



MUSICAL MILESTONES TO BE CELEBRATED AT 2017 REUNION

Seventeen years ago, Leroy VanDyke took to the stage at Midwest Old Threshers for the first time. He has returned every year since then and has brought many friends. They perform on Reunion Thursdays as Country Gold. One could say they are an Old Threshers staple.



This year, Leroy is bringing Rex Allen, Jr. This will be the 10th time Rex has played on the Grandstand stage. Midwest



Old Threshers is honored to say Rex's last Iowa performance will be at the 2017 Reunion as he is set to retire this fall. Rex is the subject of a movie documenting his musical career. There will be video cameras set up around the stage recording this, his last Iowa performance. Be sure to be there and support

Rex and Leroy and the rest of the Country Gold line-up.

Many Threshers visitors make a point to see the Wissman Family perform in the Family Tent.

Performing at Old Threshers for more than two decades, the talented family has no problem filling the stage. This year it will be particularly full as every member of the Wissman Family will be here.



SHERIFF FROSTY IS HARVEST PARADE GRAND MARSHAL

Visitors to Old Threshers North Village know him for his big white cowboy hat and white duster. Outlaws who dare to enter the village fear that hat and long coat. Sheriff Frosty has been running these parts for years. Believe it or not he started out on the side of the Outlaws 18 years ago. Then a soon-to-retire sheriff gave Frosty reason to turn his black hat and coat in for a deputy badge. Not long after his appointment as deputy, he moved into the sheriff's job and has protected the 1880s railhead town from the villains who try and rob its bank, train and terrorize the saloon.

He and his wife, Cherry, own Shiloh Outfitters just south of Mt. Pleasant. Volunteering as a gunslinger just seemed to fit his lifestyle and personality.

This year, Sheriff Frosty has been given even more responsibility as he has been named Parade Marshal of the Old Threshers Harvest Parade.

"It is a great privilege to be named Parade Marshal," says Frosty. "This is one of the biggest parades in Iowa. I am honored to be marshal."

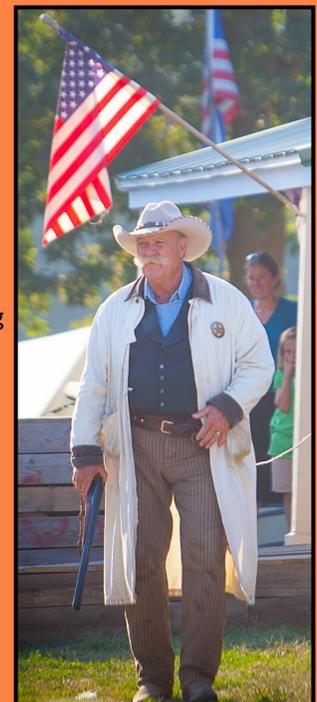
Frosty looks forward to seeing all the kids along the parade route and the smiles they wear when watching everything pass by.

Entertaining the kids is one of Frosty's favorite reasons

for being a part of Old Threshers and the Gunslingers. "We perform 45 shows during the five days," says Frosty. "There are some kids who are there for every show." Seeing the smiles on the faces of the kids as well as the adults makes each of those 45 shows worthwhile.

Frosty and the other gunslingers have no idea how each show will go. Aside from having similar pretense – a bank robbery, train robbery, saloon brawl – the shows are not scripted, so how they end depends on improvisation from everyone. One thing he knows for sure, the sheriff only dies once a year.

"It pays to be the good guys," says Frosty. "The good guys always win!"



WHAT DOES OLD THRESHERS MEAN TO YOU?

Greetings from Old Threshers!

The year as flown by at light speed! It feels like we just finished the great 2016 Old Threshers Reunion. But so much has happened since last year! I know that I cannot remember all the good and bad since then, so let's focus on the good. I was asked a hard question last fall; "What does Old Threshers mean to you?" That's not an easy question to answer.

This winter I got a chance to sit down with a long time Old Threshers volunteer and we went down Memory Lane. He even shared memories of Reunions that I was not here for. I realized that good memories outweigh the bad. Most of all, the stories we told each other ended in a laugh, a smile, or triggered a whole other new story to tell.



Terry McWilliams

The Old Threshers Reunion touches so many people each year in so many different ways, it's hard to pin point that one thing that makes it so special to all of us. So, since that day filled with great stories and memories, I have been trying to create a list of words that in compass all the things that make the Reunion.

Friends, Family, Heritage, Tradition, Pride, Love, Loss, Exciting, Muddy, Grandkids, Mom & Dad, Grandparents, History, Heat, Change, Entertaining, Educational, Kids, Rainy, Anger, Food, Smells, Sounds, Passion, Preservation, Growth, Sadness, Happiness, Courtesy, Respect, and probably 1000s more for each of us.

So, "What does Old Threshers mean to you? Have you shared those memories and stories with family and friends lately? I bet you can't wait to see those friends that you only see once a year at Reunion time and get caught up on what's happened since you said good-bye last year. I hope that whatever it is, it helps you trigger those amazing memories and stories about Old Threshers in your thoughts all year around. Then, when you re-think that story or you're telling it to someone else, you end with a laugh, a smile or even a happy tear.

For me, there is one thing that no matter where I see it, it always triggers a memory of Old Threshers. When I see a "white hard hat on a construction site worker" I think of Lennis Moore and it brings a smile to my face. It was the second time in my life that I met Lennis. It was during the construction of the Hazel Grace Pierson Carousel Pavilion. He was wearing his white hard hat in a large open area where there was dirt work going on. My first impression of the man in charge at Old Threshers - white hard hat, tucked in t-shirt, big belt, keys dangling on his hip, and his maroon and black pickup truck. We talked briefly and he offered me a part time job helping at the up-coming Reunion. That memory is the start for me of all of my memories at Old Threshers. The day I met Lennis Moore for the second time.

As you enjoy the Reunion this year, do me a favor and remember to share all the stories and your memories with your families and friends. "What does Old Threshers mean to you?"

Enjoy the Reunion, August 31 – September 4th! See You There!

Terry

THOMPSON JOINS OLD THRESHERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Midwest Old Threshers welcomed Carl Thompson to the board of directors in May of this year following the death of Geroge Alt. Carl will be overseeing the Gas Engine Area.

Carl and his wife, Anne, are from Dallas City, Illinois. They have been married for 35 years and have 2 grown children and a grandson. They have a granddaughter due this fall.

Carl has been on the fire department since he graduated from high school. He served as fire chief for 15 years and has also served on the city council.

Carl first attended the Old Threshers Reunion in the early 1960s with his parents who were gas engine exhibitors. A tradition he has carried on with his children.

Carl feels that Old Threshers has a connection to the community and that they are able to instill historical values on its visitors.

"I am looking forward to helping plan for the future," says Carl. "I want to help Old Threshers, and each area, evolve into an even better event for generations to enjoy."

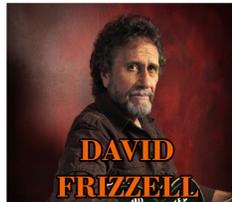
"I am hoping to be able to communicate the wants and needs of the Old Threshers people to the Old Threshers organization," explains Carl. "I am looking forward to helping Old Threshers grow and thrive even more."



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THURSDAY
The Leroy Van Dyke
Country Gold Tour



★ **REX ALLEN JR'S** ★
LAST SHOW IN THE STATE OF IOWA
WHILE ON HIS SUNRISE TO SUNSET FAREWELL TOUR



OLD THRESHERS REUNION
AUG. 31 THRU SEPT. 4, 2017



RESTORATION OF THE 1910 110HP CASE COMPLETED



Midwest Old Threshers flagship steam engine has gone through a restoration just in time to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Case.

Manufactured in 1910 in Racine, Wisconsin, the towering engine was made for farms and ranches using 10 and 12-bottom gang plows. This combination made working

on the wide open prairies efficient and economical. Built according to Canadian specifications, the 110 started its career in the wheat fields of western Canada. It stands 15 feet tall and weighs 18 tons, the back wheels are 7 feet in diameter. As with other traction steam engines, it was built for power, not speed, averaging 2.37 mph.

The 110 was first exhibited at the 1972 Old Threshers Reunion after it was purchased by the Association from the J.J. Hingtgen estate. It was featured on the 1973 membership button and card and souvenirs.

A big thank you goes out to all who helped with the restoration. It was truly a team effort.

The restoration process included pouring new babbit bearings on the crankshaft, re-plumbing, a new front axle, new bunkers, and a fresh coat of paint.



JOIN IN PRESERVING AND CHERISHING EDUCATIONAL MEMORIES

If you have personal recollections or memories of the West Pleasant Lawn School or of the one-room schoolhouse experience, or some that have been passed down in your family, please stop by the Pleasant Lawn School in the North Village during the 2017 Old Threshers Reunion.

“We are especially interested in anyone who attended West Pleasant Lawn itself,” said organizer, Sue Loescher. “We would like to extend a personal invitation to those individuals to attend a small get together on Monday, September 4, at 10am at the schoolhouse.”

Please help get the word out! If anyone has names or contacts of any living attendees please contact Sue at 319-931-1033 or sueloesc@gmail.com.

Help preserve this precious oral history before it's too late.



Other activities going on daily at the Pleasant Lawn School during the 2017 Reunion.

Noon—Story Hour

1pm—Family sing-a-long of old favorites

2:30pm—Grades 1-3 Spelling Bee followed by Grades 4-6

3pm—Grades 7-9 Spelling Bee followed by High School then Adults.



JOIN THE CELEBRATION!



Come celebrate the Foundation's 30th anniversary at the 2017 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion. The Foundation has a special gift for all of our visitors who stop by our air-conditioned Memorial Room located in Museum A. We also have free (temporary) tattoos for the kids and a pressed penny machine for those avid collectors or for those who simply want a souvenir.

BINGO will once again be offered in Museum B from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Thursday through Sunday afternoons and 9:00 to 1:00 p.m. on Monday. It is sponsored by the Foundation; all proceeds are invested in our endowment. Providing financial support to

Midwest Old Threshers is the sole purpose of the Foundation. Since it was founded in 1986, the Foundation has transferred nearly \$1.25 MILLION DOLLARS in earnings to Midwest Old Threshers to fund capital projects and improvements.

One new improvement, which visitors will see at this year's Reunion, is a new first-aid pavilion and new mothers' station which is being built on the south side of the grounds near the carousel building and the campground. Donations are still being accepted to fund the construction of the new \$51,000 facility, which will be staffed with emergency medical services staff during the Reunion.



Other projects at Midwest Old Threshers being supported with Foundation dollars this year include the repair of the ground trains for both the campground and the show grounds, remodeling of another restroom on the show grounds, terrace drainage in the campground, LED lighting on the grounds, trolley car restoration and construction of a new doll and clothing exhibit which will begin immediately following the 2017 Reunion.

Old Threshers and the Foundation were also at the Iowa State Fair again this year – August 10-20. This was the third year Old Threshers sponsored a tourism booth in the (southeast corner) Varied Industries Building along with Iowa Wesleyan University, the City of Mount Pleasant and the Chamber Alliance.

We thank all of you who have supported the Foundation with your charitable contributions throughout these past 30 years and look forward to continued growth to support Midwest Old Threshers for years to come. All gifts to the Foundation 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 Alan Huisinga, Executive Director, at the Midwest Old Threshers office 319-385-8937 or e-mail otfoundation@oldthreshers.org.

THANK YOU

Alan D Huisinga, Executive Director

2017 FEATURED STEAM ENGINE

This year's featured steam engine is a 1905 Kelly Springfield Road Roller. Built in Springfield, Ohio, this rare piece of machinery made its way to Colorado where it was used to build and maintain roads for the city of Greeley. It was then bought by the city of Boulder. In 1958, the then 18-year-old Dave Gross spent his savings of \$500 for the roller, which had fallen into disrepair.

The smoke box was rusted out, the smoke stack was rotted and patches had been welded in several places in an effort, over the years, to keep it together. Dave and his fellow steam enthusiasts didn't know how to proceed with the restoration so not much happened and the engine just sat.

In the early 1960s Dave had the opportunity to buy a fully-operational Avery Undermount. With some money he had saved up and a bonus from work, he had money for his second steam engine. As a result the restoration of the



Dave Gross, left, and his friends pose with the Kelly Springfield roller the day he bought it in 1958.



Featured Steam Engine

1905 12T Kelly Springfield Steam Roller

Dave & Jean Gross—Centennial, CO

The Heerdt Family—Mt. Pleasant, IA

roller was pushed off again. He paid for the Avery to be moved to Boulder where it joined the roller and other engines owned by friends.

In the early 1970s, Dave moved his family to Illinois. The engines stayed in Colorado. It was around this same time that he made his first trip to Mt. Pleasant to attend the Old Threshers Reunion. Driving from Illinois, he met friends who had taken the train from Colorado. As it turned out, his daughter and her family would move to Mt. Pleasant in 1996 and he and his wife, Jean, would start attending the Reunions on a regular basis.

With his grandson growing up with an appreciation of all things steam, Dave decided to move the Kelly Springfield to Mt. Pleasant and have it restored. So in February of 2008, the roller moved for the first time in decades as it was pulled from storage. The restoration process began in July and was completed in August of 2010.

AUG. 30 - SEPT. 3, 2018
**OLD THRESHERS
 REUNION**
 MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

2017 FEATURED GAS ENGINE

Nineteen-year-old Alex Rauscher will exhibit this year’s featured gas engine. The 1915, 4 ½HP Bullseye engine has been in the Rauscher family for more than 35 years. Originally manufactured by the Jacobson engine company in Warren, Pennsylvania, they were sold through the Montgomery Ward catalog.

Alex’s dad, Hank, bought the engine when he was just 16 years old. As was the case with several of the engines in the family’s collection, the engine was bought from a scrap dealer named Howard Base. Howard spent time going to farm auctions around the Lockridge area saving history from being sent to the junk yard. Howard had the Bullseye restored in 1972 by Paul Gorrell. It was in pretty rough shape. Hank bought the engine from Howard in the early 80s and it has been at almost all the Old Threshers Reunions ever since.

After many years of running the engine, it was time for another restoration. This time it was Alex’s brother Adam’s turn. He restored the engine for his FFA project in 2001 and came home from the Iowa State Fair with a Blue Ribbon.

Alex says the Bullseye engine is by far the favorite in the Rauscher collection because of its history and it’s the rarest engine they own.

Alex has been attending Old Threshers Reunions ever since he was born. He looks forward to Old Threshers starting again for the next year the day it is over. Growing up around the engines has left him with an old iron addiction. The engines have taught him a lot of things over the years, everything from teaching him to be patient to the steps to restoring engines.

He has around 10 engines in his collection, engines ranging from 20HP all the way down to 1HP. He is always on the lookout for engines to buy. Alex has been able to buy and sell a few over the last few years, which has allowed him to be able to afford



Featured Gas Engine

“Bullseye Engines”

1915 Bullseye Sideshaft 4 1/2 HP

Alex Rauscher—Lockridge, IA

rarely seen engines such as side shafts.

“Without shows like Midwest Old Threshers I certainly wouldn’t be interested in this unique hobby as much as I am!” says Alex. “The old Iron addiction has allowed me to make many new friends and meet lots of interesting people! It has given me the opportunity to travel to shows as far away as Pennsylvania and even California.”

2017 FEATURED GAS TRACTOR

Carl and Maribelle Lund own this year’s featured tractor. The 1918 Moline Universal was bought at auction from Carl’s uncle Alden Fricke. It was fully restored at the time. Alden was the one who got Carl interested in exhibiting tractors. The Lunds own mostly John Deere and Allis Chalmers.

Carl started attending the Old Threshers Reunion in the 1960s. He has only missed one since then. Maribelle’s first Reunion was in 1968. The Lunds’ involvement with Old Threshers goes way beyond exhibiting tractors. They coordinate all of the ground trains that deliver people around the main grounds and the campground.

Maribelle supervises 20 drivers and 40 conductors each day of the Reunion. She sends out letters in July to those who are interested in helping. By the first week in August she prepares the schedule and hopes there are enough volunteers to fill the slots.

Carl and Maribelle enjoy working with their volunteers, especially the kids. Often times the ground train is the first



volunteer opportunity for kids as one must be at least 13 to sign up.

“I think it teaches them responsibility,” says Carl. “They have to be here on time and we require them to work their whole shift.”

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2017 FEATURED GARDEN TRACTOR

In the midst of winter, Mark Weirather was on his way to a visitation when he saw a Minneapolis Moline garden tractor sitting in a snowbank. He eventually approached its owner and asked if it was for sale. That was seven years ago. That 1969 Minneapolis Moline 114 has since been restored and is this year's featured garden tractor.

At first, Mark's goal was to acquire a Cub Cadet collection consisting of one of each series and all 12hp. Then he saw that treasure in the snow bank and changed his focus a little. He still collects Cub Cadet and has customized some of his Cubs to look like tractors they had on the farm.

"Now people know I collect them and they come to me when they are ready to sell," says Mark happy to have the chance to grow his collection.

Mark and his wife, Bev, also exhibit gas engines and tractors at the Old Threshers Reunion and have since 1976. They are very honored and happy to be chosen as the 2017 featured garden tractor. When not repairing or restoring mowers, Mark works in water and resource recovery.



Featured Garden Tractor

1969 Minneapolis-Moline 114

Mark & Bev Weirather—Keokuk, IA

2017 FEATURED TRUCK

A friend of George Janecek moved to Colorado and bought a ranch. He had never farmed before and had purchased a combine for the harvest. Never having operated a combine he knew he needed help and he knew who to turn to. George got the SOS and he was off to Colorado. With a semi-load and 2 trucks full, George's work was done, he headed back to Iowa.

George's friend then began farming in Osage Beach, Missouri. The ranch in Colorado came with a 1967 Dodge Strait Truck that he drove between properties. He and George crossed paths over the next several years as he helped him with his farming. One day George was sitting at home and that Dodge truck turned into his driveway. His friend was getting too old to drive and didn't need the truck anymore. He handed over the keys and the title to a surprised George. That was 10 years ago.

"It only needed cosmetic work," said George. The truck only had 68,000 miles on it and ran perfectly. He was amazed at his friend's generosity.

He was just as amazed when the passenger side door of the truck opened after the Sunday Cavalcade of Power last year and in hopped Teresa Carver. She asked him if he would consider being the featured truck for 2017. The answer was yes! He and his wife, Janet, are honored to have been chosen.

George and Janet have retired from 60 years of pig farming. George enjoys his hobby of exhibiting in the Car Area as well as in the Gas Tractor Area.



Featured Truck

1967 Dodge Strait Truck

George & Janet Janecek—Washington, IA

2017 FEATURED CAR

When you look at this year's Featured Car, you just may be laying eyes on the most complete Sears Motor Buggy around.

Working as the lead machinist for the Burlington Northern Railway, John (Jack) Daly left the shops in Burlington for his daily drive home. As he passed the ballpark he saw a 1909 Sears Motor Buggy sitting out. One day he asked its owner if it was for sale, the answer was no. Jack didn't give up and eventually bought the piece of history.

"Maybe I paid too much for it," recalls Jack. "But I didn't care. I wanted it." After he talked Merle Jacobs into selling the car he needed to figure out a way to get it home.

The rare find was restored and exhibited for the first time at the 1967 Old Threshers Reunion. As the story goes, it was first owned by a doctor who lived west of Mt. Pleasant. It was eventually stripped down and lived out the rest of its pre-restoration life in a barn. Jack visited that barn not long after he bought the buggy. All the original pieces he needed were probably in that barn. He could see several of them from the doorway. He asked a friend to keep an eye on the place and if there was ever a sale to let him know. Well, sale day came and went unbeknown to Jack.

This particular Motor Buggy was manufactured before there was a factory. There is no make or model number on it. Jack's son, John, contacted Sears and they sent an envelope with all kinds of information. John eventually put this information on the internet to help others who were undertaking a similar restoration project.

Missing the opportunity to get the original parts for the buggy, Jack eventually either made or acquired what he needed to make it complete.

I always liked taking things apart," says Jack. "I never had a problem getting them back together." Jack says the buggy looks better now than it did when he bought it because it wasn't complete.

Jack began working for the railroad when he was a junior in



Featured Car

1909 Sears Motor Buggy

John (Jack) & Marlene Daly—Burlington, IA

high school. He, like many of his friends, worked nights and went to school during the day. Working for the Burlington Northern was a family tradition for Jack. Eventually he became lead machinist was paid an extra five cents. "Boy did they expect a lot for that five cents!" says Jack. He was considered an expert because of his ability to take things a part and fix them.

The Daly family has several antique cars. Jack says he has several in his shed but most of them need work. For those who have restoration projects, Jack says don't wait too long to do them.

It's easy to tell Jack's pride and joy is this year's featured car. His pride is apparent, even over the phone. Jack can't get into the buggy without help and driving in general is a challenge. But with the help of his family, he is sure to take a few trips around the grounds this Reunion in his 1909 Sears Motor Buggy.

"I've had a fabulous life!" says Jack. "Just fabulous!"

FEATURED GAS TRACTOR CONT.

One can find Carl here when the sun brightens the eastern sky. Maribelle is not far behind. All of the tractors need to be fueled and seats wiped off from the morning dew. Dick Curry and Jim Johnson are a big help in the mornings. Ground trains start operating at 7:30am and end when the grandstands are empty after the country music shows end, sometime around 11pm. The Lunds job doesn't end on Labor Day as the tractors need to be cleaned and returned to the dealership the following day.

When they are not busy supervising visitors' transportation around the grounds, the Lunds will be taking their own tractor through the Cavalcade of Power.

Midwest Old Threshers
Welcomes the

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MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER
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Sept. 1st - Sept. 3rd
9 am to 5 pm

PRESENTING THE 2017 MISS SWEET 16 PARTICIPANTS

Rachel Hart – Clarence, IA
Parents – Jill and Andrew Hart



Rachel is active in varsity competition dance team, cheer squad and cheerleading. She also enjoys golfing, hiking, camping and volunteering in her community. Rachel wants to be Miss Sweet Sixteen to continue the tradition. Her mother was a Sweet 16. Since she was small she looked forward to being a part of the army of volunteers that make the Reunion run smoothly. Rachel has only missed one Reunion since she was born. She helps her grandfather exhibit his gas engine.

Keelyn McNamee – Mt Pleasant, IA
Parents- Rich and Carla McNamee



Keelyn is active in marching band, softball, volleyball, soccer and color guard. Keelyn wants to be Miss Sweet 16 because she has wanted to since she was little. Now that she is older she realizes it will look good for college. She loves to be social so the contest will give her the opportunity to do so. Keelyn has enjoyed the Midwest Old Threshers by being involved with the First United Methodist Church tent, and driving a tractor in the Cavalcade of Power.

Callie DePriest – Mt Pleasant, IA
Parents – Marlene and Jim DePriest



Callie is involved in student council, interact club, leadership group, color guard, show choir, jazz band, tennis, school plays and musicals, church choir, silver chord, explorer post officer, sewing, swimming and volunteering at the Fellowship Cup. Callie would like to be a part of the Miss Sweet 16 contest because it would be a wonderful opportunity for her to reach out to the community. Being

a part of the contest she can meet new people, offer a helping hand to others, and really learn about the Old Threshers experience. Callie has volunteered the last 10 years at the Log Village in various roles from school child to officer. Callie has also performed in the Mt Pleasant Marching Band at the Grandstand. Callie also likes to come as a visitor and walk the grounds.

Samantha Crawford – Mt. Pleasant, IA
Parents – Amanda Brown



Samantha is involved in cheerleading, competitive cheerleading, dance, show choir, singing, art, photography, hanging out with friends and volunteering. Samantha wants to be the next Sweet 16 because she loves interacting and helping others. Old Threshers has always been a wonderful part of her childhood and the wonderful people there have helped her grow into the person she is today. She would love to help others make memories as well. Samantha has worked in the crafts in the park since she was 9. She has volunteered throughout the years in the Log Village with a family friend.

Samantha Decker– Mt. Pleasant, IA
Parents – Amy and Shawn Decker



Samantha is involved in show choir, chamber choir, life guarding, being a nanny, working and spending time with friends and family. Samantha would like to be Miss Sweet 16 because it would mean a lot to her. It will be a great experience and a lot of fun to be a part of. Samantha has spent a lot of time at Old Threshers when she was younger. Samantha also volunteers at her church tent.

Cassidy Keeven, New Haven, MO
Parents –Larry and Sarah Keeven



Cassidy enjoys hunting, competitive shooting, fishing, water sports, and other outdoor activities. She also enjoys being a steam engine engineer. Cassidy wants to be the next Sweet 16 for the experience. Every year she sees the contestants and aspires to be them. She wants to be a good example to those that she has the opportunity to meet. Just to participate makes a dream come true. Cassidy was a student of Steam School in 2016. She has attended the Reunion each year since she was 10 years old. She has assisted the Old Threshers Foundation prepare bags for school tours. At the 2017 Steam School she also operated and trained students on the scale model.

Whitney Vantiger – Mt. Union, IA
Parents – John and Jodi Vantiger



Whitney is involved in track, cross country, cheerleading, drill team, youth leadership, trap shooting team, NHS and 4H. Whitney grew up at Old Threshers and always admired the Miss Sweet 16 contestants. Whitney thinks she would be a good role model for the younger girls and a good representative for Old Threshers. Whitney works at the Pork Producers' tent with her 4H Club and her church tent. When she is not working she likes to spend her time on the grounds and attending the concerts.

Continued on page 11



PRESENTING THE 2017 MISS SWEET 16 PARTICIPANTS CONT.

Maddie Van De Berg – Mt. Pleasant, IA
Parents – Travis and Chris Van De Berg



Maddie is involved with piano, marching band, choir, show choir and volunteers in Press On youth group. Maddie most enjoys music, dance, walking her dog and being with her friends and family. Maddie wants to be a Miss Sweet 16 because the history behind Old Threshers and it's a great opportunity to meet new people. She has looked up to the previous candidates and admires their encouragement and kindness. She hopes to learn more, improve on her communication skills and have fun being a candidate. Maddie has been active at Old Threshers by working at the Pork Producers' tent with her 4H group, helping at her church tent, performing in the band at the Grandstand and volunteering at the Log Village.

Hallie Sandeen - Winfield, IA
Parents – Cherry and Ralph Sandeen



Hallie is involved in 4H, horticulture, cooking, photography, tennis and band. Hallie would like to be the next Sweet 16 because she wants to share with others that Old Threshers has something for everyone. It is an experience to celebrate our history. Hallie has worked on the ground train since she was 11. She performs in the band at the Grandstand and has been in the Cavalcade of Power.



Sadie Carrasco – Mt. Pleasant, IA
Parent – Lisa Carrasco



Sadie is involved in basketball, marching band, volleyball, track, show choir and jazz band. Sadie wants to be the Miss Sweet 16 because her mom was one and talks about it with fond memories and how much of an honor it was. She is excited to meet people from around the world. Sadie has performed in the band at the Grandstand and has volunteered at her church tent.

Carissa Wenger – Mt. Pleasant, IA
Parents – Kevin and Dorothy Wenger



Carissa is involved in piano playing, babysitting and helping out on the farm. Carissa would like to be Miss Sweet 16 because it would be an honor to represent Midwest Old Threshers throughout the year. She would enjoy the opportunity to participate in the 2018 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion. Carissa has worked at the Pork Producers' tent and has helped on the ground train.

Liz Witthoef – Dubuque, IA
Parents – Chad and Laura Witthoef



Liz is involved in dance, reading and trying new things. Liz wants to be Sweet 16 because her mother was. Also she would love to make a difference in someone's life through the volunteering. Liz has been involved at Old Threshers at her grandfather's stand and assisting her uncles with their gas engines.

AUGUST 31ST THRU SEPTEMBER 3RD
4 SHOWS DAILY
bear hollow WOOD CARVERS
ECHO Outdoor Power Equipment
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Agri-Center Inc.
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MT. PLEASANT, IOWA



Crowning of Miss Sweet Sixteen

*Sunday, September 3rd
11 am at the Family Tent*



Button Collectors Update 2017

Carolyn Sidebottom
Plymouth, Minnesota

Sixteenth Annual Button Collectors' Forum

Button Collectors will assemble for the sixteenth consecutive year at Button Collectors' Forum during the 2017 Old Threshers Reunion. Forum will be held Sunday morning, September 3rd, in Colfax School, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Just take the ground train to the south pedestrian gate near the trolley depot and the carousel. Walk south past the Campground Information building and straight to the little red schoolhouse. Arrive anytime, and stay as long as you like.

At approximately 10:00 a.m., Carolyn will give a short presentation on "Major and Minor Varieties of Old Threshers Buttons." Were you aware that a Major Variety was discovered during the 2016 Forum by one of our young, sharp-eyed collectors? This will be a valuable opportunity for everyone, particularly children and youth, to learn more about the unique aspects of Old Threshers button collecting.

This is an open-house event for Old Threshers button collectors of all ages. The serious collector and the merely curious are welcome to gather informally to learn from each other and swap stories about our interesting and rewarding hobby. Young collectors and new collectors are especially welcome.

The Forum provides an excellent opportunity to show off your collections and rare finds, or to ask questions about buttons in your own collection. We hope to have a selection of available collectable buttons for sale. Attending the forum, where you will find information on ways to collect OT buttons and have an opportunity to see the variety of supplies available, is an excellent way to get a good start on your new collection, or update your old one.

I get excited about this event that brings collectors together, and I look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones.

2017 Souvenir Button Design

This year's Reunion color theme is soft orange, black, and white. The **2017 Souvenir button** features the 1905 Kelly Springfield Road Roller owned by Dave and Jean Gross and the Heerd Family. Dave and his grandson, Russell, appear standing proudly to the left of the engine on the button. In addition to Ben Moore's detailed engine art, the 2017 button contains the full Reunion date, and "Old Threshers" and "Mt. Pleasant, Iowa" circling the central vignette. The engine portrait is signed this year. Get out your magnifier and see if you can find Ben's initials!

Old Threshers button art has not always included make and/or model of the engine portraits, or identification of the owners of the engines when those engines were featured on the buttons. These practices began in 1993 and were dropped for 1994. Various identifications resumed for 1995 through 2009. In recent years, this information has only been included in 2014 and 2016. I suspect that this practice has been followed since 1993 *if space allowed* in the engine design. After all, this is only a 1 ¾ - inch diameter circle available for detail!

The button also includes a lighter orange tint of the same theme orange color in the background—a visual technique that was started some years ago, and used frequently since. This technique adds the illusion of depth to the intricate design. The work of the Old Threshers button design team (artist, graphic artist, and OT



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BUTTON DESIGN CONT.

CEO) insures that our Old Threshers buttons are created with a very high standard of design not always present in other similar event pin-backs.

The 55 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 disk. The attached silver pin has the loop style catch. As of mid-April this year, no varieties have been reported. My sharp-eyed variety collectors, who keep me up to date on possible existing varieties for the current year, may find major or minor varieties closer to the Reunion date.

2017 Engine of the Year

I had a comprehensive e-mail interview with Russell Heerdt, one of the owners of the Kelly Springfield Road Roller, and I was quite impressed with this busy young college student's knowledge about this engine and his willingness to share it.

Although steam rollers are not commonplace at Old Threshers, they have been present on occasion since the early years at Old Threshers. They always attract attention when they run. The steam-powered road roller featured this year is owned by the Gross/Heerdt family. Russell and his grandfather, Dave Gross, are the two featured people on the button.

This engine was built in 1905 by the O.S. Kelly Springfield Company in Springfield, Ohio, and sold to the city of Boulder, Colorado, where it was in use as a road maintenance vehicle until sometime in the 1950s. Subsequently, Dave Gross purchased the vehicle from the city of Boulder and had it trucked to Huffy Iron Works in Mount Pleasant, Iowa where it underwent a complete restoration in 2008.

The Kelly Springfield Company was not a large company. It mainly specialized in steam rollers, but they also manufactured Kelly Springfield tires. In the early 1910s, Kelly Springfield merged with Buffalo to form Buffalo-Springfield, possibly a more familiar name to those who know machinery. (Hmm...wasn't that also the name of a 1960s rock band?)

Russell said that the company employed an English engineer whose designs incorporated many features more common to English machines. A few of this engine's unique features include a thin, solid flywheel, left-side boarding platform and left-side steering, an ornate front yoke, and a horizontal steam dome. When viewed from the front, the engine appears narrower than American designed engines.



According to Russell, the boiler is original along with about 95% of the rest of this engine. The smoke stack and steam dome were new at the time of restoration along with a few castings and patches. This engine is eleven feet tall, six feet wide, and weighs twelve tons. The Gross/Heerdt engine is toward the smaller end of the range of the weights of engines that the company manufactured. Russell shared that the engine also has three Lunkenheimer whistles belonging to his grandfather and a train locomotive steam gauge—personal touches for a beloved engine.

This roller would have been used by the city of Boulder for many kinds of road maintenance including—smoothing and flattening , asphalt and gravel paving, and digging. The roller could pull a grader behind it, or three-inch spikes could be attached to the wheels to tear up a road.

Russell loves this engine because it is rare—only three or four exist in the world, and “I love the bond it has created between my grandfather and me, one that only a few may understand.”

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BUTTON DESIGN CONT.

2017 Special Souvenir Button

For the past six years, Old Threshers has issued a Special Souvenir button. Due to the continuing popularity of these giant four-inch Souvenir buttons, Old Threshers has issued a limited quantity of the 2017 Souvenir buttons in the same format. This seventh giant button makes an interesting supplemental button for the core collection. Contact the Old Threshers' office for availability and pricing of this collectible button.

Official Supplements

The **2017 Volunteer** button coordinates with the soft orange colors of the main **Souvenir** button. This button is a name window button featuring black printing, a light orange center and a darker outer ring. With the exception of the dark outer ring, the Volunteer button layout closely resembles the Volunteer button for 2016.

In mid-April, the **2017 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 of these supplemental buttons are earned for volunteer work at Old Threshers. Old Threshers has **never** sold 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 2017 Old Threshers Button collection. Be sure to add this important information to your collector's guide.

Old Threshers staff and I were excited to publish a new collector's guide, *The Elusive '54, The Complete Guide to Old Threshers Button Collecting, third edition*, that was available for the first time at the 2015 reunion. The third edition has more detailed information, more detailed photos and captions, and for the first time, pictures in color!

ENGINE PORTRAITS

YEAR	MODEL	OWNER
2017	1905 Kelly Springfield Road Roller	Dave & Jean Gross, Centennial, CO, The Heerd Family, Mt. Pleasant, IA

MEMBERSHIP/SOUVENIR BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBVERSE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2017	55 mm	165 C Soft Orange Black White	Silver	Silver L	–	\$1.00

EARLY BIRD/VOLUNTEER BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBVERSE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2017	55 mm	165 C Soft Orange	Silver	Silver L	–	Market, not sold by OT

EXHIBITOR/STAFF BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBVERSE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2016	46mm by 71mm	3272C Turquoise. White Black	Silver	Silver L	–	Market, not sold by OT
2017	Likely will be 46mm by 71mm	Likely will be 165C Orange Black White	Likely will be Silver	Likely will be Silver L	Likely will be none	Market, not sold by OT

OBITUARIES

Kenneth I. Tolander

Kenneth I. Tolander, age 93 of rural Mt. Pleasant, died April 9, 2017 at his home.

The son of Eugene and Mabel (Trowbridge) Tolander, he was born March 11, 1924 rural Swedesburg. He was married to Jean Fobert in 1952 and she died in 1952. On July 8, 1960 he married Bea Cox at Swedesburg. He was a graduate of the Olds High School. He served in the US Navy during W.W. II. He was a lifelong farmer and also operated a corn sheller and did trucking. He also was a seed corn salesman.

He was a member of the Swedesburg Evangelical Lutheran Church, Olds American Legion and Swedish Heritage Museum. In recent years he enjoyed many friendships made at the Mt. Pleasant REC Center.

Survivors include: his wife Bea of rural Mt. Pleasant; three sons, Steven Tolander of Swedesburg; Russell Tolander of Fort Worth, Texas; John and Jody Tolander of Swedesburg; one daughter Julie and Andy Bittle of Des Moines; five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren; one brother Richard Tolander of Mt. Pleasant; two sisters, Florence Cambridge of Kalona and Martha Murphy of Las Vegas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, first wife, and nine siblings.

Memorials have been established for the Swedesburg Lutheran Church and the Swedish Heritage Museum.

William Dean "Bill" Warth

William Dean "Bill" Warth, 76, of New London, died April 22, 2017 in Mesa, Arizona.

He was born December 19, 1940 at the New London family home to Arthur S. and Edna G. Dresser Warth. On June 24, 1962, he married Dayle Nicole Linder at the New London United Methodist Church.

Bill was a 1959 graduate of New London High School and earned his BA from Iowa Wesleyan College in 1963. He worked for Mary Dayle Development Company, Linder Company, taught four years at Harmony Schools and began in 1974 as Assistant Manager of A.Y. McDonald Supply Company in Burlington for 30 years.

After Bill retired, he and Marvin Septer worked together painting, carpentry, plumbing and handyman work for over 10 years during the summers. During that time, they never exchanged cross words over anything. He was generous with his time, helping Marvin and his son on many occasions. Bill was a good friend and coworker and always had a positive attitude.

He was of the Methodist faith. He and his

wife were members of the Gold Wing Touring Association and Mesa Road Runners. He loved motorcycles and all sports, especially the Dallas Cowboys and the Iowa Hawkeyes; he collected knives and guns.

Besides his wife, he is survived by two sons, Troy William (Michelle) Warth of St. James, Missouri and Dale Dustin (Terri) Warth of Sarasota, Florida; three foster sons, Trieu Le, Hoat Nguyen and Phi Nguyen; grandchildren, Michaela, Chalea, Tabitha, Jarret, Trey, Dakota, Alexander and Andrew; three great grandchildren, Lillie, Logan and Mckenzie; one brother, James A. (Elaine) Warth of Iowa City, and three nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Marlys R. Abrisz.

Richard "Dick" Augsburg

Richard C. "Dick" Augsburg, 82, of Mt. Pleasant, IA, passed away on May 3, 2017 at Arbor Court in Mt. Pleasant.

Born August 2, 1934, in Burlington, IA, Richard Chelsea was the son of Chelsea C. and Beulah B. (Brown) Augsburg. He was a 1953 graduate of Burlington High School. On November 27, 1954, Dick married Evelyn Kemper in Wapello, IA. She preceded him in death on August 22, 2001.

Following high school, Dick joined the United States Army Reserves. He was called to active duty March 19, 1956, and served during the Korean Conflict. Sgt. Augsburg was honorably discharged on December 25, 1957. He continued his services as a member of the Reserves until February 29, 1962.

Prior to moving to Mt. Pleasant in 1977, Dick lived in Burlington and served on the Burlington Police Reserves. For forty years, he worked for Iowa Southern Utilities Company, where he was an area manager at the time of his retirement in 1999.

Never knowing a stranger, Dick was dubbed the "Mayor of Linden Heights" by his friends. He was a member of First United Methodist Church of Mt. Pleasant, and when living in Burlington, Oak Street Baptist, First United Methodist, and West Hill Methodist Churches. Always community minded, Dick belonged to several organizations including Lions, Elks, and Kiwanis. He was a member of Mt. Pleasant Chamber of Commerce, serving on the Economic Development Committee. A car enthusiast, he belonged to the Southeast Iowa Antique Car Club and 20th Century Car Club. For many years, Dick was the head conductor for Midwest Central Railroad during Old Threshers and was the Harvest Parade Coordinator for over 25 years. He enjoyed riding his motorcycle.

Those sharing in Dick's life were his son, Scott (Lisa) Augsburg of Mt. Pleasant, IA, and two granddaughters, Staci (Chad) Consbrock of Pella, IA, and Ashli Augsburg of Nashville, TN.

Along with his wife, Evelyn, Dick was preceded in death by his parents.

Gifts of love and friendship may be given to Mt. Pleasant Police Department Canine Fund or Midwest Old Threshers Foundation.

Wilma F. Smithburg Rich

Wilma F. Smithburg Rich, 90 of Mt. Pleasant and formerly of Lockridge passed away on July 29, 2017, at Park Place Elder Living Center in Mt. Pleasant.

Wilma was born on April 9, 1927, Richland the daughter of Edgar Terry and Gladys Lyons Lynn. She graduated from Lockridge High School in the class of 1945. Wilma was united in marriage to Clarence A. Smithburg on November 5, 1946, he preceded her in death on April 8, 2001. They were lifelong farmers in the Lockridge community and Wilma was the care taker at Camp Golden Valley Retreat. She and Clarence owned and operated the Four Corners Grocery Store. She had been a nurse's aide at the Jefferson County Hospital in Fairfield, was a substitute school bus driver for the Fairfield School System for several years.

After her husband's death, she was united in marriage to Philip Albert Rich on November 26, 2005. They enjoyed many hobbies together, which included singing with the Rhythm Rockers of Mt. Pleasant. She enjoyed china painting, her flower gardens and she loved to cook. Wilma was a conductor on the Midwest Central Railroad for several years and she enjoyed talking to folks and making new friends. She was a member of the New Sweden United Methodist Church and the Trenton Missionary Church.

Wilma is survived by her husband Phillip Albert Rich of Mt. Pleasant and her children; Linda (Clinton) Boese of Pella, Nancy (Roger) Asby of Lockridge and Edward (Vivian) Smithburg of West Olive, Michigan, 6 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren., three step-children; Phillip (Kara) Rich of Chariton, Curtis (Mindy) Rich of Mt. Pleasant and Teresa (John) Mallams of Mt. Pleasant, 6 step grandchildren and 5 step great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and one sister Dorothy Woodburn. Memorials may be directed to the New Sweden United Methodist Church in her memory.

2017 EVENTS

Old Threshers Reunion—August 31-Sept 4

Midwest & Great Northern Printers' Fair—Sept 13-16

Thrashers House of Terror—October 5-7, 12-14, 19-21, 26-28, 31

Midwest Haunted Rails—October 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28

Old Threshers Annual Meeting—November 11

OT Foundation Fall Meeting—November 11

Festival of Lights—November 16-19, 23-26, 30-December 1-3, Dec 7-10, 13-31



Thank You Volunteers!

A BIG THANKS TO OUR GREAT SPONSORS!



2017 OLD THRESHERS REUNION

OLD THRESHERS SUMMER THEATRE

"GIRL NEXT DOOR"

BY NEIL & CAROLINE SCHAFFNER

AUGUST 31

SEPTEMBER 1, 2, 3

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