

Threshers Chaff

Midwest Old Threshers Association
Mount Pleasant, Iowa



Mt. Pleasant Festival of Lights a Success

Midwest Old Threshers, together with area businesses, civic organizations and North Pole Productions, has brought the area a new holiday attraction.

The 60-acre campground has been transformed into a light park offering a mile-long drive past 60 light displays. Visitors can turn their radios to KILJ's AM radio station and listen to music of the season as they make the drive.

The Midwest Electric Railway has joined in the festive fun by lighting the east side of the Trolley Barn with lights synchronized to their own music.



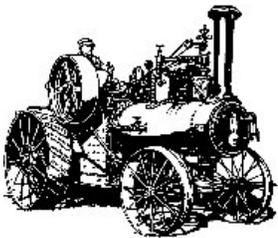
The inaugural lighting took place on November 20 with a reception in the performance level of the Theatre Museum. This new attraction was made possible through the donations of area

business and individuals. Fundraising was spearheaded by Alan and Melinda Huisinga and Rich and Liz Garrels.

See page 5 for more photos.

Smoke from the Stack

by Lennis Moore



Dear Friends,

It seems like the various holidays this year are all melding into one almost seamless series of celebrations. We had just finished the 2014 Old Threshers Reunion and two days later our volunteers and staff began to unload semi-trailers full of Halloween props and materials into the just vacated Antique Car Building. After weeks of fast and furious construction and installation, the newest edition of the Thrashers House of Terror was ready to open its doors and scare the daylight out of the visitors who dared to enter.

I must say that Terry McWilliams and his trust side spooks Teresa Carver, Steve Tolander, and Danielle Davidson created a wonderfully frightening environment filled with sights, sounds, and illusions fit for anyone intent of raising their blood pressure. The haunt was very well attended through its thirteen nights of operation as were the three weekends of the Midwest Haunted Rails when Old Threshers joins the Midwest Central Railroad to transform the grounds into a special Halloween experience for the entire family.

But just as the Thrashers House of Terror was getting into full fright, new semis appeared with special structures designed to hold thousands of Christmas lights. The next day would see the beginnings of the new Mount Pleasant Festival of Lights holiday installation in our sixty acre campground. All of the light displays are being leased from North Pole Productions from North Adams, Maryland, on a three year agreement.

North Pole Productions has eight holiday light display clients including the City of Branson, Missouri. Midwest Old Threshers is the smallest client of North Pole Productions, but we have been blessed with the financial support of a large number of donors who are making the project possible. The main fund raisers for the project are Rich and Liz Garrels and Alan and Melinda Huisinga.

The two couples have spearheaded the fundraising effort and they are the life's blood of this special new project. Donors have committed financial support to the Festival of Lights over a three year period. The business plan calls for all monies earned by the installation to be reinvested into the project for the following year.

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New Pass Though Account Created



A Financial Support Organization for Midwest Old Threshers

Donors to the Old Threshers Foundation now have the option to contribute to specific immediate financial needs or special projects at Midwest Old Threshers. With the creation of a pass through account, money can be designated for specific things and quickly passed on to Old Threshers.

An example of this new procedure is the Mt. Pleasant Festival of Lights. Individuals and businesses in the community were able to make charitable contributions to the Foundation earmarked for the Festival of Lights. That money was then passed on to Old Threshers making the Festival possible. From the weekend before Thanksgiving to New Year's, the 60-acre campground has been transformed into a holiday light extravaganza. Visitors enjoy a mile-long ride

winding through the campground while listening to special music for the holiday season as they look at 60 colorful and animated holiday light displays.

The option to contribute to the Foundation's endowment still remains available for those who wish to make a long-term investment. Since the endowment was established in 1986, it has grown to over a million dollars in assets. Only the interest from these investments is used to fund capital projects for Midwest Old Threshers; your original contribution remains in the endowment.

To date, the Foundation has transferred nearly \$850,000 in earnings to provide financial support to Midwest Old Threshers.

The Foundation is always appreciative of any

gifts received, whether in the form of cash, stocks or deferred giving. Last year the Foundation received a generous gift from Floyd Granaman, a local farmer from Burlington. He had established a trust naming the Old Threshers Foundation as the beneficiary of the annual earnings; it was his wish for the earnings to be contributed to the Foundation's endowment.

In 1997, Frederick Strong of Monmouth, Illinois, bequeathed his farm to the Foundation. Rent proceeds from this farm are used to fund capital projects for Midwest Old Threshers each year. All gifts to our Foundation qualify as charitable contributions to a non-profit 501(c)3 organization for Federal income, estate and gift tax purposes.

Financial Facts from the Foundation

Total cash under management:	\$1,120,561 – Cash Basis (endowment plus checking account) \$1,262,613 – Market Value (endowment plus checking account)
Total market value of all assets:	\$2,892,217 – includes endowment, checking account and farm
Donations Received:	\$184,122 (These funds are invested as principal; only the earnings are spent.) This amount includes \$13,142 received from the Floyd Granaman Trust.
Interest & Dividends Earned:	\$25,182 Investment earnings received from the checking and trust accounts.
Farm Rental Payments:	\$53,370 - The Illinois farm, bequeathed to the Foundation by the late Frederick Strong in April 1997, is a major source of income for the Foundation.
Gross Income:	\$78,552 This amount is the sum of the interest & dividends plus farm rent.
Expenses:	\$6,609 (farm taxes, farm insurance and tax preparation fees)
Net Income:	\$71,943 The amount transferred to Old Threshers for financial support in 2014. This is the largest annual amount ever transferred in Foundation history.



2013 Festival of Lights

School Tours 2013



More than 900 students from area schools attended the 2013 School Tour Program. Volunteers logged many hours in the month of May, eager to share their knowledge and appreciation of our agricultural heritage.

(left) George Chapman demonstrates how to set type in Printers' Hall. (right) Students visit the Log Village and learn how to use light coming through the window to trace an outline of the state of Iowa. There were no copy machines in 1856. (Below) Don Young explains what was expected of students attending a one-room school.



Greater Iowa Swap Meet

Visitors to the 2013 Greater Iowa Swap Meet and Collectibles Show enjoyed stellar weather for the first day of the event. Things turned a little soggy after that. Items for sale included fishing rods, car and tractor parts, milk bottles, bikes and more.

A Gun Show was added to the mix this year in the Antique Car Building. Business was brisk.



2013 Old Threshers Volunteer Awards



2013 Volunteer Award Recipients: (front Row L-R) Dan Doherty, Jerry Ficke, Marvin Crull, Madison Murphy, Steve Rozenboom, Tammy Dingman, Eric Hosette, Keith Grimm, Dennis Walker, Gladys Parish, Jacky Wistrom, Jami Rettig. (Second Row L-R) Keith Mitchell, Carl Thompson, Alan Huisinga, Melinda Huisinga, Pat Congdon, Valerie Congdon, Bob Scarff, Clair McBride, Marlene McBride, Mary Bixler, Don Young, Danielle Davidson.

Dan Doherty

Dan is an electrical engineer from Boone, Iowa. He began volunteering with the Midwest Electric Railway in 1977. In 1994, he became a part of the volunteer force in Stationary Steam. Dan and his wife have two children.

Jerry Ficke

Jerry is an electronics engineer from Milford, Nebraska, who started working in the Stationary Steam Powerhouse in 1994. He has attended the Old Threshers Reunion since 1972. He usually arrives the weekend prior to the start of the show and goes home the day after. Jerry and his wife, Carol, have four children; Amy, Andrew Avery & Adam.

Marvin Crull

Marvin started coming to the Old Threshers Reunion in 1955. He served on the Board of Directors for 6yrs and recently did some minor repair work and wood varnish for the Midwest Electric Railway. Marvin is retired from the Iowa Department of Transportation. He was born and raised in Columbus Junction. He and his wife,

Lottie, have two sons, Mark and Matt.

Madison Murphy

Maddy is a new volunteer to Old Threshers. You can find her around the Trolley Barn and the Midwest Electric Railway. She works at True Value while attending Iowa Wesleyan College where she plans to earn her nursing degree. Born and raised in Colorado, Maddy is the daughter of John and Molly Murphy.

Steve Rozenboom

Steve is a farmer and a technician and truck driver for Titan Machinery, a Case IH dealer in Oskaloosa, Iowa. He and his wife, Jayne, started camping at Old Threshers in 1980. He started helping his father-in-law, Albert Nikkel, pump gas for the gas engines and tractors. In 1982, he helped organize the first gas tractor pull.

You can find Steve pulling tractors out of the Museums prior to the Reunion as well as thrashing grain and shelling corn during the Reunion. He also helps tear down the track bleachers each night after the Country Music Shows.

Steve is proud to have attended the Old Threshers Reunion for the past 30 years. He has passed the Reunion down as a family tradition enjoyed by his son and daughters as well as his granddaughters.

Tammy Lynn Dingman

Tammy says her grandparents, Bob & Dottie Williams, are responsible for her love of Old Threshers and tractors. Her parents, Robert & Sharon Whitham, brought her to her first Reunion when she was five years old. She is a tractor exhibitor and helps at Tractor Headquarters and with the Kiddie Tractor Pull.

Tammy loves coming to the Reunion and says her Threshers family is priceless. The memories she and her son, Tim, have made here are some of their favorites. Tammy was born and raised in Burlington. She works at Great River Medical Center and is a youth leader at 1st United Methodist Church.

Eric Hosette

Eric is proud to be following in his grandfather's footsteps as a volunteer

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Sweet 16



2013 Sweet 16 Participants (First row from left) Ashley Lewis, Leslie Taylor (1st Runner Up 2012) Samantha Jo Stacy, Grace Davidson, Cortney Mabeus (Miss Sweet 16 2012) Riley Stacy, Emily Manning (2nd Runner Up 2012) Asia Shelledy, Ashley Loving (3rd Runner Up 2012) Elissa Monteiro, Mackenzie Cirer, Meagan Stalder (honorable Mention 2012), Ashley Nelson. Second row (in cars) Hollie Mathews, Whitney Barton, Jasmine Craff (in hat), Hattie Leichty, Danielle Haeffner, Susanna Wissman, Michaela Mathews, Mikhayla Kruse-Meek, Makayla Osier, Elissa Monteiro.

Photo at left: 2013 Sweet 16 1st Runner up—Hollie Mathews; Queen—Danielle Haeffner; 2nd Runner up—Jasmine Craff; 3rd runner up—Michaela Mathews.



Festival of Lights *cont from page 1*



Clockwise from top left: A reception was held for those who donated and helped to make the Festival of Lights possible. One of the displays of three candles and poinsettias; Many of the buildings in the campground are used as a backdrop for the displays. Here “carolers” stand outside Colfax School; one of the larger light displays; The OT staff works to put together a giant snowman.



Button Collectors' Update 2013

By Carolyn Sidebottom
Plymouth, Minnesota

Twelfth Annual Button Collectors' Forum

Button Collectors assembled for the twelfth consecutive year at Button Collectors' Forum during the Old Threshers Reunion. Forum was held Sunday morning, September 1, in Colfax School, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. The serious collector and the merely curious gathered informally to learn from each other and swap stories about this interesting and rewarding hobby. Young collectors and new collectors were especially welcomed. Attending the forum, where you will find information on ways to collect OT buttons and the variety of supplies available, is an excellent way to get a good start on your new collection, or update your old one. Watch for details of the 2014 Button Collectors Forum later this year.

2013 Souvenir Button Design

This year's reunion color theme was a dark red and white. The **2013 Souvenir button** featured a 1915 65 hp Case steam traction engine owned by Melinda Huisinga of Mount Pleasant, Iowa. She appeared on the button. In addition to Lennis Moore's engine art, the 2013 button design contained the full reunion date and the familiar identifying reunion information circling the central vignette. The design was not signed this year, as far as I can tell. However, the letters CMH appear below the back wheel of the engine. These initials stand for Alan and Melinda Huisinga's son, Chad Michael Huisinga, who as a teen was extremely interested in steam engines and their operation. He even taught his mother to operate an engine. When Chad died unexpectedly of a heart condition while in college, Melinda acquired the 65 hp Case and dedicated it to Chad's memory.

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 color metal backing. The attached wire loop

style pin is silver in color. So far, no varieties have been reported. However, that doesn't mean varieties won't eventually be found. I always rely on my sharp-eyed collecting buddies to keep me up to date on existing varieties for the current year.

I was very excited about this honor for Melinda. Although Melinda is about three years younger than I am, we were schoolmates, particularly in vocal and instrumental music. Our parents worked together in various civic activities. They were long-time friends and tireless supporters of Old Threshers. Our fathers even laid track together for the Midwest Central Railroad. Both of our families lived in east Mount Pleasant. Melinda was two when she took her first ride on a steam engine and she has been hooked on steam ever since. Her family carries on the tradition of long-term involvement in Old Threshers like so many other long-time resident families in Mount Pleasant and the surrounding area.

Melinda exhibited her 65 hp Case for the first time at Old Threshers in 1997. Since then, she has actively participated in promoting Old Threshers by appearing with her engine at various events around the state from April to October, and she takes part in Old Threshers steam activities at the reunion and throughout the year including the all-important steam school. She even won the firebox cooking contest one year! Melinda serves on the Board of the Old Threshers Foundation and her husband, Alan, is Development Officer for the Old Threshers Foundation. Alan also takes an interest in Old Threshers exhibits. His interests tend to be more in line with what happens in Tractorland. Melinda's daughter, Kristin, seems to have caught the Old Threshers bug, as well.

In 1999, Melinda acquired a 1/2-scale model of the 65 hp Case which is easier to trailer around to various events. The model is really cute, looks a lot like its big brother, and is a must-see exhibit for any steam enthusiast.

Also in 1999, Melinda received another honor when Ertl Toys chose her 65 hp Case for their toy/collector's 1/16th size model of her engine. The Ertl engine is an



excellent quality model, and Melinda has confirmed the truth of the rumor that the company made the model with both a green roof and a red one. Red was the color of the roof on Melinda's engine when she bought it. Ertl made around 200 red roofed models. Then it was determined that the original color was supposed to be green. After the production of about 200 models, both Melinda and Ertl Toys changed their roofs to green.

Melinda's engine can be identified because it has two whistles. One of the whistles was added by Norbert Marks to use in parades. Consequently, the Ertl model also has two whistles—somewhat unusual in the steam engine world. Melinda's large Case has also proudly carried two of Iowa's Governors. Melinda says, "We claim the engine is bipartisan since both current Governor Terry Brandstad (a Republican) and former Governor Tom Vilsack (a Democrat) have taken rides on the engine."

The Old Threshers Steam Engine of the Year was purchased at a farm auction in Wisconsin in 1996 from Norbert and Marion Marks. The engine was originally built in Racine, Wisconsin. The Marks's used the engine in a sawmill on their farm and paraded it. I think they were glad to see Melinda's family win the auction, because the two families have become friends and the former owners make regular visits to our reunion. Melinda was particularly hoping they would be able to attend this year.

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Button Collectors' Update

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Official Supplements

The **2013 Volunteer** button coordinated with the color of the **Souvenir** button. This button was a circular name window button featuring the dark red and white color scheme. The printing was white in

the outer red ring that included "2013" and the traditional phrase, "Proud to Volunteer." Red printing in the white inner circle identified Old Threshers, and Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

The **2013 Exhibitor/Staff** button was a white oval name-window button that

closely resembled the design of the Volunteer button. It had a dark red circle identifying the event in white letters, and a year date in black numbers. An attached deep red ribbon identified the main Old Threshers activity area of the wearer for the majority of the OT venues.

Updates:

The following charts contain updated facts about the Old Threshers Button collection. Be sure to add this important information to your collector's guide. ***The Elusive '54, The Complete Guide to Old Threshers Button Collecting, second edition***, is available at the Old Threshers Book Shop.

ENGINE PORTRAITS

YEAR	MODEL	OWNER
2013	1915 65hp Case	Melinda Huisinga, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

MEMBERSHIP/SOUVENIR BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBVERSE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2013	56 mm	194C Red White Black	Silver	Silver L	-	\$1.00

EARLY BIRD/VOLUNTEER BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBVERSE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2013	56 mm	194C Red White	Silver	Silver L	-	Market, not sold by OT

EXHIBITOR/STAFF BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBVERSE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2012	46mm by 71mm	356c Green White	Silver	Silver L	-	Market, not sold by OT
2013	46mm by 71mm	194C Red White Black	Silver	Silver L	-	Market, not sold by OT

RESERVED CAMPING 2014

If you reserved a camping spot in 2013, keep an eye on your mailbox! Letters will be sent out soon giving the option to reserve the same spot for 2014.

Volunteer at Midwest Old Threshers!

We are always looking for people to help throughout the year.

- School Tours
- Information Booths
- Old Threshers Reunion
- Thrashers House of Terror
- Haunted Rails
- Festival of Lights

2013 Old Threshers Reunion Scrapbook



Visitors to the 2013 Old Threshers Reunion were encouraged to keep hydrated as the mercury crept into the 90's for multiple days. The heat didn't dampen their spirits though as crowds gathered throughout the grounds to watch demonstrations, eat their fill of delicious food and listen to great entertainment.



The heat broke in time for clean-up as volunteers gathered to put everything to bed for another year. It's not too early to make your plans for the 2014 Old Threshers Reunion!



“Mater” Fun Attraction at 2013 Reunion



Chuck Pelley drives his customized Cushman through the Cavalcade of Power

Ann and Chuck Pelley attracted a lot of attention during the 2013 Reunion but not just because they exhibited the featured tractor. Chuck took an old Cushman and turned it into Tow Mater, the lovable tow truck from Disney Pixar's *Cars* movie.

Mater was seen in the daily Cavalcade of Power as well as touring the grounds grabbing the attention of kids and adults alike.

The converted Cushman is only one piece in a varied collection that includes names like Rock Island, Cockshut Hart Parr, Allis Chalmers, McCormick Deering, Twin City, John Deere and Moline Universal. The featured tractor for 2013 was Ann's 1935 Huber HK. Their collection also includes gas

engines and a 1919 crew cab truck.

The Pelleys have been attending Old Threshers for 24 years, logging volunteer hours for 12 of those. During the Reunion one can find Chuck helping with Drive A Tractor while Ann helps in Tractor Headquarters. Their volunteer time begins before the start of the Reunion by helping to park tractors, put up signs, fix and repair equipment and welcome exhibitors.

The Old Threshers Reunion is one of many agricultural events the Pelleys take part in. At the Gathering of the Green, they help with the logistics, introducing presenters, taking tickets and parking cars. They are members of the Deere Valley Collectors where Ann is in charge of the monthly newsletter.

2013 Hawkeye Doll Club News

The doll collection was donated by the late Donald Bussey and had been his late wife Wilma's pride and joy. This collection offers visitors another area of learning and appreciating our past.

On June 22nd, we hosted the 11th Bussey Doll Benefit Event, "Peering Backward in Milady's Mirror". Our morning program focused on fashions, spanning from 1860-1960 and was presented by Joy Lynn Conwell. Joy is the very able Conservator of the vast Old Threshers Antique & Vintage Clothing Collection and a noted historian. Primitive styles as well as designer fashions were presented. Tri T Chapter OX members were very poised volunteer models.

In the afternoon, our Bussey doll Curator Glenna Voyles gave a brief program on "Hard Times of the 30s & 40s" relating the history of feed sack clothing and numerous other household items made from the fabrics. She also presented a gown from the 1860s to Joy as a donation to the antique clothing collection.

The Hawkeye Doll Club presented "From Ragbag to Runway" showcasing dolls with wardrobes thru the years that mirrored the clothing worn by people. Antique children's sewing machines were displayed. The lovely miniature German bisque with her extensive

clothing and accessories are on loan from Hawkeye Doll Club member Ramona Chamberlain of Cedar Rapids. Her generosity in agreeing to share this wonderful display with our Reunion visitors is indeed a much appreciated treat. Hopefully everyone will enjoy this petite treasure from the past.

Each year every registered attendee goes home with a souvenir doll, table favors, door prizes, and perhaps a lucky drawing prize doll. The meals are catered and everyone had a great time and always looks forward to the next year. Anyone interested in being placed on our invitation list, joining a doll club, having a doll identified, repaired, dressed, or any doll questions should leave their contact information with Old Threshers

Next year's event will be on May 24, 2014, so mark your calendars! The monies received from registrations to attend these Bussey Doll Benefit Day programs go directly to the Bussey doll fund. This enables repairs, restoration, research, and any special purchases needed to carry on the work.

The doll club would like to take a moment to acknowledge the passing of long-time volunteer Ramona Chamberlain. Ramona was a loyal supporter of the Bussey Doll collection. She also shared many beautiful displays from her own collection and was a

presenter at several Doll Events. Ramona said she was thrilled and honored to work with so many antique dolls.

The dolls continue to be a most welcome addition to the Old Threshers offerings for our visitors year round. Groups interested in programs should contact Glenna Voyles at 319-367-2614 or the Old Threshers office at 319-385-8937.

Once again, thank you to those who volunteer as docents in the Bussey Doll Room.

Smoke from the Stack

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The ultimate goal is for the project to be financially profitable at the end of the three years making it possible to generate sufficient funds to continue the following years. Terry McWilliams is the main coordinator for the project, and is the person who first made contact with Tammy Peters, owner of North Pole Productions, at the 2011 International Association of Fairs and Expositions Convention in Las Vegas. We are very excited about this new addition to programming at Old Threshers.

Even as we are winding down the programs and projects for 2013, we are already well into the planning and implementation stage on many of the guidelines and events for the 2014 season at Old Threshers. The biggest project this year will be the construction of a new traction steam headquarters building.



Festivals of Lights would not be possible without the hard work of these people: (L to R) Alan Huisinga, Tammy Peters, Melinda Huisinga, Terry McWilliams, Liz Garrels and Rich Garrels.

Two years ago the traction steam area was transformed with the addition of the Barb Heaton Pavilion. The shelter has provided a place for our steam folks to gather in the shade and story to each other, a variety of short lectures about steam engine boilers and operation are presented there at the Old Threshers Reunion, and during other times of the year the pavilion serves as a picnic shelter for families and small groups.

The new traction steam headquarters is designed as a two story structure and will be located on the same site as the present small headquarters building. The lower level will function as the main registration area for exhibitors, and information center for visitors, and will house a special display area of vintage Reunion photographs depicting the rich heritage of the traction steam area at the Old Threshers Reunion.

The steam engines has always been at the core of our annual celebration and the exhibit area will continue to evolve with a premier headquarters building. The project is estimated to cost \$38,000 and has already received funding from the Old Threshers Foundation and a number of individual donors that totals more than \$25,000. Based on these figures and the potential for additional donors top the building, the board of directors approved the implementation of the project. It is anticipated that construction will begin in February of 2014 and the new traction steam headquarters building will be completed well before the 2014 Old Threshers Reunion scheduled for August 28 through September 1.

Everything is zipping along with the Moore family. Lucas, Erin and little Amber Rose are cruising along in Iowa City. Luke stays busy working and parenting, Erin is closing in on her degree in music therapy, and Amber is busy becoming a little cutie. I love to see photos of all her activities on Facebook as she discovers new experiences in her life.

Son Ben married a wonderful young woman in early August. We are thrilled to welcome Sarah Frydenlund to our family. They have just purchased their first home in Decorah, so they are busy doing all sorts of upgrades to the house. I built two shelf units for their kitchen that are now wonderfully green and full of the trappings of a cozy kitchen.

Our youngest child Catie gave birth to a son on October 16 in Washington DC. Husband and now father Bob Scott, Catie and the baby are all doing very well. Catie and Bob had known that they would be having a boy for several months, but at his unanticipated early birth had not picked out a name.

Ultimately, they decided to name him Anderson James Scott; Anderson after our dear late friend Paul Anderson and James after Bob's late father. It is a strong name that honors two good men. It is going to be fun to watch another grandchild grow up.

Best wishes to all for the upcoming holiday season. Merry Christmas!

I remain as always,

2013 Old Threshers Volunteer Awards

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and exhibitor in the Tractor Area. He has been volunteering for the past 12 years, helping with various demonstrations and Reunion set up. He exhibits a 1920 International 15-30 tractor that belongs to Midwest Old Threshers. Eric and his wife, Kelly, have a two-year-old daughter and are from Charlotte, Iowa.

Keith Grimm

Keith can be found participating in any one of a number of demonstrations at the Old Threshers Reunion, including corn shelling, bailing, the veneer mill and tractor pull. As with many of the Tractor Area volunteers he also helps with setting up and taking down the track bleachers after the Country Music Shows.

Keith exhibits a 1929 Case Model C that was handed down from his grandfather thru his father. He also has a 1936 Twin City MM Model J. Born in Clinton, Iowa, and raised in Charlotte, Iowa, Keith is a truck driver for Clinton County. He has two children and two grandchildren.

Dennis Walker

Dennis' parents brought him to Old Threshers as an infant. He has been coming here ever since. Serving as both the treasurer and president of the Southeast Iowa Antique Car Club, Dennis organizes car talks every year. Exhibiting both his 1918 Ford model T and 1913 Russell steam tractor, Dennis can also be found volunteering with the Carousel. Born and raised on a family farm in Burlington, Iowa, Dennis taught both high school and college math and science for 33 years. Now retired, he has returned to caring for the family farm. Dennis is married and has two daughters.

Gladys Parish

Gladys started attending the Old

Threshers Reunion in the 1950s and joined the car club in 1961. Since then she has helped in the car building and with school tours. As a retired school bus driver, Gladys plans on attending the Reunion and showing cars as long as she can. Born in Morning Sun, Iowa, Gladys has lived in Wapello for 59 years. She has 2 sons, 3 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren.

Jacky Wistrom

Jacky was raised on a 200-acre farm north of Burlington where she helped to raise and feed out cattle and horses. Having attended the Reunion since 1980, Jacky says that "Old Threshers has been a great event that our entire family has come to participate at together for many years." You can find Jacky serving in the horse area, Thrashers Haunted Rails & House of Terror. Jacky has 2 daughters and 2 grandchildren.

Jami Rettig

Jami, the daughter of Jacky and Dan Wistrom, has been coming to and volunteering at Old Threshers since she was a baby. She has also volunteered at The Thrashers House of Terror since its beginning. Hailing from Sperry, Iowa and married to Tom, Jami works as a machine operator at Lance.

Keith Mitchell

Keith, a Vietnam Veteran, worked for 25 years as an ASE Certified Master heavy duty truck mechanic. He later served as a Service Manager in the Kansas City area until his retirement in 2007. In 1971, Keith started exhibiting in Gas Engines and Tractors and has been volunteering for over 40 years. He has also received his 1,000 hour award from the Tractor Area. Keith is married to the "Flamingo Lady" and they have 2 sons and 2 granddaughters.

Carl Thompson

Carl has been a citizen of Dallas City,

Illinois, all his life and now serves as the Fire Chief. He's been attending Old Threshers since the early 1960s and has been showing gas engines since 1965. Carl is married to Anne and they have 2 children and are expecting their first grandchild in November.

Alan Huisinga

Having married a Mount Pleasant native, Alan hasn't missed an Old Threshers Reunion since 1969. Retiring after 37 years as the president and COO of EMC National Life Company, Alan now serves as the Development Officer for the Old Threshers Foundation and served over 1,000 hours his first year! He also exhibits a 1935 John Deere "B" and 1950 Farmall "M". Alan is a member of the 110 club and Midwest Central Railroad. Now a resident of Mount Pleasant, Alan and his wife Melinda have 1 daughter and one grandson.

Melinda Huisinga

Melinda was raised in Mount Pleasant and started riding steam engines at age 2. She served meals in the Methodist tent with her mom and sold train tickets for the Midwest Central Railroad in the north depot with her dad. After working in Des Moines for 33 years as a Human Resources VP, it's no surprise that she returned to Mount Pleasant in 2009 after her retirement. Melinda has served on the board of the Old Threshers Foundation since 2008 and is currently serving as the secretary. She also volunteers her time helping with school tours, Steam School, and exhibiting her 1/2 scale 65 HP Case and 1915 65 HP Case which happens to be this year's Engine of the Year. Melinda is married to Alan and they have one daughter and one grandson.

Pat Congdon

Nine years after attending The Old

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2013 Volunteer Awards cont from page 13

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Threshers Reunion for the first time, Pat became a volunteer in the campground. Five years later he became the Ground Train Coordinator in the campground, a position he still holds today. Pat describes Old Threshers as "No better place to meet new people and old friends". A native of Illinois, Pat now lives in Atalissa, Iowa, with his wife and best friend Valerie. He is also the proud father to 5 children and 5 grandchildren.

Valerie Congdon

To Valerie, Old Threshers feels like coming home. A lot of work, laughter, remembering when, and tears are shared with new and old friends when the Reunion is over. Since meeting her husband in 2002, Pat has been helping with the campground ground train as a conductor.

Born in Michigan but raised in Iowa, Valerie has worked as a nurse for 32 years. Valerie has 2 children, 3 step-children, and 5 grandchildren.

Bob Scarff

Bob, a retired Rail Road worker and resident of Mount Pleasant, volunteered to help build the Midwest Railroad when it started. He can also be found helping on the ground trains and in the information booths. Bob is married to Phyllis and they have 3 children.

Clair and Marlene McBride

Clair and Marlene have been coming to Old Threshers since 1960. They started camping in 1969 in a pick-up camper Clair built from scratch with Fruehauf trailer aluminum and wood flooring. They began volunteering in 1993. Clair was elected to the board of Midwest Old Threshers in 2006. As director of the campground, he and Marlene spend their summers here

helping with other events and preparing the campground for the upcoming Reunion.

Clair was born in Keokuk, Iowa and raised on a farm in Missouri. Marlene was also born in Keokuk and raised on a farm east of Farmington. They have been married for 52 years and have two grown children, two grandchildren and one great grandson.

Mary Bixler

Mary moved to Mt. Pleasant in 1985 and attended her first Old Threshers three days later. She began volunteering shortly after that. Her list of past volunteer duties include ticket agent, gift shop volunteer, librarian, conductor, event organizer and head ticket agent for the Midwest Central Railroad; While volunteering for the railroad, she was instrumental in the creation of the Ghost Train in the Night, now called Midwest Haunted Rails, and the Polar Express.

Mary has volunteered for Old Threshers by writing articles for the Threshers Chaff, typing recipes for cookbooks, working in the information booths, Foundation Room, at the carousel, the Bussey Doll Museum and for School Tours. She created several costumes for the Haunted Rails event and sells tickets at the Thrashers House of Terror.

Mary was born in Mechanicsville, Iowa where she learned the value of hard work and pride of growing up on a farm. She and her husband Rob just celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Mary owns and operates a 1924 Nichols and Shepard Steam Engine

She says, "If volunteering is the price we pay for our time here on earth, then Midwest Old Threshers is great place to spend that volunteer time."

Don Young

Don has attended all of the Old Threshers Reunions. He volunteers in the Information Booths, the Foundation Room and the Pleasant Lawn School in the North Village as well as during School Tours in the Spring.

Don was born in Keokuk, Iowa, and grew up in Argyle and East Peru, Iowa. He has a BA in history, graduating from Iowa Wesleyan College in 1950. He received his masters in Elementary Education from the University of Iowa. Don retired after 42 years in education. He began teaching in a one-room rural school and served 35 years in administration.

Danielle Davidson

Danielle volunteers at Midwest Old Threshers throughout the year. The majority of her time is spent helping to organize Midwest Haunted Rails and Thrashers House of Terror. She has been volunteering at the Methodist Church food tent since 1979.

Danielle was born in Albany, New York, and moved to Mt. Pleasant in 1979. She and her husband, Dale, have been married for 24 years and have four children and two grandchildren.

