

# Threshers Chaff

Midwest Old Threshers Association  
Mount Pleasant, Iowa

Volume 45, Issue 2

Summer 2019

## PRICES TO LEAD 2019 HARVEST DAY PARADE

The Price family will lead the Harvest Day Parade through Mt. Pleasant on August 28th at 3:30pm.

Larry and Doris Price and their daughter, Lisa, are familiar faces around Midwest Old Threshers.

Doris started her tenure as a volunteer when she ushered in the grandstand. Her involvement grew a little deeper as the years went on. She now is responsible for finding acts to fill the 120 free ground entertainment slots offered throughout the 5-day Reunion, a job she's had for decades.

Her daughter, Lisa, is by her side and is just as involved especially

when it comes to the grandstand entertainers. Lisa organizes the meet and greet sessions and makes sure the entertainers have what they need.

You can find Larry behind the grandstand stage as well. After retiring from Access Energy as a lineman, he worked for Threshers in the back shop. He recently had his second retirement, but still helps with the entertainment when he can. Thank you, Prices, for your dedication!



Lisa Price (L) and her parents, Doris and Larry Price are the 2019 Harvest Parade Marshals.

## MODEL TRACTION STEAM ENGINES MAKE IT FULL CIRCLE

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In 1955, Ralph Shelbourne and his wife, Edith, had his and hers model traction steam engines. They paraded them at Old Threshers during the Cavalcade of Power.

Now, 60 years later, these engines are coming back to Old Threshers thanks to a donation by Ralph and Edith's grandson, Chris Shepard of Lebanon, Indiana.

These engines are examples of early models when most components were hand-built or

reclaimed from the junk pile.

The mini pieces of OT history have been disassembled, cleaned, reassembled and painted. They will be static displays in the Model Steam Area and will have a permanent home in the Heritage Museums during the rest of the year. Each has a water wagon.



## “Time flies when you are having fun.”

Greetings from Midwest Old Threshers!



**Terry McWilliams**  
CEO

**Midwest Old Threshers**

It seems just like yesterday that the 2018 Reunion was ending. In just a few days, the 2019 Reunion will be upon us. Where did the time go? In the words of the great Albert Einstein, “Time flies when you are having fun.”

We must be having a lot of fun here at Old Threshers. Since we met last, we had a great month of October with Midwest Haunted Rails and Thrashers House of Terror. Many ghosts and goblins attended the festivities. Before the pumpkins and scarecrows were put away, the campground was starting to get dressed for the holidays. Last year’s Festival of Lights burned through the darkness with 120 light displays and boasted a single night attendance record. The children, and even some of the adults, were wide-eyed and their smiles always took the nip out of the chilly air.

The fun continued into December with the Old Threshers staff knowing what many of you were getting for Christmas—5-day admissions to the 2019 Old Threshers Reunion! We needed those warm thoughts as February brought on a polar vortex and temperatures so outrageous that planning for the spring concert announcement was the only thing keeping us going.

March came rolling in and with that, ticket orders for reserved seating at the 2019 Country Music Shows. Eight days! Yes, eight days is all it took to sell out of reserved seating for Home Free and Scotty McCreery. That was a record for us.

While we were busy filling ticket orders, April snuck up on us and it was time for School Tours. Over 1,000 4th, 5th and 6th graders and their chaperones spent time with us and our volunteers learning about what life was like before today’s modern conveniences. Tours concluded in late May and we were ready to start outside projects around the grounds. Mother Nature had different plans as record rainfall hit the Midwest, Mt. Pleasant included.

June saw the earth dry out a little and projects commenced. Heritage Museum A got new lighting, Museum B got a new roof and bathroom. The restoration of Prairie Gem Church in the campground was completed, restroom #1 was updated and the electrical service in J Row was upgraded.

July saw volunteers begin to arrive and put down roots in the campground. Many hands make light work. The cogs in the wheels of this finely tuned machine began to turn. It would be impossible to do what we do without the unselfish dedication of our volunteers. Tireless hours are spent making this place the best that it can be. Did you know that volunteering not only helps the organizations you volunteer for, it helps the volunteer as well? Volunteering and helping others can reduce stress, combat depression, keep you mentally stimulated and provide a sense of purpose. So many of our volunteers are committed to making Midwest Old Threshers the best that it can be and providing the visitor the best experience possible. Did you also know that volunteer hours for Old Threshers can be accumulated throughout the year starting with clean up the day after the Reunion is over? There are so many activities going on throughout the year that everyone should be able to find something that they find interesting and would like to be involved in.

Well, it is August and the Reunion is less than a week away. Are you ready? We sure are! That wheel I spoke about earlier is cruising right along. Come August 29th it will be well-oiled and taking us all for a great ride that is the 2019 Old Threshers Reunion! Come on and join us!

## 2019 BUTTON COLLECTORS' UPDATE

By Carolyn Sidebottom  
Plymouth, Minnesota

Button Collectors will assemble for the eighteenth consecutive year at Button Collectors' Forum during the 2019 Old Threshers Reunion. Forum will be held Sunday morning, September 1st in Colfax School, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Just take the ground train to the south pedestrian gate near the trolley depot and the carousel. Walk south past the Campground Information building and straight to the little red schoolhouse.

At approximately 9:30 a.m., Carolyn will give a short update about varieties, if any, and the Button designer for 2019. The group will participate in a short program and discussion titled, "Return to the Sixties." There will be plenty of time for questions and visiting. This should be a valuable opportunity for everyone, particularly children and youth, to learn more about the unique aspects of Old Threshers button collecting.

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

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

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

### 2019 Souvenir Button Design

This year's reunion color theme for buttons is a Pantone 364C green,



Pantone 109C yellow, black, and white. The 2019 Souvenir button features an 1882 10 HP chain drive Harrison engine owned by Steve Kunz from Valley Park, Missouri. That is Steve proudly standing by his engine. Steve has been coming to Old Threshers since he was born in 1961! He has missed only one year when he had two broken ankles!

Steve's Harrison is one of the oldest traction engines on the Old Threshers grounds and one of the oldest operating engines in the U.S. This engine is #714 and was built in 1882 by Harrison Machine Works of Belleview, Illinois, a company founded in 1848 and incorporated in 1878. The last Harrison was sold in 1937. Some of this company's last engine models had much larger wheels and were branded

"Jumbo," after P. T. Barnum's famous circus elephant.

When new, Steve's engine was used to farm about 3,000 acres on Howell Island near St. Charles, Missouri. In 1915, Howell Island was seriously flooded. The Harrison was washed away into the river. It lay buried for more than 40 years. During a drought in the late 1950s, three men happened to notice unsubmerged parts of the engine, contacted the island's owner and purchased the buried engine. They spent much time and energy digging the engine out of the mud with picks and shovels. They concentrated on freeing the wheels and gearing before winter so the engine could be towed over the river ice to the mainland with a tractor. Steve's father purchased the Harrison from the three men in the late '50s and restored it. Steve inherited the engine when his father passed away in 1986.

Steve operates his engine in the daily Cavalcade of Power, weather permitting, so this would be an excellent opportunity to see the Harrison running! Steve says that the most unique feature of his engine is the smokestack that passes through the steam dome. According to Steve, this is the only traction engine in

Continued on page 13

## 2019 FEATURED STEAM ENGINE



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

## 2019 SWEET 16 CANDIDATES

### Chelsea Anderson Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Ron Anderson



Chelsea is active in the High School Band, Tennis, and Golf. She also enjoys volunteering at the Christian School. Chelsea has been attending the Midwest Old Threshers since she

was born. Chelsea would like to be the next Miss Sweet 16 because she would love to meet new people, as well as get involved in her community.

### Erin Andreasen – Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Jeremy and Lara Andreasen



Erin is very active in the music department at the Mt. Pleasant High School. She is in Marching Band, Jazz Band, Symphonic Band, Chamber Choir, and Show Choir. She also

enjoys cheering on the football and basketball teams, as well as being on the high school dance team. Erin has been active at Midwest Old Threshers with the Faith Lutheran Church Tent. Erin would like to be the next Miss Sweet 16 because she feels it is important to be involved in volunteering and giving back to the community where she lives, and also to be a positive influence and leader amongst others. She believes Sweet 16 would be a great opportunity to do these things.

### Rebekah Imhoff – Muscatine, Iowa

Parents: Tim and Debbie Imhoff



Rebekah is active in 4-H, FFA County Council, Volleyball, Cheerleading, and Choir. She enjoys helping with food drives and vacation bible school with her church. She also enjoys hanging with

family and playing board games. Rebekah has been an active volunteer at Midwest Old Threshers with the information booths, Midwest Electric Railway, Festival of Lights, and Midwest Central Railroad. Rebekah would like to be the next Miss Sweet 16 because she would like to represent Old Threshers in a positive and friendly way, to influence people to come back and explore all of our amazing exhibits. She also wants to share with everyone how much Old Threshers means to her and how much she loves it.

### Grace Kelley – Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Michael and Linda Kelley



Grace is active in the Mt. Pleasant Marching Band, Jazz Band, Show Choir, track, and softball. She is also the wrestling manager, and the student director for the High School Plays. In her

spare time she enjoys baking and making crafts. Grace has been active at Midwest Old Threshers in performing with the Mt. Pleasant Marching Band. Grace also volunteers in St. Al's Church Tent where she cleans tables, scoops ice cream and works the dinner line. Grace would like to be the next Miss Sweet 16 because she wants to be more involved in the community and help more people. She feels this would be a great opportunity to do so.

### Cheyenne Kracht – New London, Iowa

Parents: Bill Kracht



Cheyenne enjoys babysitting, bowling, and basketball. Cheyenne has been a volunteer at Midwest Old Threshers Gates. Cheyenne would like to be the next Miss Sweet 16 because her

older sister was in Miss Sweet 16 and enjoyed it, therefore giving her a great interest to be involved in Miss Sweet 16 as well.

### Elaina Liechty – Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Jason and Mary Liechty



Elaina is active in the Mt Pleasant Marching Band, Symphonic Band, volleyball, basketball, golf, and softball. She also regularly attends the First Presbyterian Church and

participates in the mission activities. Elaina has been active at Midwest Old Threshers in performing with the Mt. Pleasant Marching Band. Elaina also volunteers with her churches Wednesday night spaghetti supper, and parking cars during the Reunion.

Elaina would like to be the next Miss Sweet 16 because she wants to represent Old Threshers and the kind people that it has brought her into contact with. She wants to meet more new people and she is excited to volunteer in different areas of the Reunion and re-live the history of the past because it shows and how much life has change.

### Kiran McGuire – Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Micheal and Angela McGuire



Kiran is active in the show choir, cheerleading, interact club, and concert choir. She also enjoys hanging with friends and family, going on road trips, and

volunteering at the Christian school. Kiran has been attending the Midwest Old Threshers with her family. They spend every day out here between the show grounds and the central park. It has become a tradition with the whole family. Kiran would like to be the next Miss Sweet 16, because she wants to become more involved in her community. She also wants to help people and she feels this would be a great opportunity to do so.

## 2019 SWEET 16 CONTESTANTS, CONT.

**Justina Movall – Mt. Pleasant, Iowa**  
Parents: Garry and Gladys Movall



Justina is active in the Henry County 4-H. She enjoys helping people and listening to music. Justina has been active at Midwest Old Threshers helping the Business and Professional Women’s popcorn stand and helping her local church. Justina would like to be the next Miss Sweet 16 because she likes to help people and it would be a great way to meet new people.

**Kionna Parrish – Mt. Pleasant, Iowa**  
Parents: Onika Parrish



Kionna is active in band and choir, and is a lifeguard at the local swimming pool. Kionna has been active at Midwest Old Threshers in performing with the Mt Pleasant Marching Band. Kionna would

like to be the next Miss Sweet 16 because she would watch all the girls participating in the Miss Sweet 16 during the parades when she was younger, and she thought they were princesses. So she wanted to be like them and have children look up to her as she did to them as a child.

**Evelyn Rider – Lapeer, Michigan**  
Parents: Adam and Kelly Rider



Evelyn is active in dance, band, church youth group, and girl scouts. She enjoys cooking and baking. Evelyn has not been an active volunteer at Midwest Old Threshers but she has been attending the Reunion

since she can remember. Evelyn would like to be the next Miss Sweet 16 because she’s enjoyed the Reunion since she was

young and likes meeting different people and having new experiences. She also has several family members that participated in Miss Sweet 16, and they all talk about Miss Sweet 16 fondly.

**Makenna Schinstock – Mt. Pleasant, Iowa**  
Parents: Matt and Emily Schinstock



Makenna is active in show choir, marching band, symphonic band, and concert choir. She enjoys spending time with friends and family, reading, and listening to music. Makenna has been active at

Midwest Old Threshers in the Mt Pleasant Marching Band, Church tent, Pork Producers, and her family displays tractors that run during the Cavalcade of Power. Makenna would like to be the next Miss Sweet 16 because

she thinks it would be a great opportunity to meet new people, to make new friends, an overall exciting experience. She also see it as a way to get more involved in her community and to promote volunteerism.

**Jenna Smith– Mt. Pleasant, Iowa**  
Parents: Jim and Shelly Smith



Jenna is active in the Henry County 4-H, Mt. Pleasant Trap Team, Volleyball, and Music Department. She enjoys being outdoors while hunting and fishing. Jenna has been active at Midwest Old

Threshers in performing with the Mt Pleasant Marching Band. Jenna also volunteers on the ground train, cleaning the museums with the trap team, pork produce’s tent, and elk tent. Jenna would like to be the next Miss Sweet 16 because she likes to volunteer and meet all of the different people that come to the Reunion.

# Midwest Old Threshers

## Photo Contest

Win  
Cash



Top  
Prize  
\$150

Submit Your 2019 Reunion Photos

Enter On Our Website  
[oldthreshers.com](http://oldthreshers.com) Or  
Mail CD Or Jump Drive

- \* All entries must be from 2019 Reunion
- \* All images become property of Midwest Old Threshers
- \* All images must be digital (no prints)
- \* For all official rules visit [oldthreshers.com](http://oldthreshers.com)

ENTRY DEADLINE IS  
OCTOBER 1ST, 2019

WINNERS ANNOUNCED  
OCTOBER 16TH, 2019



MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS PHOTO CONTEST 405 E THRESHERS RD MOUNT PLEASANT, IA 52641

## FEATURED GAS TRACTOR

Ken and Marlene Perkins of Bennett, IA own this year's featured gas tractor. The 1951 John Deere AR had been the victim of a fire and was in pretty bad shape when they bought it in 2000. The fire had started in the gas tank. The flames ate through the electrical system and damaged the front third of the fenders. The complete restoration took about three years. In the meantime, they showed other green tractors at Old Threshers including a John Deere A. "It's an honor to be featured," says Ken. "Not very many people get to experience that." The Perkins have been coming to the Old Threshers Reunion for at least 30 years and have been showing tractors since 2002. They will arrive in Mt. Pleasant in time for Pull Out Day on August 17th and be there to help with set up.



## FEATURED GARDEN TRACTOR

Seven years ago, Branden Landess struck it rich when a 1974 14 hp John Deere 140 H-3 was plucked from a ditch and found its way to his collection of garden tractors. "It was very ugly," remembers Landess. "It was painted red and white and the paint was chipping." Along with needing a new paint job, the collectible tractor needed a lot of other things replaced and repaired including the snow blower gas tank that was attached with Vice Grips.

The Mt. Pleasant native says he has been interested in garden tractors for most of his life. The 25-year-old is a mechanic at T.H.E. Company in Mt. Pleasant where he repairs other people's tractors. This is the first year in a long time that he has been able to attend all five days of the show. Landess says he has a little work to do before the Reunion on the deck and tiller that accompanies his tractor, but he is ready and honored to be featured this year. He recently bought a house and has a new baby. Having the featured garden tractor is the icing on the cake for 2019.

## FEATURED TRUCK

The first diesel truck Howard Dobbins ever drove was his great uncle's. It was a 1959 Mack H67, just like the one he now owns which is this year's featured truck. He bought the truck 15 years ago and started showing it at Old Threshers about 12 years ago. It needed restoration, both mechanically and cosmetically. He and his wife, Glenda, have been coming to the Reunion for 45 years and have been exhibitors for 40. They not only exhibit in the Car Area, but also the Tractor Area where they show Massey-Harris and John Deere tractors. You will recognize the Dobbins if you have ever watched the kiddie tractor pull at Tractor Headquarters. They organize that event and enjoy watching the kids' excitement as they work to pedal the furthest distance. Be sure to stop by the Antique Car Building and visit with the Dobbins family. Howard says he has been accused of living too much in the past, but he says at his age, that's ok.



## FEATURED ANTIQUE CAR

Mt. Pleasant's Marvin Johanson has a showpiece on his hands. The 1923 Ford Model T Touring car could have just rolled off the showroom floor. It looks a lot different than it did when it rolled out of a barn 20 years ago. He and his son were at an auction in Carthage, Ill. The Model T was really rough. Deciding to bid once more, they won the bidding war. As he looked at the piece of automobile history, he calculated in his mind how many hours it would take to restore. Had they made a good decision? Marvin was no stranger to the work it would take to make the car operable. He was a mechanic with his own garage in Brighton, IA. Whoever owned the car originally spared no expense and had the factory put a lot of extras on it like coil springs on the axles and a temperature gauge. The crank moved and the seats had been restored, but that's where the list of positives ended. Marvin first showed the car at

Old Threshers 17 years ago. When it was time to drive it to Mt. Pleasant, he held his breath and hoped for the best. The Model T is not the easiest vehicle to operate. Upon arriving at the Antique Car Barn, 93-year-old Floyd Duvall

watched Marvin pull up and wouldn't allow him into the building until he gave him some driving lessons. "By the time we were done I was able to parallel park that thing!" says Marvin. Marvin enjoys sitting with his car during the Reunion and answering questions from visitors. He was fortunate enough to get a Model T transmission complete with all three pedals. He put a fresh coat of paint on it



and made a hands-on display where people can learn how to drive the car without actually getting behind the wheel. Marvin is long retired, but keeps active being a member of the Southeast Iowa Antique Car Club, president of the Big Creek Tractor Club and a member of the Wayland Tractor Club and Three Rivers Tractor Club. He is also an exhibitor in the Gas Tractor Area.

## FEATURED GAS ENGINE



As with any old piece there is a story to be told, and this year's featured gas engine is no different. The story starts in the mid-1970s, at an auction between Lone Tree & Riverside, IA. Owner Steve Alt and his dad, George, bought the engine to give to Steve's grandfather to fill a longtime void made when he gave his 1 ½ hp engine to the scrap drive during WWII. After replacing a few parts, they presented it to him and were thanked with smiles. Steve started his volunteer career with Old Threshers in 1979 in the Traction Steam Area. In the meantime, Steve's grandfather found another 1 ½ hp John Deere engine for sale near his home. He bought it and returned the first engine to George. Father and son repainted the engine and in 1980, George became an exhibitor in the Gas Engine Area. This year's featured gas engine has been at every Reunion for the last 40 years. Steve says it's the most reliable engine in his collection. Be sure to stop by and see Steve and learn about the important role gas engines played in history.

## FEATURED GAS ENGINE EQUIPMENT

Fred and Pam Flemming purchased a Voss Washing Machine 7 or 8 years ago at an engine show in Clay Center Nebraska. Fred was demonstrating his Maytag washer at the time. A gentleman approached him and asked if he would be interested in a round copper tub washer. After gathering the man's contact information, Fred called him that week and went to his house the following weekend.

Fred purchased the old washer and brought it home. "I had to remove several layers of paint from the copper, clean it, and polished it up," says Fred. "I did some minor repairs to it, and lots of cleaning. I have brought it to Mt. Pleasant Iowa show every year since." The Flemming's washer is pictured above with the 2019 Featured Gas Engine.

It's one thing to see the collection of gas engines and other antique equipment at Old Threshers, but when visitors get to see what they were used for, that really shows them the big picture. No matter what area a visitor visits, it is the hope of the exhibitors and volunteers that they walk away with a better understanding of how things work. Read more about Voss washers on page 10.

## FEATURED HORSE

Described as a horse with “heart,” the Spotted Draft Horse is used in many ways including agricultural work, pleasure driving, parades, commercial carriages, showing, logging and riding. A little smaller than other breeds of draft horses, the Spotted Draft Horse is bred for its athleticism. The most common colors are black and white or brown and white with black and white being the most popular.

Although they have been around for more than 100 years, they were not a recognized breed until more recently. The first ones appeared in America in the 1960s on an Iowa farm.

This unique horse is made by crossing a draft horse, most commonly a Percheron, with a Pinto. That is a simplification as there are many more steps in the breeding process to achieve the Spotted Draft. Pictured at right is Thunder. Thunder resides at Red Gate Farm, LLC in Petersburg, IL. Be sure to stop by the Horse Barn and see all of the different types of horses and learn how they help around the farm.



**A team of Percheron draft horses on the horse-powered threshing machine at the 2018 Old Threshers Reunion.**

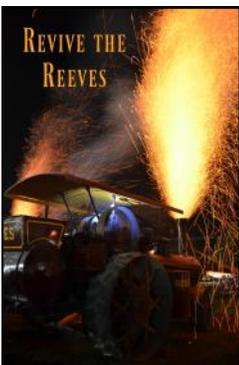
## WISTROMS INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

Past Old Threshers board member and director of the Horse Area, Dan Wistrom, and his wife, Jacky, were inducted into the Draft Horse Hall of Fame at the 2019 Iowa State Fair. Congratulations!

Dan and Jacky were the first to use Percherons at Old Threshers on the horse-powered threshing machine.

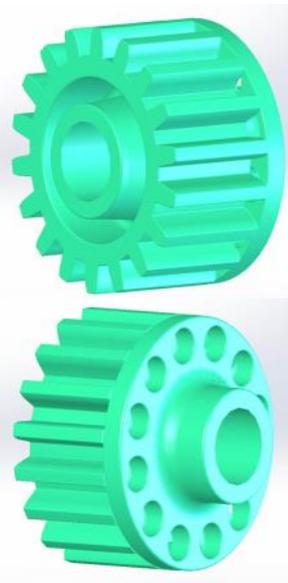


## REVIVE THE REEVES PROJECT UPDATE



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. The old gears were used to take measurements. From

there, computer aided drafting was used to make images of the new gears. Next, molds were made. Some of the gears were shipped to Mt. Pleasant in August. The remainder are scheduled to arrive late September/ early October. The flagship engine will be back in 2020.





# REUNION GRANDSTAND ENTERTAINMENT



THURSDAY AUG. 29 - DAILEY & VINCENT



FRIDAY AUG. 30 - HOME FREE



JOE  
DIFFIE

SATURDAY AUG. 31 - JOE DIFFIE



SCOTTY  
McCREERY

SUNDAY SEPT. 1 - SCOTTY McCREERY

**GRANDSTAND OPENS AT 6:30PM**  
**CONCERT STARTS AT 8:00PM**  
**FREE WITH REUNION GATE ADMISSION**

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET 30,000 PEOPLE AROUND TOWN?



Dale Davidson takes a seat behind the wheel of one of OT's many buses. Dale and his team of drivers get visitors around town.

Dale Davison has a very important job. He manages a bevy of bus drivers and their routes to get visitors from Old Threshers to downtown Mt. Pleasant, surrounding parking areas and back again.

The Old Threshers buses are probably the best deal on and around the Old Threshers grounds. For the cost of a donation, they will take you from Old Threshers to the Mt. Pleasant square and back again. Or, if you're just starting out your day at OT, park in the Mt. Pleasant High School parking lot—it's free—and jump on a bus to the grounds. When you are ready to go, hop another bus and have it take you back to your car. Dale will be there to make sure you get on the right bus!

The busses start operating at 7 am and go until everyone who needs a ride after the country music shows has one.

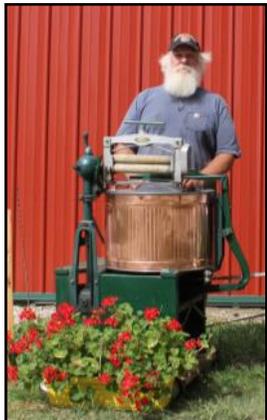
That's usually around 11:30.

You're probably thinking that's a lot of driving. Yes, it is. There are three routes—OT grounds to the high school and back, OT grounds to the MP square and back, and perhaps the shortest route from the OT grounds to the West Parking Lot. Of course there is more than one bus per route as they run on roughly a 20 minute schedule for close to a 16-hour day.

The Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission helps out by operating handicap accessible buses as well as running a route from the grounds to the hotels north of town.

No matter where you want to be, chances are Dale can find a way to get you there! He'll be wearing the wide-brimmed straw hat at the Bus Gate on the southwest corner of the OT Grounds.

## DRUDGERY OF THE WASH DAY CONQUERED BY VOSS



William H Voss was born in Germany, August 21, 1856. He was 14 when he came to America with his family and settled in Iowa. He started in cabinet work, and became a artistic worker

in wood. As a young man he was interested and observed the drudgery of the typical wash day and soon developed a crude washing machine in his work shop. He presented it to his mother who used the machine and it took about half the time to wash their clothes, and the story says her neighbors were his first customers and his mother was his sales manager of the business.

This was in 1877, and since that time there have been over 1 million machines sold. In 1882 William Voss took his 2 brothers as partners and build a factory. Their first machine was a rocker type, meaning the inside rocked in a stationary

tub. The second type was the first round tub with a three-pronged dasher worked by a handle above the tub, and it was machine corrugated on the inside.

Most of the washers bought in those days were purchased by farm households, since wives in the city usually hired help so that included the help doing the laundry. Farm wives did the laundry so it was purchased more by them and sold for \$10.00 each.

Since then over a hundred patents have been taken out and utilized in the making of the washer, and many changes and new devices have been applied, not only to the washer itself but to the machinery used in making them.

In 1905 a water power washer was invented, but this gave way before the increased efficiency of the gasoline engine and electric motor. The Voss brothers have been putting out power washers since 1905. In 1909 he perfected a platform washer, putting washer, wringer, and tubs in contact arrangements, eliminating several operations and saving a great amount of time.

William H Voss is no longer alive, but his sons remain active in the company

business. Walter Voss is now the general manager of the Voss Brothers Manufacturing Company, and Edward Fritz is the company's general sales manager.

Read about this year's featured gas engine equipment on page 7.



**November 21-23, 27-30  
December 1, 4-8, 11-31, 2019  
5:30 pm to 9:00 pm**

**Admission:**

**Family Vehicle \$10  
Limo \$25  
Mini Coach \$30  
Motor Coach \$60**

**November 24  
Fun Run/Walk  
No Vehicles  
\$5 Per Person  
Kids 4 and under FREE  
5:30 pm to 8:00 pm**

## NO. 9 ROLLS BACK INTO MT. PLEASANT IN TIME FOR REUNION

After eight years at the Georgetown Loop Railroad in Colorado, No. 9 is back in Mt. Pleasant at the Midwest Central Railroad.

No. 9 is a three truck Class "C" Shay type locomotive built by Lima Locomotive Works, Lima Ohio, in 1923.

All wheels are driven on this logging locomotive by three 12"x15" vertical engines through a flexible drive line and gear reduction, the right hand (engineer's) side. To compensate for the weight of the engines the boiler sits off center to the left. This 80-ton locomotive is one of the three largest narrow gauge Shays ever built, producing 36,150-lbs. tractive effort. It carries 200-psi boiler pressure and is superheated.

No. 9 operated on the West Side Lumber Co. out of Toulumne, California. The WSL Co. ran a maximum 72-mile main line and had many more miles of spurs in Toulumne County. No. 9 worked with half a dozen other Shays on the line entering into the woods making one trip a day hauling the giant logs down to the mill. The West Side lasted until the early 1960s, and was the last steam powered narrow gauge logging railroad in the United States.

No. 9 was shipped to Iowa operational by flat car in 1966. With the exception of the past 8 years, it has operated here since then. For more information on No. 9 and other MCRR engines, go to [www.mcrr.org](http://www.mcrr.org).



No. 9 sits in Heritage Museum B after making the trip from Colorado. It was boarded up and stripped down for the journey.

## BOILING WATER AT WEST POINT SWEET CORN FESTIVAL

West Point, IA celebrated its 67th Sweet Corn Festival this year. What started out as a small event in 1952, where they served 50 bushels of corn and grilled steaks, has now grown to a four-day event and hosts thousands of people.

In the beginning, the corn would be cooked in a lard pots provided by the local locker. As the event grew, so did the number of ears of corn.

In the mid 1980s, Steve and Dianna Burden, from Mt. Union, volunteered their traction steam engine to cook the sweet corn. This engine has been in use ever since. The steam engine, operated by OT volunteers, cooks approximately 16 tons of sweet corn per year (and growing) which is served free of charge to the general public!

At right: The steam from the engine is piped underground and into a large vat. Corn is cooked in baskets, and set out for all to enjoy at no charge.

The festival will be held August 7-11th, 2020.



## SPECIAL CAR TENT

For several years, visitors to Mt. Pleasant around Reunion-time may have seen a collection of cars at the corner of West Washington and North Locust Streets. These cars represent every make of car from 1959 and belong to Mt. Pleasant's Dean King. Take a stroll through the Special Car Tent outside of the Antique Car Building and learn more about this outstanding collection of automotive history.



# 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.**

## BUTTON COLLECTORS' UPDATE, CON'T.

existence that has this “super-heating” feature. You might want to stop by the steam area, talk to Steve, and learn more about this interesting bit of engineering design.

### 2019 Souvenir Button Artist

This year, Old Threshers welcomes a talented new button artist, Melinda Stockwell. Melinda is the second woman to hold this honor. Melinda grew up on a Century Farm in Lee County, Iowa. She has always liked art and she comes from an artistic family.

Melinda earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, with an emphasis in printmaking, from Coe College. She has worked as an artist/designer and a printer for several Companies in Iowa and on the east coast. Her son is following the family artistic tradition by graduating from Kubert School of Art in New Jersey this year.

Melinda set aside two days to work on sketching a plan for the design of the OT button after the Christmas holiday excitement was over. The portrait was drawn with a pencil and pen and ink as well as some digital designing. Melinda told me that she “sketched and drank hot tea while sitting in her favorite chair by the wood stove to recoup from the Holidays.” Then she let the sketch rest for a couple days before making a digital

file. After some adjustments and changes to the original file, she created a second digital file. One of these files would be the eventual choice for the button (probably depending on how well either file scaled down to an inch and a half!) Melinda says, “It was the first loose sketchy version that eventually made its way on to the button.”

In addition to Melinda’s detailed engine art, the 2019 button contains the full reunion date. “Old Threshers Reunion,” and “Mt. Pleasant, Iowa” circle the 1 1/2- inch central vignette. The engine portrait is signed this year. Get out your most powerful magnifier to see all of the minute detail!

In some of her “other lives,” Melinda volunteers in Printers’ Hall at Old Threshers, and she owns Calico Press, her own full-time printing company in Van Buren County, Iowa, where she does specialty designing and printing for her customers. She also rescues ailing antique presses (particularly the smaller ones) and coaxes them back to useful life. In addition, Melinda does some heritage school tours in her community, directs Villages Folk School and manages a staff of 20+artists. She works closely with the Iowa Arts Council and the Department of Cultural Affairs to bring art programs and grant funding to Van Buren County, Iowa.

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

The 55 mm diameter button is constructed as many previous buttons have been—a plastic coated paper formed over a metal shell and held together by a silver-colored metal backing disk. The attached silver-colored pin has the loop style catch. As of late May this year, no varieties have been reported. Our sharp-eyed variety collectors, who keep me up to date on possible existing varieties for the current year, may find major or minor varieties closer to the Reunion date or during the Reunion.

### 2019 Special Souvenir Button

For the past nine years, Old Threshers has issued a Special Souvenir Button. Due to the continuing popularity of these giant four-inch buttons, Old Threshers has issued a limited quantity of the 2019 Souvenir buttons in the same format. This tenth giant button makes an interesting supplemental button for the core collection, and allows one to view the artwork in better detail. Contact the Old Threshers’ office for availability and pricing of this collectible button.

The exceptional work of the Old Threshers button design team (portrait artist, digital artist, and Old Threshers

Continued on page 14



Be sure to get a seat in the east end of Museum B in time to play BINGO! The Old Threshers Foundation will host BINGO starting at 4 pm on Thursday and throughout the Reunion. Check the official Old Threshers programs for details.



**DON CARLSON MEMORIAL HORSE PULL**

OLD THRESHERS REUNION

**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 28**

MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS REUNION AUG. 29<sup>TH</sup> - SEPT 2<sup>ND</sup>  
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

# BUTTON COLLECTORS' UPDATE, CON'T.

## Official Supplements

The 2019 Volunteer button coordinates with the colors of the main Souvenir button. This button is a name window button featuring four colors and is reminiscent of Art Deco design. The edge has a narrow Green and Yellow outer ring accent separated by a very thin black line. This Volunteer button layout is a departure from previous Volunteer designs by having a split two-toned edge treatment which must have given the button manufacturer centering fits! However, the unique edge trim

looks very nice and raises the bar on what is possible in button design.

In late May, the 2019 Exhibitor/Staff button was unavailable for examination. In past years, this oval name-window button has closely resembled the design of the Volunteer button. With the new appearance of the 2019 Volunteer button design, we will all eagerly await the design of the oval E/S button for 2019. Will they or won't they put the fancy oval edge on the E/S button? An attached, coordinating ribbon will identify the main Old Threshers activity

area of the wearer.

Both the Volunteer button and the E/S Button are earned for volunteer work at Old Threshers. Old Threshers has never sold these buttons. These supplemental buttons do, on occasion, show up in the secondary market; but collectors must hunt diligently for them. If you are interested in earning either or both of these volunteer buttons, contact the Old Threshers Office, the first step in becoming involved in Old Threshers' rewarding volunteer service.

## Updates

The following charts summarize updated facts about the 2018-19 Old Threshers Button collection. Be sure to add this important information to the inventory charts in your copy of The Elusive '54, The Complete Guide to Old Threshers Button Collecting, third edition. 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.

### ENGINE PORTRAITS

YEAR	MODEL	OWNER
2019	1882 10 Hp Harrison	Steve Kunz, Valley Park, Mo.

### MEMBERSHIP/SOUVENIR BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBVERSE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2019	55 mm	364 C Green 109 C Yellow Black White	Silver	Silver L	-None	\$1.00

### EARLY BIRD/VOLUNTEER BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBVERSE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2019	55 mm	364 C Green 109 C Yellow Black White	Silver	Silver L	None-	Market, not sold by OT

### EXHIBITOR/STAFF BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBVERSE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2018	46mm by 71mm	293C Blue Black White	Silver	Silver L	None_	Market, not sold by OT
2019	Likely will be  46mm by 71mm	Likely will be  364C Green 109C Yellow Black White	Likely will be Silver	Likely will be Silver L	Likely will be None_	Market, not sold by OT

## "Three in a Bed"



Don't miss the Summer Theatre play, "Three in a Bed," performed nightly during the Reunion.

## OBITUARIES

### Eugene R. Rinker

Eugene R. "Goob" Rinker, 82, of Rural Streator, passed away Nov. 27, 2018 at his home.

Born February 8, 1936 in Streator, IL he was the son of Raymond and Carrie (Kruger) Rinker, he married Mary Elizabeth Hall on April 5, 1956 in Ottawa. She passed away April 23, 2014.

He is survived by his children - Cathy (Larry) Troyer of Hudson, IL, Elizabeth (Al) Lieberum of Wichita, KS, Eugene (Debbie) Rinker Jr., of Streator, Trish (Henry) Swartz of Hudson, IL. Also surviving are grandchildren Melissa (Brian) Ritter, Annette (John) Cherry, Amy (Ben) Russell, Jennifer (Ronny) Love, Kerri (Andrew) Augustine, Andy (Whitney) Lieberum, Lis (Andrew) Schurman, Ray (Brittany Sampson) Rinker, Christine (Jason Grice) Swartz, Austin Rinker, Brandon (Raquel Penka) Swartz. He also survived by 14 great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents, wife, and a brother - Charles E. Rinker.

He attended Grand Ridge Grade School and graduated from Streator Township High School in 1954. He was a Dairy Farmer, Grain Farmer, and involved in trucking for many years. He was a former member of the Grace United Methodist Church.

Gene was very active and enjoyed spending time with his kids and grandkids, camping, going to the fair, and trips to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa to attend the Old Threshers Reunion where he volunteered for many years. Memorials may be directed to Grand Ridge Volunteer Fire Department of the donor's choice.

### Donald Dean Simmons

Donald Dean Simmons, 76, passed away Feb. 5, 2019 at his home in Lecanto Florida surrounded by family.

Born May 15, 1942 in Auburn, Nebraska to George W Jr and Margaret J (Helms) Simmons. After leaving school he worked in road construction before settling down in Iowa. In 1964 he joined the U.S. Army and served for 2 years. He married Kay Stagers in 1966 and has two daughters from that marriage. She

preceded him in death July 2004. In 2006, he married Donna Rose Reynolds. Don retired from Heatilator in 2005 and moved to Florida.

Don was a volunteer and sat on the board of directors for Midwest Old Threshers for several years and for We Care Food Bank. He enjoyed rebuilding antique cars and being with family and friends. Don is survived by his wife, Donna; daughters, Sondra (Jeff) Henry Auburn, Ne., Melissa (Matt) Masterson of Burlington, Ia. Step-children Tracy (Julia) Shull of New Port Richey, FL., Wade Shull of Lecanto, Darren (Tracey) Shull of Otley, Ia., Lori Beckett (Doug Wright) of Port Richey, Fl.; and 13 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren. Sisters, Karen (Howard) Bowland, Georgina (Tyler) Allgood, Janette Price all of Lincoln, Ne.; sisters -in-law Carol Simmons of Nemaha, Ne.; many nieces and nephews. Preceding Don in death were his parents, first wife Kay, brother Bob and twin brother Ron.

A Memorial fund has been established in his name to the National Kidney Foundation.

### Koletta Steinmetz

Kolettæe Mae Steinmetz, age 91 of La Farge, died March 23, 2019.

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

Kolettæe 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 threshing, sorghum making and using a steam engine to power the sawmill. Koletta continued to attend Old Threshers Steam Show as a widow, running the steam engine for the carousel. 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.

### Janet Ellen Klesner

Janet Ellen Klesner, 76, of Wever, IA, passed away on May 16, 2019 at her home. She was born on March 5, 1943 in Elmer, MO to Claude and Beulah Warren Featheringill. On March 2, 1962 she married Clarence Albert Klesner in West Point, IA. Janet worked at the Sheaffer Pen Company and she was a homemaker while her kids were young. She later was a CNA for many years. Janet enjoyed watching sports on TV, especially the Iowa Hawkeyes. She was involved in Girl Scouts when her kids were young and enjoyed watching their activities. Janet also enjoyed cooking and spending time with her grandchildren.

Survivors include her husband, Clarence Klesner of Wever, IA; a daughter, Amy Kettle of Fort Madison, IA; a son, Tim Klesner of Fort Madison, IA; five grandchildren, Korinna and Asya Kettle of Fort Madison, IA, Marlee and Caeden Klesner of Fort Madison, IA and Aivery Klesner of Mt. Pleasant, IA and several nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Claude Featheringill Jr. & 2-nephews.

A memorial has been established for the Wever Fire Department.

## OBITUARIES, CONTINUED

### Suzanne Griffis

SuzAnne YaVonne Griffis, 48, of Mt. Pleasant, died May 26, 2019. She was born in Iowa City June 7, 1970 to Donald G. Alter and Carol Ann Strickland Hamilton. She married Robert Bryant; they later divorced. On August 23, 2008, she married Bob Griffis in Wayland, Iowa. SuzAnne was a 1988 graduate of New London High School and attended University of Iowa and graduated from Iowa Wesleyan College in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Marketing and Management. She was a member of First Assembly of God Church, Mt. Pleasant.

She worked for IDT in Iowa City for six years; Pizza Ranch and 15 years for Hearth and Home Technologies. SuzAnne volunteered for Old Threshers, Thrashers House of Terror, Relay for Life, Gift Shop and Information desk at Henry County Health Center, and church functions. She loved the color purple, Winnie the Pooh, anything her children were involved in, her dogs Sasha and Chopper, camping, the Iowa Hawkeyes and spending time with her husband.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her children; TiAhanna Bryant and Tyler Bryant, both of Donnellson, Clint (Rachel) Griffis of Mt. Pleasant, and Justin (Thalia) Griffis of McAllen, Texas; Grandchildren; Alyssa, Severi and little Robert; one brother, Ron (Brooke) Vaughn of Lomax, Illinois; Step-father, Kerry Hamilton of New London; In-laws, Virgil and Pauline Griffis of Mt. Pleasant; Sister-in-law, Angela Griffis of Mt. Pleasant; nephew Sebastian; and many aunts, uncles and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents.

A memorial has been established for her children's education.

### George T. Martin

George T. Martin age 99, of Kahoka, formerly of Wyaconda, passed away July 16, 2019 at the Clark Co. Nursing Home in Kahoka.

George was born June 30, 1920 in Chicago, IL, a son of John Adam and Dena Koehler Martin.

On July 19, 1941 he was united in marriage to Hazel R. Hicks in Ventura, CA. She preceded him in death on May 15, 2013.

Survivors include three sons: John (Thelma) Martin of Paloma, IL, Charles (Sandi) Martin of Louisville, KY, and Steve (Patty) Martin of Trenton, MO; twelve grandchildren; a sister, Ruth Wittmer of Springfield, MO; sister-in-law, Maxine Martin of Washington, IA; as well as nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; three grandchildren: Chad and Dane Martin and Katrina Ingold; and three brothers: Robert, Paul and Joe Martin.

George graduated from Kahoka High School in 1936 and attended Kirksville State Teacher's College for a year. He was employed by the Santa Fe Railroad in Fort Madison prior to entering the U. S. Navy. Following his discharge he worked for Douglas Aircraft in Los Angeles, CA until transferring to their Tulsa, OK location. Hazel was left a farm near Gorin so they returned to Missouri to farm and eventually bought their present farm in Clark County, MO in 1950 and in addition became a rural mail carrier for 27 years.

George was an intelligent and enterprising man. He was a member of the Southeast Iowa Gas Engine Club, IAILMO Tin Lizzie Club, and a contributor and exhibitor at Midwest Old Threshers and had exhibited antique gas engines which he had restored at many local events over several decades. He moved the old Wyaconda depot to his farm piece by piece and stored his engines and enjoyed showing them to everyone.

He cut down 27 different varieties of trees and made a beautiful mantel and hardwood floors in his home he and Hazel were so proud of. He also collected Indian relics and artifacts and model railroads. Additional memberships included the Herman Blum Post # 192 of the American Legion and Ayer-Boatman Post # 4342, V.F.W. both of Kahoka.

He and Hazel loved to travel all throughout the U.S. as well as most of the Canadian provinces. They also loved to travel internationally and on railroad excursions in various parts of the U.S.

Memorials are suggested to the St. Paul United Church of Christ or the Clark Co. Nursing Home Activity Fund.

On-line condolences may be expressed at [www.wilsonfuneralservice.com](http://www.wilsonfuneralservice.com).

### Charles H. Wendel

Charles H. Wendel, noted author and life-long supporter of Midwest Old Threshers died August 12, 2019 after battling acute pneumonia and kidney failure.

Charles H. Wendel (Chuck) was born February 13, 1939 to Harry and Letha Risdal Wendel in Eastern Iowa. It was here that he tended to the family farm and first began to foster his love for machines and farm equipment. By trade, he worked as a union electrician. His love for machines manifested itself in the form of his first authored book: Power in the Past published in 1971. He continued writing for more than 40 years, books that document the development and use of farm and industrial machinery. His Gas Engines Since 1872 is still in demand and can never be replicated as most of the research used to write it is no longer available. He is the author of more than 31 books, his last being An Illustrated History of the Steam Locomotive. In recent years Chuck was instrumental in establishing The Printers Hall in Museum B at Old Threshers. He conducted several tours abroad to Europe and Australia. His books are well known world-wide.

He is survived by his wife, Judith, and his children Rosalyn, Lisa, and Steve along with his grandchildren Grace, Ben, Mary Alice, Brett, and Chase.

Anyone who ever met Chuck was often taken aback by both his intellect and passion for learning. Whether it was a quick-witted joke or an interesting antidote about his many travels, there was never a dull moment with Chuck. He loved his family and would do anything for them.

There are numerous websites describing Chuck's contributions to the history of agricultural machines, tractors, and tools. Visit [www.chwendel.com](http://www.chwendel.com) for information on Chuck's life and work.

### Louis Eugene Tuller

Louis Eugene Tuller, 82, of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa passed away on August 15, 2019. He passed peacefully, surrounded by family, at University Hospitals in Iowa City, Iowa.

He was born on February 26, 1937 in

## 2019 EVENTS

Midwest Old Threshers Reunion: Aug. 29–Sept. 2  
 Summer Theatre Plays—*Three in a Bed*: Aug 29-31, Sept. 1  
 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



# Old Threshers Reunion

## Sept. 3-7, 2020

### Mount Pleasant, Iowa

#### OBITUARIES, CONTINUED

Fairfield, Iowa to William H. and Maude A. (Parsons) Tuller. He grew up on a farm east of Fairfield, and attended a one room school near Parsonsville, Iowa. He graduated from Fairfield High School in 1955. He attended technical school where he learned the trade of auto mechanics.

Louis met the love of his life at a skating rink near Ottumwa, Iowa. He married Doris Ireland on June 2, 1957 in Ottumwa, Iowa. They enjoyed 62 years of marriage. They eventually settled in Mt. Pleasant where they raised their family.

In the early years he worked at auto dealerships in Danville, Jefferson, and Mt. Pleasant. He then worked 15 years at the Iowa Army Ammunition plant in Middletown. His last place of work was at Mackay Envelopes in Mt. Pleasant. He started there as the maintenance lead when the factory was first opened, and played a big part in the factory's growth as it expanded multiple times and new

equipment was installed. He retired from Mackay in 2003 with 20+ years of service.

Cars and mechanical things were always interests to Louie. He and his sons worked together on many car restoration projects. A 1940 Ford pickup truck street rod and a 1968 Mercury Cougar were among the most memorable projects. Louie and his sons also collected and restored antique gas engines for more than 45 years.

Louis was involved as a volunteer in many organizations throughout his life. He served as a director on the Midwest Old Threshers board for over 36 years, retiring in 2014. Many improvements to Old Threshers were accomplished over this time, but most importantly, many lifelong friendships were made. The Old Threshers reunion was very special to Louie and his family.

Louis is survived by his wife, Doris Tuller of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa; his two sons:

Barry (Michelle Raid) Tuller of Stevensville, Michigan; and Jeff (Laura Gableton) Tuller of San Marcos, California. He has 4 grandchildren: Zachary Tuller of Auburn Hills, Michigan; Rachel Tuller of Stevensville, Michigan; Bryce Tuller of San Marcos, California; and Skylynn Tuller of San Marcos, California.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his uncle Art Parsons.

A Celebration of Life will be held on August 25 at 3 PM at the Family Tent on the Old Threshers grounds at McMillan Park in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Cremation has been entrusted to the care of Iowa Cremation. Burial will be held at a later date in Fairfield, Iowa.

Online condolences to Louie's family may be left at the Iowa Cremation website at [www.iowacremation.com](http://www.iowacremation.com). In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Louis' name may be directed to the Old Threshers Foundation.