



Volume 45, Issue 1

Spring 2019

## SPRING BRINGS IMPROVEMENTS TO OT AND McMILLAN PARK

Now that we are free of winter’s grasp, outside projects around Old Threshers and McMillan Park have started.

The Old Threshers Board of Directors approved several projects to improve drainage around the grounds from the entertainer camping area at the North east corner to the area between the Oetken Heritage Museums.

Thanks to a generous donation from Richard Oetken, Museum B is getting a new roof. The integrity of the roof is very important as Museum B houses hundreds of valuable

artifacts that tell the story of agricultural history in America.

Construction has begun on a new bathroom in Museum B. This addition will benefit visitors to the Reunion as well as groups that rent the space for events throughout the year.

The Hoaglin Foundation awarded OT a grant to help complete the restoration of the Prairie Gem Church in the campground. The historic building now has a solid foundation and proper drainage.

The Association was also awarded money from the Hoaglin Foundation to replace lights in Museum A. This

project is almost completed and features bright, LED lights throughout the building.

The Festival of Lights committee received a grant from the Enhance Henry County Foundation to improve the electric service in J Row in the campground. As the number of light displays increases so does the need for reliable electric. This improvement will also benefit campers during the Reunion.

Visitors to the Festival of Lights will have a better place to park to see Santa as a new parking lot has been created below Santa’s house.

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## THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT OLD THRESHERS

Undoubtedly the most priceless way to support Old Threshers is by sharing one’s time and talents. In 2018, 1,064 volunteers gave 45,898 hours to events sponsored by OT. Without this help, OT would not be able to provide year-round events.

Another way to show support is through donations of items important to the agricultural history of the area. The process for donating items includes sending pictures and a description of the item to the Old Threshers office, by mail, 405 E. Threshers Rd., or email, info@oldthreshers.org. The board will review the item and determine if it is a good addition to the collection. If it is accepted, donors complete a “Deed a Gift” form and the item becomes the property of OT.

Financial support is also possible through a membership in the 110 Club. The yearly membership includes a 5-day pass to the Reunion as well as a Transit Pass to be used on the trolley and ground trains.

Donations to the OT Foundation are also a good way to show support.

**Midwest Old Threshers awarded the following to volunteers in 2018**

**853 10-hour awards  
532 30-hour awards**

**Volunteer hours are accumulative from year to year**

**Lifetime Totals  
9,937 100-hour Awards  
399 500-hour Awards  
224 1,000-hour Awards**

# “VOLUNTEERING”

## We could not do it without you!

Greetings from Midwest Old Threshers!

I want to send out a huge “Thank You” to all of our volunteers that gave of their time and talents in 2018 and already in 2019. In 2018, Old Threshers was able to track 1064 different volunteers for the association which gave 45,898 hours of volunteerism. For a non-profit organization that is an amazing amount of volunteers and hours given. The dollar value of a volunteer hour is estimated annually and is made available by Independent Sector for Iowa. In 2018 was \$23.41 an hour. For this non-profit that would calculate out to be \$1,074,472.10 worth of support to the Midwest Old Threshers Association. Thank You, Thank You!

I recently attended an Iowa Museum Association conference and heard the issues facing other small museums around the state of Iowa. The lack of volunteers is an issue facing many of them. Their stories of getting one or two new volunteers for an event was like watching a child open a present and smiling from ear to ear. Another reason I’m so thankful for all of our volunteers here at Old Threshers. Old Threshers has a unique way of finding that niche, that interest point or placing the volunteer where they wish to volunteer at, to make it all happen. Last fall the haunted house had 171 different volunteers. This spring there are 45 different volunteers sharing the knowledge with the school tour kids, and each event or happenings here have that group of volunteers that make it happen.

National Volunteer Week was April 7 – 13, 2019 but here at Old Threshers volunteer appreciation is not just for a week but EVERY DAY! I recently read an article/blog from “Good-deeds-day.org” that was published back in 2017 about volunteering, and I would like to share some of it. Good Deeds Day was April 7<sup>th</sup> this year and is a global day that unites people from 100 countries to do good deeds for the benefit of others and the planet.

*“Why Do I Feel Like This When I Volunteer?” It happens to all of us. We take on the task of volunteering because we want to do a good deed. We may not realize why we feel the pull to give our goodness just that it’s a natural notion which lies in all of us. We may not realize all of the emotion involved in the act of volunteering, which washes over us in an instant. We may not realize just how powerful the emotional effect which volunteering has on us. Who knew it would be so positive?*

### **Grateful**

*No matter where you choose to volunteer your time and energy, there always seems to be a moment of pause, when you stop and think to yourself how thankful you are for all you have. When presented with situations where people live with less, from kids in an orphanage to helping the homeless, it becomes apparent just how lucky we really are. Volunteering is a gentle reminder to practice gratitude for all that we do have.*

### **Connected**

*Have you ever felt like you’re surrounded by thousands of people, but still feel alone? As humans, we often live alone in our minds and whatever reality we choose to create for ourselves. Even in today’s technology world, we may be ‘connecting’ online, but seeing one another through a computer screen is not the same as sitting eye to eye with another human, we often lack the feelings of true connection.*

*Volunteering fosters the feeling of connection. When a group of people gathers with one mission in mind, there tends to be a deep rooted feeling of connectedness. The quality of the relationships we build is one of the most crucial factors in our long term health and happiness. Working on a team with one common goal is an opportunity to connect, engage and do good together.*

### **Fulfilled**

*Did you ever walk into an experience wanting to make a difference, and walk out feeling full? That fullness comes from purpose, which science says is a result of volunteering. For those who are still wondering what the purpose behind life is, we think that answer is pretty clear. Give to others, share your light, and in return, feel a sense of purpose. Volunteering also provides a sense of value. You matter. What you do matters, and how you choose to give back matters. Even the smallest act of kindness affects someone’s life in the largest of ways*

### **Empathy**

*Have you ever experienced that moment of fleeting goodness mixed with a touch of sadness? We’re with you, buds. When we recognize we’re doing something good for the world, sometimes it can be overwhelming to think of how much more we can be doing. Maybe it’s when you’re visiting an injured soldier in the hospital that it hits the hardest – when you know, through no fault of their own – this person is going to be affected for a lifetime. This is what we call empathy. This hit to the heart may cause you to reexamine your life. Why does giving increase during holiday time? Because people realize how much they truly have and how much others don’t. It’s a necessary part of life – to be able to envision yourself in someone else’s shoes and realize just how much you have.*

### **Happy**

*Everyone has their own definition of what happiness means to them, but for a moment, let’s say that happiness equals health. If someone isn’t feeling healthy or good, then it’s quite difficult for them to focus on the little things that make them happy. Hosting physical or mental illnesses is taxing and requires a lot of energy and effort. It can hold you back from being able to choose happiness. When we volunteer, our immune system improves, we feel more positive feelings, are less likely to feel depressed, and it can lower mortality rate.*

*The most important note to remember in regard to all of these emotions? Let yourself feel them. The world is balanced when people connect with themselves enough to keep doing good for others.*

Volunteering can give you the opportunity to try something new, feel good, gain experience, develop skills, improve your career prospects, build confidence and meet new people. Through volunteering you can: Take on a challenge – Getting involved in something new can be a real challenge. I hope that all of our volunteers realize how big of impact that they make each and every day, just by being a volunteer. Thanks again!



## OLD THRESHERS BOARD WELCOMES PAUL BISHOP



Midwest Old Threshers welcomes Paul Bishop to its board of directors. He is the new Horse Area Director. Paul is from Burlington, Iowa. He and his wife,

Teresa, have two children and four grandchildren.

Paul has been attending Old Threshers since 2001. He dedicates his volunteer time to the Horse Area and the Festival of Lights.

Paul sees Midwest Old Threshers as

a big toy box filled with historical equipment both working and static. That collection, he says, is Old Threshers greatest strength.

When asked what he would like to see happen at OT or in the Horse Area, he said he would like to see the expansion of the campground and parking areas.

He would like to improve communication within his area and encourage his volunteers to feel ownership and excitement for the Horse Area and the Old Threshers Reunion.

Paul and Teresa own and breed Suffolk Punch Draft Horses. There are

more pandas in the world than these rare, English horses says Paul. They originated in the eastern part of England, which is where they get the first part of their name, Suffolk. The name Punch comes from how they look and their strength.

Teresa is the secretary of The American Suffolk Horse Association. Its membership spans the United States and Canada and has a member in Australia.

Stop by the Horse Area and meet Paul. While you are there check out the many different breeds of horses and learn how each one is used around the farm.

## OLD THRESHERS BOARD WELCOMES MELINDA HUISINGA



Old Threshers newest board member, Melinda Huisinga is no stranger to Old Threshers. Her father volunteered at the Midwest Central Railroad and her mother, at

the Methodist Church Foot Tent.

Melinda rode in her first Cavalcade of Power as a grade-schooler. In 1996, Melinda and her family purchased a 1915 65Hp Case traction engine and have been steam exhibitors ever since. Not long

after they bought the full-scale engine, they invested in a 1/2-scale replica of the same engine. Melinda says it's the perfect size for young students to learn on.

Melinda's husband, Al, has been executive director of the Old Threshers Foundation since 2011. Their daughter, Kristin and her husband live in West Des Moines with their two grandsons. Their son, Chad, was also a lover of steam. Chad passed away when he was 21. Their 65hp Case was purchased in his memory.

Melinda has served on the Foundation Board since 2008, where she currently serves as secretary.

She says one of Old Threshers strengths is the amount of volunteer hours given for the various events. The variety of activities, events and educational opportunities throughout the year is also a benefit. The economic impact the Reunion has on the economy of Mt. Pleasant and Southeast Iowa is significant.

Melinda would like to see further expansion of year-round activities and the building of a climate-controlled facility that can be used throughout the year.

Melinda will oversee Museums A & B, the carousel and special events.

## GOLDEN SLIPPER SALOON GROUP IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Golden Slipper Saloon Group is looking for dedicated, committed individuals that possess a passion for Midwest Old Threshers to join their team.

The saloon group performs multiple shows throughout all five days of the Old Threshers Reunion.

Each singer/dancer is responsible for providing their own costumes and accessories.

If you are passionate about

Old Threshers, enjoy singing, dancing and having good, old-fashion, family fun, we would love to talk to you about joining the group.

To find out more information, text Julie from the Saloon at 319-572-2278 or call the Old Threshers office at 319-385-8937.

Come be a part of the Golden Slipper Saloon!



## FEATURED FOR 2019



### Steam Engine

1882 10 H.P. Harrison  
Owned by: Steve Kunz  
Valley Park, MO



### Antique Tractor

1951 AR John Deere  
Owned by: Ken & Marlene Perkins  
Bennett, IA



### Gas Engine

1941 Type E John Deere  
Owned by: Steve & Sandra Alt  
West Liberty, IA

### Antique Truck

1959 Mack H67  
Owned by: Howard & Glenda Dobbins  
Durant, IA



### Antique Car

1923 Ford Soft Top 3 Door  
Model T  
Owned by: Marvin Johanson  
Mount Pleasant, IA



### Lawn & Garden Tractor

1974 14 H.P. John Deere 140 H-3  
Owned by: Branden Landess  
Mount Pleasant, IA

## 2019 SCHOOL TOUR PROGRAM SEES 1,200 STUDENTS ATTEND

For more than three decades, 4th, 5th and 6th graders from around the region have come to Old Threshers in the Spring to learn about the rich agricultural history of the area. Homeschool groups have been added to the list of attendees recently.

By the time the 2019 School Tour Program ends on May 22nd, there will have been 1,200 students touched by this very important feature of Old Threshers.

Some of the students are familiar with farming and the equipment used by farmers these days, but don't know the history behind it. Several have no exposure to farm-life except for seeing tractors in the fields. The volunteers who help teach the students, and sometimes the parents and teachers as well,



Melinda Huisinga talks about her 1915 Case steam engine and explains what kids would be doing on the farm during harvest time.



Above: Paul Gorrell, Burlington, explains the evolution of the automobile. Right: Steve Tolander, Olds, takes students through the timeline of gas tractors.



are providing a very important service.

Tours begin at 10 am and conclude around 12:30 pm. Areas visited include the Bussey Doll Collection, Gas Tractors, Women on the Farm, Midwest Central Railroad, Marvin's Mill, Antique Cars and Trucks and the Firehouse Exhibit, Printers' Hall, Traction Steam and the Hazel Grace Pierson Carousel Pavilion.

**Sale Ends 5.31!**  
**ENDING SOON!**  
**\$10 OFF Multi-Day Admission**  
 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion  
 August 29<sup>th</sup> thru September 2<sup>nd</sup>  
[SHOP.OLDTHRESHERS.COM](http://SHOP.OLDTHRESHERS.COM)

**Greater Iowa Swap Meet & Flea Market**  
**May 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**Mount Pleasant, Iowa**

# ARGENT LUMBER No. 1 JOINS MIDWEST CENTRAL RAILROAD

On April 13, Argent Lumber No. 1 arrived at the Midwest Central Railroad from Alabama. This locomotive operated along with Midwest Central's No. 2 and No. 6. at the Argent Lumber Company in Hardeeville, South Carolina, from 1916 to 1956. No. 1 was often used as a switch engine.

It's bright paint scheme came from its operation at the Petticoat Junction Theme Park in Florida.

To find out more about the history of No. 1 and the other engines of the Midwest Central Railroad, visit their website at [www.mccr.org](http://www.mccr.org).



Top photo: Argent Lumber No. 1 arrives at the MCCR. Above and at left: Volunteers work to build a piece of track that will allow the engine to be moved off of the trailer. Far left: Argent Lumber No. 1 sits inside the South Depot. Photos courtesy of the Midwest Central Railroad.

DAILEY & VINCENT

MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS  
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS REUNION  
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

THURSDAY  
AUGUST 29

AUG. 29<sup>TH</sup> - SEPT 2<sup>ND</sup>

## BUSSEY DOLL EVENT: "A TOUR OF CHILDHOOD, ANTIQUE AND VINTAGE DOLLS"

The Annual Doll Event featuring the Bussey Doll Collection is scheduled for June 22, 2019.

This will be our first year in the new Doll Museum. I am very honored to have the facility named The Glenna Voyles Doll House. Through a long time and hard work, a goal has been met! Registration forms will be available online very soon, The day begins with registration at 8:30-9 a.m.

We are quite proud of this new addition to Midwest Old Threshers offering yet another (air conditioned and comfortable) exhibit. Here visitors will learn about and enjoy not only dolls, but also the long hidden antique vintage clothing. There are also hands-on play areas for children with two large doll houses.

The theme of "A TOUR OF CHILDHOOD, ANTIQUE AND VINTAGE DOLLS," is



**Glenna Voyles, curator of the new Glenna Voyles Doll House, speaks to students during School Tours about the Bussey Doll Collection.**

certain to bring you joy and a guaranteed feast for the eyes. Hopefully we will have some added surprises during this presentation!

The wonderful baked goods will again be provided for your morning appetites by the Pleasant Pickers Club (antique

lovers) of Mt. Pleasant. ALWAYS yummy!

The catered luncheon will be served in the educational and comfortable Theatre Museum of Repertoire Americana, where there will be a guided tour and presentation on this one-of-a-kind and historical part of Midwest history. The artifacts and wonderful backdrops in the museum's collection will be featured.

Nationally known appraiser Nancy McRay (Antiques Roadshow) will be doing appraisals. Alice Boyer plans on providing re-stringing services. The afternoon will have surprises, door prizes, the giving of souvenir gifts and more.

We are hoping for a fun day to enlighten our visitors of our newest treasure at Midwest Old Threshers.

Come enjoy with us!

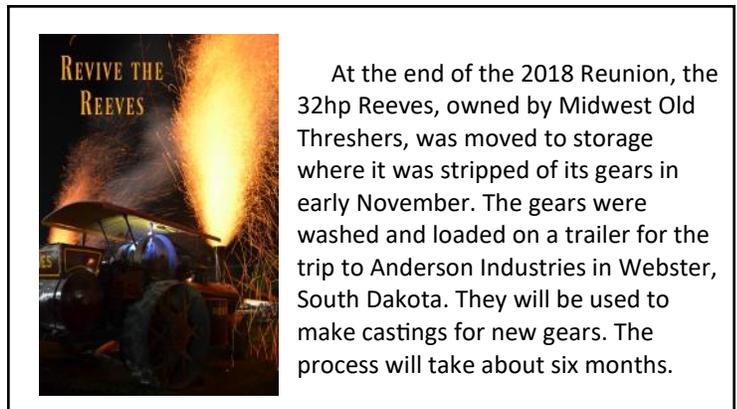
*Glenna Voyles, Curator*

## REEVES NEW SPIDER GEAR IS POURED AT ANDERSON INDUSTRIES

Anderson Industries in Webster, South Dakota, is making new gears for the 32hp Reeves owned by Midwest Old Threshers.

In March, they prepared the mold and poured the differential spider gear. In the photo to the right, one of the new tooth profile segments are being put into the main mold. The photo below shows the actual pouring of the new gear.

The mold is inside a 66 inch frame. There are six 1,000 lb weights sitting on top of the frame to hold the top down when the heavy, ductile iron flows in.



At the end of the 2018 Reunion, the 32hp Reeves, owned by Midwest Old Threshers, was moved to storage where it was stripped of its gears in early November. The gears were washed and loaded on a trailer for the trip to Anderson Industries in Webster, South Dakota. They will be used to make castings for new gears. The process will take about six months.

# STEAM SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS LEARN HOW TO RUN CAROUSEL

Participants in the 2019 Midwest Old Threshers Steam School enjoyed sunny skies and warm temperatures while learning how to safely operate a variety of traction steam engines.

This was the first year students were able to learn how to fire the Herschell-Spillman steam engine that runs the antique carousel.

Thank you to instructors Jay Sigafoose and Frank Tharp. And to all the operators who got their engines out and were willing to help with the hands-on portion of the class.



RESERVED SEATING ONLY  
SOLD OUT

FRIDAY  
AUGUST 30

Home Free  
SOCIAL BAND

MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS REUNION  
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

AUG. 29<sup>TH</sup> - SEPT 2<sup>ND</sup>

MINNESOTA  
OLD THRESHERS  
MT. PLEASANT, IOWA

## OLD THRESHERS FOUNDATION OFFICE PROJECT COMPLETED



Foundation Executive Director, Alan Huisinga, stands by the Foundation Memorial Board in the new Foundation office at Midwest Old Threshers.

Old Threshers Foundation Executive Director, Alan Huisinga, has upgraded his space at 405 E. Threshers Road. Space in the Old Threshers office was freed up following the building of the new Glenna Voyles Doll House. The Bussey Doll Collection was moved prior to the 2018 Reunion to its new space allowing the Foundation Office to move to a much bigger area next to the Foundation Room.

Pictured at left, Alan stands next to the Foundation Memorial Board that was moved to a bigger wall to allow for expansion.

Since its inception in 1986, the Foundation has given \$1.5 million in interest and earnings to Midwest Old Threshers to help fund buildings, restoration projects, museum exhibits, campground improvements and programs benefiting the five-day Reunion as well as other events held on the grounds throughout the year, such as Haunted Rails and Festival of Lights. One of the many Foundation-sponsored programs includes the School Tour Program, which will host 1,200 upper elementary students in 2019.

The Foundation manages an endowment and investments totaling \$1,778,904. In addition to the endowment, the Foundation was given a farm in Illinois, which generates cash rent income that is transferred to OT each year.

For more information about supporting the Old Threshers Foundation, contact Alan at 319-385-8937.

## SWEET 16 DEADLINE APPROACHES

Sweet Sixteen contestants are the official hostesses of the Reunion.

Each contestant volunteers in numerous positions around the Old Threshers grounds such as providing assistance to our guests, answering questions and lending a helping hand to our many non-profit organizations' booths. Each of the contestants is judged on their volunteerism, an interview, knowledge of Old Threshers and their overall hospitality. The Sweet Sixteen contestants can be seen at the Harvest Parade, at the Carousel, the Paul Anderson Building and strolling the grounds in the period dress.

If you are interested in having fun, meeting new people and becoming a Miss Sweet Sixteen; please contact Midwest Old Threshers at 319-385-8937. Deadline to apply is May 31st, 2019.



# JOE DIFFIE

SATURDAY  
AUGUST 31



MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS REUNION  
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

AUG. 29<sup>TH</sup> - SEPT 2<sup>ND</sup>

# FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS BREAKS ONE-NIGHT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Starting in October, volunteers and Old Threshers staff begin transforming the Old Threshers Campground into a lighted wonderland.

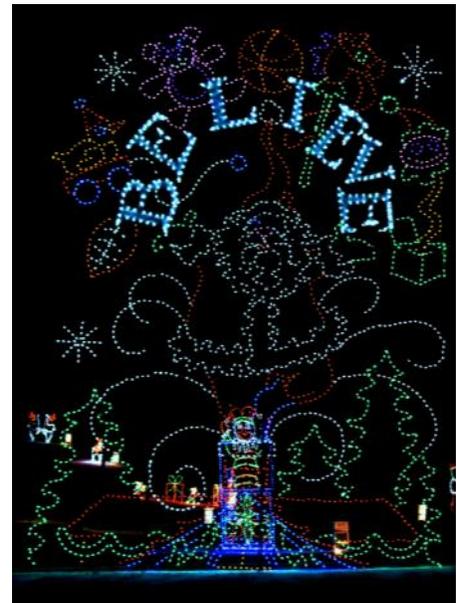
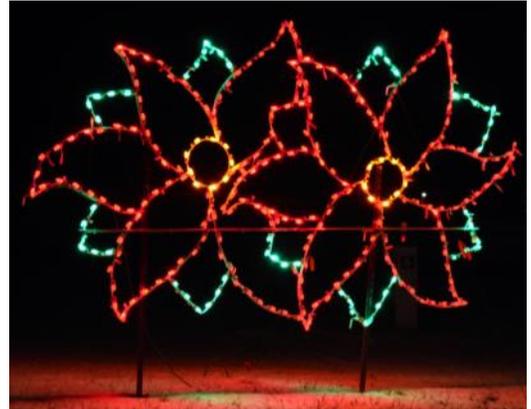
The Mount Pleasant Festival of Lights celebrated its sixth year in 2018, hosting 4,515 cars through the mile-long light park. FOL featured more than 120 light displays last year. Compare that to 2,675 vehicles its first year and 60 displays. Word has gotten out that the display is the best around South-east Iowa and the surrounding area.

Volunteers sell tickets at the entrance to the campground and keep track of visitors' license plates in order to tell where they are from. Tally marks show people have travelled from as far away as Nebraska and Illinois to see the spectacle.

Returning in 2018, was the Toy Factory. This gigantic house with its puffing chimney is a crowd favorite.

In 2018, there were three nights with attendance above 400 vehicles. The record-breaker was on December 22nd with 452. Proceeds are re-invested into the FOL and are used to buy more displays and pay for the expenses incurred.

If you would like to help sponsor a display in 2019, please contact the Old Threshers office at 319-385-8937. Several displays are already spoken for.




**SCOTTY  
McCREERY**

**RESERVED SEATING ONLY  
SOLD OUT**

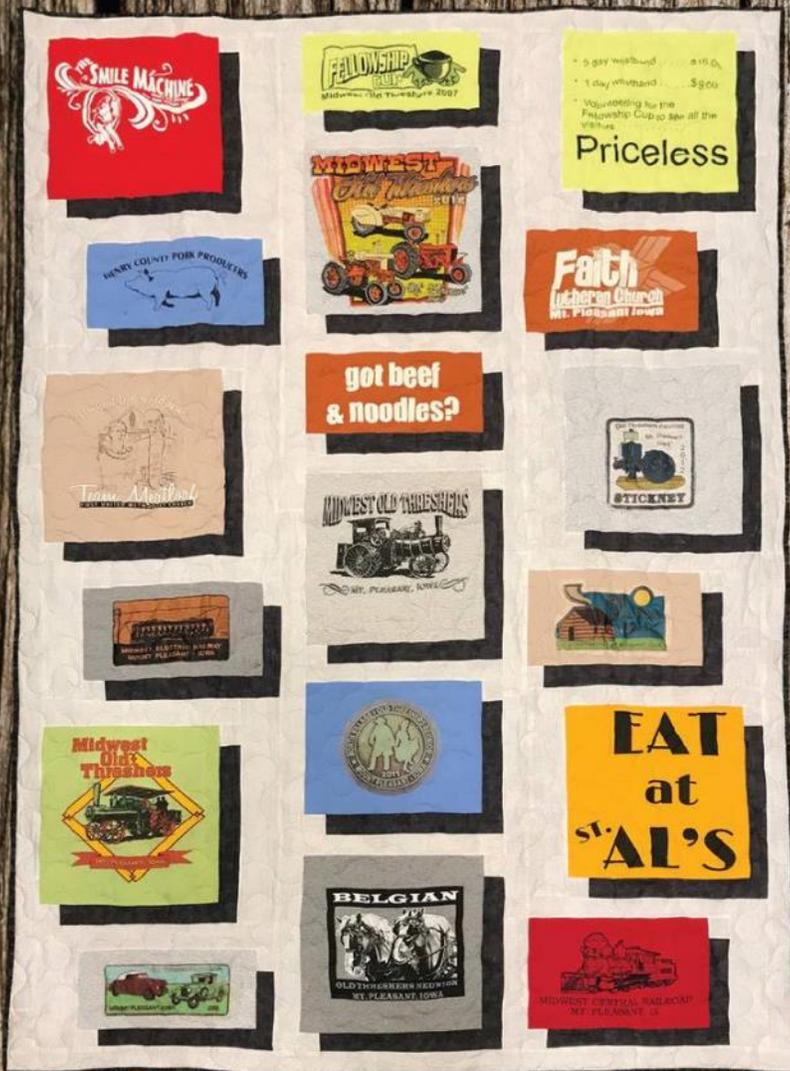
**SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 1**

**MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS REUNION  
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA**

**AUG. 29<sup>TH</sup> - SEPT 2<sup>ND</sup>**

# Midwest Old Threshers T-Shirt Quilt Raffle

**Tickets**  
\$2 each  
or  
3 for \$5



*Drawing will be held  
Monday, September 2nd,  
10am at The Family Tent.  
**Need not be present to win**  
Tickets can be purchased at  
the Midwest Old Threshers  
Gift Shop before August 17th  
And During the  
Midwest Old Threshers  
Reunion at Judy's Quilt Shop  
in the North Village.*

Sewn during the 2017 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion on an  
Antique Treadle Sewing Machine.  
Blocks represent the various areas of Midwest Old Threshers.  
Machine quilted by Martha Settles. Donated by Judy Williamson of  
Judys's Quilt Shop North Village.

## OBITUARIES

### J. Robert "Bob" Jacoby

J. Robert "Bob" Jacoby, age 75 of Marengo, passed away January 4, 2019, at the University of Iowa Hospital, Iowa City.

Bob is survived by his fiancée Sheri Voy of Marengo; his children, Wendy (Mark) Miller of Marengo, Heather McClanahan of Conroy, Heidi Jacoby of Grapevine, TX, Shane (Michael) Niece-Jacoby of Cedar Rapids, Colby (Nancy) Jacoby of Williamsburg, Quenton Jacoby of Marengo, Ian Jacoby of Cedar Rapids, and Hillari Jacoby of Williamsburg; fifteen grandchildren, Tyreesh, J.R. (Kat), Bridgette (C.J.), Brenna "Boo", Ethan, Olivia "Bug", Madelyn, Kayte "Mae", Brent, T.J., Ava, Hunter, Gage, McKennah, and Skye; and a sister Rae Jean Boyer of Cedar Rapids.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister Lois Menzel and her husband Wayne, a granddaughter Nicole Jacoby, a nephew Scott Menzel, great-niece Lucy Hartman, and a brother-in-law Ron Boyer.

James Robert Jacoby was born May 5, 1943 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the son of Ray Grant Jacoby and Elizabeth Gates Jacoby. He attended Honeycreek Township School #3 and graduated from Iowa Valley High School in 1963. Bob was employed with George Frimml for 11 years, then the Marengo Elevator for 15 years and worked with the Iowa County Road Department for 28 years. He farmed for many years alongside his father and later on his own. Bob enjoyed attending the farming and livestock shows, especially the Old Threshers Reunion in Mount Pleasant and the North East Missouri Old Threshers in Shelbina, MO. He liked camping, traveling, and riding the 4-wheeler with Sheri and his morning coffee rendezvous with friends.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Marengo. A memorial fund has been established. Kloster Funeral Home, Marengo is assisting the family with arrangements.

### Eric M. Hosette

Lt. Eric M. Hosette, 33, of Charlotte, made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of

duty on January 5, 2019.

Eric Michael Hosette was born on June 22, 1985 in Clinton, Iowa, the son of William and Gail (Grimm) Hosette. He was a 2003 graduate of Camanche High School. He later attended the Trinity School of Nursing for paramedic certification.

Eric's lifelong dream was to be a firefighter and started as a volunteer with the Camanche Fire Department. He joined the Clinton Fire Department on September 17, 2006 and recently was promoted Lieutenant on August 25, 2017. He was also the current Fire Chief of the Charlotte Fire Department.

Eric married Kellene "Kelly" Mohr on September 25, 2010 in Clinton. They have one daughter: Addalyn who was the apple of his eye. He enjoyed working and restoring antique tractors and was a member of Midwest Old Threshers.

Eric is survived by his wife: Kelly of Charlotte; his daughter: Addalyn at home; his parents: Bill and Gail Hosette of Camanche; his brother: Todd (Casey) Hosette of Camanche; his maternal grandmother: Arlene Grimm of Charlotte; his father and mother-in-law: Kenny & Shelly Mohr of Fulton, Illinois; brother-in-law: Nick Mohr of Clinton; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Eric was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents and maternal grandfather.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to the family to a fund established at Clinton National Bank.

Lt. Hosette will forever be remembered as a true hero who answered his final call doing what he loved to do and knew that his fellow firefighters would be ready to "take it from here."

### Pauline M. Willson

Pauline M. Willson, 89, of Mt. Pleasant, IA, passed away February 3, 2019, at the Henry County Health Center.

Born January 14, 1930, in rural Mt. Union, IA, Pauline May was the daughter of Axel B. and May (Mathews) Anderson. For two years she attended Center School in rural Canaan Township and then

completed her education in Mt. Union, graduating in 1948. She was a 1951 graduate of Burlington Hospital School of Nursing. On March 29, 1951, Pauline married James A. Willson in West Burlington. He preceded her in death on May 28, 1998.

Using her skills as a nurse, Pauline worked at the Veterans Hospital in both Iowa City and Houston Texas. Moving as her husband's career progressed, she continued her nursing career in Milwaukee, WI, at Ft. McMurry in Alberta, Canada, and for 35 years in Peoria, IL. While in Peoria, Pauline completed her last few years of her nursing career with the American Red Cross Mobile Blood Program. In 2000, she moved to Mt. Pleasant to be near her twin brother, Paul Anderson.

A member of First United Methodist Church in Mt. Pleasant, Pauline was active in the community. She volunteered for Crossroads Hospice, Henry County Health Center Auxiliary, and Midwest Old Threshers. She also assisted the site manager at Congregate Meals. Pauline was a member of South Center Club.

Along with her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by two sisters, Frances Oliver and Lorena Williams; and four brothers, Paul Anderson, Gerald Anderson, Harold Anderson, and Dale Anderson.

Pauline is survived by many beloved nieces and nephews.

Gifts of love and friendship may be given to Friends of Henry County Health Center (HCHC Auxiliary). On-line condolences may be directed to [www.olsonpowell.com](http://www.olsonpowell.com).

### Koletta Steinmetz

Koletta Steinmetz of La Farge passed away March 23, 2019 at Gundersen Hospital in La Crosse, WI.

Kolettæ was born October 12, 1927, in the town of Stark to Ernest and Matilda (Melvin) Lawrence. The eldest of eight siblings, she helped with farm work, graduated high school and married Durward Steinmetz. They logged and operated a sawmill together and enjoyed many homesteading crafts such as

## VOLUNTEERING AT OLD THRESHERS COMES IN MANY FORMS

Without volunteers, Midwest Old Threshers would not be what it is today. In 2018, 1,064 volunteers donated 45,898 hours of their time to the Association. Volunteer time has

expanded beyond just the Reunion. The volunteer year typically starts with School Tours in April and ends with Festival of Lights in December and there are a lot of opportunities in between.

If you are interested in a specific area or task and you have time to give, please contact the Old Threshers office at 319-385-8937 and let the staff know you want to help.

## 2019 OLD THRESHERS AREA DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS

### Antique Cars

Bob Gerdes, Director

### Antique Coordinators

Eric & Liz Freueh

### Bussey Doll Collection

Glenna Voyles, Curator

### Campground

Bob Myers, Directors  
Chris Bell, Coordinator  
Bob Welander

### Crafts & Vendors

Midwest Old Threshers

### Carousel

Melinda Huisinga, Director  
Bill Perrenoud, Coordinator  
Todd & Amy Mabeus  
Mary Elgar

### Entertainment

Ralph Oliver, Director  
Doris Price, Coordinator

### Explorer Post 1846

Karen Boston-Kemple  
Cindy Dorrell

### Gas Engine Area

Carl Thompson, Director  
Steve Alt, Coordinator

### Gate Admissions

Rich Seberg

### Ground Trains

Maribelle & Carl Lund

### Horse Area

Paul Bishop, Director  
Tony Garrett, Coordinator

### Housing

Bev Hamm

### Log Village

Robert Welander, Director  
Eric Heerdt, Coordinator

### Model Steam

Dan Carruthers, Coordinator

### Midwest Electric Railway

Jeremy Hobbs, Director  
Chris Heaton, Director  
Maddy Hobbs, Coordinator

### North Village & Kids' Area

Rich Seberg, Director  
Bob Gerdes, Director

### Oetken Museums

Melinda Huisinga, Director  
Alan Buckert, Director

### Printers' Hall

Melinda Huisinga, Director  
Rick VanHolt, Coordinator  
William Allen, Coordinator

### Shuttle Buses

Dale Davison, Coordinator

### Steam Power House

Ralph Oliver, Director  
Dan Daugherty, Coordinator

### Traction Steam

Chris Heaton, Director

### Tractor Area

Alan Buckert, Director  
Ralph Oliver, Director

### Theatre Museum

David Ripper, National Society  
Monie Hayes

### Trading Post

Nelson Pruitt  
Rick Stone, Coordinator

### Special Events

Phil McMeins, Director  
Rich Seberg, Director  
Melinda Huisinga, Director  
Staff

### Special Projects & Fundraising

Phil McMeins, Director  
Terry McWilliams, CEO

### Swap Meet Committee

Carl Thompson, Director  
Steve Alt  
Bob Alt  
Mike Dietze  
Dave Dietze  
Dan Wistrom  
Alan Buckert, Director



## OBITUARIES, CONTINUED

threshing, sorghum making and using a steam engine to power the sawmill. Koletta and her husband Durward, who passed away in 1993, began attending the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion in the 1950s. For many years thereafter, they were very involved in the steam area, operating various traction engines and running the steam engine for the carousel. Koletta continued to attend Old Threshers as a widow. She enjoyed seeing neighbors while working at the recycle

center for the town of Stark. She always preferred the outdoors; hunting deer and morels, viewing a lunar eclipse, gardening or mowing her yard, which she did on a riding mower until age 90.

She is survived by two daughters, Peggy (Charles) Pasker of La Farge WI and Jill (Harlan) Nale of Salem OR; four grandchildren, Dan Pasker, Christie Jansen, Carmen Brown and Travis Nale; 6 great-grandchildren; Audrey Jansen, Liam Brown, Keric Pasker, James Jansen, Lucas

Nale and Elise Nale; 4 sisters Geneva Wilson, Opal Laufenberg, Joann Servais, Geraldine Olson and a brother, Raymond Lawrence.

She was preceded in death by her husband Durward and sisters, Maxine Lehn and Aletta Mickelson.

In lieu of flowers or plants memorials can be directed to the LaFarge Senior Citizens Center, the LaFarge Area Ambulance, or Friends of the LaFarge Library.

# 2018 EVENTS

- School Tours: April—May 2019
- Greater Iowa Swap Meet & Flea Market: May 24-25
- Trolley School: June 8
- Bussey Doll Event: June 22
- Community 4th of July Celebration: July 4
- Henry County Fair: July 17-22
- Summer Theatre Plays—*Three in a Bed*: July 26-28, Aug 2-3
- Midwest Old Threshers Reunion: Aug. 29—Sept. 2
- Midwest & Great Northern Printers' Fair: Sept. 11-14
- Haunted Rails: Oct. 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26
- Thrashers House of Terror: Oct. 3-5, 10-12, 17-19, 24-26 & 31
- Festival of Lights: Nov. 21-23; 27-30; Dec. 1; 4-8; 11-31



**DON CARLSON MEMORIAL HORSE PULL**

**WEDNESDAY  
AUGUST 28**

**MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS REUNION  
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA**

**AUG. 29<sup>TH</sup> - SEPT 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**Aug. 29 - Sept. 2, 2019**

**OLD THRESHERS REUNION**

**Mount Pleasant, Iowa**