



Volume 40, Number 1

Spring 2014

First Two-Story Building Nearing Completion

Thanks to the generous donations from Traction Steam volunteers, The Old Threshers Foundation, The Enhance Henry County Foundation, The Hoaglin Foundation and many other friends of Old Threshers, the Bob and Penny Gilchrist Traction Steam Headquarters Building is nearing completion.

The first two-story building constructed on the Old Threshers grounds is located in the same place as the old Traction Steam HQ building, just south of Richard E Oetken Tractor Headquarters Building.

Built by Weiler Construction, it matches the other buildings on the grounds following the red and green color scheme.



The new Traction Steam Headquarters Building is almost done.

The second story loft will allow storage in the off-season.

Traction Steam Directors Chris Heaton and Bob Gilchrist would

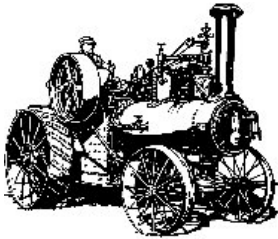
like to thank everyone who has donated to this much needed project.

Reserved Camping Sites for 2014 Still Available!

Call 319-385-8937 and reserve yours today!

Smoke from the Stack

by Lennis Moore



Time is such a relative thing. Most of the time, it seems like there are not enough minutes in the day to get everything done. Other times the moments drag along. I have a feeling this spring is going to be one of those times.

We have been besieged by a winter that will not quit. Cold temperatures and snow hold on as if this is what our spring will be. But we live in the Midwest, and we know that the weather will turn on a dime when the time is ready.

* * *

Despite the cold temperatures, projects at Midwest Old Threshers are already underway. Chris Heaton and the volunteers in the traction steam area are way ahead on their project to construct the new Bob and Penny Gilchrist Traction Steam Headquarters. The new structure will become the centerpiece of the oldest exhibit area on the Reunion grounds. The building is the first two-story headquarters building to be constructed on the grounds, and its unique design will certainly set it apart from other structures. We anticipate the new building will be completed well before the Reunion and invite everyone to stop by and see this new addition to Midwest Old Threshers.

As with the majority of projects on the Old Threshers grounds, the Old Threshers Foundation has played a role in the initial funding of the project. But this project had been unique in its fundraising efforts in that dozens of volunteers and exhibitors have joined with Chris Heaton and Bob Gilchrist to make this project a reality. It is certainly a testament to the continuing support of the volunteers and exhibitors who are the

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Foundation Nets Record Earnings in 2013

Thanks to all of you who have supported the Old Threshers Foundation with your charitable contributions throughout the years, last year's net income of \$71,943 was the largest amount of earnings in our Foundation's history. This amount was transferred from the Foundation following



our annual meeting in November to Midwest Old Threshers for their financial support in 2014. Only the earnings are transferred; the principal amount of your contributions remains invested in the permanent endowment.

Providing this financial support to Midwest Old Threshers is the sole purpose of the Foundation. Since it was founded in 1986, the Foundation has transferred \$921,466.04 in earnings from its permanent endowment to Midwest Old Threshers. These earnings represent the interest and dividends received from our trust account plus rental payments received from the Illinois farm and earnings received from the Granaman Trust, both of which were bequeathed to the Foundation.

Donors to the Old Threshers Foundation now have a new option to contribute to specific immediate financial needs or special projects as Midwest Old Threshers. With the creation of the pass through account last spring, money can now be designated for specific needs and immediately be passed on to Old Threshers. An example of the pass through contributions is the Mount Pleasant Festival of Lights, which was first introduced during the 2013 holiday season and will be an even larger event in 2014. Contributions have also been made in the pass through account for Printers Hall and Drive a Tractor.

All gifts to the Old Threshers Foundation, either as a long-term investment in the permanent endowment or as a short-term investment in the new pass through account, qualify as charitable contributions to a non profit 501(c)(3) organization for Federal income, estate and gift tax purposes. We are always appreciative of any gifts received, whether in the form of cash, stocks or deferred giving. If you have any questions or need additional information about any of these options, please contact me at the Midwest Old Threshers office 3219-385-8937.



Alan Huisinga—Executive Director of Development, Midwest Old Threshers

Meet the new face at Old Threshers

For those of you who have called the Old Threshers office recently, there may have been a strange voice on the other end of the phone. Most likely it belonged to our new secretary, Julie.

Julie was born and raised in Mt. Pleasant. She has one daughter, Lauren, and is engaged to be married in May. She and Lauren live with her fiancé, Ty, in Burlington.

Prior to coming to Old Threshers, Julie worked in

Communications at Henry County Health Center for seven years.

Julie says she really likes her position at Old Threshers. "I like the diversity and change of pace in daily tasks and activities," Julie says of her new job. "There are several events that go on out here other than the Reunion and I love being a part of them, whether it be hands on or behind the scenes."

Julie joined the staff

late last fall and has had the opportunity to be involved with the Thrashers House of Terror and Haunted Rails, the first year of The Festival of Lights and is the coordinator for Spring School Tours. She has been helping Glenna Voyles with preparation for the 12th Annual Bussey Doll Event.

"I am looking forward to experiencing and being a part of this years Old Threshers Reunion!"



Julie Novak

If Only They Could Talk, Oh the Stories They Would Tell

Every piece of equipment on display at the Old Threshers Reunion and in the Heritage Museums have a story to tell.

Some have been handed down through the generations with their history in tact. Others have no one to tell of the role they played in the lives of the farmers and families they helped over the years.

One of those is the 132hp Reeves. One of the flagship engines belonging to the Association has a rich history that can be traced back to the fields of Canada.

Drew Schumacher and Mike Borders who operate the Reeves heard those stories first hand during the 2013 Reunion as Ole Carlberg made the trip the Mount Pleasant to see the engine his grandfather once owned.

They had to ask about the piece missing from the smokestack. It happened when the engine was hauled under an overpass that was a little too low.

Ole remembers his father paying his threshing crew at the end of the season. He would buy 5 gallons of

wine and cases of beer and that would be their going away present. He said they could have as many as 22 people on the crew he had to pay. He hung his coat up and made sure things were in order for the next day –payday.

On the night before payday, the workers hung up their coats and celebrated, while Ole's dad went to bed. The next morning he reached into the pocket of his coat and pulled out a wad of bills to the surprise of everyone around him. "He always paid in cash," said Ole.

One of the workers said that if they had known all that money was in there, he and the money wouldn't be there in the morning. To which Ole's dad replied, "That's why you didn't know it was there!"

One mystery may have been solved that involves initials on the boiler. Using what looks like a punch, several initials are legible but no one knows why they are there.

Ole said the letters punched into the boiler are most likely from members of



Drew Schumacher, left, and Mike Borders, right, stand with Ole Carlberg of Canada whose grandfather was the original owner of the 132 HP Reeves, one of the Association's flagship steam engines. Drew and Mike operate the engine during the Reunion.

the engine crew who decided to leave their mark. None of the initials match any of the names of people in his family.

Drew and Mike were honored to take Ole through the Cavalcade of Power on the Reeves. Ole wore a smile the whole time!

"It's just amazing to be able to stand here and talk with someone who remembers this engine hard at work in the fields," commented Mike.

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THE 1950s OLD THRESHERS BUTTONS

by Carolyn Sidebottom
Plymouth, Minnesota

Midwest Old Settlers & Threshers Association received its charter and held its first two-day event in 1950. It was a small, but enthusiastically attended show of steam power and threshing—a promising beginning for the event we still celebrate 64 years later.

I suspect that the founders of Old Threshers did not intend to start a series of collectable souvenirs; but inadvertently, that is exactly what they did. The Old Threshers button is the only collectable available that spans the entire history of Old Threshers.

The first Old Threshers pinback button is undated. Visitors and exhibitors alike could donate one dollar to the fledgling organization and receive the yellow and red button featuring the engine of the association's first president, Ray Ernst. If one wanted to purchase a membership in the association—for an additional dollar, you could get a nice blue ribbon accessory to wear with your button. This scheme succeeded in raising much needed revenue for the association. Remember, the \$2.00 price of one button and one ribbon in 1950 is equivalent to a \$19.10 price in today's economy! The purchase of a button and it's accessory ribbon was quite a significant expense for many individuals in 1950.



That first button came with a **gold-toned** metal backing and was manufactured by the St. Louis Button Company. This button has an embossed manufacturer's logo in the backing. The pin has an "electrocardiogram-looking" mounting that secures the pin in its upright position. This nearly unique pin mounting only appears again in the Old Threshers and Swap Meet series buttons for 1997.

Needing to raise funds for the second event in 1951, the organizers repeated the successful scheme from the previous year minus the separate ribbon. This time, purchasing the button automatically enrolled you as a member of the association.

The same yellow and red button was used for 1951. Leftover buttons with gold backs were sold in 1951. The depleted 1950 stock of buttons was supplemented with an additional order which came with a different style backing of **silver colored** metal. By tradition, the silver back button has come to represent the 1951 Old Threshers button— even though some people purchased a gold back button in 1951. The silver back button was **not available** in 1950.

Name-window buttons were new for 1952. Apparently, the association wanted to emphasize community. One could now wear the annual button as a nametag throughout the rest of the decade. All of the 1952 through 1959 name-window buttons have a similar front design with only the smallest of differences. Some of the years may have different backing colors that tend to get variety collectors very excited! However, there are major differences in design and manufacturing that show up in 1955. More on that later.

1952—This was the first of the name-window buttons. The basic look of this button continues to the end of the decade with very minor differences. The design includes an association ring; a "dot"; the date and place; and a photograph of the featured engine.



1953—The design for this issue is similar in appearance to the 1952 button. A different type style for the date was introduced and the color theme was different. There are **known** backing color

varieties for this issue.

1954— The design "dot" is gone from this issue, not to return, and another different type style for the date **and** place appeared.

Scarcity makes this button hard to find. This was the best attended reunion to date despite some rain and humidity. The order was nearly sold out for this attractive issue. I credit the first year appearance of the Midwest Old Threshers and Settlers Women's Auxiliary for the increased sales in 1954. The women actively promoted the buttons through their souvenir sales booth on the reunion grounds.

Leftover back issues were sold in subsequent years at a discount that further depleted the supply of all of the 1950s buttons. The discounted price was \$.25 per button. I remember this vividly because my mother had given me \$1.00 in 1958 to purchase an Old Thresher's souvenir of my choice. I decided to buy my little brother four old buttons for his new button collection—the 1954 was one of those!

1955—Something strange and mysterious happened in 1955 producing a rare major variety. Records no longer exist that might answer questions about why there are two very different buttons styles in 1955. A disastrous fire destroyed many of the historic records of the association. The only two possible explanations for the differences in these buttons that make sense to me are:

- There were two different manufacturers that year. Perhaps the manufacturer re-tooled between the first and second deliveries. Old Threshers has always had a split delivery schedule for the buttons. The first shipment is a test order of a small quantity for approval. The balance of the order is then processed and shipped.

Differences between the two varieties of 1955 buttons are:

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Bussey Doll Event to Coincide with Swap Meet

A Little Something for the Ladies!

by Glenna Voyles
New London, Iowa

Most Chaff readers are aware of the big Swap Meet/Flea Mkt./ Gun Show coming to the Old Threshers grounds on May 24 and 25. The men will be happy! The ladies need not feel neglected. The big Bussey Doll Event is scheduled for May 24 also! We will have much to offer. Now the women will be happy too! Make it a family day, something for everyone!

The registered attendees will hear programs on often

ignored dolls in "Meeting Overlooked Children's Story Dolls". This program is a different and interesting venue. Also-- some items from the well-known dolls of literature will be displayed, such as *Little Women, Heidi, Pinnochio* and others. This will be a fun morning for all.

We have the honor of engaging an authority on Shirley Temple presenting a wonderful program. There will be many hard to find vintage Shirley dolls and items on

display. The program has music, film clips, etc as well as the touching stories of "America's Sweetheart." Not only did Shirley Temple help to keep morale up during the WWII years but grew into a distinguished diplomat for her country as an adult!

Registrants will find the usual displays, morning refreshments, door prizes, catered luncheon, souvenir gift, and more.

Please get your registrations in early to

assure we have the correct amount of souvenir gifts, meals etc. If your daughter would like to attend, that can also be arranged.

There will of course be the sales floor with not only dolls, but other items of interest to girls and ladies. Dealer spaces are available.

Questions can be referred to the office at 319-385- 8937, as well as contacting the Curator Glenna Voyles. at [319-367-2614](tel:319-367-2614) or

Midwest Old Threshers & Hawkeye Doll Club Present

12th Annual Benefit for the Bussey Doll Collection

May 24, 2014

Midwest Old Threshers Museums, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

"Meeting Overlooked Children's Story Dolls"

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please enclose registration fee of \$50.00 covers all events including meal, souvenir gift and more.

Mail to Old Threshers, 405 East Threshers Road, Mount Pleasant, IA, 52641.

Make check payable to Midwest Old Threshers.

Credit cards may be used by calling 319-385-8937. Registration suggested by April 30, 2014.

Tables in the sales area are available at \$25.00 each. Tables will be assigned on a first-come, first-served

basis and is limited, so a quick reply is suggested. **ATTENTION DEALERS:** you do not pay registration

fee **unless** also attending event activities. Dealers set up is Friday May 23 from 8-4:30 pm.

Number of Tables Requested _____ Additional Amount Enclosed for Table(s) _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Memories of the 2013 Reunion

by Mary Bixler
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

It has been several months since the 2013 Reunion. Its memories are still fresh in my mind because I remember ONE thing about the Reunion. It was HOT! I don't think I can EVER remember a Reunion that was that hot since I moved to Mt. Pleasant in 1985.

Strange as it may seem, today I would welcome with open arms just 1 day of that hot Reunion weather. Each winter day that I sat here in my long underwear and a heavy sweatshirt I wondered why I love this state so much. It has to be hard for a person not from this area to understand the extremes in temperatures. That not so long ago we were dripping in sweat. Some of our Reunion days found the mercury 102 degrees hotter than our coldest winter day! I will admit I have been in hotter—like 116 degrees hot! Oh yah, that was a dry heat.

If you want to know where it was hotter on the grounds, it was running a steam engine. As my engineer opened the door to the firebox door to throw in more wood, I swear that the depths of Haites came jumping out at me. I was worried about a flash burn combination of the firebox and the weather.

As I think about what it was like

back in the days of threshing, I have a great admiration for those early threshers. The difference between them and us, they had to be out there in the heat, us not so much. But being the modern day thresher we are, we sucked it up and put on a show with a smile like we were enjoying ourselves.

My place on the grounds when not volunteering elsewhere was under a giant shade tree to the east of the steam area sucking on a water bottle and wearing the cool neckbands I finally dug out of the drawer after 8 years. I just knew someday I would need them. These were the days. I watched the ground train going round and round. I ran cold water and refreshed the cool neckbands for my granddaughters to be sure they stayed well-hydrated and cool. Oddly enough, this was their first time as ground train volunteers and they didn't seem to mind the heat. Guess that is the difference between my old age and their young age.

I know a lot of other volunteers that huddled together in their campers trying to stay cool. I hope that the time they spent there was shared with other Reunion volunteers sharing the stories of cooler Reunions.

I guess it's time to have a very

serious conversation with the weatherman about the 2014 Reunion weather. Maybe a pay increase will help or how about a free ticket to the Reunion to remind him what a great event this is. Yes, it is a weather related event but there are other alternatives to the weather that we experienced last year. Oh that's right, it could have been raining every day. So I guess considering the alternative, I had a great time in the heat of the Reunion and look forward to whatever the weatherman brings us this year-like nice, friendly Reunion weather!

CHAFF CONTRIBUTIONS

Do you have a story or photo to share? We would love to hear from you!

Email info@oldthreshers.org

Or mail to 405 E Threshers Rd. If you are submitting photos please make sure to include a description and if possible the names of the people in the photo.

Smoke from the Stack con't from page 1

life's blood of Midwest Old Threshers.

* * *

I remain convinced that the 2014 season at Midwest Old Threshers from the spring school tours through the summer events, the Old Threshers Reunion, Thrashers House of Terror and Midwest Haunted Rails, and the Mount Pleasant Festival of Lights will set a new and exciting direction for our nonprofit organization. It is structured so that it retains many of the traditional programs conducted by the association but also combines an interesting blend of what will allow the association to continue to attract people, not only to its facility but to Mount Pleasant and Southeast Iowa as well.

* * *

Very soon we will be able to smell the pungent odor of newly turned soil and the familiar odor of new mown grass and hay. And we will instinctively know that the new season is upon us. But, for all of us at Old Threshers, it's when the museums fill with the acrid smell of wood fire and steam cylinder oil. And we know it's time to start "gearing up" for this new and exciting year.

I remain as always,



Obituaries

Lisa Crawley

Lisa Marie Crawley, 61, of Cedar Rapids, formerly of Newbury, Ohio, died Sunday, November 10, 2013.

Survivors include her husband, George; two children, Aaron (Kristen) Crawley and Meghan Crawley; a brother, William J. Botos; and a sister-in-law, Gerri Botos.

Lisa was born to the late William and Margaret (Dorony) Botos on February 9, 1952, in Cleveland, Ohio. Lisa graduated from Newbury High School in 1970 and received her nursing degree from Marymount School of Nursing in 1971. She married George Crawley in 1973 in Newbury, Ohio.

Lisa worked as a nurse in Ohio, Michigan, Virginia, Florida and Iowa. She took time away from the profession to be a stay at home mother to her two children. Lisa, together with her husband George, were actively involved with the marching band at Washington High School as band reps. She returned to nursing in 2000 at Iowa Health Physicians Pediatrics for Dr. Gary Gray. Lisa was a passionate and driven nurse providing the utmost care and compassion to every patient she cared for. Lisa was especially known for her sense of humor and wit around the office.

Lisa's hobbies include sewing, cooking, quilting, playing bridge and volunteering at Old Threshers and for the Midwest Electric Railway. She also loved to travel and witness wildlife and was fortunate enough to make two trips to Costa Rica in the past five years.

Memorial Service was held Wednesday, November 13, 2013, at All Saints Catholic Church in Cedar Rapids. The family is requesting that donations be made in Lisa's memory to the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund – 14 Penn Plaza, Suite 1710, New York, NY 10122 or online at www.ocrf.org

Karen J. Timmerman

Karen J. Timmerman, 70, of Mt. Pleasant, died Thursday, December 26, 2013 at the Ridgewood Nursing and Rehab Center in Ottumwa.

Mrs. Timmerman, the former Karen Jean Brown, was born May 9, 1943 in Iowa City. She was the daughter of Robert and Vivian Leona (nee Hoskin) Brown. Karen grew up in Stockport, where she attended school and graduated from Stockport High School in 1961.

On August 25, 1961, at the Stockport Methodist Church, Karen was united in marriage to Keith Glen Proenneke. The couple later divorced. On May 8, 1986 in Saunders Park, Mt. Pleasant, Karen was united in marriage to David Paul Timmerman. Dave died Wednesday, January 2, 2013, at Arbor Court in Mt. Pleasant.

Karen worked for a few years at the Ben Franklin Store in Fairfield where she was head of one of the departments of the store. In 1977, she began a long career as a secretary for Midwest Old Threshers. She moved to Mt. Pleasant in 1979. After 36 years at Midwest Old Threshers, Karen retired in the fall of 2013.

Mrs. Timmerman was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Mt. Pleasant and the Avenue of Flags of Mt. Pleasant. She was a past President, Vice-President and Secretary for the Harlan Questers Antique Club. She was a member and past president of the South Center Club. In her spare time, she collected teddy bears and milk glass. She enjoyed Madera embroidery and raising flowers in her garden.

Those thankful for sharing in Karen's life include 2 sons and their wives, Jon and Tammy Proenneke of Ottumwa and Joel and Jeanette Proenneke of Mt. Pleasant; a daughter, Jina Schneider of Lewiston, ID and four grandchildren – Sara and T.J. Schneider and Jonathan and Joseph Proenneke.

Her parents and husband precede her in death. The funeral service for Karen was held Saturday, December 28th at the Kimzey Funeral Home, Mount Pleasant. Burial was in Forest Home Cemetery.

Those considering an expression of sympathy may direct memorials to the Drive-A-Tractor Program at Midwest Old Threshers.

Sheldon Vance Kongable

Sheldon Vance Kongable, age 84 of Winfield, died Wednesday March 12, 2014 at Henry County Health Center. The son of James and Cecile (Bell) Kongable, he was born January 25, 1930 in Winfield. He married Sandra Bauer in 1956 at West Chester. He was a 1948 graduate of Winfield High School.

He was a member of the United Presbyterian Church in Morning Sun, where he served as an elder for 20 years, a youth group leader for 10 years, and he served on the Presbytery and Synod and was on the area mission council. He was also a founding member and board member of Camp Wyoming Presbyterian Camp.

Sheldon began flying at the age of 15 and soloed at 16. He began flying again in the 70s. He earned his private and instrument ratings. He was a member of International Flying Farmers, having served as International President, Treasurer and Secretary. As a member of the State Flying Farmers he served as President three times, as well as Treasurer and Secretary. He had the honor of being named International Man of the Year, Iowa Man of the Year and International Airport Operator of the Year. He was also the recipient of the Associated Pilots of Iowa Flying Family of the Year Award. Being an avid pilot he hosted Fly-in Breakfasts for 35 years at his farm. He served the Old Threshers Airport Transportation for 20 years. During his time as a pilot he landed private aircraft in 46 States and 6 Canadian Provinces. He was a member of Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association for 38 years. He was a member of the Antique Airmen Association.

He served as a Henry County Supervisor for 16 years. During that time he was an 8th Judicial District Board Founder, Area Substance Abuse Council Board Member (8 years), Henry County Social Welfare Committee (Chairman 8 years), District Title 20 Advisory Committee, State Title 20 Advisory Committee (7 years), and served on the Iowa area crime commission. He was also a

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Obituaries con't from page 8

member of the Iowa State Association of Counties serving as State President as well as 5th District President.

Sheldon served in the US Army as a Combat Engineer for 2 years during the Korean Conflict. Being stationed in Germany, he was experienced in heavy equipment operation and bridge building. He was honorably discharged and is a Veteran of Foreign War.

Other service related memberships include Henry County Farm Bureau Environmental Resources Committee serving 3 years and Chairman for 1 year; Henry County Extension Council; Henry County Pork Producers; Henry County Beef Producers; Southeast Iowa Homemaker and health aide board 6 years; Winfield Historical Society founding member; Langwood 4-H Camp- founding member and board member. He also led school tours at Old Threshers for 15 years.

He was a Job Training Partnership Act Award Winner as well as being named Iowa Department of Corrections Volunteer of the Year.

Sheldon loved to whistle and was an avid gardener raising Iris and Oriental Lilies. He often provided fresh flowers to Pilot Grove Bank in Winfield.

Survivors include his wife of Winfield, one daughter, Stefanie Kongable Skroch (Mark) of Surprise, AZ; one son, Scott Kongable (Jennifer) of Center Point, four grandchildren, Megan, Natalie, Zachary and Nicholas Kongable of Center Point.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Lowell (Sterling) and Keith; one son, Greg Lee and one daughter, Cynthia Annette.

Funeral services were held at the First Presbyterian Church in Winfield with the Rev. Dottie Halverson officiating. Interment followed at the Winfield-Scott Township Cemetery. A memorial has been established for the Winfield First Responders.

Donald E. Young

Donald E Young died unexpectedly on Saturday, March 15,

2014 in the Emergency Room of the Henry County Health Center. Don was born October 8, 1928 in Keokuk, Iowa, the only child of William A. and Mary Hill Young. His father managed a lumber yard.

Donald attended elementary school in Argyle, Lee County, Iowa. His high school years were spent in East Peru High School, Madison County, Iowa, where he graduated with the class of 1946.

Donald was a 1950 graduate of Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, where he majored in history and minored in education. He received his Master's degree in education from the University of Iowa in 1957.

Donald always loved history and remembered IWC History Professor William Herman as the "Best professor he ever had." Though, it was Henry County School Superintendent Clarence E. Amen who mentored Donald for a future in education. Donald's first teaching job was at Maple Grove #6, a country school in Denova, near Salem, where he remained for two years. Following were positions in Rome, Iowa, teaching 5th - 8th graders and Mount Pleasant Junior High, teaching 7th grade English and Math.

Harlan Elementary was Donald's first position as principal; he also taught 5th and 6th graders. Donald was selected principal of Van Allen Elementary, when it opened in 1963. In 1966, he became Director of Curriculum, under Supt. Robert Formanek. From 1973 to 1993, Donald was principal of Pleasant Lawn School. During this time he was also principal of Manning and the preschool at IWC. Donald started the Talented/Gifted Program in the Mount Pleasant School system and in 1966 was chosen Director of the Head Start Program. He also established a library in each elementary school. In 1993, Donald retired from his career in education.

Don was very involved in the community: Midwest Old Threshers - Selected Grand Marshal in 2007; North Village School and School Tout volunteer; Information Booth

and Foundation Room volunteer during the annual Reunion; Presbyterian Church - Elder and member of Building Committee; Rotary - 55 year member; Mount Pleasant Public Library - Member of Library Board for 24 years, retiring in 2012; Henry County Historic Preservation Commission - Founding Member; Chairman 1994-2010; Mount Pleasant Historic Preservation Commission - Founding member; Henry County Heritage Trust - Board of Directors; Harlan-Lincoln House - Executive Board Member; Henry County Retired School Personnel - Member; Retired and Senior Volunteer Program; 1992 - Selected as Iowa's Elementary School Administrator of the Year; 2005 - Selected as Mount Pleasant's Citizen of the year. Recently Don taught Henry County history classes for Southeastern Community College.

A memorial service was held at the First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant. Interment

Leonard Oscar Schweitzer

Leonard Oscar Schweitzer, 89, of New London, died Friday, March 28, 2014, at Henry County Health Center, Mt. Pleasant.

Mr. Schweitzer was born July 8, 1924 in Oakville, Iowa, the son of Oscar and Mabel Mae Vincent Schweitzer. On May 23, 1944 he married Betty Lorraine Ruth at the New London United Methodist Church. She died September 9, 1999.

He was a graduate of New London High School and served in the Army infantry during World War II. He was wounded at Okinawa and hospitalized for a full year. For his service he received a purple heart and two bronze stars. After returning from the service, he worked at the Iowa Army Ammunitions Plant for several years and farmed his entire life.

Mr. Schweitzer volunteered for 50 years at Old Threshers and was a past board member of Farm Bureau, and a past member of the Farm and Home Administration. He was a member of the Shriners, New London Masonic Lodge AF and AM #28, New London VFW Post 7641, Disabled Veterans,

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School Tours are Almost Here!

Midwest Old Threshers will be hosting more than 1,000 students from area schools this Spring. During the month of May, 4th, 5th and 6th graders will make the trip to OT to learn what it was like in a one-room school, how a steam engine works, how flour is made, how a newspaper was printed before computers, how the invention of the gas engine impacted farming and lots more!

If you would like to help with school tours this year, give the Old Threshers office a call at 319-385-8937. You can volunteer for one day, two days or all 11, it's up to you.

Calendar of Events

Country Music Reserved Seats & Admissions On Sale Now!

Friday, April 25- Sunday, April 27	Theatre History Seminar
Saturday, April 26- Sunday, April 27	Old Threshers Steam School
Thursday, May 1- Wednesday, May 21	School Tour Program
Saturday, May 3- Sunday, May 4	Old Threshers Steam School
Friday, May 23 - Saturday, May 24	Greater Iowa Swap Meet and Flea Market
Friday, May 23- Sunday, May 25	Gun Show at Antique Car Building
Saturday, May 24	12th Annual Bussey Doll Event
Friday, July 4	Old Fashion 4th of July
Friday, July 18- Sunday, July 20	Summer Theatre Plays
Friday, July 25- Saturday, July 26	Summer Theatre Plays

For more details check out www.oldthreshers.com

Stories continued from page 3

After sharing stories with Drew Schmacher and Mike Borders, the crew of the 132hp Reeves, Ole Carlberg takes a ride through the Cavalcade of Power. The Reeves was the workhorse of his family's farm in Canada.



Ole Carlberg stands with his wife (far left) and his daughters in front of the sign for the Carlberg Century Family Farm. Pictured is the 132hp Reeves hooked to a 12-bottom plow. Ole's dad is seated on the engine in the middle of the three people.

Buttons con't from page 4

The outer association ring is done in two different type styles.

- The date and place names are in two different type styles.
- The blue color differs slightly between the two styles.
- Two backing materials exist—a tin backing vs. an aluminum backing.
- The pin mountings differ.
- Moldings of the backing edges have "shoulder" vs. "no shoulder" varieties.

Profiles of the button varieties are either domed or flat.

1956—This button looks like the 1954 in all respects except color. Another well attended reunion makes this button also hard to find.

1957—Another change in the type style for the date was introduced this year in the name-window button.

1957S—In 1957, the association issued two buttons. Beside the name-window, a souvenir engine button was issued without the name-window. The button featured a full photograph and a

shortened association name and date. In my opinion, this is the most attractive of the Souvenir buttons for 1957 and 1958. My opinion may be biased, because my first ride on a **big** engine was on this Avery!

1958—The name-window button looks like the 1957 except for the color.

1958S—In 1958, two buttons were again issued. This button resembles the 1957S issue except for color, a different engine photo, and the addition of the word, "Souvenir." This experiment of issuing two buttons a year lasted for only these two years.

1959—Yet again, another type style appeared for the date and place on the 1959 button. This was the last of the name-window buttons until a one-time special



issue in 1977 (the 1977S), plus the Early Bird/Volunteer button series (beginning in 1970), and the Exhibitor/Staff button series (beginning in 1981).

In general, the 1950s buttons were ordered in smaller quantities than the issues from 1960 on. This is why they are so expensive today. A large number of people each want one of a smaller quantity available. The economic law of supply and demand in its purest form is at work here.

The 1958 and 1959 name-window buttons were ordered in the largest quantities. As a result, these buttons are easier to find, and they can usually be obtained for a better price.

1960 was the first year that adult admission was charged to enter the grounds, and the button was your ticket. The buttons got significantly smaller during those gate admission years because Old Threshers needed to drastically increase their order quantities by 8 to 10 times. With the exception of the special issue in 1977, the larger 1950s button size would not return for 23 years.

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Dover Museum and the New London United Methodist Church. He enjoyed wood working, traveling, collecting toy tractors, all sports but especially baseball, and playing board games, cards, chess, and Bingo. He spent many winters in Mesa, Arizona. He was very social while living at the New London Care Center and enjoyed playing Kings in the Korner.

He is survived by one son, Gary (Jeane) Schweitzer of New London;

five granddaughters, Jennifer Lucas, Michelle Wierzbicki, Rebecca Schweitzer, Laura Tobolaski, and Elaine Cios; 10 great-grandchildren; one daughter-in-law Nadine Schweitzer; and one sister, Darlene Davis of Blue Grass, Iowa. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Betty, one son Larry, two granddaughters Gina and Heidi Schweitzer, and one great-grandchild Nate Ryan Wierzbicki.

Funeral services were held at Elliott Chapel, New London. Burial was in Trinity Cemetery, rural Mt. Union with military rites presented by the Henry County Honor Guard.

Memorials have been established to the New London Little League Baseball Association, Trinity Cemetery, and the New London Fire and Rescue.

Time to register for Miss Sweet 16!

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