



Volume 47, Issue 2

Summer 2021

MERA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF OPERATIONS

By Wes Bender, MER Historian

The Midwest Electric Railway (MER) celebrates the heritage of streetcars and interurbans for 50 Years now with our flagship Car #9 and our centerpiece Car 320 laboring on. Car 9 has been in Iowa since it was new in 1910. We are extremely honored to own this rare and important interurban.

In 1954, Car 9 was owned by a still active traction railway, the Southern Iowa Rwy (SIR) in Centerville, Iowa. It was discovered by the Iowa Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society (NRHS). With the SIR Management's blessing the NRHS used Car 9 for weekend



excursions and the "Iowa Railway Historical Museum" was born. The museum ran cars for the public on summer weekends through 1966. The museum even acquired more equipment to include the interurban, Chicago, Aurora & Elgin Car 320 among others. When the Southern Iowa Railway was sold, the new owners wanted all the equipment sold. Coincidentally during that same time, Midwest Old Threshers was looking for a way to transport future campers from the newly expanded campground. Fortunately, Midwest Central Railroad and a few NRHS Members made a deal

where two of the cars were brought to the Old Threshers grounds in 1968.

Car 9 and Car 320 were saved for the future. A carbarn was built completely around where Car 9 sat on a panel rail! With the help of the Iowa Army National Guard and many other volunteers, a dirt fill was put in and leveled to the new Trolley Barn and a quarter mile of track was laid upon it. In 1971, a power room was built, and the first rides were given.

Another huge coincidence occurred when an active trolley museum, in Pennsylvania, was destroyed by a



horrible hurricane. Old Threshers acquired two of their liquidated open-air Trolleys. These cars came from a 12-car buy from Rio de Janeiro, that



was made in 1966. These are the most popular cars of our guests on hot summer days.

The Waterloo, Cedar Falls & Northern Railroad operated the last revenue streetcar service in Iowa, ending in 1958. The car was our Car 381 and it's considered a modern streetcar being built in 1930. We acquired this car from a park in the city of Waterloo, 1973.

In 1974 the rail was expanded from the CB&Q Yarmouth, Iowa, Depot, completely around the new campground. The route, some might say, is dangerous and

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WE ARE BACK AND STEAMING UP!



Terry McWilliams, CEO

Dear Friends of Old Threshers,

The 2021 Old Threshers Reunion, September 2-6 is right around the corner! I'm not going to sugar coat it. Since the 2019 Old Threshers Reunion it has been a challenge for the Association to make it to now. Thanks to all that gave us that needed support over that time period. But that is in the past and we are here in the now and ready to go.

I can't put into words how much we are looking forward to see everyone back at the Reunion this year and all the upcoming fall events. Your support is going to mean even more this year to the overall wellbeing of the Association

and the events. Volunteers, new and old alike will be the driving force in helping the events happen this year. The world is ready to get back out and enjoy all we have to offer so thanks in advance for your help.

There are things that have changed since 2019 for the better and some things that are not so good. Time and COVID-19 have had an impact on the way the Reunion will run and look this year. Some things that have changed, you the visitor or volunteer will never see or hear about, only internally how we operate the events. There are some things that will be different and very noticeable, missing some great volunteers and friends and missing a food group or two, and even finding something new at the Reunion, just to name a few. So, I encourage you to dust off the stories about your exhibits, shine them up, and get ready to share our agricultural history with the many folks during the Reunion.

We have had a great year so far, including an amazing School Tour Program this spring. The Great Iowa Swap Meet and Flea Market might have been wet around the edges, but there was a lot of buying and selling going on. We had full classes for Trolley School and even held two Steam School classes with attendees from all over the country. The museums have been busy with visitors and tour groups so far this season. We have been working on the grounds, the buildings, and even starting some new projects, the Santa House and Workshop to name two.

Thank you to all for supporting the Midwest Old Settlers and Threshers Association. It has been a long time since the first Reunion September 20-21, 1950. I really hope the founding fathers are happy that we are still here and growing with your support.

See you at the Reunion,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry McWilliams".



THURSDAY
SEPT. 2
LORRIE
MORGAN

REUNION GRANDSTAND ENTERTAINMENT



SATURDAY SEPT. 4 - CRAIG MORGAN

FRIDAY
SEPT. 3
CARLY
PEARCE



SUNDAY SEPT. 5 - RODNEY ATKINS

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

JOHN AND SUSIE KUHENS TO LEAD HARVEST DAY PARADE



John and Susie Kuhens are this year's Harvest Parade Marshals.

Close your eyes and listen; I bet you'll recognize John right away. Anyone who listened to the local radio station, KILJ, knows his voice. Whether he was reading the daily school lunch menu, giving the play-by-play at area sporting events or doing a voiceover for a commercial, there was no mistaking John.

John moved to Mt. Pleasant in August of 1970 after getting a job at the local radio station at the age of 17. His birthday was the next day, so technically he was 18 when he took to the airwaves. As the years went by, he eventually became part owner of the

station. He and Susie married on December 30, 1982.

Susie is no stranger to the folks of Henry County as she was the Clerk of Court for many years, retiring in 2009. John retired in 2018, August 31st to be exact, 48 years to the day.

John and Susie keep busy with volunteer work, grandkids and enjoying life in the (sort of) slow lane. Volunteering at the Reunion has been tradition for this couple for their nearly 40 years of marriage.

John and Susie may have held the title of Old Threshers Harvest Day Parade Marshals for a record-long two years. But not to worry, the candy they will be tossing out is fresh!

PAUL GORRELL PRESENTED WITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Editor's Note: This article first appeared in Hemmings Motor News in October 2019 and is written by Daniel Strohl. Reprinted with permission.

In 1952, Crosley Motors Incorporated, Powel Crosley's Cincinnati-based company dedicated to producing small cars, went out of business. Also in 1952, Burlington, Iowa-based Paul Gorrell bought his first Crosley automobile, and in the nearly 70 years since, he's maintained a sincere devotion to the orphan carmaker - a devotion that recently earned him the Iowa Automotive Heritage Foundation's first Lifetime Achievement Award.

"Mr. Gorrell's efforts have been nothing short of remarkable," Peter Hemken, president of the Iowa Automotive Heritage Foundation, said in a press release announcing the award. "Few Iowans have made a greater contribution to the preservation of some of the most obscure and interesting automobiles ever built in the United States."

That first Crosley, a green 1948 station wagon that Paul bought when he was 14, helped instill an appreciation in Paul for all sorts of orphan cars: King Midgets, Powells, Amphicars, Studebakers, and the like. However, Crosleys came to make up the bulk of his collection, and as he continued collecting Crosleys over the decades, he came to specialize in prototype and one-off versions, particularly the military prototypes that Crosley built during World War II.

In fact, he may at this point own every prototype Crosley vehicle built, starting with the 1937 CRAD - the first Crosley automobile prototype, with its narrow rear axle, which he restored - and on to a pair of Crosley Pups, the Crosley Mosquito, a three-wheeler and a motorcycle made from a pre-



war Crosley drivetrain, and even a Crosley-powered snowmobile.

In addition, he's put together a number of odd Crosley-related or Crosley-based contraptions of his own, including the scooter made from an old Crosley dealership sign (above), a Doodle Bug powered by a Crosley V-8, and Crosley two- and six-cylinder engines built from damaged CIBA/CoBra blocks.

Showing his vehicles is second nature for Paul and his family, who run Gorrell's Agriculture and Transportation Museum and who load up the vehicles - as well as his chickens - for as many as 30 shows a year, in part to educate the public about the defunct carmaker.

"He's a mechanical genius with a heart of gold," Cunningham said.

Be sure to stop by the Car Tent during the Old Threshers Reunion and see Paul's collection of Crosleys.

FEATURED FOR 2021

Editor's Note: All of this year's featured item owners are able to claim they were featured for two years in a row!

The Old Threshers Engine of the Year for 2021 is a 1915 20hp Reeves (right) owned by the Duane and Lana Wood Family from Wallace, Nebraska. 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. Reeves engines were double cylinder engines designed to not stop on dead center. They were used in the fields for plowing and threshing. Read the full story about this year's featured engine on page 8.



This year's Featured Antique Tractor is a 1933 Farmall F-12, owned by Tammie Dingman of Burlington. This tractor has been in Tammie's family for 46 years. Her grandfather bought the F-12 in 1975 in Illinois. He restored it and together, they showed the tractor until he bought another tractor. At the age of 16, Tammie took over and has shown it ever since. Tammie's grandparents got her involved in Old Threshers at the age of 4. She lovingly named the tractor Fred after she saw graffiti had tagged it Fred Flintstone. Tammie performed a second restoration on the tractor in 2018 completing it in 2019. Tammie is looking forward to gathering with friends and her extended OT family soon!

This year's Featured Garden Tractor is a 1962 IHC Cub Cadet Original (left) owned by Donna & Ralph Oliver of Cambridge, IA. The tractor was purchased in 2004/2005 in New London for \$100. The catch was the Olivers had to take three other run of the mill garden tractors with it. No problem as they new what they had with the Cub. IH first started manufacturing Cub Cadets in 1961. Manufacturing ended in 1963. Restoration was not a top priority until it was picked as Featured Garden Tractor for 2020. The 15-year total restoration project moved into full-gear as was completed in time for what would have been the 2020 OT Reunion. Ralph and Donna have been coming to OT since 1987 and began volunteering in 1981. Ralph has served on the Threshers board since 2004.



FEATURED ITEMS FOR 2021 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

This year's Featured Gas Engine is a 1914 2 1/2hp Brownwall owned by Lori & Bill Ballard of Marengo. The Ballards bought this rare engine from a man in 2015, who was getting rid of his collection. It was needing no restoration work and was ready to go. There are no company records for the Brownwall Engine and Pulley Company. The company dates back to 1911 and was located in Lansing, MI where they made 1-6hp engines. They were only around until 1920. The Ballards have 15 gas engines in their collection along with many pieces of equipment including a water pump and a sheller. This year's featured gas engine will be operating a Liberty Mill feed grinder. Visitors will find the engine by the Carpenter's Shop in the Gas Engine area as the Ballards run the shop as well as exhibit their engines. They have been attending and exhibiting at Old Threshers on and off since 2004.



This year's Featured Antique Car is a 1932 Chevrolet Cabriolet owned by Robert Bixenman of Wever. Robert started attending the Old Threshers Reunions about 20 years ago after his retirement. He visited the Antique Car Barn and was hooked. Over the years he has purchased 40 cars, but has slimmed his collection down to only four. Those four include a 1911 Model T Ford (in mint condition), a 1926 Model T Touring Car and a 1931 Model A Roadster as well as this year's featured car. Robert has had his Cabriolet for 10 years and it has never seen the rain. It was mechanically sound when he bought it. He didn't have to do a thing to it. Oil changes are the extent of its needs to this day. Cosmetically, however, it needed help. The convertible top was rotted, the paint was terrible. He went to the expense of a new paint job and he replaced the side-mount fenders where the spare tire rests. Head over to the Antique Car barn and take a look at this beautiful automobile. And you just might meet Robert too!

This year's Featured Antique Truck is a 1955 IHC S-160 owned by John Marson of Basco, IL.

International S-Line Medium-Duty Trucks—ALL TRUCK—to save you the BIG money so the 1955 advertising brochure claims.

The S series of trucks were made to combine the medium-duty IHC Loadstar and heavy-duty IHC Fleetstar. The S series had many different uses including straight trucks, semitractors, and vocational trucks. The S series came in a four-door crew cab, cutaway cab, cowled chassis and stripped chassis for school buses. There was also the choice of gasoline and diesel powertrains.

The last complete product line designed within the existence of International Harvester, the S series was produced in its original form through 1989.

Be sure to stop by the Antique Truck Barn and visit with John.



SUFFOLK PUNCH DRAFT HORSE FEATURED FOR 2021

by TJ Bishop



Ask most people what pops into their mind when they hear the words, "draft horse" and they're likely to answer, "Clydesdales." In fact, many people believe that the words are synonymous. However, the term draft horse actually refers to a horse used to haul a load. A Clydesdale is simply one breed of draft horse, which is highly recognized due to the famous Budweiser Clydesdale hitch.

Another, much less familiar breed of draft horse is the Suffolk Punch. The first part of the name is from the county of Suffolk, in East Anglia, England. This is a region on the eastern side of England, surrounded on three sides by the North Sea.

The Punch part of the breed name is from an old English word that was used to describe a short, stout, or chunky, person. When you see a Suffolk Punch in person, it immediately becomes clear why they were referred to as "punchy."

The breed is of moderate height, but well muscled with strong, sturdy legs, and hooves. Average height of the breed is 16hh, or to put that another way, about 5'3" at their withers (top of shoulder.) They weigh on average 1,800 pounds at maturity. They are a slow maturing breed and won't reach their full height and weight until approximately eight years of age.

All Suffolk Punches are one of seven shades of chestnut, ranging from a dark, liver red, to a light strawberry blonde.

White markings are not common and are limited to the face and lower leg.

Suffolk Punch draft horses have an unusual distinction. They are the only breed of draft horse developed exclusively for agricultural use. Beginning in the 1500s farmers in East Anglia began selecting horses that had the stamina and strength to spend long hours pulling a plow through the thick clay of their fields.



Other traits that the farmers bred for were an ability to thrive without needing a great deal of grain and special care and an easy going, sweet disposition—Traits that are still found in today's Suffolk Punch horses.

If you'd like to see some of these horses, in person, make sure to attend the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion. The Suffolk Punch is this year's featured breed!

SANTA HOUSE AND WORKSHOP BECOMING A REALITY

By Melinda Huisenga

As our 2021 Reunion visitors enter the campground from South Walnut Street, they will be greeted by two new red and green structures. Construction on Santa's House (pictured below) and Santa's Workshop is expected to be completed in



Located just inside the Campground gate, Santa's new house is waiting on a door. Santa's Workshop is just behind the house to the south.

time for the 2021 Festival of Lights, which begins with two walk-through nights on Saturday and Sunday, November 20-21. The drive-through event will open to cars beginning Wednesday, November 24 (Thanksgiving weekend) and continue through New Year's Eve

Santa's visitors will no longer have to wait in line outside in the cold weather; they will be able to enjoy the comfort of a climate-controlled building with indoor restroom facilities. And while they wait to see Santa, they can also enjoy looking at the vast Snow Village collection donated by Paul and Joyce Dennison which will be on permanent display. Santa's House may also be reserved throughout the year for small group meetings; a kitchenette and tables to seat approximately 40 people will be available.

Attendance doubled during the 2020 holiday season; a new record of 9,036 vehicles was reached on New Year's Eve. The 2021 Festival of Lights event promises to be even bigger and better! Along with the two walk-through nights, there will be two special nights to reserve horse-drawn wagon rides, which

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Button Collectors' Update 2021

By Carolyn Sidebottom
Plymouth, Minnesota

Since COVID-19 saw fit to interfere with our plans to meet at Old Threshers in 2020, it has been a long wait for the opportunity to meet with all of you at Old Threshers. Hopefully, we will be able to meet again for the 19th Annual Button Collectors' forum in Colfax School on Sunday morning September 5, 2021. Colfax School is located just south of Campground Hospitality and the Theater Museum. Mark your Old Threshers daily schedule for the beginning program time. I will be opening the building about an hour earlier to set up for the meeting.

Even though the CDC and other organizations dedicated to keeping us safe have relaxed some of the social distancing and mask-wearing guidelines, button collectors and others should follow sensible practices for crowds. Button collectors will follow the guidelines established by the Old Threshers Board of Directors and Staff. However, no one should be discouraged from wearing a mask, etc. if that makes them feel safer!

Button Collectors should not worry about acquiring the 2020 button to fill the cancelled Reunion space in your collections. Old Threshers did receive the button shipment for the cancelled Reunion in 2020. Those buttons are available from Old Threshers for \$1.00 while supplies last. You may contact Old Threshers to order your 2020 button. The button is red, black, and white, and features a Reeves engine drawn by Melinda Stockwell.

2021 Engine of the Year Button Same Engine! New color! New design!



The Old Threshers Engine of the Year for 2021 is a 1915 20 horsepower Reeves. This engine did not have the opportunity to shine in 2020. The Reeves will be making its long-awaited debut in 2021! The Reeves 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.

I originally wrote about this engine for the 2020 Reunion and button. Because of the event cancellation, I am repeating this data about the Reeves for its much deserved formal re-debut in 2021, and for the button's re-design for the 2021 reunion.

"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 am sure Duane and Lana would be happy to discuss the details of the restoration with interested reunion visitors!—CS)

"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 have gone 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!" (Because of Covid 19, the Wood family's traction steam engine is the only one to be featured as the engine of the year for two consecutive years.—CS)

"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.

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Button Collectors' Update 2021 continued from page 8

2021 Souvenir Button Design

This year's reunion color theme for buttons is a Pantone 232C Pink, Black, and White. The 2021 Souvenir button features the 1915 20 HP Reeves engine owned by the Duane Wood Family from Wallace, Nebraska. Duane and Lana appear proudly standing by the back wheel.



2021 Souvenir Button Portrait and Digital Design Artist

This year, Old Threshers welcomed Steven Paul Mendenhall, a native of Mount Pleasant, as the sole artistic designer of the 2021 button. Steve has been involved in many Old Threshers areas and programs since 1985. He has been a long-time digital layout designer of the Old Threshers button. He has been a member of the Old Threshers button design team since 1987. This year, Steve drew the engine art, as well.

I asked Steve if he had had any formal training as an artist. Apparently, Steve is just one of those fortunate individuals that from an early age loved to pick up a pencil and draw! This natural talent eventually spilled over into his career, as well. Steve is known as "the Sign Man" in Mount Pleasant!

Steve said, "I had to go to the engine and take multiple photo images of it at various angles and light. I then would use the design software to modify tones and shadows so I could see detail that the camera didn't pick up, i.e., under the canopy of the engine. I then enlarged the image and printed a copy to use as my drawing subject. After drawing the image in black pen, I then scanned the drawing and modified any parts of the image that I saw would be questionable once the image was reduced in size to fit the button design. I added the rest of the image, border, text, and colors with my design software, keeping in mind the designs of the past."

(Is the work signed? Yes, but you might need a magnifying glass, or maybe the giant Souvenir button to find it!—CS)

After the engine portrait had been finalized, Steve took the reduced engine portrait and digitally fit 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 can be a challenge. Nevertheless, Steve fit everything in beautifully. Steve is a self-taught digital designer. He began honing his skills when the computer was just beginning to be recognized as a useful design tool. Steve said he estimated that the button design took around 10 hours to produce. (Hmm—I thought it would take longer!—CS)

The exceptional skills of Old Threshers button design artists insures that our Old Threshers buttons are created with a very high standard of design quality rarely present in similar event pin-backs. The hours the artists spend on the button project continues to be noticed and appreciated among the many Old Threshers visitors and button collectors. I think this is one of the reasons button collecting is so popular with Old Threshers attendees.

The 56 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 group's 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.

2021 Special Souvenir Button

Due to the continuing popularity of the giant four-inch buttons, Old Threshers has issued a limited quantity of the 2021 Souvenir buttons in that same format. This twelfth giant button makes an interesting supplemental button for the core collection. It also allows one to view the artwork in more detail. This giant button has limited availability from the Old Threshers Office Gift Shop while supplies last.

Official Supplements



The 10-hour Volunteer button for 2021 coordinates with the colors of the main Souvenir button. This button is given by Old Threshers to those individuals who have completed (or will complete) their 10-hour volunteer commitment to Old Threshers prior to the opening of the reunion. I don't get involved in the details of this program; but surely someone at the Old Threshers office can give you more information on how to apply for this volunteer program. Old Threshers is always looking for volunteers to help prepare for the reunion.

There was NO Exhibitor/Staff name-window button and ribbon for 2020. These are awarded to volunteers who work during the Reunion. Perhaps you can find a clever space filler for this item in your collection. I am making a placeholder sign for my collection that says, "2020 Exhibitor/Staff Button and Ribbon is permanently 'Out to Lunch!'"

Button Collectors' Update 2021 *continued from page 9*

Both the Volunteer Button and the E/S Button and Ribbon are earned for volunteer work at Old Threshers, and tend to remain in the collections of the individuals who earned them. Old Threshers has never sold either of 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 2020 and 2021 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
2021	1915 20 hp Reeves	Duane & Lana Wood Family, Wallace, Nebraska

MEMBERSHIP/SOUVENIR BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBVERSE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2020	56 mm	187C Red Black White	Silver	Silver L	–None	\$1.00
2021	56 mm	232C Pink Black White	Silver	Silver L	None	\$1.00

EARLY BIRD/VOLUNTEER BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBVERSE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2020	56 mm	187 C Red Black White	Silver	Silver L	None–	Market, not sold by OT
2021	56 mm	232C Pink 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
NO Exhibitor/Staff buttons or ribbons were produced in 2020.						
2021						

SANTA HOUSE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

sold out quickly this past year. And there will be a new drive-through section where families can remember their loved ones, honor their grandchildren, recognize those with current or past service in the armed forces and/or thank members of our community for their volunteerism.

We thank all of the businesses and families who have sponsored light displays throughout the years and donors who have so generously given to Santa's new house and workshop. It's not too late to contribute toward the completion of this project and be on Santa's Nice List! For more information, please contact members of the Steering Committee: Terry McWilliams, Rich Garrels, Alan and Melinda Huisenga. We look forward to seeing you during the 2021 holiday season.



The old Santa House, in foreground, will be replaced by a much larger building allowing visitors to come in from the weather to greet Santa during Festival of Lights.



PRINT SCHEDULE FOR THE 12-TON 1905 STEAM POWERED KELLY-SPRINGFIELD ROAD ROLLER

**PRINTERS' HALL
AT MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS
FRI. - SAT. - SUN.
SEPTEMBER 3, 4, & 5 AT 10AM**
FOR INFO OR TO PARTICIPATE CONTACT 641-919-7323

2021 REUNION WILL FEATURE SWEET 16 AND SWEET 17

Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Old Threshers Reunion, arrangements were made for last year's candidates to have a Miss Sweet 17 program. They will have their own ceremony and will have their own program.

There will be 21 ladies between both the Sweet 16 and Sweet 17 groups. Sweet Sixteen contestants are the official hostesses of the Reunion.

Each contestant volunteers in numerous positions around the Old Threshers grounds such as providing assistance to our guests, answering questions, and lending a helping hand to our many non-profit organizations' booths. Each of the contestants is judged on their volunteerism, a presentation along with an interview, knowledge of Old Threshers, and their overall hospitality. The Sweet Sixteen contestants can be seen at the Harvest Parade, at the Carousel, the Paul Anderson Building, The Foundation Room, helping with BINGO and strolling the grounds in the period dress for women of the late 1800s to early 1900s who lived in the Midwest and worked on their local farms.

Contestants must be at least 16, and no older, by Labor Day of the year they wish to participate. Anyone interested in the program should contact the Old Threshers office at 319-385-8937. Registration for 2022 is open.

2021 SWEET 16

Julie Campbell – Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Missy and Jason Campbell



Julie is active in playing volleyball and softball for her school. Julie is active in 4-H as an officer and will be an FFA officer next year. Julie shows cattle at the county fair. In her free time, she has helped the master gardener plant for the community.

In the past, Julie has been involved with helping on the ground train.

Julie would like to be the next Sweet 16 to better grow her ability of public speaking and be more active in the community. Participating in this event will help her have more of an understanding of what Old Threshers is about. Win or lose, she believes that this event will influence her character.

Mica Carter – Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Ki Krabill and Wade Carter



Mica participates in track and softball. Enjoying time with friends, family, and my dog is very fun. Mica has volunteered many years at the entrance gates and working on the ground train.

Being a part of the Sweet 16 program will be a wonderful experience and will be able to teach her new things.

Kalayna Durr – New London, Iowa

Parents: Tony and Ann Durr & Deana and Daniel Hester



Kalayna is involved in 4-H Teen Council, 4-H, student council and National Honor Society. Kalayna enjoys volunteering for local organizations such as American Cancer Society Relay For Life, Thrashers House of Terror, New London Holiday Stroll, and school functions.

Kalayna has attended Midwest Old Threshers from a young age and has had tractors on exhibit as well. Kalayna volunteers for Midwest Old Threshers by volunteering at the Thrashers House of Terror and Haunted Rails.

Kalayna believes it would be an honor to be the next Miss Sweet 16 as she has admired all the previous ones and has looked forward to the possibility of representing Henry County. Kalayna is most excited to meet new people, have fun and lend a helping hand!

Alexandra Farley – New London, Iowa

Parents: Carolyn Farley and Jason Farley



Alexandra is involved in cheerleading, fall play, musicals, band, student council, and volunteering at school. Besides her activities, Alexandra works at Sunrise Terrace Nursing and

Rehabilitation Center as an Activity Assistant. Alexandra enjoys cooking, baking, doing craft and DIY projects. Alexandra also competes on a competitive dance team.

Alexandra has participated in Old Threshers by performing in the New London Marching Band on noon on Friday before the cavalcade of power. She has also been in the Harvest Parade with her dance studio, Soul Expressions.

Alexandra wants to be the next Sweet 16 because she would love the opportunity to represent the community where she has grown up. Alexandra's older sister participated in the program in 2018 and watching her have a fun time volunteering inspired her to do the same.

Paige Hart – Clarence, Iowa

Parents: Jill and Andrew Hart



Paige is involved in volleyball, travel volleyball, track, golf, choir, chamber choir, FBLA, Student Council, Senior High Youth Group – St Johns UCC.

She also enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Paige and her family have a long history with Midwest Old Threshers. Paige's grandfather has been a gas engine exhibitor for most of his life. Paige's mom and sister were both in the Miss Sweet 16 program. Paige has spent time at the reunion every year and always finds something new or interesting.

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2021 SWEET 16 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

From the slow pace of the Log Village to the knee slapping songs in the saloon. She has loved all the memories made with her family.

Paige feels she would be a good ambassador for the Midwest Old Threshers. She wants to share what she loves about the reunion with other people. Since she was little, she has dreamt about putting on the beautiful dresses and helping at the various exhibits. She wants to be a part of the tradition and history that makes this event one of the greatest around.

Everlee Harvey – Argyle, Iowa

Parents: Leonard ad Tonya Harvey



Everlee is involved in softball, showing animals, FFA, swimming science fair/science club, FFA Officer, Lee County 4H Teen

Council, steam engines and tractors.

Everlee has been involved at Midwest Old Threshers in steam row, cavalcade of power, gas engines, steam carousel, ground train, trolley tickets, steam engine games, foundation booth, and steam school.

Everlee is confident that given the chance to be the next Miss Sweet 16, she would represent Midwest Old Threshers Reunion to the very core of its beginnings. Everlee came to her first reunion when she was 2 weeks old. Her first stop and home for each reunion after that has been steam engine row.

Through the years she and her family and have camped at the campgrounds where she has made lifelong friends.

During each Reunion she spends much of her time helping maintain and operate the 1913 20HP Avery and the 1886 12 HP Case owned by Jeff and Charlyce Ruth. When she is not on the steam engine, she is volunteering at the steam carousel, ground train, taking trolley tickets, working at the foundation booth, and driving the cavalcade of power. Everlee feels that with her experiences and personal knowledge of Midwest Old Threshers that she gotten throughout the years, she would be better able to represent the Miss Sweet 16 and Midwest Old Threshers.

Julia Kinzer – Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parent: Kate Kinzer



Julia enjoys playing musical instruments, taking care of her animals, doing puzzles, drawing/painting art projects, photography and singing.

Julia has worked at the St Al's food tent, helped a family friend with a steam engine, marched in the parade for MPCHS marching band, helped at the carousel and volunteered at Thrashers House of Terror.

Julia has attended Old Threshers for many years and always wanted to participate in the Miss Sweet 16. Now she is finally old enough!

Sydney McElhinney –Morning Sun, Iowa

Parents: Leah and Randy McElhinney



Sydney participates in band, choir school musicals, school plays, volleyball, basketball, soccer, 4-H, student council, 4-H teen council, and trap shooting. Besides all

the school activities she has a job as a waitress. Some of her interests included sewing, baking, painting, rollerblading and riding rollercoasters!

Sydney brings a gas engine to display since she was 7 years old. Each year she drives/rides a tractor in the Cavalcade of Power.

Sydney would like to be involved with the Miss Sweet 16 because she has looked up to the girls since she has been coming every year of her life. Sydney also likes to help others, so it will be a great opportunity to do so.

Tristian Shull – Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Matt and Shannon Shull



Tristian is active in playing volleyball and basketball along with running track. She enjoys reading and spending time with family.

In the past, Tristian has been involved with helping her friends work at the Methodist Church tent. Tristian has also volunteered at the carousel. She has always loved going square dancing with her friends. Tristian loves the concerts and the music shows at the Log Village.

Tristian would like to be the next Sweet 16 because it is a tradition in her family to volunteer for the program. Also, she wants to encourage the younger generation to volunteer for the program because it has such an amazing impact on our community.



2021 SWEET 17

Kylee Adams—Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
Parents: Dave and Marci Adams



Kylee is active in show choir and marching band. Kylee enjoys music, plant care, art, interior design, and photography. Kylee also works with

children at the Kids Adventure Club at the United Methodist Church.

Kylee has been active at Midwest Old Threshers working at the First United Methodist Church tent.

Kylee would like to be a part of the Miss Sweet 17 so she can be a good role model for children, but most importantly she would like the opportunity to serve the community.

Amanda Allen—Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
Parents: Terri Bain



Amanda is active in music, animals and historic fashion. Amanda has been active at Midwest Old Threshers working on the ground train working at the ticket gates and helping sell t-shirts.

Amanda would like to be a part of the Miss Sweet 17 because it has been a part of her life for as long as she can remember. Amanda would like to be even more involved.

Abby Blint – Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
Parents: Anthony and Angie Blint



Abby is active in many sports. Abby also helps teach Sunday school class for K-5 kids. Abby enjoys helping people and interacting with kids. She loves to spend time outside

with her family, be at the lake or you can find her running.

Abby has been active at Midwest Old Threshers by volunteering at the First United Methodist Church tent. At the

tent she has served food, cleaned the tables, and greeted people.

Abby would like to be a part of the Miss Sweet 17 because it would be fun to be volunteering more. Along with volunteering she thinks it would be an awesome experience interacting with guests and encourage others to be a part of the Miss Sweet 17 experience.

Lysha Bunnell—Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
Parents: Rick and Cara Bunnell

Lysha is active in youth group, volunteering at church, trap shooting, 4-H teen council, high school band, spending time outdoors, fishing, camping, hunting, spending time with family, baking, cooking, and babysitting.

Lysha has been active at Midwest Old Threshers by participating in the Harvest Parade either on a float or marching in the band. Lysha has helped her grandfather in the horse barns, cleaned and swept the museums. Recently she has been performing in the marching band at opening and closing ceremonies. Throughout her life in Mt Pleasant, she has enjoyed her time visiting the vendors and taking in the sights of Old Threshers.

Lysha would like to be a part of the Miss Sweet 17 because as a child she remembered feeling special walking around Old Threshers being greeted by the girls in period dresses. Lysha wanted to participate in Miss Sweet 17 to welcome guests and share the joy of the Old Thresher experiences that I remember feeling when I was young.

Madison Craig – Solon, Iowa
Parents:

Beth Barton-Craig and Raymond Craig



Madison is active in cheerleading, golf, color guard, choir, musicals, student council, archery, Solon senior support, Octagon club, Future

Business Leaders of America and Best Buddies Club. Madison is an active 4H member, and on the Johnson County 4-H youth council, 2020-2021 State 4H council, 2020-2021 State Poultry Ambassador, 2020 National 4H Congress and serves as the Johnson County Junior poultry Project leader. Along with all these activities, Madison is active in her community by volunteering, life guarding and playing softball.

Madison has been active at Midwest Old Threshers by volunteering at the information booths, entry gates, souvenir booths and the foundation room. Madison has attended/participated in the following activities: Don Carlson Memorial Horse Pull, Cavalcade of Power riding on her Great Grandpa's threshing machine, Midwest haunted Rails, and Festival of lights

Madison would like to be a part of the Miss Sweet 17 because she loves to volunteer and give back to her community. Midwest Old Threshers is a perfect opportunity to give back to an event that means so much! Madison looks forward to meeting new people, sharing her enthusiasm about Old Threshers with others and volunteering to help preserve the Old Threshers Reunion.



2021 SWEET 17 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Allison Elmore—Mt. Pleasant, Iowa Parents: Kevin and Cheryl Elmore



Allison is active in show choir and color guard. Allison loves to be at the river camping and going on their boat. Allison is a great help with anything people need and is always making time for her friends too.

Allison has been active at Midwest Old Threshers as a visitor each year and she hopes this experience will give her an opportunity to be more involved.

Allison would like to be a part of the Miss Sweet 17 because it would put her out of her comfort zone, and she will be able to talk to lots of people and volunteer more. Allison will learn a lot and be able to share this experience with others.

Gisele Fajardo Peña—Mt. Pleasant, Iowa Parents: Esther Fajardo Peña



Gisele is active in the band playing clarinet and cymbals. Gisele also runs in cross country. This will be Gisele's first experience at Midwest Old Threshers.

Gisele would like to be a part of the Miss Sweet 17 because she wants to be an example and be someone that upcoming girls would look up to.

Ava Fischer—Altoona, Iowa Parents: David Fischer and Susie Fischer

Ava is active in church group, robotics, computer programming, and tumbling.



Ava has been active at Midwest Old Threshers by camping, button collector forum attendee, stitching bee attendee and the spelling bee winner.

Ava would like to be a part of the Miss Sweet 17 because she wants to give back to the Reunion she has enjoyed for so

long by being a smiling, helpful representative of it.

Emma Harvey—Argyle, Iowa Parents: Leonard and Tonya Harvey

Emma is active in FFA, 4H, and helping at church socials. Emma enjoys reading, drawing, swimming, golfing, softball

soccer, spending time with families and friends and just being herself. Emma has been active at Midwest Old Threshers since she was 1 year old. Emma grew up in steam land. She helped by gathering wood to cleaning the engine along with painting of the engine. Emma rides in the Cavalcade daily on a steam engine. Emma also volunteers her time at the carousel since she was 8 years old helping Mary Elgar.

Emma would like to be a part of the Miss Sweet 17 because has dreamed of being a Sweet 17 for as long as she can remember. Watching the Sweet 17 help all the visitors in their pretty dresses inspired me to start training to be Sweet 17 as a young girl. I've learned so much over the years from helping in Steam Row to volunteering on the carousel and just simply roaming the grounds. I have learned we are just one large family who loves the show.

Kaitlyn Lee—New London, Iowa Parents: Denise and Jens Lee

Kaitlyn is active in 4-H, mentoring in the 2nd grade classroom, softball, basketball, track/field church group and

volunteering in the church nursery. Kaitlyn has been active at Midwest Old Threshers by performing in the New London marching band otherwise she has only been a spectator.

Kaitlyn would like to be a part of the Miss Sweet 17 because it would give her an opportunity to volunteer and to

spectate at a whole new side of Old Threshers.

Kenzey Logan—Danville, Iowa Parents: Jessica and Corey Timmerman

Kenzey is active in cross country, cheer, trap shooting, hunting, fishing and LEO Club.



Kenzey has been active at Midwest Old Threshers by working the ground train. Kenzey would like to be a part of the Miss Sweet 17 because loves to help others and bring joy to whomever she can. Her goal is to show others that you can whatever you set your mind to.

Kahlia Parrish—Mt. Pleasant, Iowa Parent: Onika Parrish

Kahlia enjoys volunteering at the Thrashers House of Terror, hanging out with friends and meeting new people, working, taking her dogs on walks, cleaning, and adventuring.



Kahlia has been active at Old Threshers by working at the Mt Union Candy store, marching in the band for the parade and the noon ceremonies and volunteering for the Thrashers House of Terror.

Kahlia would like to be the next Miss Sweet 16 because she wants to set a good example for her siblings and for her peers.

Reunion Souvenir Locations

Paul Anderson Welcome Center

Vera's Booth in Museum A

White Barn North of Grandstand

OBITUARIES

Anna Lou Walker

Anna Lou Walker, age 88, of Macon, MO, passed away peacefully at her home on August 31, 2020.

Anna Lou was born on October 19, 1931 in Macon, the daughter of Charles and Berniece (Davis) Hartung. She was united in marriage to Dale Walker on January 30, 1949 in Macon. Anna Lou was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star for over 50 years, and the Macon County Flywheel and Collectible Club. Anna Lou and her husband enjoyed many gas engine shows together. Anna continued to show gas engines after her husband passed away. She worked, and was well known, as a baker with IGA, later Prenger Foods, and designing cakes for special occasions. Anna Lou was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan, enjoyed playing Bingo, cooking for her family, canning foods, and loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Anna Lou was upbeat and energetic and she was loved deeply by her family and friends. She will be greatly missed.

Anna Lou is survived by her two children, David Walker and his wife Janet of Macon, and Debbie Wiggans and her husband Greg of Macon; three grandchildren, Marra Pirtle and her husband Jason of Hudson, OH, Molly Smith and her husband Joseph of Kansas City, MO, and Amanda Turnbull and her husband Brad of Macon; seven great-grandchildren, Gianna Pirtle, Lucca Pirtle, Nora Pirtle, Avery Smith, Ethan Smith, Truman Turnbull, and Adeline Turnbull; and several nieces, nephews, cousins,

special friends, and neighbors.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Dale, on September 3, 2010; and her three brothers.

Bob Porter

Charles Robert (Bob) Porter passed away at home surrounded by his family on June 26, 2021.

Bob was born in Brighton, Iowa on July 5, 1929. After graduating high school, Bob served his country in the National Guard. Afterwards, he owned/operated a Ford Tractor dealership and later managed the airport in Ottumwa, Iowa.

Bob moved his family to Zephyrhills, FL in 1965 where he opened the first FBO and the original parachuting center out at the Zephyrhills Airport. Bob had numerous passions that he pursued in his almost 92 years of life. They included flying his beloved planes and helicopters, being a train engineer at Midwest Old Settlers & Threshers Reunion in Iowa, touring the country in his numerous Ford Model Ts and even built/captained a dinner boat in South Florida.

Bob was a member of numerous groups, including the Zephyrhills Historical Association, the Fun T Club of Central Florida and was an honorary lifetime member of the Midwest Central Railroad.

He is preceded in death by his parents Verle and Margaret Porter, wife Penny Porter, two son-in-laws (Tom Watson and Ferman Geiger Sr.), granddaughter Wendy Geiger Servies, and grandson Eric

Chaponniere. He is survived by his three daughters (Nancy Wells, Sandra Geiger, Carolyn Morris) and son (Richard Porter). Also surviving are his 8 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and 9 great, great grandchildren.

Bob will be greatly missed by his family and numerous friends.

The family is asking that donations be made to Zephyrhills Historical Association.

Vera Weyer

Vera Mae Weyer, 97, of Sperry, died July 19, 2021.

Vera Mae was born on July 13, 1924 on the Pilling Family Farm.

Vera Mae was a homemaker with her husband and three children. She took part in their activities at church, school and Scouts. After their marriage at the Little Brown Church on December 6, 1941 they lived in 11 different states, from Utah to Delaware before returning to Iowa. They traveled in 44 different states.

Upon retirement in 1977 they returned to Iowa. Vera and John enjoyed volunteering at Midwest Old Threshers all year long and especially enjoyed the Reunion.

Vera was known for her beautiful hats and her favorite color purple. She was an accomplished seamstress, sewing everything from suits to quilts.

Vera is survived by daughter Judy Weyer, son John C. (Marian) Weyer and daughter in law Carolyn Weyer, all of Sperry. Grandchildren John W. (Teresa), John J. (Sara), George (Beth), Charles (Dawn) and Elizabeth (Jonathan) Weyer Davis. Great-grandchildren Nathan, Gabriel, John T., Amaya, Elijah, Luna, Selena, Theodore and Henry. Nieces and nephews.

Vera was proceeded in death by her husband John W. (Johnny), parents C.E. and Lottie Pilling, brother Ray, and son Stephen.

Memorials can be made to Midwest Old Threshers Foundation at 405 Threshers Road, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641.



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 1 pm on Thursday and throughout the Reunion.

Thurs-Sun: 1-5pm | Mon 9am-1pm

Check the official Old Threshers programs for details.

All proceeds from BINGO are invested in the Foundation's endowment.

\$500 blackout jackpots at 5pm on Sun & Sat!

50 YEARS OF OPERATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

curvy, however this is identical to an 1899 interurban countryside route, perfect!

The last passenger car is the Milan, Italy, Car 1945. Built in 1927, it was produced with US blueprints, and it is constructed with mostly US parts. It is very similar to many streetcars that operated in the USA. It was acquired from Italy, via GOMACO Trolley Co., in Ida Grove, Iowa.

We have some very odd railway work equipment, these are cars #3279, a 1910 scratch-built box motor used in the city of Boston to make repairs. The other car is a specially built flat motor, car 1100, used on the Keokuk (IA) Mississippi Dam.

Over the years the MER ran 3 modern streamlined streetcars



however they did not work well, being stored in a barn in Iowa! We owned an electric snow street sweeper. We never ran it for fear of breaking a tremendous amount of camper windows!

The MER is a very proud bunch of volunteers and if you enjoy railroading, especially traction railways, please come and ride. Better yet, volunteer!



2021 Calendar of Events

- Midwest Old Threshers Reunion—Sept 2-6
- Printers' Fair—Sept 16-18
- Bussey Doll Event—September 18
- Thrashers House of Terror—Oct 7-9, 14-16, 21-23
- Midwest Haunted Rails— Oct 15-16, 22-23, 29-30
- Midwest Old Threshers Association Annual Meeting—November 13
- Old Threshers Foundation Annual Meeting—November 13
- Festival of Lights— Fun Run & Walk Nov 20 & 21:
Drive-thru Nov 24-28, Dec 1-31
- North Pole Express—Dec 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19

Don Carlson Memorial Horse Pull

**Wednesday, Sept. 1st
Grandstand 7pm**

Admission included with 5-day wristband or \$5 at the gate that night after 6pm.



2021

MIDWEST & GREAT NORTHERN **PRINTER'S FAIR!**



MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS

SEPT. 16-18

MT. PLEASANT, IOWA

Original poster 25" x 31". By John Horn of Shooting Star Press.

Old Threshers Reunion

Sept. 2-6, 2021 * Mount Pleasant, Iowa

Old Threshers Reunion

Sept. 1-5, 2022 * Mount Pleasant, Iowa

PET POLICY REUNION SHOW GROUNDS ADA SERVICE ONLY



To Read Full Policy Visit oldthreshers.org/pet-policy