

Threshers Chaff

Midwest Old Threshers Association
Mount Pleasant, Iowa

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Spring 2021

SWAP MEET PUSHES THROUGH RAIN, ENDS IN SUNSHINE

The 2021 Greater Iowa Swap Meet and Flea Market brought 160 vendors to McMillan Park. Despite the wet and cold start on the first day, the sun broke through the clouds and burned the fog away on Saturday. The Mt. Pleasant Kiwanis flipped pancakes and scrambled eggs both days. As the temperature climbed, so did the number of people coming through the gates.



SANTA HOUSE AND WORKSHOP PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

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At their board meeting on March 3rd, the Board of Directors of Midwest Old Threshers gave the "green light" to proceed with construction of Santa's House and Santa's Workshop to be located near the campground entrance. On March 24th, the contractors met with Terry McWilliams, CEO, to overlook the site and coordinate schedules in order to begin construction. Fundraising is 75% complete; however, there is still room for those donors who wish to be included on "Santa's Nice List". Unfortunately, building costs are rising this year due to material shortages.

Plans are to complete both Santa's House and Santa's Workshop in time for the 2021 Festival of Lights, which is scheduled to begin with walk-through nights on Saturday and Sunday, November 20-21. The drive-through event will



Santa's Workshop



Foundation for new Santa House

open to cars beginning Wednesday, November 24 (Thanksgiving weekend). Santa looks forward to greeting visitors in his new house every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night beginning Thanksgiving weekend through December 19.

IT'S TIME TO GATHER AGAIN!

Dear Friends of Old Threshers,



Terry McWilliams, CEO

The weather is getting warmer, the grass is growing and getting mowed a lot. The trees are filling out with leaves and flowers are beginning to bloom. The first smell of steam engine smoke and cylinder oil has already hit the grounds with two very successful steam classes. The sounds of excited children are echoing through the museums with over 800 kids in the school tour program.

The yearly Old Threshers Review and Area Guide hit mail in mid-April, after a few printing bumps and delays. The review hit the hands of just over 162,000 people this spring, highlighting all the yearly events here at Old Threshers, surrounding museums, and other local events. The multi-day admissions are flying out the door at the early bird price of \$25 before the price returns to the full price on June 1st. The reserved seats for evening concerts on the KILJ stage are almost gone for two of the shows. The Old Threshers 110 Club fundraising letter has been mailed for the year and always continues to be a great funding source for the Association.

The new two building projects for the year broke ground this spring, just two of many projects scheduled for the 2021 year. The creation of a new Santa House and Santa Workshop are taking shape in the entrance to the campground. These two structures will be amazing additions to the Mount Pleasant Festival of Lights come the winter months. Santa will have new climate-controlled facility with restrooms and room to hear every child's Christmas wish list. The visitors will get to view a Snow Village display as they await their turn. If you wish to be a supporter of this project and help to put a smile on a child's face at Christmas, please feel free to contact me with any questions.

I haven't even mentioned yet that "It's Time to Gather Again." Last year on June 24th, 2020, I had the awful job of announcing the cancellation of the 2020 Old Threshers Reunion due to COVID-19. At the end of that speech, I said; "We will all get the chance to gather again at the 2021 Old Threshers Reunion – Sept 2-6." I'm ready, my staff is ready, the Board of Directors are ready and we know that all of you are ready to gather again. The 2021 Old Threshers Reunion, September 2-6, is moving ahead. The campground has over 700 sites already reserved. The antique dealers and crafters are all getting their booth spots back. The food operations are dusting off their cookbooks for all of our Reunion favorites and even a few new food vendors for this year. The free ground entertainers are returning for their many performances all over the grounds. "It's Time to Gather Again."

I wish to thank all of you for the support you gave Old Threshers since we all gathered last time, way back in Aug. 29 to Sept. 2, 2019. I can't wait to see and chat with all of you at the Old Threshers Reunion.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry McWilliams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



LORRIE
MORGAN

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 2ND

Old Threshers
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS REUNION SEPT 2ND - 6TH
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

2021
Reunion
Entertainment



KLDJ
Stage



CARLY PEARCE

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 3RD

Old Threshers
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS REUNION SEPT 2ND - 6TH
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA



CRAIG
MORGAN

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 4TH

Old Threshers
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS REUNION SEPT 2ND - 6TH
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

Your 5-day
wristband includes
the cost of general
admission to all four
nights of country
music!

TICKETS ON
SALE NOW!



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH

RODNEY
KNX. **AR** TN.
ATKINS

Old Threshers
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS REUNION SEPT 2ND - 6TH
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

FEATURED FOR 2021



1967 IHC Cub Cadet Original
 Owned by: Ralph & Donna Oliver
 Cambridge, IA



Suffolk Punch



After 1914 2 1/2 HP Brownwall
 Owned by: Bill & Lori Ballard
 Marengo, IA



1915 20HP Reeves
 Owned by: Duane & Lana Wood
 Wallace, NE



1932 Chevrolet Cabriolet
 Owned by: Robert Bixenman
 Wever, IA



1933 Farmall F-12
 Owned by: Tammy Dingman
 Burlington, IA



1955 IHC S-160
 Owned by: John Marson
 Basco, IL

THEATRE MUSEUM IS GETTING A NEW LOOK

The Theatre Museum of Repertoire Americana is being deconstructed and recreated with a new look and feel that will make visitor's feel like they are a part of the show.

"We are very excited about the project," Theatre Museum President David Ripper said. "This has been in the works for 15 years." Ripper said that the current museum layout didn't tell the story of repertoire theatre as well as it should.

To kick off the project, the Theatre Museum hosted the April Mt. Pleasant Chamber Alive After 5 event. Chamber members toured the museum and learned about the improvements as well as the history of tent theatre in Iowa.

"In the 1920s, there were about 700 repertoire companies in the Midwest alone, and the last tent show occurred back in the 1990s," explained Ripper. "No one really has a real recollection of that experience. We want to bring it back, because there are a million stories that we would like to preserve."

The remodel project is made possible by a very generous donation from the William and Martha Sloat Trust. The Old Threshers board of directors has invested part of this money to ensure the Theatre Museum will be able to sustain itself for many years to come.



Clockwise from top: Plans for the Theatre Museum renovation were on display during the April Alive After 5 event. Chamber member and OT board of director Melinda Huisinga, checks people in at the event. Chamber members enjoy appetizers and learn about the Theatre renovation as well as other happenings in the community.

MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS HOSTS ALIVE AFTER 5 IN MARCH AT IW

The last Mt. Pleasant Chamber Alive After Five event in 2020 was in March and it was hosted by Old Threshers. Then we all went into shutdown mode. Fittingly, the next time chamber members would gather is for the March 2021 Alive After Five hosted by OT at Iowa Wesleyan University.

There was no big concert announcement since the entertainers agreed to come back this year. But there was excitement at the thought that we would all be able to gather again over Labor Day 2021.

The OT Reunion would not be possible without its volunteers. Iowa Wesleyan students make up a huge portion of those volunteers. They work the gates, help seat people at the grandstand concerts, work backstage, park cars, pick up trash around the grounds, work at the Ice Cream Shop in the North Village and help at the Elk Tent. OT CEO Terry McWilliams took time during the event to recognize these students and their leaders.



Chamber members gather at the March 2021 Alive After 5 event. Everyone was greeted by life-size cardboard cutouts of the 2021 entertainers.



FAMILY TRACTOR FINDS ITS WAY BACK HOME

Submitted by Mitch Sutton



My grandfather, Robert Sutton, owned a 1939 Farmall F20 that he used on his farm in Olin, IA. My brother and I grew up working on the tractor and it became a great love of ours. It was unfortunately sold in an auction when my grandparents sold their farm.

After my grandfather passed in 2014, I searched for years to track down that tractor without any luck. There was no record of who purchased it or where it had gone. Until one day in 2015, when I asked someone that had attended the auction and



they recalled where it had gone. All this time and we finally found the family tractor, and it just happened to be 5 miles from where I lived. I bought it back and have been fixing it up ever since. Last year, I finished the restoration and I know my grandfather would be proud.

JOHN DEERE G RESTORED AND READY FOR THE 2021 REUNION

Submitted by Abby Roth

In my family every kid gets to pick out their own tractor. I was never really interested in tractors until 2019 as I was mostly interested in Horses and Jeeps.

So at the 2019 Midwest Old Threshers when it was a "sea of green" my dad told me to pick out a tractor, (we have a bunch of old tractors waiting to be brought back to life).

So we walked around the John Deere tractors looking at which one I liked the most, and it was a tie between a John Deere G,

720 and an R.

The G won. So when we got home, we went in our "big shed" and there was my G, sitting between a Farmall M and Farmall cub with a bent front rim, missing a front tire and 2 flat back tires, the tin work was in really bad shape. It was a lot of work, but it all paid off. I had a lot of fun doing the body work on it and learned a lot.

My G will be going to the show this year.

Abby is from Missouri and is looking forward to seeing her OT family.



Editor's Note: Restoration projects come in many shapes and sizes. If you have a story to share about a restoration you have done, consider sharing it with us! Email before and after photos along with project details to otchaff@oldthreshers.org. Be sure to give your name and where you are from.

TRACTOR FIT FOR A BRIDE



Submitted by Keaton Phillips—Ollie, IA

My dad, Dennis Philips, bought and restored this John Deere H for my sister, Allie Sylvester, and gave it to her and her husband Tyler on their wedding day on October 10th of 2020.

The tractor had sat in pieces for 27 years in a shed in Stockport, IA, just miles from where my dad grew up. The tractor was a native to Van Buren county, so chances of them crossing paths before now were very likely.

REEVES MAKES ITS MAIDEN VOYAGE ACROSS THE GROUNDS



With a restoration timeline stretched out to 29 months by the pandemic and other circumstances, Midwest Old Thresher's 32 Reeves Canadian traction steam engine made its maiden voyage across the grounds

at the end of April during the first Steam School of 2021.

The team of volunteers restoring the engine pulled it out of the armory and trucked it across the street to Old Threshers where it was unloaded and fired up for the first time since 2018.

At the end of the 2018 Reunion, the Reeves was moved to storage where it was stripped of its gears. The gears were washed and loaded on a trailer for the trip to Anderson

Industries in Webster, South Dakota. The old gears were used to take measurements. From there, computer aided drafting was used to make images of the new gears and molds were made.

In August of 2020, the engine was reassembled with its new gears. Prior to the first Steam School of 2021, the flagship engine was pulled out into the sunshine and loaded up for the short trip over the city street and onto Threshers main grounds. Students were given the opportunity to help fire and operate the massive engine.

Thank you to everyone who has had a hand in making this restoration project a reality. The crew looks forward to operating for the 2021 Reunion.

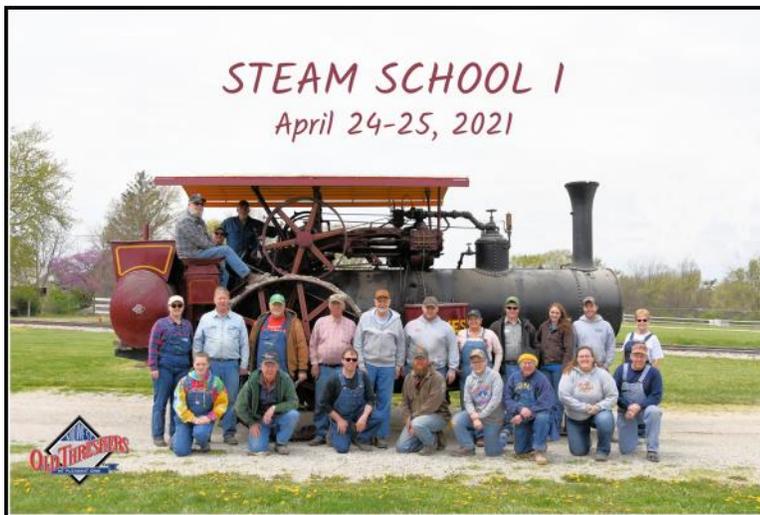
The Revive the Reeves project will move forward as the group looks to more upgrades in the future.



OLD THRESHERS HOSTS TWO STEAM SCHOOLS IN 2021

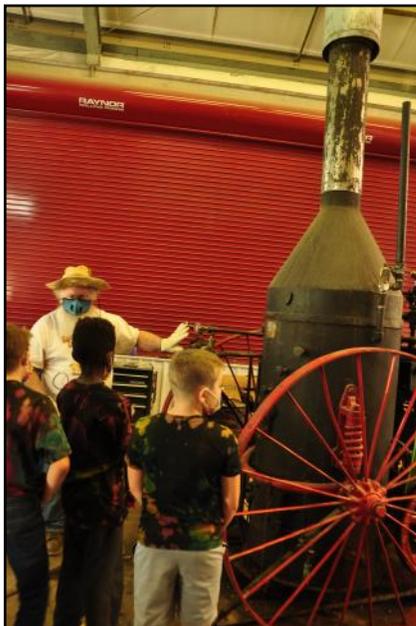
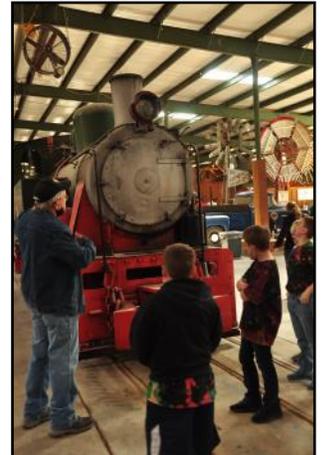


Students gathered over two weekends to attend steam school classes offered in 2021. The two-day classes feature one day of class time where students learn how a steam engine works and how to safely operate one. The second day is all hands-on and starts with the basics of cleaning out the flues, checking the grease and oil cups and learning how to build a fire. Everyone takes turns steering and throttling. Students are encouraged to run more than one engine as each one is a little different. Call the Old Threshers office at 319-385-8937 to sign up for 2022.

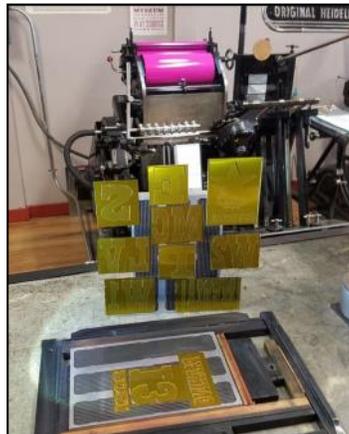


OT WELCOMES THE 2021 SCHOOL TOUR SEASON

The 2021 School Tour season wrapped up the last week in May with more than 800 students from 15 schools attending. Thank you to all of the volunteer who make this program possible. It takes 34 volunteers a day to make School Tours a success.



THE PINK PANTHER HELPS WITH PRE-REUNION TASKS



Steve Alt, owner of Liberty Press and a Printers' Hall and Gas Engine Area volunteer, got some unexpected help printing parking hang tags for the 2021 Reunion. And who better given this year's color, than the Pink Panther himself.

The passes are commonly done during the Reunion at Printers' Hall. Since there was no 2020 Reunion, 2021 passes were printed in Steve's shop using a Windmill Press running at around 2,500 impressions an hour. Steve estimated that it took him 7.6 hours to make all of the passes.



Steve works on several printing projects in his shop including tractor parade numbers, Swap Meet vendor stickers and book marks for each of the students who attend School Tours.

SEVERAL LOG VILLAGE BUILDINGS GET NEW HATS

Even though the 2020 Reunion was cancelled, that doesn't mean there wasn't work being done around the grounds. And that includes the Log Village.

Located south of the Campground, this 1856 Iowa town boasts a school, a town hall, a wood shop, a barn, a stage stop, a cabin and a public house used to served its famous Sarsaparilla.

Many of these buildings are historical and have been moved in from around southeast Iowa. It truly takes a village to take care of and maintain these pieces of history.

Many thanks from the Log Village leaders to the volunteers from the Gas Engine Area and Midwest Electric Railway for all of their help over the last year.



Shop Online

shop.oldthreshers.com

OBITUARIES

Tom Richardson

Thomas (Tom) Arthur Richardson, 72, of Fairfield, Iowa, passed away on November 12, 2020, at the Iowa City VA Hospital. He was born September 22, 1948, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Merle and Lucille Richardson. Tom attended school in Troy, Iowa and at Fox Valley School in Milton and Cantril. He served in the Army (1965-68). On March 20, 1969, he married Sheryl (Sherry) Kay Elarton. Sherry passed away on December 7, 2009.

Tom and Sherry lived in Fairfield. Tom worked as a welder and union committeeman at Louden's in Fairfield, retiring in 2004. Tom loved talking with his family and friends and sharing jokes. Tom was active with the Old Thresher's Printers Hall and also enjoyed hunting and fishing.

He is survived by two brothers, Charles (Debra) Richardson of Runnells, Iowa, Gerald (Alice) Richardson of Ottumwa, Iowa; two sisters, Lynn Richardson of Pleasant Hill, Iowa, Theresa (Neil) Johnson of Swisher, Iowa; a daughter, Carrie Ann Richardson, of Wilsonville, Oregon; two grandchildren, Cade and Evan; brothers and sisters (in-law); three nieces and six nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife and brother, Ben Richardson.

David Peat

David Peat was born at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis on October 3, 1932 to Wilbur David and Talitha Ruth Peat (Rasmussen). His father was the director of the Herron Art Museum and painted during his summer vacations. Talitha was very involved in the Methodist church where she taught Sunday school for many years. He had an older sister, Patricia May Peat (Dusendschon) who was also an artist and teacher. When he was very young, his parents built a cottage at Palisades Park in Michigan where they spent most of the summer months. He grew up in Indianapolis and realized at an early age he was an engineer. After he graduated from Shortridge High School, he attended Purdue and graduated as a Mechanical Engineer.

His first engineering job was working

for Sunbeam in Chicago for 6 months before being drafted in the Army in 1955. He returned to Sunbeam after his service before going to work for Western Electric here in Indianapolis.

While at Western Electric for 33 years, he collaborated on projects with Bell Labs and was granted two patents for his work on the coin shoot and call totalizer.

After Western Electric closed, he worked at Naval Avionics where he set up a clean room and worked on projects for the Navy.

In his spare time, he had various unique hobbies like model railroading, printing, pyrotechnics, and a lot of collecting.

He was always interested in antique transportation. He owned a Model T Ford truck that he enjoyed using in parades and a Singer locomotive that was originally used in the Singer sewing machine factory in Fort Wayne. The locomotive resided at the Indiana Transportation Museum, which he was a founding member of.

He collected various things over the years, but his main hobby was letterpress type and specimen books. Mary and Dave enjoyed attending various printing events each year where they got to spend time with friends from all over the country. His love of printing led him to be included in a documentary film, *Pressing On*, that showcases the men and women preserving letterpress.

Raymond Putthoff

Raymond Paul Putthoff, 57, was born on January 16, 1963 in Kansas City, MO to Roger Putthoff and Linda Bertsch Putthoff. He passed away December 26, 2020 at the home surrounded by family. Paul grew up in Overland Park, KS where he attended Queen of the Holy Rosary elementary school and graduated from Shawnee Mission East High School in the class of 1981, he also attended DeVry University where he obtained his bachelor's degree.

Paul loved tractors and enjoyed volunteering at Western Illinois Threshers and Midwest Old Threshers. He had a love for dogs, especially his dog Shadow, and was also very fond of the outdoors. Paul enjoyed duck hunting,

fishing, camping, and most recently he discovered kayaking. He was an avid collector and collected items from many different areas of interest. Paul's love of tractors has always been part of his life and he currently owned two antique tractors both of which share their own story with Paul and his family. He was loved by all; Paul never met a stranger and would do anything for anyone and expect nothing in return. Paul will be dearly missed by everyone who knew him.

Paul is survived by his children: Jacob Putthoff (Lauren R.) of Peculiar, MO and Lauren Putthoff of Harrisonville, MO; his two brothers; Phillip Putthoff (Laura) of Stilwell, KS and Stephen Putthoff of Atlanta, GA; one grandson Blayke of Harrisonville, MO and another grandchild on the way, Paul was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorial contributions can be made to Midwest Old Threshers at www.oldthreshers.org.

Jerry Schimmelpfennig

Jerry Dean "J.D." Schimmelpfennig, 79, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, passed away on Feb. 12, 2021, after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's. He was born on May 29, 1941, in Sigourney, Iowa, the son of Vernie and Dorothy (Conklin) Schimmelpfennig. J.D. was a 1959 graduate of Sigourney High School and a 1963 graduate of Iowa Wesleyan College, where he was a member of the football team and Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He received his master's degree from Northeast Missouri State in 1973 and attended Harvard University's Entrepreneurial Program in 1976. On Aug. 17, 1963, J.D. was united in marriage to his soul mate, Kathleen Grandall, in Elmhurst, N.Y., and was a devoted husband for 57 years.

Four sons were born to this union, Tad, Matt, Joe and Sam. Schim began his career as a teacher and coach in Keosauqua from 1964-67, where he positively impacted the lives of many students and players. After teaching and coaching, he worked as a stockbroker at Arnet-McCabe. In 1974, Schim applied his passion for innovation and started his first company, Homefoamers. It became

OBITUARIES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

one of the largest home insulation businesses in the country. In 1977, he was honored with the Iowa Small Businessman of the Year award and was national runner-up. In true Schim fashion, he pursued the challenge of starting yet another business in 1981, Lomont Molding. Schim and Kathy poured their heart and soul into building and growing the business from the ground up over 33 years, employing many people in Southeast Iowa. Lomont was eventually sold to a private equity firm in 2014. As an exemplary entrepreneur, Schim's extensive success was credited to his tenacity, work ethic and diligence. In Mount Pleasant, Schim's name is commonly recognized as a successful businessman, but also as a generous contributor and supporter of the community. While his sons were young, Schim volunteered his time coaching numerous sports and continued supporting youth athletics after they were grown. He also dedicated his time and wisdom serving as Chamber President, a 13-year Board of Trustee member at Iowa Wesleyan College, and was a faithful member of the First Presbyterian Church. Schim and Kathy were recipients of the Citizen of the Year award in 2013, in recognition for their devotion and service to the community. His servant's heart, quick wit and infectious smile made him all the more admirable. As "Papa" to his 11 grandchildren, his legacy will live on as an extraordinary patriarch, who by example, instilled in his children and grandchildren the value of hard work, perseverance, and fortitude. Papa enjoyed watching his grandchildren play sports, teaching them how to play chess, laughing through games of Old Maid, trips to Dairy Queen, sharing family stories and home-cooked meals around the table, special trips to New York City with each grandchild, and numerous family vacations throughout the years. Schim relished in leisurely drives in his convertible with Kathy, his bride, best friend and co-pilot. They enjoyed antiquing, summer days boating on the Mississippi, a bucket list trip to Italy, cooking meals together, attending Hawkeye athletic events, and giving back

to their community. His mornings were spent with some of the best friends a guy could ask for, sipping coffee, keeping up on the latest news and doing life together.

Survivors include his wife, Kathy of Mount Pleasant; his four sons, Tad (Melissa) of Suwanee, Ga., Matt of Mount Pleasant, Joe (Vanessa) of Newport Beach, Calif., and Sam (Megan) of Timnath, Colo.; his 11 grandchildren, Adison of Salt Lake City, Utah and Brandt of University of Tennessee (Tad), Jack, Kate and Lou of Mount Pleasant (Matt), Connor of Texas Christian University, Hunter and McGuire of Newport Beach, Calif., (Joe), and Madelyn, Isabelle and Hudson of Timnath, Colo. (Sam); one brother, Bob (friend M.J. Cordier) Schimmelpfennig of Orlando, Fla.; one half-sister, Betty Rose Gerberich of West Des Moines; and one brother-in-law, Paul (Sally) Grandall of Seattle, Wash. J.D. was preceded in death by his parents and in-laws.

Memorials can be directed to First Presbyterian Church, Mount Pleasant Athletic Boosters, and Iowa Wesleyan University.

Gary McMeins

Garold "Gary" Lee McMeins Jr., formally of Newton, died unexpectedly in Des Moines, Iowa on February 14th, 2021 at the age of 67 after fighting complications from COVID-19.

Gary was born on February 25th, 1953 in Highland Park, Illinois, a son to Garold and Regina (Carani) McMeins. At the age of four, he moved in with Earl and Shirley Wolgemuth (McMeins) on their farm outside of Trenton, Iowa. He was a graduate of Mount Pleasant Community High School in 1972 and worked on the assembly line at Blue Bird Corporation for seven years. In 1975 he married Ruth Ann Phillips where they raised two children. After marriage, he enjoyed a part-time job at the Shell station in Olds, before starting his 30-year career with the State of Iowa, first briefly working at the Fort Madison Correctional Facility before moving to the Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility. He later married Delores Hoover in 1998 and retired from the State of Iowa in

December of 2008.

Outside of work, he enjoyed volunteering at the Midwest Old Settlers and Threshers Association, first in security, then with the radio club, and later with the electric railway where he was a motorman. He was always passionate about Old Threshers and volunteering during the Old Threshers Reunion. He took part in various projects, including helping make the seats for the passenger coaches, still used by the Midwest Central Railroad. His love for radio equipment spanned his whole adult life as an Amateur Radio operator. He loved to travel in his camper and lived in Missouri, Arkansas and Texas before moving back to Iowa where he was a member of the Newton Moose Lodge Club 923 and the Newton Amateur Radio Club. He had a strong commitment for researching and understanding the McMeins' family history and enjoyed attending the annual family gatherings.

Gary is survived by his daughter Mandi and grandson Caleb of Mount Pleasant, his son Philip, and wife Stacy, and grandsons Eli and Leo of Johnston, his two brothers Michael McMeins of East Dundee, Illinois, and David McMeins of Seattle, Washington, and two half-brothers Daniel VanVorous of Round Lake, Illinois, and Dale VanVorous of California along with various aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents Garold and Regina, Earl and Shirley Wolgemuth, his sister Linda, and two half-brothers Christopher and Joseph.

The family prefers memorial donations be made in Gary's honor to the Old Threshers Foundation in Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Lea Cardoni

Lea Ann Cardoni, 61, of Danville, Iowa, was called home to heaven on February 24, 2021 at Great River Hospice House in West Burlington from cancer. She was born on February 6, 1960, to Thomas and Geraldine Graham in Newton, Iowa. She graduated from Newton Senior High School with the class of 1978 and Iowa State University in

OBITUARIES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

1982.

Lea found and married her soul-mate, Bob Cardoni, in 1988. They shared a love deeper than life itself. Lea was a humble, dependable, hardworking woman; always ready to help friends, family, and her community, including Old Threshers and Saint Alphonsus Catholic Church in Mt. Pleasant. Lea set high expectations for herself and inspired others to reach their full potential. She had a quick wit and fun sense of humor that brought joy to everyone around her. She enjoyed gardening, camping, reading, and spending time with her friends and family.

Lea thoroughly enjoyed working the last 21 years at TDT CPAs and Advisors.

Lea is preceded in death by her father, Tom Graham; Grandparents Dwight and Thelma Monroe, Ruth Larson, Harold Graham; and infant twin brothers, Timothy & Terry.

Survivors include her mother Gerry Graham; loving and supportive husband, Bob Cardoni; daughters Jen Woods (Clay) and Anne Becker (Dan); step-daughter Liz Cardoni Quinn; step-son Matt Cardoni (Beazley); adorable and forever loved grandchildren Caitlin, Emily, Alex, Sebastian, and Lara; sisters Jodi Feddema (John), Mary Snow (Kevin), and Jeane Keplinger (Scott); and nieces and nephews Rick, David, Miranda, Anna, Ellen, and Graham.

Elliott Chapel, New London, is assisting the family and online condolences may be expressed at www.elliottfuneralchapel.com. Memorials may be sent to Great River Hospice House or Saint Alphonsus Catholic Church, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

Dan Doherty

Dan Doherty, age 85, of Boone, passed away April 18, 2021 at his home.

Dan was born February 17, 1936 to Jack and Ethel (McBirnie) Doherty. In 1954, he graduated from Boone High School then attended Iowa State College where he graduated with an Electrical Engineering degree in 1959. He subsequently worked as a registered Professional Engineer for 60 years where he worked in various municipal power

houses before accepting a teaching position in the Engineering Technologies program at Iowa State University in 1966. In 1973, he went to work for the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company where he stayed throughout several corporate rebrandings until his retirement from Qwest Communications in 2001.

Dan was a volunteer in the Steam Powerhouse at Old Threshers.

In 1962 he married Audrey Ann (Neese) Sullivan who preceded him in death in 2005, as did an infant daughter Mary Elizabeth who passed away in 1964. In 2008 he married Betty (Rose) Bigelbach who passed away in 2019.

He is survived by two children, Kelli (Doherty) Bennett of Boone and Michael Doherty of Ocala, FL; a stepson, Michael Bigelbach of Sergeant Bluff; three grandchildren: Elizabeth (Osting) and husband Ben Matthies, Kathy (Osting) Boon, all of Boone and Makayla Doherty of Ocala, FL; and great-grandchildren: Gracie Boon, Jacob Boon, and Emmalynn Matthies, all of Boone.

Online condolences may be left for Dan's family at www.schroedermemorialchapel.com. Memorials may be directed to the Boone Area Humane Society.

Don Avaux

Don Rowen Avaux, 90, died May 12, 2021, at Trinity Center at Luther Park in Des Moines, IA

Don was born November 2, 1930 in Des Moines, IA to Thomas and Margaret (Rowen) Avaux. He was a graduate of Urbandale High School and Iowa State University. He married Patricia Louise (Jeffreys) Avaux on June 2, 1952.

Don worked for US West Communications/Northwestern Bell for 37 years, retiring in 1989. He was a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Acanthus Lodge, Urbandale Booster Club, Urbandale Historical Society, Telephone Pioneers and was a Korean War Army Veteran. He loved family, friends, family events, farming, antique tractors, woodworking, and fixing things. He served the youth and Urbandale community in baseball,

football, concession stands, Little League, baseball field lighting project and installed the football bleachers. He served on the Urbandale Library Board, Urbandale Parks and Recreation Board and on the "chain gang" for Urbandale football games for 35 years. He enjoyed community service and was awarded 1983 Urbandale Citizen of the Year. He frequently drove his antique tractors and pulled floats in the Urbandale 4th of July parades and Dallas Center Centennial parade. He served as an usher at Westminster Presbyterian Church and enjoyed building and being home on the acreage. He helped his neighbors with harvest and delivered grain. He enjoyed volunteering at the Old Thrashers Reunion in Mt. Pleasant for many years and the annual Avaux male bonding fishing trips to Minnesota and Canada.

Don is survived by his sons Mark (Pamela) Avaux and Charles (Rebecca) Avaux; grandchildren Meredith (Joseph) Smeltzer, Thomas (Lauren) Avaux, and Jessica Beveridge; and great-grandchildren: Henry and Landry Avaux, Oscar and Evie Smeltzer and Hannah Beveridge. He was preceded in death by his wife, parents and brother, Robert Avaux.

Memorials may be directed to Westminster Presbyterian Church. Online condolences will be welcomed at llesCares.com.

Dorothy Neil

Dorothy Neil, 89, formerly of Swedesburg, passed away May 16, 2021 at Solon Care Center in Solon.

She was born January 16, 1932, in Henry County Iowa, the daughter of Andrew and Georgiana (Page) Canby. She graduated from Olds High School in 1949 and attended Iowa State University. Dorothy was united in marriage to Edward Neil on September 24, 1950, at her family home. They spent 69 wonderful years together before Ed's passing in 2019. The couple made their home in Swedesburg, where Dorothy was a homemaker and cook at WACO Schools. In her later years, she worked at the Swedesburg Heritage Museum and volunteered

2021 Calendar of Events

Trolley School—June 12
 Community 4th of July Event—July 4
 Henry County Fair—July 14-19
 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion—Sept 2-6
 Printers' Fair—Sept 16-18

Thrashers House of Terror—Oct 7-9, 14-16, 21-23
 Midwest Haunted Rails— Oct 15-16, 22-23, 29-30
 Festival of Lights— Fun Run & Walk Nov 20 & 21:
 Drive-thru Nov 24-28, Dec 1-31
 North Pole Express—Dec 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19



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at Old Threshers. She has lived in Solon for the past one and a half years. Dorothy enjoyed painting, gardening, flowers, sewing and spending time with her family.

Dorothy is survived by six children; Terry Neil of San Francisco, CA, Deena (Kip) Foss of Solon, Edwina (Greg) Brenneman of Swisher, Joy (Loren) Hirschy of Dubuque, Jennifer (Terry) McElhinney of Crawfordsville, Tate (Brenda) Neil of Silverthorne, CO; 14 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren and sister Graceanna Fort of Pleasantville.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Ed, brother Roger Canby and son-in-law Reggie Neil.

A memorial fund has been established. The Olson-Powell Memorial Chapel is caring for Dorothy and her family. www.powellfuneralhomes.com

Wendell Helphrey

Wendell Harry Helphrey, 87, of Winfield, died May 23, 2021 at Mercy Hospital, Iowa City. He was born September 3, 1933 in Yarmouth to Daniel "Glen" and Mary Anna Krieger Helphrey. On December 11, 1954, he married Dorothy Jean Kellogg in Winfield.

He was a 1950 graduate of Yarmouth High School and attended Iowa State College. Mr. Helphrey proudly served in the United States Army during the Korean Occupation.

He was a former member of Trinity United Methodist Church, and belonged to the Mt. Union United Methodist Church. He was a founding member of Crooked Creek 2-Cylinder Tractor Club, and a member of Big Creek Tractor Club. He was on the Henry County Fair board, past president of Pork Producers, on the Mt. Union Coop Board, volunteered at Midwest Old Threshers in the North Village and was an Antique Tractor exhibitor.

Wendell was a lifelong farmer who never met a stranger. He loved time spent with his family and enjoyed traveling to Branson, camping, and attended the Iowa State Fair every year for 55 years until last year when his family hosted their own Iowa State Fair on the Helphrey family farm. He was very musical and loved singing and dancing, even singing on the WHO radio station.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Jean; children Kurtis (Kathy) of Winfield and Karen (Mark) Garrett of Wayland; two grandchildren, Katy (Michael) Black

and Klinton Garrett; two great-grandchildren, Madden and Karsyn Black; nieces, nephews and a host of friends. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Kenneth, Verl and Floyd, and sisters Frances Schenk and Greta Housman.

Elliott Chapel in Williamsburg, IA is assisting the family. A memorial has been established for Winfield First Responders.

