



RIBBON CUTTING EVENT HELD FOR THE NEW SANTA HOUSE

Members of the Mt. Pleasant Chamber of Commerce, Old Threshers Board of Directors, contractors and donors for the Santa House gathered for a ribbon cutting ceremony earlier this year.

Contractors include Access Energy Cooperative, Kinney & Sons Excavating & Grading, Inc., Wesley Barton Construction, Inc., Zeglen Construction, Mt. Pleasant Electric, Jason Smith Plumbing, Heating & Cooling, Inc.

After the ribbon was cut, guests gathered in the Santa House to honor those responsible for making the Santa House a reality.

Paul and Joyce Dennison were honored with a plaque signifying their donation of the Snow Village.

Steve Tolander and anonymous donors were recognized for their contributions of toys to add to the festive decorations. Hearth & Home Technologies were also honored with a plaque for their donation of the fireplace.



of Lights who want to see Santa have plenty of room to park out of the way of the line of cars exiting the light display.

The line to see Santa will now be inside in the heated building. Those people can look at the Snow Village while they wait for Santa.

The 2022 Festival of Lights will open in November with a Fun Run and Walk on the 19th and 20th. The Log Village will also be open that weekend for cookies and cider.

Horse-drawn carriage rides will also be offered again on dates to be announced.

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The complete list of donors is reproduced on an image of Santa reading his "list." The Santa House is a great addition to the Mt. Pleasant Festival of Lights and was completed in time for the 2021 season. Visitors to the Festival

SWAP MEET & FLEA MARKET MARK MEMORIAL WEEKEND

The Greater Iowa Swap Meet & Flea Market drew a great crowd to Mt. Pleasant during the Memorial weekend. Vendors filled the Wright Pavilion and also set up along the roads through McMillan Park. If you couldn't find it there, chances are you didn't need it! Thank you to the volunteers from the Gas Engine Area and elsewhere who made this event possible!



2022 WILL BE A BUSY YEAR!

Dear Friends of Old Threshers,



Terry McWilliams, CEO

I can't remember a time where we went from winter parkas to shorts and sun screen in the same week but this spring gave us a taste of it all. The grass is getting mowed fast and furious and many of our projects and changes to the grounds have started here at Old Threshers.

In 2022, we are looking at a full schedule of events and programs that started off in early spring with our first of two steam schools and will continue to the closing night of Festival of Lights on New Year's Eve. Yes, that leaves only a few winter months open for us. This year on the grounds we will host many outside events and programs such as: high school graduation parties, a couple of weddings, farmer's markets, the Rotary Barbeque, a Motor Car Club on the trolley tracks, the

20th Century RR Club of Chicago, Fireman Training and a few tour groups scheduled to visit the Heritage Museums. Those extra events will be on top of our normal list of events and programs like:

Trolley School
Great Iowa Swap Meet and Flea Market
School Tours
Multi small Doll Events
Theatre History Convention
Theatre Plays
Henry County Fair
Printers' Fair
Midwest Haunted Rails
Thrashers House of Terror
Festival of Lights and of course the
2022 Old Threshers Reunion, Sept. 1-5.

As you can see, Old Threshers is going to be very busy this year. If there is anything on the list that you might wish to help us with, please let me know. Old Threshers can't make it all happen without all of our volunteers throughout the year.

Just a quick note on the up coming Old Threshers Reunion, Sept. 1-5, 2022. Plans are well under way for the Reunion, early multi-day admissions sales are going great, reserved concert tickets (one show sold out), camp ground reservations are well ahead of previous years, and there will be a few new exhibits for everyone to enjoy. We are excited to have The Wissmann Family as the Harvest Day Parade Grand Marshalls, which will take at least two ground trains to haul the entire family.

Thank you all for supporting Midwest Old Threshers through the years and now into the future. As we continue to grow in the years to come, I hope you will see that all the changes and growth are needed in order to keep on "Preserving Our Agricultural Heritage through Education and Entertainment" for generations to come.

See all of you at the Reunion!



FEATURED FOR 2022

Garden Tractor

1973 Oliver 125 Hydrostatic

Owned by: Gary Spitznogle of Wapello, IA



Horse
"Haflinger"



Tractor

1953 Oliver 66

Owned by: Kenny & Teresa Grimm of Goose Lake, IA

Traction Steam Engines

A Colean Collection

Owned by: Larry Nelson of Muscatine, IA



Antique Car

1951 Ford Convertible

Owned by: Gladys Parish of Wapello, IA

Antique Truck

1947 Dodge WDX 1 Ton Powerwagon

Owned by: Clint and Martie Dixon of Reynolds, IL



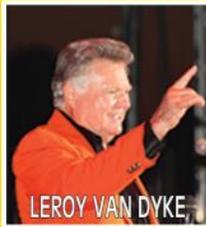
Antique Gas Engine

2 HP Dempster

Owned by: Mike & Pat Dietze of Waverly, NE



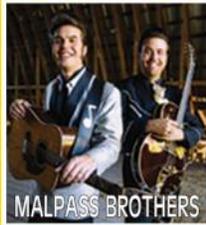
REUNION GRANDSTAND ENTERTAINMENT



LEROY VAN DYKE



JIMMY FORTUNE



MALPASS BROTHERS

COUNTRY GOLD TOUR

THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 1



BELLAMY
BROTHERS
FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 2



MADDIE & TAE
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3



RUSSELL DICKERSON
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

FREE WITH REUNION GATE ADMISSION

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A HORSE AREA VOLUNTEER

By TJ Bishop

“Good morning Threshers!” The call rings out across the grounds at the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion. It’s nine o’clock in the morning, and the day’s activities are just beginning. But, over in the Horse Area, things are a little bit different. Let’s peek into the barns and see what’s happening.

The alarm clocks are ringing—it’s 5:30am. Horse area volunteers, groan, rub the sleep from their eyes, and roll out of bed. There are horses to feed and water, stalls to clean and re-bed, and manure to haul, all before the humans will see their own breakfast. At last year’s Reunion there were 60 horses & ponies, and a yoke (pair) of oxen. That translates into a lot of animals to keep happy, healthy, clean, and well cared for.



Keeping the stalls clean is a daily chore for horse exhibitors during the OT Reunion.

Josh Bishop, one of the area volunteers estimates that he and his fellow volunteers can clean and re-bed a two-horse stall in 15 minutes. Josh, his fiancée’ Samantha, and his family bring six head of draft horses, and two or three foals (baby horses) to the Reunion each year. If everything goes smoothly, the stalls can be cleaned and re-bedded in an hour and one half, but that’s just for his horses. Every stall in both barns must be cleaned. Manure is picked out of the stalls throughout the day, and the stalls are re-cleaned and re-bedded before the humans can shower and head to their own beds. As you can see just keeping the stalls bedded takes Josh and Samantha a minimum of three hours a day. The same amount of effort is put forth by every person who brings horses, mules, or oxen.

I spoke with Larry Robison, who brings a team of Suffolk Punch horses to the Reunion. I wondered just how long it takes to haul the manure from the horse barns to the fields where it’s spread. Mr. Robison said that it takes anywhere

from forty-five minutes to an hour round trip, for one load of manure. Each barn needs two loads hauled every morning. Sometimes a load will need to be taken out in the afternoon. That’s a lot of time spent just keeping things clean!

Now that things are spic and span it’s time to go eat breakfast, right? Sorry, no. The needs of the animals are taken care of first. Your tummy might be rumbling, but those horses and oxen still need to be fed. Todd Moore, his wife Jennifer, and their children bring two teams of Percheron mares to the Reunion. Todd explained that it takes at least 20 minutes to feed hay and grain to his four horses. In order to streamline things as much as possible, Todd leads his mares out to the water tank, for their morning drink, while one of his friends pitches hay into the manger. Todd will do the same for them, while they water their horses. Caring for the animals would be impossible without teamwork.

When the animals are all in clean stalls, and have been fed and watered, it finally time for the volunteers to take care of their own needs. While some of the volunteers have been busy caring for animals, others have been working to prepare the morning meal. Fannie Miller and Jennifer Moore head up a group who make sure that anyone who comes by their campers are offered tasty food, a cup of coffee, or sweet tea.

After refueling empty stomachs, it’s time to head back to the barns. Brushing off the night’s dirt and harnessing takes time, and the first horsepowered demonstrations begin at nine am. All the teams need to be lined up and waiting together, in order to quickly, and safely, cross the road to the infield.

The signal is given and the teams head out, ready to thrill the crowds with their beauty and power as they demonstrate the



Visitors see true horsepower as teams work together to bale hay.

machinery and methods of days gone by. It’s not yet noon, but a lot of work has already been done. There’s much more to see and do, so join me in the Summer issue of the Chaff, as we continue a day in the life of a horse area volunteer.

STEAM SCHOOLS HELP KICK OFF SPRING ACTIVITIES AT OT



The first Steam School of 2022 was a cold one. That didn't deter students from learning how to safely operate a steam engine.



The second Steam School of 2022 was in mid-May and was much warmer. We welcome all those who participated in both schools to come back during the Old Threshers Reunion and help out in the Traction Steam Area.

Thank you to instructors Jay Sigafoose and Frank Tharp and to the volunteers for getting their engines out and sharing their knowledge and skills.



SCHOOL TOURS BRING 932 KIDS FROM 19 AREA SCHOOLS TO OT



The School Tour season lasts for four weeks from late April to late May. The OT volunteer force puts in an amazing number of hours arriving three days out of each week to teach youngsters about our agricultural history and how things work. This program would not be possible without them. Thank you to Hy-Vee for sponsoring the snack stations and the OT Foundation for its financial support.



2022 TROLLEY SCHOOL WAS A SUCCESS

Nineteen participants from around the Midwest came to Midwest Old Threshers this spring to attend the annual Trolley School.

Learning took place in the classroom as well as on the trolleys. Trolley Area volunteers were on hand to pass their knowledge and skills on to those who want to learn how to run these pieces of transportation history.

OT Board of Director and Trolley Area Coordinator

Tim Imhoff says the school is important to the future of the Midwest Electric Railway and is held in hopes that those who learn the skills come back and help operate the trolleys not only during the Old Threshers Reunion, but also during other events throughout the year. If anyone is interested in volunteering in the Trolley Area, please contact the OT office.



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A GRAND REOPENING FOR THE THEATRE MUSEUM



Theatre Museum of Repertoire Americana had its Grand Reopening on June 10th and celebrated 50 years since its groundbreaking!

For the past two years, the Theatre Museum of Repertoire Americana has been going through renovations.

The ribbon cutting event was a way to reveal the newly completed exhibition hall as well as the kick off the theatre's convention from June 10-12. Reflecting the long-time dream of repertoire theatre company owners and actors Neil and Caroline Schaffner, the museum is dedicated to the preservation of memorabilia and artifacts of early repertoire theatre.

The collection includes numerous painted curtains, costumes and equipment used by individual performers and technicians, playbills, advertising sheets and promotional posters. The Theatre Museum additionally houses an extensive research library of rare scripts, correspondence, tour schedules, production photos, and other original source materials. Of special interest is the large collection of videotaped interviews with actual troupers describing their professional and personal experiences.



"The Old Grouch"

August 19, 20, 21
 Friday & Saturday 7:30 pm
 Sunday 2:30 pm
 Theatre Museum Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 11 and under.

Call 319-385-8937 or 319-385-9432 for more information and to purchase tickets.

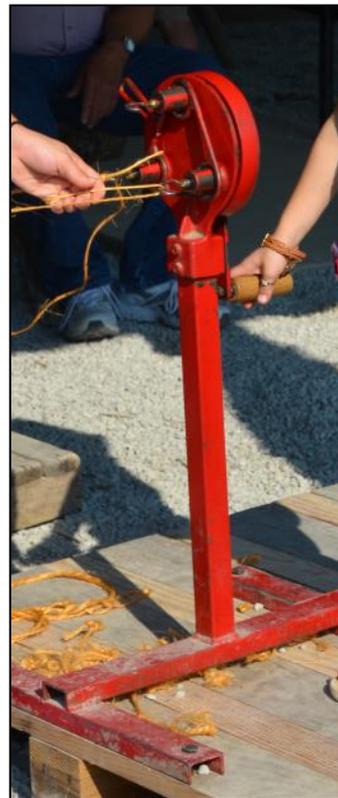
WHAT IS IT? WHERE IS IT?

Can you tell what these things are? And if so, where can one find them during the Old Threshers Reunion?
Answers are on page 10.

A



B



C



D



G



F



E



The... Golden Slipper SALOON



The Golden Slipper Saloon Group is seeking dedicated, committed individuals that possess a passion for Midwest Old Threshers to join us as we gear up for another electrifying and exciting reunion.

Our group performs multiple shows throughout all days of the reunion. Each singer/dancer is responsible for providing their own costumes and accessories.

If you are fervent about Old Threshers, enjoy singing, dancing and having good old fashion family fun, we would love the opportunity to visit with you about your interest in joining our group.

Please txt Julie at 319-572-2278

What is it? Where is it? Answers from page 9- **A.** Shingle Mill | Steamland **B.** Making rope | Log Village **C.** Corn Sheller | Gas Engine Area **D.** Penny Machine | Old Threshers Foundation Room **E.** Baker Fans | Traction Steam Engine Demonstration Area **F.** Veneer | Veneer Mill **G.** Gas Pump | Museum B—Transportation Exhibit.

OBITUARIES

Everett Pressley

Everett L. "Roy" Pressley, 93, of Alexis, IL passed away December 29, 2021 at OSF St. Mary Medical Center, Galesburg, IL.

Roy was born February 1, 1928, in Monmouth, IL the son of Everett L. and Iva Fern (Hahn) Pressley, Sr. He was raised and educated in Aledo, IL.

Roy served with the United States Army Air Corps as a Corporal during World War II.

Roy married Sheila Devlin at the First Presbyterian Church in Alexis, IL on October 16, 1970, and she survives.

Roy was a welder by trade. He worked for the Alexis Fire Equipment for over 20 years. He also worked for the Rock Island Bridge & Iron, Grafton Boats and was self-employed before retiring in 1990. He enjoyed restoring steam tractor engines at the Midwest Old Threshers in Mt. Pleasant, IA for 40 years where he traveled throughout Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri restoring steam engines. Roy was still welding up to the age of 90.

He was a member of the Alexis United Presbyterian Church. He also volunteered with the Alexis-North Henderson Ambulance Service for 40 years as a driver and unit inspector. Roy enjoyed collecting pocket watches, clocks and antiques. He loved going to auctions.

Survivors include his wife, Sheila Pressley of Alexis; 3 children, April Joseph and Penny (Robert) Hahn both of Phoenix, AZ and Richard Rockhold of Millersburg, IL; 5 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren; 2 half-sisters, Marilyn Pressley and Jody Pressley both of Jerseyville, IL; also surviving are many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, 2 half-brothers, Gary Pressley and Art Young, half-sister, Mabel Melvin.

Memorials may be given to the Alexis-North Henderson Volunteer Ambulance or the Alexis Presbyterian Church.

Tiffany Widmer

Tiffany "Tiff" Allan Widmer age 54 of Fairfield, passed away December 30, 2021, at the University of Iowa Hospital & Clinics.

Tiff was born July 8, 1967, in Fairfield and lived there all his life.

Tiff was a big Trojan fan and attended and did stats for many sporting events. He also volunteered at the Fairfield Art's & Convention Center. Tiff was a member of the First Baptist Church in Fairfield and served on different church boards and helped with the children ministry.

He will be missed by his fathers, Larry Widmer and Niels Nielsen; sisters, Tara Widmer, Jullie Richmond and Val Wahl; and many nieces and nephews.

Tiff was preceded in death by his mother, Linda Nielsen.

Memorials can be made to the Fairfield Athletic Department and mailed to Tara Widmer, 407 Wyn Mar Ave., Aberdeen, MD 21001.

Gerald Sears

Gerald Sears, 96, of rural Adair passed away January 30, 2022 at the home of his grandson.

He was born on March 29, 1925 in Eldorado Township, McDonough County to Harold and Flora Pennington Sears. He married Vera Reedy in 1944. She passed away on February 1, 2022. Gerald and Vera spent their whole lives together.

Surviving are a son, Lyle (Connie) Sears of Adair; daughter-in-law, Dot Sears-Boyd; grandchildren Dean (Schuyler) Sears, David (Laura) Sears, Samantha (Thom) Schroer, Jara Ausbury, Jay (Chris) Sears, Jerry (Megan) Sears, Donnie (Sue) Sears, Michelle (Mike) Carry and Roger (Lindsey) Sears; 21 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents two sons, Jerry Sears and Rodney Sears and one great-grandchild.

Gerald whose nickname was "The Chief" was a prankster. There was nothing he loved more than to pull a harmless prank on an unsuspecting individual just to see their response. He

was a storyteller, just ask anyone that crossed his path. Occasionally, he would go to a carnival and entertain some spectators in the boxing ring.

He owned and operated Sears Sawmill. For 60+ years he transported the sawmill to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa for the Old Threshers Reunion.

He enjoyed fishing, raccoon hunting, and watching his grandchildren and great-grandchildren grow up.

Memorials may be made in his memory.

Vera Sears

Vera Fern Sears, 96, of Eldorado Township, Illinois passed away February 1, 2022 in Hancock County, Illinois.

She was born on March 27, 1925 near Marietta, Illinois to Archie Vere and Nola Fern Havens Reedy. She married Gerald L. Sears in 1944. He passed away on January 30, 2022.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; two sons, Jerry Sears and Rodney Sears and one great-grandchild.

Vera is survived by one son, Lyle (Connie) Sears of Adair; daughter-in-law, Dot Sears-Boyd; grandchildren, Dean (Schuyler) Sears, David (Laura) Sears, Samantha (Thom) Schroer, Jara Ausbury, Jay (Chris) Sears, Jerry (Megan) Sears, Donnie (Sue) Sears, Michelle (Mike) Carry and Roger (Lindsey) Sears; 21 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

Vera, whose nickname was "Toughy" was the "Rock" of her family. When someone expressed their concerns, she would always look at them and say, "No news is good news." She always knew when anyone was trying to feed her a line of nonsense, and she would call you out on it, if she saw fit.

She loved watching game shows and sports like baseball and football.

Vera did all the book-keeping for the Sears Sawmill. She also helped at the sawmill and on the farm when she could. At one point she had over 100 chickens and sold eggs. When fixing a meal, it wasn't just for two, it was enough to

OBITUARIES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

feed an army. Breakfast was eggs and bacon. "Dinner call, for one and all" and supper was always meat and potatoes.

Vera loved to tend the garden and grow as much food as she could to keep her family fed. She loved going to the Mississippi River and watching the bald eagles while having a picnic. Most of all, she loved watching her grandchildren and great-grandchildren grow up.

Vera was born two days before Gerald, and she passed two days after he did. Vera and Gerald their whole lives together.

Memorials may be made in her memory.

Richard Oetken

Richard Edwin Oetken, 97, of Burlington, died February 7, 2022, at the Klein Center in West Burlington.

Born Oct. 29, 1924, in Burlington, he was the son of Edward D. and Mary A. Bartusch Oetken. Richard was raised on the family farm on Irish Ridge Road five miles north of Burlington. He attended Hunter School, north of Burlington and graduated at the age of 13. Richard's strong work ethic began at an early age on the family farm. At 15, he decided to leave home and seek employment. He worked on various farms, construction jobs, and assisted in building the Flint Hills Golf Course where he laid the water main and the first nine greens.

Richard was employed husking corn and logging during winter months. Other work experiences included: Gustafson Dairy I.O.A. Foods Manufacturing Company in Cedar Rapids, McGraw Electric in West Chicago, Star Kimble Electric in Burlington, Army Ammunition Plant, construction in Marshalltown, and J.I. Case Co. in Burlington where he worked for 28 years, retiring in 1985. Over the years, he often worked two jobs. Between times he purchased, remodeled and sold six homes.

In 1978, Richard decided to end working two jobs, working only one so he could begin volunteering, helping older individuals. In December 2004, he

had to quit this volunteerism due to health reasons.

Richard served in the Iowa State Guard, Co. A, First Regiment. In 1945, he was drafted into the United States Army serving in the 77th Infantry Division, Co. B. In 1946, he was transferred to the Army Air Force and served in the 136th AACCS, Iceland Base Command. Corporal Oetken was discharged in 1947 at Army Air Force Base, Westover Field, Massachusetts.

Richard was of the Baptist faith, a member of the Eagles Lodge Aerie 150, Moose Lodge #579, American Legion, a life member of V.F.W. Post #9162 and a Union member of UAW Local 807.

Richard loved music and dancing. He attended many bluegrass, country western and gospel music events. Over the years, he attended four of the Gaither Gospel Music Shows and two Lawrence Welk shows. He loved to attend the Midwest Old Threshers in Mt. Pleasant and in 2001 was the Grand Marshal in the parade. He also enjoyed the shows and visiting all the friendly people. He loved to read many newspapers, farm magazines, and medical books. He enjoyed traveling in his younger years.

Generosity reflects Richard's character with major contributions to Midwest Old Threshers. He gave generously to most area churches, mission fields in Romania, Notre Dame Schools, Great River Hospice House in West Burlington, Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine, and the Morning Sun Development Corporation.

Richard, being a strong supporter of the military, donated to veteran memorials including: the WWII Memorial site on Division St. in Burlington, Des Moines County Freedom Rock in Mediapolis, American Legion #112 in Morning Sun, VFW Post #10102 in Burlington, and recently the Veterans Memorial Amphitheatre and WWI Soldiers Lot restoration projects in Aspen Grove Cemetery in Burlington, and many other national memorials and

veterans' organizations.

He gave to other area projects like Burlington Friends of the Depot, R.F.D. Postal Museum in Morning Sun, Danville Station Museum & Library, Dover Historical Society in New London, grain rescue equipment for Danville, Yarmouth and West Point Fire Departments. He gave to other area projects which are too many to list.

Proceeding him in death are his parents and two sisters. He is survived by one niece and three nephews.

A memorial has been established for Midwest Old Threshers.

Jack Gillis

Jack D. Gillis, 91, of Mt. Pleasant, died February 21, 2022 at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City.

Jack Duane Gillis was born April 1, 1930 in New London. He was the son of Gordon Edward and Alice Marie (Harper) Gillis. He attended school in Mt. Pleasant and graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School. On August 28, 1961 in El Dorado, IL, Jack was united in marriage to Brenda Joyce McClary. To this union a son, Kirk Duane Gillis, was born on September 28, 1968. Mrs Gillis died Friday, October 23, 1998 at their residence in Mt. Pleasant.

Jack was called to the service of his country. He entered the United States Army on March 16, 1956 at Ft. Des Moines. He received schooling at the Southeastern Signal School at Ft. Gordon, GA. He served in the Army Signal Corp and was honorably discharged on March 2, 1959 at Ft. Lewis, WA.

Jack was a longtime employee of the former Metromail Corp. in Mt. Pleasant. He was a longtime member of the Henry County Rescue Squad and the Mt. Pleasant Police Reserves Association. Jack often volunteered at Midwest Old Threshers during the Reunion and throughout the year.

Survivors include a brother and his wife, Ed and "Skip" Gillis of Burlington, and his "bonus granddaughter" and her husband, Jessica and Jason Loving of Mt.

OBITUARIES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Pleasant.

In addition to his parents and wife, Jack is preceded in death by his son Kirk, who died Sunday, June 17, 2012 at his residence in Mt. Pleasant. Jack is also preceded in death by a brother, James H. Gillis and Jack's longtime companion, Francine Kite.

Howard Bowerbank

Howard Eugene "Gene" Bowerbank II, 79, of Burlington, died Friday, March 25, 2022 at his home.

Born September 4, 1942 in Rural Cromwell, Iowa he was the son of Howard Eugene Sr. and Thelma (Barnes) Bowerbank. He married Sharon Newnham on November 14, 1980 in Carthage, Illinois.

After graduating high school Gene attended a mechanical trade school. He worked as a mechanic and millwright for I.A.A.P and J.I. Case.

He was a member of the Southeast Iowa Antique Car Club for over 50 years, the 20th Century Car Club, Blackhawk Auto Restorers and the GWRRA.

He enjoyed attending Midwest Old Threshers yearly and spending time with his grandchildren and his dachshunds.

Survivors include his wife Sharon Bowerbank of Burlington; four children, Craig Bowerbank of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, Brian (Amy) Bowerbank of Indianapolis, Indiana, Darla (Roy) Cochenour of Danville, Iowa and Jeff (Charlyce) Ruth of Rogersville, Missouri; seven grandchildren; four great grandchildren; one brother Kenneth (Sandy) Bowerbank of Council Bluffs, Iowa; one sister Vicki (Scott) Workman of Castlerock, Colorado; nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one son Terry Ruth.

Memorials have been established for Midwest Old Threshers and Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice.

Mary Griffiths

Mary Delle Wasson Griffiths, 91, of Libertyville, passed away March 25, 2022.

Mary was born January 17, 1931, in Jefferson County to Aaron and Lorraine (Turpin) Maddix. She married Alva Wasson on April 12, 1949, in Kahoka, Missouri. He passed away on February 15, 1996. Mary was blessed to find love again and married Harold Griffiths on September 8, 2002, in Libertyville.

Mary graduated from Libertyville High School in 1948 and was a longtime resident of Libertyville. She worked at Parkview Care Center 25 years as a CNA. Mary was a wonderful cook and was known for her homemade noodles, pies and German chocolate cake. She was a member of the VFW and Eagles. Mary loved going to auctions and collected anything shiny. She went many years to Old Threshers to camp and show her tractor. She also enjoyed going to Blue Grass Festival. Mary had an interest in horses and took many rides in a wagon being pulled by horses. She also took many tractor rides around Iowa and caravans to Des Moines.

Mary will be missed by her husband, Harold of Bloomfield; children, Deborah (Kenneth) Striegle of Ollie, Donald (Gloria) Wasson of Libertyville and Sondra (Dennis) Philips of Hedrick; nine grandchildren, Gretchen (Bobby) Belville, Kierston Till, Morgan (John) Boney, Hilary (Matt) Lanman, Isaac Wasson, Michael Wasson, Cohen (Alyssa) Philips, Keaton (Sloan) Philips and Allie (Tyler) Sylvester; six great-grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Aaron and Lorraine; husband, Alva Wasson; and two brothers, Vern and Von Maddix.

Memorials may be made to Old Threshers, Bras for a Cause or Faith United Methodist Church, Libertyville. They may be mailed to Sondra Philips, 31609 130th Avenue, Hedrick, IA 52563.

Lynne Myhre

Lynne Myhre, 83, of Bishop Hill, Illinois, died Saturday, April 2, 2022 at her home.

Lynne was born February 1, 1939, in Auburn, NY, the daughter of Walter and Evelyn (Winters) Miller. She married James VanArsdall in 1962 and they later divorced, and he passed away in 2017. She married Theodore A. "Ted" Myhre in 1978 and he preceded her in death in December of 2004. Survivors include her children, John (Joan) VanArsdall of Walnut Creek, CA, and Debbie (Ray) Boyle of Lombard, IL, two grandchildren, R.J., and Gavin Boyle, three stepsons: David (Christine) Myhre of Sterling, IL, Mike (Kim) Myhre of Cedar Rapids, IA, and Ted (Willow) Myhre Jr. of Sadorus, IL, step-grandchildren, Charity, Daniel, Sam, Matthew, Nathan (Diane), Ben (Sheena) Matthew (Diane), Mark, Joseph, Christian and Christina, two step-great grandchildren, Wyatt, and Elouise and her nephew, Timothy (Nadine) Miller. She was also preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Walter.

Lynne had worked as a nurse in various hospitals. She was avid knitter and a member of the VASA Order of America in Bishop Hill. She was a long-time member of the Midwest Electric Railway and the Old Threshers Association in Mt. Pleasant, IA. Lynne was a passionate fan of the Chicago Bears and Army West Point football.

Memorials may be directed to the VASA Order of America in Bishop Hill or to Illinois Cancer Care in Galesburg.

Alan Huisinga

Alan Dale Huisinga, 76, of Mt. Pleasant, died April 13, 2022, at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City

Al was born August 20, 1945, in Williams, Iowa; he was the son of Joe and Ruth Ione (Smedley) Huisinga. Upon graduation from high school, Al joined the U.S. Army and served as a Specialist in NATO's Central Army Group stationed in Seckenheim, Germany. After being (honorably) discharged from the Army,

OBITUARIES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Al enrolled in the AIB College of Business in Des Moines where he met his future wife, Melinda Shepp. After graduating, they were married on Valentine's Day 1971 and recently celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary. They both later attended Upper Iowa University, earning their B.S. Degree in Business Administration.

In 1970, Al began his career in insurance as the Chief Accountant for Farmland Insurance Company in Des Moines. Two years later he joined EMC Insurance Companies as Accounting Manager of Employers Modern Life Company, retiring in 2009 as President, Chief Operating Officer and board member of EMC National Life Company.

Al's favorite quote was "volunteerism is the rent you pay for the space you occupy" and he lived up to that quote while a resident in both the Carlisle and Mt. Pleasant communities. Al was the founder and charter board member of the Carlisle Area Dollars for Scholars chapter and served as co-chair of the steering committee to build the Carlisle Aquatic Center. Al also served as Administrative Council chair, treasurer, Sunday school teacher, UMYF leader and KIDS HOPE USA mentor for the Carlisle United Methodist Church. While working in Des Moines, Al served as a board member of the South Suburban YMCA, a board member of the Iowa Dollars for Scholars, a Tocqueville Society Member of the United Way of Central Iowa and chairperson of the District Superintendent Board of the Des Moines District of the United Methodist Church.

Upon his retirement from EMC National Life and moving to his wife's hometown of Mt. Pleasant, Al said it took a while before people quit referring to him only as "Melinda's husband." He soon became involved in the community by volunteering to serve as Executive Director of the Old Threshers Foundation and joined both the Noon Rotary and the Kiwanis Club. Al also served a four-year term as a member of the Mt. Pleasant City Council, Healthy Henry County Communities board, Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee, Mt.

Pleasant Community High School Foundation board, founding steering committee member of the Mount Pleasant Festival of Lights and served as Endowment Chair on the Administrative Council of the First United Methodist Church.

Al earned the Golden Tassel Award from Citizens Scholarship Foundation of America and Volunteer of the Year from the Carlisle Area Dollars for Scholars. He also received the Paul Harris Fellow Award from Rotary International. Together Al and Melinda received Citizens of the Year from the Carlisle Chamber of Commerce and the Mount Pleasant Area Chamber Alliance, Chamber Ambassadors of the Year, Iowans of the Day from the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation and the Volunteer Award from Midwest Old Threshers. Out of all the awards received or positions held, Al's favorite title was "Papa".

Survivors include his wife, Melinda (Shepp) of Mt. Pleasant (also of Carlisle, Iowa); daughter, Kristin Sieren of West Des Moines, Iowa; grandsons, Lincoln and Conrad; brothers Robert (Cindy) Huisinga of Denison, Iowa, Phillip (Debbie) of Denison, Iowa, Richard (Cindy) of Surprise, Arizona; sister, Pauline (John) Tyer of Des Moines, Iowa, eleven nieces and nephews and numerous cousins, including double cousins. Al was preceded in death by his parents, his older brother, Larry, and his son, Chad Michael Huisinga.

Those considering an expression of sympathy may direct memorials to either the First United Methodist Church, the Old Threshers Foundation or the Carlisle Area Dollars for Scholars.

Lawrence Colo

Lawrence (Larry) A. Colo, 83, of Palmetto, FL, formerly of Geneseo, Illinois, passed away peacefully at home on April 23, 2022.

Larry was born May 13, 1938, to Lawrence and Dora Colo, in Des Moines. He graduated from Lincoln High School, Des Moines, where he met his future wife, Norma. They were married 63

years. Larry got his start in the railroad industry as a conductor on the Rock Island Lines railroad. Larry's enterprising spirit then led him to farming in Henry County Illinois. Larry's love for the railroad industry then led to the creation of L.A. Colo & Sons, a railroad track contracting business, which he and his wife, Norma, successfully operated for many years. After several successful years with L.A. Colo & Sons, Larry and Norma sold the business to become investors and play an active role in the development of Patriot Renewable Fuels, LLC, an ethanol production facility in Annawan, IL.

Some of Larry's many interests and activities included boating, horse racing, stock car racing, RVing, spending time at the Midwest Old Threshers, and Antique Engine & Tractor Association, Geneseo, IL. He also thoroughly enjoyed his social time with friends catching up for hours at local coffee and restaurant establishments in the Geneseo and surrounding area. Larry had high regard for various medical foundations because of his long-term heart conditions. His philanthropic interests led him to support the Aquatic Center and Emergency Room at Hammond-Henry Hospital, Geneseo, IL, as well as the Genesis Foundation in Davenport.

Those left to cherish the wonderful memories and witticisms he enjoyed bestowing upon them include his wife Norma, children Deb (Kurt) Wirth, Pat (Robin) Colo, Lori (Dan) Jones, Dave (Christa) Colo; grandchildren Amy (Steve) Sherman, Ryan (Mallory) Wirth, John (Yolanda) Wirth, Jason (Amy) Colo, Ashley (Justin) Gray, Nick (Kortney) Jones, Courtney Jones, Josh Jones, Dylan (Erika) Colo, Jessica (Jake) Simon; great grandchildren Anna, Nicholas, Wyatt, Lela, Archer, Clementine, Matilda, Sheffield, Osborne, Marshall, Griffin, Hallie, Taytem, and Charlotte. Nephew Mike (Rhonda) Carnes.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence and Dora Colo and his sister Madeleine (Jack) Carnes, Des Moines, IA.

A celebration of Life will be held

OBITUARIES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Saturday, July 2 from 1-4p.m. at the Antique Engine & Tractor Association, 132451 IL Hwy 92, Geneseo, IL 61254.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Antique Engine & Tractor Association, PO Box 112, Geneseo, IL, 61254, St. Malachy Elementary School, 595 E. Ogden Avenue, Geneseo, IL, 61254, Genesis Health Services Foundation, 1227 E. Rusholme Street, Davenport, IA, and Misericordia Heart of Mercy, 6300 North Ridge, Chicago, IL, 60660.

Lucille Hiller

Lucille Mae Hiller, 91, passed away June 6, 2022 in Des Moines. She was born on April 20, 1931 in Hampton. Lucy grew up with a strong family foundation. She and her sisters remain in close contact, gathering regularly to catch up and keep their cribbage game sharp!

Ed and Lucy met when Lucy was at college and Ed had recently returned from time serving abroad in the military. They married and traveled to various locations due to Ed's work, settling in

Indianola to raise their four children.

Known as the "Cookie Lady" a visit to the house meant a treat from her cookie jar, and she always delivered a plate to new neighbors or friends going through trials. This same type of care was extended in her service of hosting and providing meals at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, and leadership in the Women's Guild. Ed and Lucy worked side-by-side in planning, cooking, and serving at church cookout fundraisers. She serviced the community as a Cub Scout and Girl Scout leader and a youth bowling instructor.

Lucy and Ed enjoyed bowling together in league and mixed doubles. An excellent bowler, Lucy won a number of bowling tournaments. They enjoyed camping and were part of the Carlisle Camping Club. Lucy and Ed both spent countless hours volunteering annually at the Old Threshers Reunion. Ed in the steam engine room and Lucy in the administration office.

She worked as an income tax preparer and also a seamstress. Lucy later became a very talented quilter, crafting ribbon

winning quilts. This became a primary source of joy in gifting to family members and Quilts of Valor. Ed and she collaborated on design and fabric selection.

The everyday rhythm of life that Ed and Lucy shared of vegetable gardening and canning, their flower gardens, the everyday cribbage games, and time with family will be missed.

Lucille is survived by her husband, Edward "Ed" Hiller; children, Danny (Linda) Hiller, Alan (Laura) Hiller, Julia (Dave) Fish and Cindy Hiller; grandchildren, Katherine (Christopher) Miller, John Hiller, Luke (Kristin) Hiller, Jacob (Aisha Alese) Hiller and Anna Fish; great-grandchildren, Killian Miller, August Hiller, Ryder Hiller and Atlas Hiller; sisters, Joyce Potter and Maxine (Jim) Bots. She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Gladys Bergmann and brother, Rolland Bergmann.

Memorials may be given in her name to Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church.

2022 Calendar of Events

Community 4th of July Celebration—July 4th
 Old Threshers Reunion—Sept. 1-5
 Printers' Fair—Sept. 15-17
 Bussey Doll Event—Sept. 18
 OT Annual Meeting—November 12
 Thrashers House of Terror—Oct. 6-8, 13-15, 20-22, 27-29
 Midwest Haunted Rails— Oct. 14-15, 21-22, 28-29
 Old Threshers Annual Meeting—Nov. 12 Foundation Annual Meeting—Nov. 12
 Festival of Lights— Fun Run & Walk Nov. 19 & 20: Drive-thru Nov. 23-Dec. 31
 North Pole Express—Dec. 3-4, 10-11, 17-18



Old Threshers Reunion
Sept. 1-5, 2022 * Mount Pleasant, Iowa