

Threshers Chaff

Midwest Old Threshers Association
Mount Pleasant, Iowa

Volume 46, Issue 2

Summer 2020

THE REUNION THAT WASN'T

What a year it has been, and it's far from over. It feels as though we are living life on pause at times. Life events have been postponed, if not cancelled altogether.

The 2020 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion was one of those things. It was a difficult decision to cancel the event. But now, as we see what would have been the first day of the 2020 Reunion, COVID-19 cases are on the rise in Iowa. In the end, it was the right decision.

There have been a handful of volunteers working around the grounds this summer completing projects and helping keep the grounds in shape.

The OT staff and board of directors misses seeing everyone, but they are gearing up for the 2021 Reunion. It will be the best one yet!



*See you in
2021!*



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LORRIE MORGAN
 THURSDAY
 SEPTEMBER 2ND
 MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS REUNION
 MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA SEPT 2ND - 6TH

2021
 Reunion
 Entertainment




CARLY PEARCE
 FRIDAY
 SEPTEMBER 3RD
 MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS REUNION
 MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA SEPT 2ND - 6TH

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



CRAIG MORGAN
 SATURDAY
 SEPTEMBER 4TH
 MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS REUNION
 MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA SEPT 2ND - 6TH

TICKETS WILL
 GO BACK
 ON SALE IN
 EARLY 2021!



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH
RODNEY ATKINS
 KNX. TN.
 MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS REUNION
 MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA SEPT 2ND - 6TH

FEATURED FOR 2021



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



Suffolk Punch



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



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



1932 Chevrolet Cabriolet
Owned by: Robert Bixenman
Wever, IA



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



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

REEVES GEARING UP FOR 2021 OLD THRESHERS REUNION



Midwest Old Thresher's 32 Reeves Canadian Traction Steam engine has been undergoing restoration of its gears among other minor improvements.

Following the 2018 Reunion, the Reeves, one of the flagship engines owned by the Association, was taken apart and its gears sent out to be measured and used for making molds for new gears. By the spring of this year, all of the parts were delivered to Mt. Pleasant and ready to be installed. Volunteers arrived in mid-August to assemble.

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



L to R: Scott Sparks, Plattsmouth, NE; Dave Willoughby, Athens, Ohio; Mike Stapp, Plattsmouth, NE; Ken Huffaker, Mt. Pleasant; Dave Gross, Centennial, CO and Herschel Hall, Piasa, Ill.



110HP CASE GETS SOME TLC OVER THE SUMMER

The 110hp Case, owned by Midwest Old Threshers, first came to Mt. Pleasant for the 1953 Reunion. At that time, it was owned by J.J. Hingtgen of Lamotte, IA. Old Threshers purchased the engine in 1972 along with the 32hp Reeves and 75hp Case.

This summer, the 110 made a trip to Grand Mound, IA, where it underwent some much needed work on the clutch hub, wrist pin and eccentric strap. It also got new grates and several hours of machine work.

Thanks to Wade Smith, Neal Stange and Ted Moorman for their work on this project.



Button Collectors' Update 2020-21

By Carolyn Sidelbottom
Plymouth, Minnesota

Since COVID-19 saw fit to interfere with our plans to meet at Old Threshers this year, I am taking this opportunity to meet with you via Threshers' Chaff. If there are new developments about Old Threshers button collectibles, I will try to post updates in future Chaff articles. Hopefully, we will all be able to meet again in Colfax School in 2021.

Button Collectors should not worry about acquiring the 2020 button to fill the space in your collection. Old Threshers already received the button shipment, and are available from Old Threshers for \$1.00, while supplies last.

2020 Engine of the Year



The Old Threshers Engine of the Year is a 1915 20 horsepower Reeves. It is owned by the Duane and Lana Wood Family

from Wallace, Nebraska. Duane says he fell in love with Steam Power when he was five years old. That was when his father, Harold Wood, purchased his first steam engine. The Woods do not farm, but they live in a farming community in southwest Nebraska.

I asked Duane if he would participate in an e-mail interview about his engine and his participation in Old Threshers. Duane's response follows with my comments in italics:—CS

Our 1915 Reeves (Serial # 7721) was bought in 1973 from Ben Markley of Joplin Missouri. We picked the engine up in Granby, Missouri.

The Reeves company was a smaller company located in Columbus, Indiana. Reeves was bought out in 1912 by a company named Emerson-Brantingham Implement Company from Rockford, Illinois. Our engine was built in 1915 after the companies merged.

Reeves engines were double cylinder engines that were

designed to not stop on dead center. *(Stopping on dead center would make the engine very difficult to start up again!—CS)* Reeves engines were used in the fields for plowing and threshing.

Our engine weighs around 28,000 pounds without water in the tank or boiler. *(That is 14 tons, people! Watch your kids when any of these behemoths are moving!—CS)*

We like to participate in the Steam activities, belt up to the Baker fan, and use the engine to participate in the steam engine games. We are always willing to give people rides.

The engine has been restored. We did the work in our shop in Wallace, Nebraska. We started the restoration in 2015, and we finished it in July 2018. The engine was restored by Duane and Lana Wood and Family.

I became involved with Old Threshers when I first attended the show in 1969. I was 12 years old. This Reeves is our first engine that we have brought to show at Old Threshers. Before having our own there, I ran several others during the show. Since 2007, I go to Mount Pleasant before the show starts to volunteer and help prepare the Steam area for the show. The engine was transported the 600 miles from Wallace to Mount Pleasant by a semi-truck and a low boy trailer.

We have some of the 2020 buttons and they look great! Midwest Old Threshers is an event we enjoy going to as a family every year. It is a time we get to see so many great friends. Old Threshers means more to us than just an antique show!

—Duane Wood

2020-2021 Souvenir Button Designs

This year's reunion color theme for buttons is a Pantone 187C Red, Black, and White. The **2020 Souvenir button** features a 1915 20 HP Reeves engine owned by Duane Wood from Wallace, Nebraska. Duane is seen proudly standing by the smokestack.

At the present time, plans are being made for the design of the 2021 button. The Wood's "Reeves" will be featured on the 2021 button. The view and/or the color will be different.



Continued on page 7

Button Collectors' Update 2020-21, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

2020 Souvenir Button Portrait Artist

This year, Old Threshers welcomed back a talented button artist, Melinda Stockwell, owner of Calico Press in Southeast Iowa. Melinda is the second woman to hold the button designer honor. Melinda grew up on a Century Farm in Lee County, Iowa. She has always liked art and she comes from an artistic family. The engine portrait is signed this year. Get out your most powerful magnifier to see all of the minute detail! Melinda found the Reeves a challenging subject, and in my opinion, she rose to the occasion!

In addition to Melinda's detailed engine art, the 2020 button contains the full reunion date. "Old Threshers Reunion," and "Mt. Pleasant, Iowa" surrounding the 1 7/8 - inch central vignette!

After the engine portrait has been finalized, digital designer, Steve Mendenhall, takes the reduced engine portrait and fits the identification information around the engine. The Reeves is so large and such a detailed piece of machinery that placing digital details surrounding the engine must have been quite challenge for Steve. Nevertheless, he fit everything in beautifully.



The exceptional work of the Old Threshers button design team insures that our Old Threshers buttons are created with a very high standard of design quality rarely present in similar event pin-backs. The 2020 design team included portrait artist, Melinda Stockwell, digital artist, Steve Mendenhall, and Old Threshers CEO, Terry McWilliams. The hours the design team spends on the button project continues to be noticed and appreciated among the many Old Threshers visitors and button collectors.

The 57 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.

2020 Special Souvenir Button

For the past ten 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 2020 Souvenir buttons in the same format. This eleventh giant button makes an interesting supplemental button for the core collection. It also allows one to view the artwork in more detail. Contact the Old Threshers office for availability and pricing of this collectible button. This giant button is available from the Old Threshers Office Gift Shop while supplies last.

Official Supplements



The **10-hour Volunteer** button for 2020 will coordinate with the colors of the main **Souvenir** button. The 10-hour button is available from the Old Threshers office for those individuals who have completed (or will complete) their 10-hour volunteer commitment to Old Threshers. I don't get involved in the details of this program; but surely someone at the Old Threshers office can give you more information.

There will be **NO** Exhibitor/Staff name-window button and ribbon for 2020. Perhaps you can find a clever space filler for this item in your collection. I am considering a placeholder sign that says, "2020 Exhibitor/Staff Button and Ribbon permanently 'Out to Lunch.'"

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.

A LOOK BACK: MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS MILESTONES

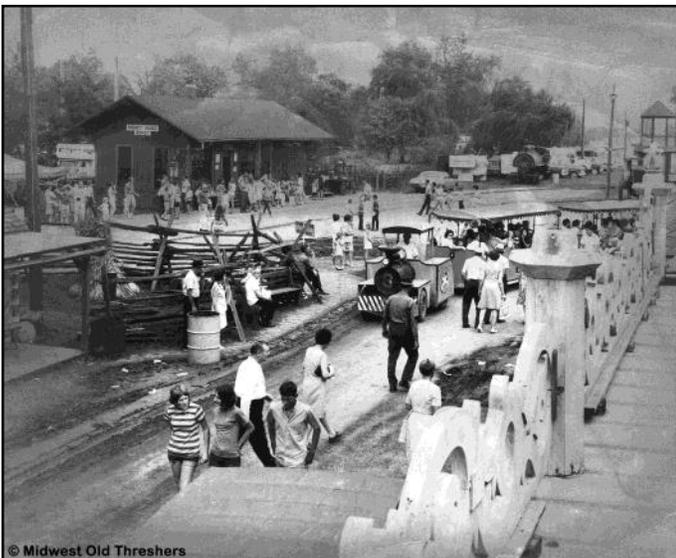
Editor's Note: This is just a snapshot of the first 50 years of Midwest Old Threshers. It is not meant to be all-encompassing. Part 2 will be published in the Winter 2020 Chaff.

In 1949, a group of people sat down to discuss how to host a threshing reunion in Henry County, Iowa. Clark Everts, W.E. (Ted) Detrick, Ray H. Ernst and Herman E. Elgar had just returned from the Zehr Threshing Reunion in Pontiac, Illinois. These men realized there was great potential for Henry County to host its own reunion considering the number of steam engines and separators in the area.

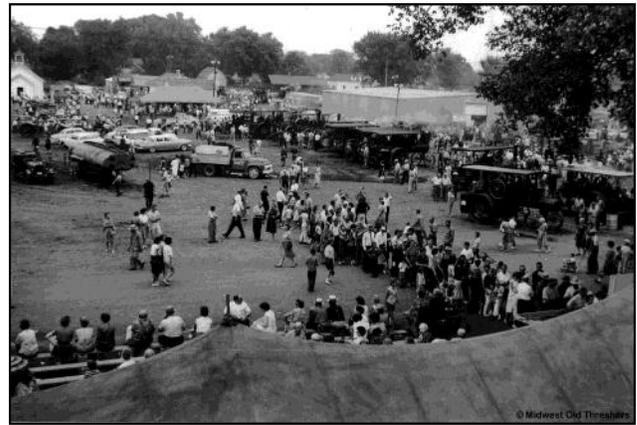


The first Old Threshers Reunion was held September 20 - 21, 1950. Only two days long, the event featured 18 steam engines and 9 separators. A 50-year charter was drafted. By 1951, organizers expanded to three days and added square dancing and a Prony Brake demonstration. The second Reunion also saw the formation of the Fife & Drum Corps.

In 1952, the event expanded yet again to four days and welcomed the Southeast Iowa Antique Car Club as well as four

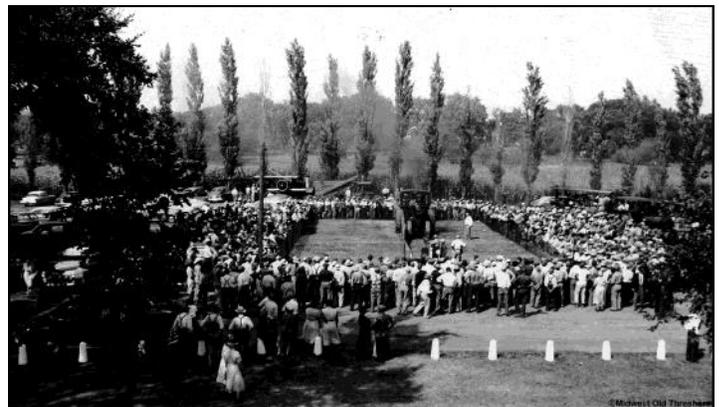


church food tents.



Founding member Clark Everts passed away in 1953. F.W. Woods, the founder of Woods Bros, rode in the parade and spoke to an audience at the Grandstand. He was 91 at the time. The 110hp Case traction steam engine made its first visit to Mt. Pleasant. Owned by J.J. Hingtgen of Lamotte, Iowa, this engine would one day call Mt. Pleasant home. Items on display now included implements. The last day of the Reunion saw 18,000 people attend, bringing the year's total attendance to 60,000.

By 1954, the number of steam engines on display grew to 35. Floats joined in the Parade of Power. An early popcorn machine was rescued from a tool shed. The Midwest Old Threshers Ladies Auxiliary was formed and bus service between the grounds and downtown began.



Old Threshers continued to grow through the second half of the 1950s. The Cavalcade of Power expanded. Reunion memberships were sold for \$1 for general support and were not considered admission. The Antique Building, also known as the Butler Building, was constructed.

The Old Threshers Railroad Committee bought a small 0-4-0 standard gauge saddle tank locomotive for \$400 in 1958. The railroad depot on the north side of the grounds was bought for \$100.01 and moved from Hillsboro, Iowa. Soon after, the North

A LOOK BACK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Village started taking shape with the arrival of the West Pleasant Lawn Schoolhouse from just outside of Mt. Pleasant. In 1959, Midwest Central Railroad was formed with Stan Mathews as president, Lloyd Peterson as VP and Secretary-treasurer Harold McLeran.

The 1960 Reunion started with the \$1 membership becoming admission. Midwest Central Railroad bought two narrow gauge steam engines from a winter auction in Hardeesville, SC – Old Maria #6 and Old #2. The MCRR roundhouse was built. Old Maria steamed out of the roundhouse to the east gate and then backed up for the ¼-mile trip. Passengers rode in chairs on flatcars. The North Village gained another building as a barber shop was moved from Mt. Union.

In 1961, the Antique Car Building was built and the MCRR tracks were extended from the east gate to the North Depot. The “One Nation Indivisible” pageant was presented at the Reunion in cooperation with the Henry County Civil War Centennial Commission.

The Mark Twain Zephyr came to Mt. Pleasant in 1962. That same year, the MCRR completed the tracks that now encircle the main grounds.

The North Village started looking like the 1880s railhead town that was intended, when a replica of a log cabin and a blacksmith shop were constructed in 1963. The General Store was moved to the grounds as well. The next year saw the construction of the Saloon, firehouse and bandstand. The ME Center Chapel was moved in from Wayland. There were 75 steam engines on display at the 1964 Reunion. This was the first performance of the “Toby Show” Tent Theatre. The Murray Corliss stationary engine was acquired and will be operational a couple of years later.

In 1965, the Reunion grew to a five-day event. The North Village gained a jail, bank and print shop. The first Midwest Old Threshers Cookbook was published.

In 1966, Heritage Museum A was constructed. The MCRR introduced Shay #9 and the steam-powered carousel started operating. The first Golden Wedding celebration was held in the North Village Chapel and the Murray Corliss stationary steam engine was installed at the east end of Museum A.

The late 1960s saw a post office come to the North Village as well as terracing of the campground and building of a campground headquarters building. Trolley car #9 and #320 were acquired as was Old Abe, the Case Eagle. The first craft show was held in 1968 as was the first Miss Sweet 16 Contest. Caramel apples were introduced and sold like hotcakes.

In 1969, membership went up to \$2 for five days or \$1 for one day. Camping was made available and the trolley barn was built. An old log house was acquired for the Log Village. Old Threshers and the city went into partnership to build a new Grandstand.

The 1970s saw an incredible amount of growth for Old Threshers and the Reunion. Museum A had a \$50,000 addition allowing room for the office, workshop, and storage and exhibit

space. Open bench trolley #1718 was acquired as was the Page stationary steam engine. The Threshers Chaff began publication in 1971. That same year, the Midwest Electric Railway began operating, the first Country Music shows were offered, and the Yarmouth Depot was acquired for the MERA.



A stage coach barn was acquired for the Log Village, the veneer mill was purchased and ground was broken for the Theatre Museum.

In 1972, the Heritage Museums were open for summer visitors. The Theatre Museum was built and the Old Threshers purchased the 32hp Reeves, 75hp Case and 110hp Case traction steam engines as well as a 24-75 Port Huron Compound Tandem Engine. The Cassity House, which was built in 1845, was moved to the Log Village from near Purdin, MO. The Old Threshers office was now open year-round.

The Threshers Chaff began a quarterly publication schedule in 1973. The Marshalltown Corliss stationary steam engine was



© Midwest Old Threshers

A buss for the governor

When Gov. Robert Ray visited Mt. Pleasant Thursday to help open the Old Threshers Reunion, he received a warm welcome, including a kiss from “Miss Kitty” (Joan Decker). The governor toured the grounds for two hours, which included a meal at the Methodist Church tent (bottom left) with his wife Billie; and later slucked his tie and coat and donned an engineer’s hat to visit some of the craft booths. (bottom right) where Mrs. Ray examined sand paintings by Doyle Blalock.

bought for \$75,000. Waterloo Trolley Car #381 came to Mt. Pleasant as well as open bench trolley car #1779. The second Midwest Old Threshers Cookbook was published and Reunion Monday was declared Horse Day with a Heavy Horse Pull Contest.

In 1974, membership went up to \$3. Twenty-five anniversary coins were cast. Prairie Gem Church, which was

A LOOK BACK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

built in 1866, was moved to the campground from north of Mt. Pleasant. The Colfax School from near Mt. Union, was also moved to the campground. It was built in 1887. There was 4,400 feet of trolley track completed and the MCRR completed the building of a new engine house.

In 1975, the second open air bench trolley was acquired and Pleasant Hill Church was moved to the campground from an area southeast of Mt. Pleasant. This was also the first year for School Tours.

The Log Village really began to take shape in 1976 as assembly began of the Stage Coach Barn and Kossuth Cabin. Colfax School in the campground was restored and construction started on Museum B. The library at the Theatre Museum was completed. There was a Bluegrass Festival held in June of that year and the third Old Threshers Cookbook was published. A Bicentennial Time Capsule was buried in the courthouse lawn to be opened in 2026.

The late 1970s saw a gift shop constructed in Museum A. The Log Village Oakridge School arrived from east of Donnellson. It was the first year of the Harvest Parade. Camping was \$3 a night. They Weyer Electrical Museum was built in Museum A and the Peerless stationary steam engine was acquired.



In

1978, the Old Threshers board appointed area directors, purchased the land that would become the West Parking.

In 1979, camping went up to \$4 a night. The Gas Engine Powerhouse was built. "Old Threshers at 30" was published. The Mark Twain Zephyr was sold. The first 30-hour volunteer award was created. Museum B was rebuilt after it collapsed in a winter storm.

The 1980s began with an increase in admission to \$4. Heritage Museum B farmhouse exhibit was constructed as well as "Water...Too Little, Too Late," "Women, Partners in the Land," and "Electricity Comes to the Farm." The fourth cookbook was published and the North Village Gang rolled into town. Explorer Post 1846 was organized and chartered a year later. The fifth cookbook was published in 1982. Membership went up to \$5 in 1983. The Toronto PCC car

#4476 was purchased for the MERA. The Reunion was named "One of the Top 100 Events in North America" for the first time. The first Steam Class was offered in 1985. OT held the first Steam School that year

Membership went up to \$5 in 1986. Camping was \$6. The Old Threshers Foundation was established. The first Swap Meet was held in June and the first Theatre History Seminar was offered.

The Reunion was named "Iowa Tourism Event of the Year" in 1987. The sixth edition of the Old Threshers Cookbook was published.

1988

Wilkie Machine Tool Shop, Phase I
Museum Exhibit, "Electricity Comes to the Farm"
Corliss stationary engine from Mt. Pleasant Mental Health Institute installed
MCRR announces new machine shop called "Shop Services"
Purchased IBM computer for mailing list maintenance

1989

McMillan Park restroom west of the grandstand built & donated to the City of Mt. Pleasant
Wilkie Machine Tool Shop Phase II
Camping \$6.25 per night
Gas engine wood shop constructed
Trolley barn work area constructed
N Village Post Office renovated
Sawn log barn constructed in Log Village
Seventh Old Threshers Cookbook

The 1990s saw more growth for the Association. The Reunion was named "One of the Top 100 Events on North America" for the fourth time. The office was remodeled, the Peerless stationary engine

was added to the Wilkie Exhibit, the Oakridge Schoolhouse in the Log Village was reconstructed, the Marvin Mill was acquired, the carousel was purchased, North Village was renamed Snipe Run, the blacksmith shop was added to the Log Village and new information booths were constructed.

The end of the decade saw the first run of the Midwest Central's Ghost Train and 850 gas engines at the Reunion in 1999 and Richard Oetken donated funds to build the Hazel Grace Pierson Carousel Pavilion.



OBITUARIES

Glenn Rowe

Glenn Edward Rowe was born January 29, 1952 in Washington, Iowa the son of Raymond LaMont and Naomi LaJeanne (Martin) Rowe. He graduated from Solon High School in 1970. Glenn was united in marriage to Sandra Kay Berg on June 15, 1973 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Wellman. He worked in flooring and plumbing for many years and most recently was a custodian at Mid-Prairie High School. Glenn was a former Cub Scout leader, and a member of the Jaycees and the Wellman Fire Department. He enjoyed hunting and fishing. Glenn died on July 4, 2020 at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City at the age of 68 years.

He is survived by his wife Sandi of Wellman; a daughter Chrissy (Mike) Miller of Keota; a son James (Tracy) Rowe of Wellman; five grandchildren Hope, Hunter, Hayden, Dakota and Brett; a sister Pam Brown of Tiffin and his father and mother-in-law Bernard and Cleo Berg of Wellman. He was preceded by his grandparents, parents and four siblings Michael Rowe, Shirley Hohle, Gary Rowe and Terry Rice.

A general memorial fund has been established. Messages and tributes may be left at www.powellfuneralhomes.com

Jack Siedel

Jack A. Siedel, 79, Knoxville, died July 4, 2020, at OSF St. Francis Medical Center, Peoria.

He was born March 11, 1941, in Canton, the son of Robert and Virginia (Mitchell) Siedel. He married Shirley Links and then married Connie Thurman. He later married Sara Hamilton on May 3, 1975, in Galesburg.

Jack is survived by his wife of 45 years, Sara, of Knoxville; his children, Bob (and Cindy) Siedel of Abingdon, Sonita (and Randy Hastings) Siedel of Abingdon, Vicki Clark of Florida, Elizabeth Sholl of Galesburg, and Brian (and Denise) Greene and Tim Greene, both of Galesburg; his sister, Sharon Schrod of Canton; 10 grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother-in law, Russell Schrod.

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Jack graduated from Canton High School in 1959. He was raised in Norris and moved to Knoxville in 1976. He served his country in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1966 and later the Reserves for another four years. He was a driver for UPS for 31 years, retiring in 2000. He later worked part time at the Knoxville

Hardware Store. Jack volunteered for the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion for many years. Jack was a member and past Master of the Knoxville Masonic Lodge #66. He was a 32nd Degree Mason with the Valley of Peoria. He enjoyed camping, woodworking and collecting

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Button Collectors' Update 2020-21, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Updates:

The following charts summarize updated facts about the 2019 and 2020 Old Threshers Button collections. 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.*

ENGINE PORTRAITS

YEAR	MODEL	OWNER
2020	1915 20 hp Reeves	Duane & Lana Wood Family, Wallace, Nebraska

MEMBERSHIP/SOUVENIR BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBSERVE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2020	57 mm	187C Red Black White	Silver	Silver L	None	\$1.00

EARLY BIRD/VOLUNTEER BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBSERVE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2020	Likely will be 55 mm	Likely will be 187 C Red Black White	Likely will be Silver	Likely will be Silver L	None	Market, not sold by OT

EXHIBITOR/STAFF BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBSERVE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2019	46mm by 71mm	364C Green Black 109C Yellow	Silver	Silver L	None	Market, not sold by OT

NO Exhibitor/Staff buttons were produced in 2020.

OBITUARIES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

model trucks.

Memorials may be made to Midwest Old Threshers or a charity of the donor's choice. Online condolences may be made at www.h-p-w.com.

Charlene Higgins

Charlene E. Blacklidge Higgins, 76, Knoxville, died July 11, 2020, at her home.

She was born Jan. 10, 1944, to Jo Glenn and Gerdal (Lively) Blacklidge. She married Melvan L. Higgins on June 10, 1962, in Galesburg. He survives.

Also surviving are her children, Diana (and Clint) Dowdy of Springfield, Doreen Benson of Galesburg, Melvan (and Kay) Higgins of Bedford, Texas, and Darlene (and Chris) Plue of Knoxville; two sisters, Linda (and Ed) Wright of Indianapolis and Clara (and Don) Carr of Indianapolis; 10 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Charlene graduated from ROVA High School in 1962. She worked as a dietary manager at OSF St. Mary Medical Center, Galesburg, for approximately 30 years before retiring. She was a member of the First Christian Church in Knoxville. She was a member and sold quilts for the Midwest Old Threshers in Iowa. She was a member of a quilt club in Galesburg. She enjoyed watching hummingbirds and sewing. She loved her family, especially her grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Midwest Old Threshers in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Online condolences may be made at www.h-p-w.com.

June Hall

June A. Hall, 74, of Galesburg, died, July 18, 2020, at home.

She was born June 25, 1946, in Galesburg, the daughter of Chester and Guynith (Howard) Kimler. She married Randy Hall in 1975, in Dahinda.

She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Randy; four daughters, Holly Kimler (Mike Schmidt) of Canton, Lisa, Sherri, and Dione Hubbs; a son, Larry

Hubbs of Bloomfield, Iowa; three grandchildren, Christopher Keime, Amber Kimler, and John Hubbs; a sister, Carla (Bob) Myers of Williamsfield; and a brother, Fred Kimler of Galesburg. She was preceded in death by her parents and her twin sister, Jane Shaw.

June had worked for Admiral and the Fairfield Inn for many years before retiring. She was also a homemaker and cleaned houses independently. June was a volunteer with the Midwest Old Threshers for many years. She enjoyed camping and spending time with her family and friends. She and Randy rode their motorcycle to Sturgis, South Dakota, for 18 years.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Midwest Old Threshers or the Knox County Humane Society. Online condolences may be made at [HYPERLINK "http://www.h-p-w.com" www.h-p-w.com](http://www.h-p-w.com).

Larry Putney

Marlin Larry Putney, 81, of Mt. Pleasant, passed away August 20, 2020, at the University of Iowa Hospital, in Iowa City.

Born September 11, 1938, in Van Meter, IA. Larry was the son of Henry and Ora (Hymes) Putney. He was a 1957 graduate of Mt. Pleasant High School. On January 4, 1959, Larry was united in marriage to Connie Williams at the First United Methodist Church in Mt. Pleasant.

They made their home in the Mt. Pleasant community. Larry worked for Continental Telephone Company, REC, Putney Electric and was the owner of the DX gas station. Larry retired from the University of Iowa Athletic Department, where he worked as a grounds keeper at Kinnick Stadium.

Larry was a member of the Methodist Church. He enjoyed working, golfing, traveling and volunteering at Midwest Old Threshers.

Survivors include his wife Connie of Mt. Pleasant, daughter Dana (Terry) Stotts of New Richmond, WI, two grandsons Wyatt and Garrett Stotts. He is

also survived by 7 siblings, Peggy Snyder of Valparaiso, NE; Ardith Naifeh of Prattville AL; Kenneth Putney of Iowa City; Marvin Putney of Indianola; Teresa Rude of Palmetto, FL; Susie Gordan of Arvada, CO; and Tim Putney of The Villages, FL.

Larry is preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Ora Putney, brothers Henry Lee Putney, Morris Putney and Bill Putney.

A memorial fund has been established for Midwest Old Threshers. Messages may be sent to the family at www.powellfuneralhomes.com.

Mary Smith

Mary Lou Braun Smith, age 84 of Mt. Pleasant died August 22, 2020 at her home surrounded by her family.

Mary was born October 3, 1935, in Burlington, Iowa. Mary was the daughter of Joseph and Agnes (Moehn) Braun. She graduated from Burlington High School and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from St. Ambrose College and her Master of Arts degree in Nursing from the University of Iowa. On February 12, 1966, she married Jack Edward Smith at St. John's Catholic Church in Burlington, Iowa.

Mary began her career as a registered nurse at Sylvania Electric in Burlington. She then worked at several area hospitals including the Mental Health Institute, Mercy Hospital, Burlington Medical Center, Henry County Health Center and the Veteran Administration Hospital. After completing her graduate studies, she was a clinical instructor and assistant professor at the University of Iowa College of Nursing and Indian Hills Community College.

In 1985, she began working for the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals, where she was a health facilities surveyor until her retirement in 1998. She was named the 1990 DIA Surveyor of the Year. Mary also helped her husband operate the family farm.

Mary was a member of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church and served on their parish council. After retirement she was

STORIES FROM A ONE-ROOM SCHOOL



During the 2019 Reunion, the West Pleasant Lawn School hosted visitors from around Henry County who had attended a one-room school. There were several stories about the very building they were in as well as one-room schools in other parts of the country.



OBITUARIES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

an active volunteer and enjoyed golfing, bowling and traveling, especially by train. She liked to play cards and games and have coffee visits with friends. She also loved spending time with her family. She is survived by her daughter, Susan Smith of Mt. Pleasant, IA; son, Michael Smith of Iowa City, IA; brothers Richard Braun of Burlington, IA; James Braun of Dubuque, IA; sisters Carol Brandt of Burlington, IA, Sr. Kathy Braun of Burlington, IA, and Kris Cooper of Tempe, AZ and many nieces and nephews. Mary was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, her parents, and brothers Daniel Braun, John Braun, and Michael Braun.

A memorial fund has been established for Midwest Old Threshers and St. Alphonsus Catholic Church. The Messages may be sent to the family at www.powellfuneralhomes.com.

Steve Pacha

Stephen R. Pacha, 74, of rural Birmingham, died unexpectedly at his home July 24, 2020. He was born July 30, 1945, in Fairfield, to Richard Paul and Mary Lorraine (Hoffman) Pacha.

Steve grew up in the Pleasant Plain area and graduated from Fairfield High School in 1963. He married Evelyn Marie Nelson on October 16, 1965 at St. Joseph Church, East Pleasant Plain. He attended St. Ambrose University where he majored in Physics and served in the Iowa Army National Guard from 1963 to 1969. He was a member of MARS (Military Auxiliary Radio System) from 1975 to the present and currently the Executive Officer for Iowa.

Steve was active in his community, a lifelong member of St. Joseph Catholic Church where he served on the Parish Council, was an officer on the St. Joseph Cemetery Association, was a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, farmed from 1965 to 1991, owned and operated Pacha Crane Service 1985 to 2016, was a school bus driver, volunteer fireman on the Birmingham Fire Department, Fairfield School Board, Midwest Old Threshers Board, Midwest Central Railroad Board, Jefferson County Farm Bureau Board and current member of the Midwest Old Threshers Foundation Board. He was also an officer of the Fairfield Pistol Club and belonged to the

1989 Reunion



Southeast Iowa Sportsman Shooting Group.

He was blessed with the mechanical ability to fix most anything and had recently built a log splitter from scratch and used it to split logs for the Annual Fall Bazaar for St. Joseph Church.

Steve is survived by his wife, Evelyn; son, John and his wife Angela, Marion; four grandchildren, Clara, Caleb, Blaise and Cooper; five brothers, Joe (Jennifer) of Bettendorf, Chris (Lorraine) of Davenport, Tim (Jackie) of Fairfield, David (Kierston) of Brighton and Rick (Lori) of Coralville; and three sisters, Mary Diane Overturff (Harry) of Libertyville, Cathy Lawson of Des Moines and Pat Pacha of Iowa City. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Pat Lewis and husband Ron of Oxford, Iowa; many nieces, nephews and friends.

His parents preceded him in death.

Memorials to St. Joseph Cemetery Association or for Masses may be left at St. Joseph Church in East Pleasant Plain or mailed to the family at 10193 Hwy 1, Birmingham, IA 52535.

Buy all 4 Nights of Reserved Seating for
the Country Music Shows and Receive a
FREE stadium cushion!

Promotion lasts as long as seats are available for all 4 nights
TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE IN EARLY 2021.

Reserved seats are \$10 per person, per show.



Old Threshers Reunion
Sept. 2-6, 2021 * Mount Pleasant, Iowa

