandma.

SWEET 16 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Zenlynn has been attending the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion every year since before she was able to walk. She has enjoyed helping with the ground trains, the Horse Area, the Pork Producers tent, Drive a Tractor, marching in the parade with the Mt. Pleasant High School Band, and various other performances, the Cavalcade of Power and baking cookies for the Methodist Church tent's ice cream sandwiches. She has also been a part of Thrashers House of Terror, for the last two years.

Becoming the next Sweet 16 would open new opportunities for Zenlynn to continue her community involvement while also encouraging her to get out of her comfort zone by being in the public eye. This will help her gain more confidence in the interview process and public speaking.

Lena Nelson **New London, Iowa**

Parents: Jennifer Runyon
Joseph Nelson



Lena is involved in softball and track. She enjoys music, photography, and writing.

Lena has volunteered at the ticket booths during the Reunion. She is also a

member of the Thrashers House of Terror scream crew since 2018.

Lena loves Old Threshers and has been attending her entire life. She has always dreamed of participating in Sweet 16 for as long as she can remember. She loves helping others, enjoys new experiences and meeting new people.

Madison Keck **Mt. Pleasant, Iowa**

Parents: Kevin and Jessie Sandersfeld



Madison is involved with competition dance, cheerleading and band. Madison has been a part of Midwest Old Threshers by performing in the

Mt Pleasant Panther Marching band, where they perform in the Harvest Parade, at the beginning of the Cavalcade of Power on Thursday and Monday of the Reunion. She also has attended the Reunion every year of her life.

Madison wants to be the next Sweet 16 because she wants to be able to make a difference. She also wants to be able to give back to her community. She has lived in Mt Pleasant her entire life and participating has been a dream of her since she was little.

Katie Sue Ettinger **Mt. Pleasant, Iowa**

Parents: Randi and Nick Ettinger



Katie Sue is involved with competitive archery, wrestling, and band. She likes riding quads and dirt bikes along with hunting.

Katie Sue has always been involved in the band performances at the Old Threshers Reunion. She has also helped her late-grandfather, Charles Erue, with woodworking for the annual art show.

Katie Sue would like to be the next Sweet 16 because her mother competed, and she loves Old Threshers. She also appreciates what's involved with Old Threshers and the education aspect. She would like to be a role model for other young girls in Iowa.

GiGi Olson **Mt. Pleasant, Iowa**

Parent: Kellee Olson

GiGi is involved with marching band and symphonic band along with helping the



show choir. She was a part of the ensemble in the high school musical, The Little Mermaid. GiGi also raises rabbits. GiGi has been an antique tractor

exhibitor of a Farmall-F12, John Deer B and a garden tractor. She also helps on the Conrood's new Huber Steam Engine. Since she has been a child she has been involved with many activities during Old Threshers.

GiGi has wants to be the next Sweet 16 because she has grown up watching all the young women participate in the program and has waited 16 years to be one of them. GiGi's connection to Old Threshers goes back to her great grandparents and the Traction Steam Area. Over the years her family has brought tractors, antique cars, and small gas engines. Her two aunts participated in Sweet 16, and her grandma Christine hand sewed their dresses. GiGi will be wearing those dresses this year in memory of her grandma.

Old Threshers is important to her family because it brings them all together once a year. It is a family legacy for them and will be for many years to come.

*Don't miss the crowning
of Miss Sweet 16
Monday, Sept. 2nd
at 9:45am in the
Family Tent*

SWEET 16 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Olivia McCormick Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Colin and Lea McCormick



Olivia has been in dance for over 12 years, including competition dance and the school dance team. She participates in the school cheer team (football, basketball, and competition)

She runs track, plays in the school band and choir. She loves spending time with friends, family and her two dogs.

Olivia has been involved at the Log Village since the second grade. She has also volunteered at her parish food tent in the pavilion along with the Boy Scout Troop 27 food tent in the Log Village. She has worked as an elf at the Santa House at the Festival of Lights.

Olivia would like to be the next Sweet 16 because it sounds like a lot of fun and seems like a great opportunity to learn more about her community and gain important life skills.

Elizabeth Crull Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Matt and Jennifer Crull



Elizabeth is involved in band and choir and plays piano. Her interests include antique tractors, trains, steam engines, video games and animals.

Elizabeth has been involved with antique tractors since she was 8 years old as her family has several. She just finished steam school this spring and can't wait to run a steam engine during the show. She has many hours of volunteering for Midwest Central Railroad and while it is not a part of the Midwest Old Threshers organization, it plays a large supporting role. She has sold tickets and volunteered as a train conductor for the Reunion.

She has also helped setup for Midwest Haunted Rails as well as helped actors with make-up in the South Station for their character along with haunt acting herself. She also helps with recruitment for this event. Elizabeth has also been in the role of Snow Princess and Junior Snow Princess for the Midwest Central Railroad's North Pole Express for the last eight years. Prior to she helped serve cookies and hot chocolate to the guests.

Elizabeth wants to demonstrate that femininity can be looking the part of Sweet 16, but also being able to fix her tractor or run a steam engine at the same time. When it came to her family farm, her great-grandma was the one running everything behind the scenes while also taking care of the house while great-grandpa was in the fields. She wants to share in their partnership.

Delania Hourihan Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Jenna and Daniel Wixom

Delania plays basketball for the Mt. Pleasant Panthers. She also loves to write stories and plays, drawing,



cooking, baking, and listening to music.

Delania has been volunteering for Old Threshers by working the ground train during the Reunion. In the off season, she has been actively involved with the Thrashers House of Terror since 2022.

Delania would like to be the next Miss Sweet 16 because it would introduce her to new experiences and get her out of her comfort zone. She believes that it will help her get to know people and learn more about Midwest Old Threshers and how it has a positive impact on her small town.

Cadence Hellweg Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Cody Hellweg & Molly Brimmer



Cadence enjoys singing and dancing along with reading.

Cadence hasn't volunteered for the Reunion but has supported Midwest Old

Threshers through the Thrashers House of Terror and as an elf at the Festival of Lights.

Cadence wants to be part of the Sweet 16 program so she can learn more about the history of our community.

Hayleigh McPherson Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Heath and Lisa McPherson



Hayleigh is involved with showing livestock (Dairy cattle, Beef cattle and goats) and is a member of the 4-H and FFA. She enjoys soccer, crafting, reading, and

riding horses.

Hayleigh has been involved with Midwest Old Threshers by volunteering for the ground train for the last two years and the Pork Producers tent for three years. She recently started volunteering for the Thrashers House of Terror.

Hayleigh is excited to be a part of the Sweet 16 Program because it has always been something she and her friend have talked about doing together since they were in preschool. The two of them hung out at Old Threshers together finding places to volunteer until they were exhausted. Being a part of the Sweet 16 Program is a dream they share, and Hayleigh couldn't let that dream not happen. Hayleigh wants to help serve her community by participating in the Sweet 16 Program.

IT IS POSSIBLE TO EAT YOUR WAY ACROSS THE GROUNDS

Everyone talks about planning their trip to the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion, picking out the demonstrations and musical entertainment they want to attend. Even more fun is deciding where and what to eat!

Here is a list of food vendors for the 2024 Reunion and a sampling of their menus:

Boy Scout Troop 28- Pancake House—pancakes, French toast, breakfast burrito, eggs, sausage, hashbrowns, toast

Brunk's Concessions—fresh squeezed lemonade, hand-dipped corn dog, funnel cakes

Coffee Cruiser, LLC—hot & cold latte, cappuccino, caramel macchiato, Americano, chai tea, hot chocolate, smoothies, frappes

Eat My Bloomers—fresh squeezed lemonade, corn dogs, funnel cakes, tenderloins, cheese curds, ribbon fries, Bloomin onion

Elk Tent—elk burgers, brat patty, jumbo hot dog, elk stick, chips

Faith Lutheran Church—beef & noodles, hot beef, BBQ pork sandwiches, hot dogs, beef burger, pies, homemade desserts

First United Methodist Church—Methodist Meatloaf, fried chicken, potatoes, corn, green beans, pies, ice cream sandwiches

Hang Around Café—frybread, ham & cheese frybread, frybread taco

OT Pork Shop—pork burger, pork loin, pulled pork

Hy-Vee/Camper Grocery—hamburgers, hot dogs, ribeyes, chips, cookies, ice cream

L&M Boosters—fresh-squeezed lemonade - original, cherry or blue raspberry, water

Mt. Pleasant Business & Professional Women—Pepsi products, caramel corn, pop corn

Mt. Union Booster Club—old fashioned candy, Millstream Soda, lemonade, popcorn, pickles

Olds United Church of Christ—tenderloins, hot dog, corn dog, chicken nuggets, ice cream, root beer floats, caramel apples

Otte's Concessions—Cheese curds, fresh-squeezed lemonade, corn dogs, French fries, fry bread, kettle corn

Paul Revere's Pizza—breakfast pizza, cheese, sausage, pepperoni, meat deluxe pizza, BBQ pork sandwiches, hot dogs, Maidrites

Pineapple Whip Iowa—cone, dish, waffle cone, pineapple float, sundaes - pineapple, strawberry, orange, raspberry flavors

Sassy & Sips—Caramel Case Coffee and other flavors including Cozy Campfire, Midwest Mocha, Steam Engine, and Oh My Gourd!

St. Alphonsus Church—meatloaf ball, catfish, rotisserie chicken, pork loin, ribeye, walking tacos, hand-scooped ice cream

Sugar Creek Turkey Grill—turkey legs, turkey tenderloin, chipm hot dogs

Sweet' n Saucy BBQ—BBQ brisket, pulled chicken or pork sandwiches, BBQ nachos, BBQ totchos, fried pickles or brussel sprouts | biscuits & gravy

Sweet 16/Thrashers House of Terror—Lotus Drinks

Wayland New Beginnings—beefburgers, hot dogs, walking taco, nachos & grande nachos, donuts, soft-serve ice cream

Click [here](#) for a map of the grounds.

Don Carlson Memorial Horse Pull Wednesday Aug. 28th, 7pm



**Admission: \$10 - Per Person After 6pm or
included with \$40 - Multi-Day Wristband**

**Steam Roller
- PRINTING -**

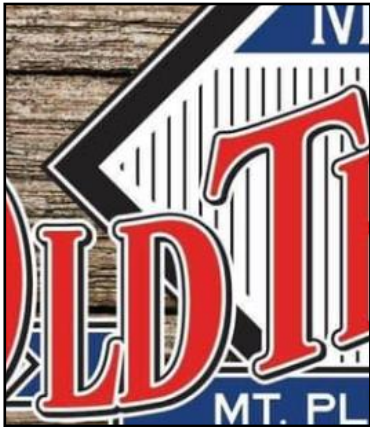
**10:00AM FRI- SAT- SUN
AUG 30, 31, & SEPT 1, 2024**

MUSEUM B EAST DOOR

OLD THRESHERS
MT PLEASANT IOWA

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 9.

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

OBITUARIES

Janice Crabill

Janice (Jan) Elaine Oberman Crabill, 87, of Scottsdale, AZ and formerly of Mt. Union, New London, and Mt. Pleasant died on May 22, 2024 at Hospice of the Valley - Eckstein Center.

Jan was born on November 5, 1936 in Burlington, IA, the daughter of Howard and Edith (Spencer) Oberman. She graduated from Mount Union High School and attended the University of Iowa for three years majoring in Business.

On June 1, 1957, she married James (Jim) Edward Crabill in Mt. Union; he died November 4, 2008. While Jim was in the Navy, she worked as a secretary in various Civil Service jobs. After moving back to Iowa, she was an assistant to James D. Marshall who taught Dale Carnegie Courses; a bookkeeper for Hodson-McKim Motors; a teller at Iowa State Bank; and finally worked for Van Syoc Auction and Realty.

Jan was a member of the Mt. Union Booster Club, Henry County A.R.C., and Chapter U of T.T.T. of Mt. Union. She looked forward to volunteering every year at Midwest Old Threshers. She enjoyed reading and attending Bible classes. While Jim was stationed in Naples, Italy, their love for travel began when they took trips throughout Europe. Later in life, they traveled much of the U.S. in their motorhome and spent many winters in Arizona where they enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

Jan is survived by her daughters, Joyce Niemiec of Scottsdale, AZ and Joni (Brad) Fulton of Fort Madison, IA; three grandchildren, Michael (Ashley) Niemiec, Katelyn (Adam) Hofmann and Sara (Marshall) Niemiec; four great-grandchildren, Cruz and Holland Niemiec and Owen and Calvin Hofmann. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, infant son Jeffrey, and brothers Royce and Eldon.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may go to Hope Haven

Area Development Center in Burlington, IA.

David Fuller

David L. Fuller, 83, of Washington and formerly of the Mt. Pleasant and Salem communities, passed away on May 30, 2024, at Aspire of Washington.

David was born on December 27, 1940, in Salem, Iowa the son of Harold Roscoe and Cecelia Julia (Feehan) Fuller. He received his education at the Oak Grove and Center Country Schools.

David worked for various gas stations working on cars. He helped many farmers in the Salem area and worked for Whaley Waste of Mt. Pleasant. He enjoyed attending Midwest Old Threshers and served as the director of the antique tractor area for a few years.

He is survived by his children, Brenda, Beverly and Margie, along with several grandchildren and great grandchildren, his four brothers, Henry (Jerri) Fuller, Clyde Fuller, Walter (Susan) Fuller, and Ronald (Jane) Fuller, his sister, Opal (Keith) Koresko and a step-sister, Louise (Lowell) Stegall, along with nieces and nephews.

David was preceded in death by his parents, a son in infancy and two brothers, Frank Fuller and Wayne Fuller.

A memorial has been established in his memory.

Mark Fedler

Mark Louis Fedler, 73, of Danville, died August 10, 2024 at his home, surrounded by his family. He was born in Ft. Madison on October 26, 1950 to Edmund G. and Delores Elizabeth Spiekermeier Fedler. On August 2, 1986 he married Barbara Kay Crouch at First Baptist Church in Danville.

He attended St. Mary Catholic Schools and graduated in 1968 from Marquette High School in West Point. He attended Indian Hills Community College in the culinary arts program following his Navy service.

Mark joined the Navy February 3, 1970 in Des Moines, Iowa where he was sent to boot camp in San Diego. He went to Steward School, served two years at Guantanamo Bay, then two years aboard an aircraft carrier where he was the Steward's Cook. He was discharged February 3, 1974. After high school, he worked at Freuhauf in Ft. Madison for six months before enlisting in the service, then returned to Freuhauf after serving his country, then quit to go into law enforcement. He served the towns of Centerville, Columbus Junction, Middletown, and retired as the police chief of Danville after twenty-seven years and nine months of service. During this time, he was also a cook at Jack Hamilton's Supper Club. Mark worked for his sister frying fish at Charleston, Schaefer Golf Course Restaurant and Aggies On The Square in West Point.

After retiring he drove a bus for the Danville school district and also worked in their kitchen, then drove a bus for the New London school district for four years.

He enjoyed fishing and mushroom hunting with Luke, Natalie and Hailey; in his earlier years spending time with his nieces and nephews; driving school busses; running the time clock for basketball games; and playing with his grand puppies Connor and Huxley.

He was a member of the Lion's Club, Southeast Iowa Gas Engine Club, Casebine Credit Union Board of Directors and Danville City Council. He and his wife, Barb were inducted onto the Honor Wall at the Danville Hall of Fame in 2022.

Besides his wife Barb of Danville, he is survived by his daughter Jennifer (Luke) Parrott of Middletown; granddaughters Hailey Nicole and Natalie Corrine; siblings, Connie (Glenn) Ferrell of Fairfield, Pat Becker of Blue Grass, Kathy Hedger of Ft. Madison, Steve Fedler of Des Moines, John (Gina) Fedler of Mantua, Ohio, Mary (Kirk) Shannon of Stockport, Susie Gelsthorpe of

STEAM POWERHOUSE SETS BASE FOR CHUSE ENGINE



Volunteers in the Stationary Steam Powerhouse poured a concrete base for the Chuse engine.

J. F. Chuse was the foreman of the machine shop for the Indianapolis & St. Louis Railroad. In 1874, he partnered with a fellow machinist, Richard Heap, and they formed a business named Chuse & Company.

They initially did general machining, repairs and began manufacturing small pumps. In 1890 they started manufacturing steam engines to power threshing machines that were pulled by 8 and 10 horse teams.

By 1892 Chuse & Company had begun building high speed steam engines to power generators in power plants. In 1900 the company was reorganized as the Chuse Engine & Manufacturing Company.

To find out more about the Chuse engine at Midwest Old Threshers, visit the Steam Powerhouse located at the east end of Heritage Museum A.*

**Information taken from the Mattoon History Center & the Mattoon Public Library.*

OBITUARIES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Donnellson, Chuck (Kim) Fedler of New Haven, Indiana, Aggie (Bob) Anderson of Donnellson, and Tim (Shari) Fedler of Nokomis, Florida; brothers-in-law George Olsen of Sherman, Texas and Brian Humphrey of South Sioux City, Nebraska; aunt Lorene Fedler of West Point; mother-in-law Doris Crouch of Danville; sister-in-law Peggy (Doug) Fraise of Danville; brother-in-law John (Kerry) Crouch of Yarmouth; many nieces,

nephews, and great-nieces and nephews; and his fur-daughter "Miss Bailey".

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Christine Olsen and Lori Humphrey; two brothers, Ted Fedler and Ed, Jr. Fedler; father-in-law Lester Crouch; brother-in-law Jerry Becker; sister-in-law Pam Fedler; brother-in-law Lee Hedger; and nephew Mike Hedger.

Mount Pleasant
Festival of Lights
Drive-Thru Holiday Light Park
Nov. 23 & 24, Fun Run/Walk ONLY No Vehicles
\$5 Per Person - Kids 4 and Under Free
5:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Last Entry 30 mins before Closing
November 27-30
December 1-31, 2024
5:30 pm to 9:00pm
Admission:
Family Vehicle \$10
Limo \$25
Mini Coach \$30
Motor Coach \$60
Meet Santa!
with F.O.L. Admission on these select nights
November 29, 30
December 1, 6-8, 13-15, 20-23
www.OldThreshers.com



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



2024 Calendar of Events

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 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22—North Pole Express
 December 21–January 5, 2025—Office Closed



Old Threshers Reunion

EST. 1950

Aug. 28 - Sept. 1, 2025 * Mount Pleasant, Iowa