

Threshers Chaff

Midwest Old Threshers Association
Mount Pleasant, Iowa

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Summer 2023

OT PREPARES TO WELCOME VISITORS FROM ALL OVER

The tractors and steam engines are lined up, the tents are going up, the campground is filling up. It's almost time for the 2023 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion.

A quick look at the data from past Reunions shows that people from all 50 states have made their way to southeast Iowa for the five-day show.

It's been said many times before that the Old Threshers Reunion is more than a gathering of tractors, steam engines, hit and miss engines and draft horses. It is an opportunity for friends and families to take time off from their daily routines and reunite with people they only see one time a year.

The grounds may be divided into different areas of interest, but those who make the show happen all work together to give the visitor the best experience possible.

The countdown continues to the start of the 2023 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion. Grab your family and come spend some time with us and Share in the Smiles!



The Paul Anderson Welcome Center, just inside the main walk-in gate off Walnut Street, offers daily programs, souvenirs and friendly faces to help answer questions from Reunion visitors.

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GILCHRISTS READY TO LEAD HARVEST PARADE

Longtime OT volunteers Bob and Penny Gilchrist will lead the 2023 Harvest Parade through Mt. Pleasant on Wednesday, August 30th. The Gilchrist name is familiar to anyone who has spent any time at the Traction Steam Headquarters building as the Marion couple had the honors of cutting the ribbon at its dedication in 2014.

Bob was an OT board member for several years and was director over the Traction Steam Area.

Bob and Penny both feel honored by being asked to head the parade and are humbled by knowing all of those who went before them.

"We are following in the footsteps some very important people," acknowledges the couple. "We are honored to be among them."

Bob started attending the Reunion in the 1950s with his dad. The Gilchrist family started camping at OT in the late 1970s. Bob was a board member for 18 years.



Penny and Bob Gilchrist get ready to cut the ribbon at the 2014 dedication of the Traction Steam HQ building.



“Share in the SMILES”

Dear Friends of Old Threshers,

This spring Midwest Old Threshers mailed out over 182,000 pieces of mail to 11 counties in Iowa, and across the US. The Midwest Old Threshers Review and Area Guide is filled each year with loads of information on the upcoming Reunion, entertainment, featured items at the show and much more fun things to do in and around Mount Pleasant and Henry County for the year.

The OT Review & Area Guide this year was entitled “Share in the Smiles,” and was covered with 28 photos of bright, shining faces smiling from ear to ear while enjoying the Reunion. The definition of Smile: form one's features into a pleased, kind, or amused expression, typically with the corners of the mouth turned up and the front teeth exposed. I wonder what the story would be behind each of those SMILES. Let me try to guess a few:

I finally got my own steam engine.....

I'm not sharing my kettle corn.....

We are the color guard of the official band of Old Threshers....

Sweet 16 creates memories and long lasting friendships....

I'm the happiest wearing my orange and driving my orange tractor....

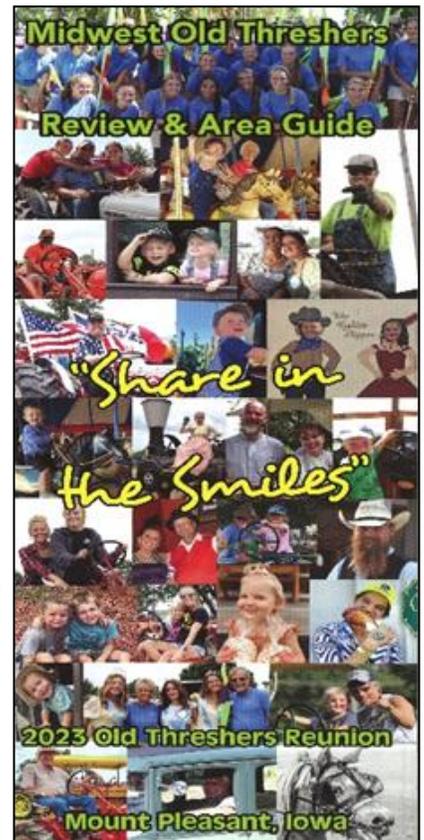
Oh no, here comes the gun slingers to rob the train again....

My wish came true, to drive a tractor again.....

These smiles tell amazing stories!!!!

The smiles on their faces can tell so many stories and create everlasting memories for all. I really hope that each year at the Reunion, you and your family have the opportunity to share in the smiles on a daily basis. Please take the time to create those smiles and capture them with a picture. The old saying “A picture is worth a thousand words,” is so true when asking the little ones about the tractor ride, the train ride, the carousel ride or even that first turkey leg.

This year at the Reunion we have created two photo stands for you to start your picture taking smile shots throughout the Reunion. So go and find one of the two large yellow “Share in the Smiles” stands, take the picture, and then share it with Old Threshers with the QR code provided, post it on Facebook, or email us the picture. Then, I challenge you, don't stop taking pictures of the smiles. Those smiles will tell stories a year from now, five years from now and for generations to come.



I hope to see you all enjoying the Reunion every day by the smiles on your faces as you travel the grounds. See you all at the Reunion Aug. 31 to Sept.4, 2023.

Tony McWill

GRANDPA'S BARN GETS DRESSED UP

A few years ago when Troy Warth fell and broke his ankle, he thought he was out of commission as far as volunteering. Campground coordinators Chris and Sheila Bell had other ideas. They suggested he work on the barn quilts on Grandpa's Barn.

It just so happened that the Henry County Fair was making barn quilts for the buildings in McMillan Park and the Bells felt that the Campground's quilts needed some help.

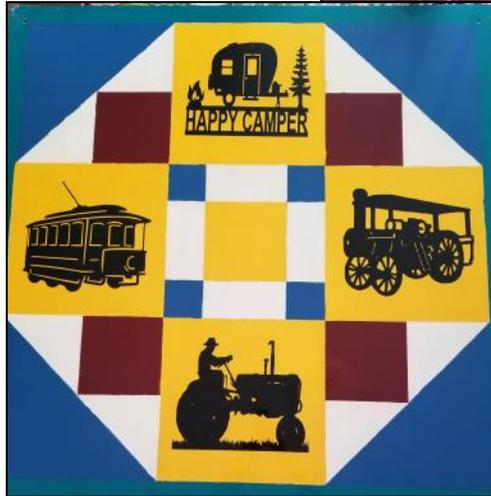
A barn quilt is a large piece of wood painted to look like a quilt block and hung on the exterior of a barn or other building.

The majority of barn quilts are made of solid colors and feature simple geometric shapes such as squares, rectangles and triangles.

Troy's wife, Michelle, took over the quilt on the east side. The new design has yellow, maroon, and blue squares on a blue and white background with a camper, steam engine, tractor and trolley in each yellow square.

Troy is doing the quilt for the west side. At the time this issue of the Chaff was published, the quilt was not yet hanging. Be sure to take a trip to the north end of the Campground during the Reunion and see how it looks!

Michelle is the 3rd generation of Campground volunteers in her family. When she met Troy, she made sure he understood where she was going to be five days ending Labor Day. "I told him I will be gone for a



week. It was a make it or break it situation." Not only was he okay with it, he started volunteering as did his parents. The Midwest Old Threshers Reunion is indeed a family affair for the Warths.

DURR NAMED IOWA STATE FAIR QUEEN

Congratulations to Midwest Old Threshers Miss Sweet 16 2021, Kalayna Durr as she was crowned the Iowa State Fair Queen 2023. We knew she was a good representative for Midwest Old Threshers and now she'll get to represent the state of Iowa.



MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS
★ SUMMER ★
★ THEATRE ★

"JITTERING SPOOKS"
 BY NEIL & CAROLINE SHAFFNER

AUGUST 31,
SEPTEMBER 1, 2 & 3

SHOW STARTS AT 5:30 PM AT THE THEATRE MUSEUM

COME BACK THIS FALL FOR TWO
PERFORMANCES ON OCTOBER 20 & 21 7:30 PM

TICKETS \$10.00 • KIDS 11 & UNDER \$5.00

A SYMBOL OF A FATHER’S LOVE FOR HIS DAUGHTER



2023 Featured Tractor
 1938 Allis Chalmers WC
 Owned by: Dolores Poulter Wilson of Mt. Pleasant

When Delores Poulter (DP) Wilson tells the story of her father acquiring a 1938 Allis Chalmers tractor for the price of three pigs and a rifle, one can see her heart blossom. Back in 1956, in order for her father, Lester, to begin farming the Graf Family Farm, he had to buy a tractor. The problem was, he had no money to buy the thing he needed to work the ground that had been in the family since 1865. Lester wasn’t going to let that stop him. He found a farmer who was in the business of buying and restoring tractors. That farmer agreed to trade the tractor for some of his hogs and his daughter’s rifle. Lester knew what that rifle meant to D.P. and said absolutely not. D.P. ahead of her years, knew how important this tractor was and realized the rifle would not do the farmwork. She told her dad that the love he showed her that day protecting her \$8 rifle was so great she’d remember it when she was 100. At 82-years-old, the retired Iowa Wesleyan professor is excited to share her story and love for our agricultural heritage with visitors to the 2023 OT Reunion. D.P. wants to thank Rob Swigart and Merlin Boshart for helping restore the tractor over the past winter.

CHEVY IN THE SPOTLIGHT AFTER A FEW FALSE STARTS

As a five-year-old, Dean Soenksen remembers his dad driving their 1955 Chevrolet 3100 truck around the farm. He would use it to haul sheep, dirt and any other appropriate chore. In the late 60s, his parents bought a new truck and by 1973, the 6100 was put into storage.

During a blizzard, almost 40 years later, Dean had an epiphany. He needed a winter vehicle. It was time to restore the family truck. He started by working on the brakes. The project soon fell to the back burner. He eventually sold the truck to someone near Grand Mound, Iowa. Several years later, while traveling to his mother’s house, Dean saw the truck sitting out for sale. He bought it back and started working on the restoration once again. This time he started with the doors. Dean remembers hearing his father tell the story of rounding the corner and the passenger side door popping open. His dad quickly reached over and saved Dean’s mom from falling out. Soon after working on the doors, restoration stalled. Dean eventually reached out to a local body shop. With their help, the restoration was on again. During the sanding process, three shades of blue were uncovered. The vintage truck now sports its original shade of blue along with the standard brown and cream interior. Dean’s truck has a large rear window, which is



2023 Featured Antique Truck
 1955 Chevrolet 3100 Truck
 Owned by: Dean Soenksen of Cedar Rapids

rare for that model. Topping out at 52mph, the ’55 Chevy will be on display at Old Threshers for the second year at the 2023 Reunion.



THE GROUNDS ARE BLOOMING

It must be time for the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion! The manure spreader is out and has never looked better! Board member Rich Seberg and his wife, Jeanie, are responsible for the beautiful flowers throughout the grounds. The fantastic display of color pictured at left greets visitors as they enter the grounds through the main walk-in gate by the Paul Anderson Welcome Center. As you walk around the grounds be sure to look up and take in the beautiful hanging baskets on the lamp posts. Venture into the North Village where the color continues.

PUTTOFF FAMILY READY TO SHARE REUNION WITH NEWEST MEMBER OF THE FAMILY

Jacob Puttoff will be attending his 22nd Old Threshers Reunion in 2023. This year he and his wife, Lauren, have the honor of exhibiting the featured garden tractor.

The 1965 Allis Chalmers B-12 was purchased by his dad in St. Louis more than 10 years ago. The tractor sat in the shop for a few years before a family friend helped restore it. Jacob’s dad had always wanted to exhibit the tractor at OT. He reached his goal just prior to his passing in 2020.

“Dad always wanted to exhibit the tractor at OT. It’s ironic that he’s not around to do it this year,” Jacob says of being chosen as the feature.

During the Reunion, one can find Jacob in Tractorland helping with the Cavalcade of Power, Tractor Pulls (he’s the one putting cement blocks on the sled) and demonstrating the corn sheller.

Jacob and Lauren will be at Old Threshers with their son and a newborn, expected in July. Jacob is excited for this year as it is the first year his son will be old enough to appreciate what we all have come to know and love – the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion.



2023 Featured Garden Tractor
1965 Allis Chalmers B-12
Owned by: Jacob & Lauren Putthoff of Peculiar, MO

HEDGEPEETH LOOKS TO INSPIRE OTHER YOUNG WOMEN



2023 Featured Antique Car
1969 Plymouth Barracuda
Owned by: Sydney Hedgepeth of Minnetonka, MN

Sydney Hedgepeth’s love for old cars started after she participated in the Old Threshers Sweet 16 program. The 2016 first runner-up rode through the Cavalcade of Power each day in a vintage car. After that experience, her eye for collector cars sharpened.

Those eyes filled with the vision of a family friend’s Plymouth Barracuda whose mom bought the car new in 1967. Sydney’s dad offered to buy the car of her dreams as a college graduation gift. With just over 50,000 miles, a couple of tune-ups and oil changes and it was ready for its first Reunion.

Sydney has shown her car at smaller car shows around the Des Moines area and has been to Old Threshers twice. As a young woman in a male-dominated hobby, Sydney hopes to inspire other young women to follow their dreams.

Be sure to make a trip to the Antique Car Building where the ‘69 Plymouth will be in the spotlight on the turntable.

VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGES GETTING READY FOR REUNION



It’s all hands on deck for the Lutz family of Mediapolis, Iowa. Members were spread across the grounds on a recent weekend helping where they could. Seven-year-old Karalyn, right, and her sister, 11-year-old Addalyn painted fence in Museum A while others assembled picnic benches nearby. On the other side of the grounds, Marc and his dad, Ben, replaced deteriorating benches on the bleachers in front of the Grandstand. Without the time and talents given by hundreds of volunteers, the Old Threshers Reunion would not be what it is today!



FEATURE GAS ENGINE TURNED UPSIDE DOWN FOR 2023

By Barry Tuller
Stevensville, Michigan

The feature gas engines for Midwest Old Threshers for 2023 are Inverted engines. What is an inverted engine you might ask? The dictionary defines an inverted engine as “an engine whose crankshaft is above the cylinder.” It also could be described as an engine that sits on its head. An inverted engine is an upside-down version of the common vertical engine style seen at shows.

When internal combustion engines were first invented, many of the early builders used the inverted design. The four-stroke engine by Nicolaus Otto came in 1876, and its principles were soon applied to engines with an inverted configuration. Otto engines by Crossley Bros. of England and Gasmotoren-Fabrik Deutz of Germany, among others, were offered in inverted designs into the late 1890s.

By 1900 the more conventional vertical engine with the crankshaft below the cylinder had prevailed as the choice of most manufacturers. Still a few held on to the inverted configuration. Companies that made inverted engines after 1900 included Webster Mfg. Co. and Temple Pump Co. of Chicago, Gemmer Engine Co. of Marion, Indiana, and Racine Gas Engine Co. and Pierce Engine Co. of Racine, Wisconsin. Hart-Parr of Madison, Wisconsin made unique inverted engines when the company began in 1897 and continued offering them for a few years after relocating to Charles City, Iowa. One of the last to offer an inverted engine was the Elgin Gas Motor Co.



2023 Featured Antique Gas Engine
7-15 HP Master Workman
Owned by: Paul Gorrell of Burlington

of Elgin, Illinois, introducing their “Hafa-Hors” engine about 1919.

It is unusual to see inverted engines at shows, as they were made in relatively small quantities as compared to the more popular horizontal and vertical engines. This rarity makes inverted engines highly coveted by collectors today, a prized piece in any collection.

Old Threshers has been fortunate to have had an inverted engine shown nearly every year since the middle 1960s. This engine is a 15 HP Master Workman two-cylinder engine made by Temple Pump Co. The owner is our featured gas engine exhibitor for 2023, Paul Gorrell of Burlington, Iowa.

Paul originally found the engine based on a tip he got from Bill Sater, then president of Old Threshers. The tip led him to a barn outside Colusa, Illinois where the Master Workman was discovered still set up to power a lineshaft. A deal was struck for the engine, and it has been a mainstay in Paul’s collection ever since. A photo and write up about Paul and the Master Workman engine appeared in the very first issue of the *Gas Engine Magazine* in the January-February 1966 issue.

Paul and his family have been faithful exhibitors, along with the Temple Pump Master Workman engine, at nearly all Old Threshers shows ever since. Fifty plus years! In the early years the Master Workman was even a regular in the Cavalcade of Power, as the engine powered a wheeled chassis thru the parade. Through the years, the engine has entertained Reunion goers, as Paul’s children could make the engine start with just the wave of a rag. It is quite an engine - be sure to visit the Gas Engine Area and see it run.

The 2023 feature engine of Inverted engines is sure to bring out some unique engines to see. You’ll not want to miss seeing the unique feature of engines turned upside down!

THRASHERS

house of terror

Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Admission:
General \$15
Fast Pass \$25

14 and Under Must Be
Accompanied by an Adult

October 5-7, 12-14, 19-21, 26-28

Thursdays 6:30 to 10 PM
Fridays & Saturdays 6 to Midnight
Closed Halloween

\$15

Per Person!
Ages 4 and
under FREE!

MIDWEST
HAUNTED RAILS

MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

Ghost Train of No Return &
The Ghostly Trolley

October 13-14, 20-21, 27-28

Fridays 6 to 10 PM
Saturdays 6 to 10:30 PM

Last Ticket Sold 30 Mins before Closing

Button Collectors' Update 2023

Carolyn Sidebottom
Plymouth, Minnesota

2023 Button Collector's Forum

Hopefully, we will be able to meet again for the 21st Annual Button Collectors' forum in Colfax School on Sunday morning September 3, 2023. 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.

2023 Souvenir Button Design

Scott Wiley is the proud owner of this 1902 14 hp Robinson engine. He acquired it from a friend at a Hamilton, Missouri steam show where the engine was being displayed. The Robinson engine was manufactured in Richmond, Indiana and incorporates a unique clutch design intended to avoid infringing on other people's patents. Another interesting feature of the Robinson is the location of the flywheel. Locating the flywheel on the left side of the boiler makes belting up challenging. Scott refers to his engine as being "lefthanded."



2023 Featured Traction Steam Engine

1902 14HP Robinson
Owned by: Scott Wiley of Marion

Scott was three when he first saw the Robinson engine. At that time, the engine was needing some work in order to bring it back to "show quality." After Scott acquired the engine years later, he started a massive restoration, working evenings and weekends.

I asked Scott what needed to be done to bring the engine up to

working status. I listened intently and decided it sounded to me like he was very busy for several years! This year, we get to see the results of all of that effort!

2023 Button Design Artist

Steven Paul Mendenhall, a native of Mount Pleasant, is the artistic designer of the 2023 button. Steve has been involved in many Old Threshers areas and programs since 1985. He is the long-time digital layout designer of the Old Threshers button. This is Steve's third year as the major designer of the Old Threshers button, designing both the engine portrait and the button layout. He has been a member of the Old Threshers button design team since 1987.



Is Steve's work signed this year? Yes, I think so, but you might need a magnifying glass, or maybe the giant Souvenir button to find it!—CS

After the engine portrait was finalized, Steve took the reduced portrait and digitally fit the identification information around the engine. Everything fits 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 a button design takes around 10 hours to produce. *(Hmm—I thought it would take longer!—CS)*

The exceptional skills of Old Threshers button design artists ensures 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 projects continue 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.

2023 Button Construction

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.

UPDATE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

No varieties of the 2023 button have been reported, and as of late May 2023, no varieties of this year's button have been discovered. Our collector's 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.

2023 Engine of the Year Special Souvenir Button

Due to the continuing popularity of the giant four-inch buttons, Old Threshers has issued a *limited quantity* of the 2023 Souvenir buttons in that same format. This fourteenth "giant button" makes an interesting supplemental button for the core collection. It also allows one to view the artwork in more detail. These giant buttons have limited availability from the Old Threshers souvenir stands and in the Gift Shop after the show while supplies last.

Official Supplements

The **10-hour Volunteer** button for 2023 coordinates with the colors of the main **Souvenir** button (green, black, and white)



The button measures 56 mm or about 2.2 inches in diameter. 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 these Old Threshers programs, but 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.

In late May, the **2023 Exhibitor/Staff** button was unavailable for examination. In past years, this oval name-window button has closely resembled the design of the **Volunteer 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 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 2023 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

	MODEL	OWNER
YEAR		
2023	1902 14 hp Robinson	Scott Wiley, Marion, Iowa

MEMBERSHIP/SOUVENIR BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBSERVE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2023	56 mm	2299C Green Black White	Silver	Silver L	None	\$1.00

EARLY BIRD/VOLUNTEER BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBSERVE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2023	56 mm	2299C Green Black White	Silver	Silver L	None	Market, Not Sold by OT

EXHIBITOR/STAFF BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBSERVE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2022	46 mm by 71 mm	012C Yellow Black White	Silver	Silver L	None	Market, Not Sold by OT
2023	Likely Will be 46 mm by 71 mm	Likely Will be 2299C Green Black White	Likely Will be Silver	Likely Will be Silver L	Likely Will be None	Market, Not Sold by OT

INTRODUCING THE 2023 SWEET 16 PARTICIPANTS

Megan Lee

New London

Parents: Jens and Denise Lee



Megan is involved with her 4-H youth group, basketball, track, volleyball, and softball for New London High School.

She also plays softball for a traveling team.

Megan has gone to Old Threshers every year with her family and friends for as long as she can remember. This past year she started volunteering at Vera's Souvenir Booth during the Reunion. She also volunteered a few shifts at Thrashers House of Terror this past October.

Megan would like to be a part of the Miss Sweet 16 program because she grew up seeing the girls walking around in their dresses. As she has gotten older, she learned more about the Sweet 16 program. After volunteering at Vera's and enjoying it, I felt doing the Sweet 16 program would be a great way to be a part of Old Threshers in a new way.

Makynna Carpenter

New London

Parents: Adam and Shanae Condrey



Makynna is involved with showing cattle, rodeo, and FFA. Makynna is looking forward to volunteering this year after attending the Reunion each

year since she was born.

Makynna wants to participate in the Sweet 16 program to boost her volunteering confidence and create new opportunities.

Ava English

Mt. Pleasant

Parents: JoKasta and Steven English



Ava is involved in the Mt. Pleasant FFA program as well as the varsity football manager. She throws the shot-put in track and field.

She loves helping her cousins on the farm and being at the Henry County Fair.

Ava has volunteered at the Drive a Tractor interactive display at Old Threshers and worked at the Pork Producers Tent for her FFA Class.

Ava is looking forward to being a participant in the Miss Sweet 16 Program and believes it is a great way for her to step out of her comfort zone. She wants to learn and teach why Old Threshers hosts the Reunion and what the significance of it is.

Kinzey Gale

East Peoria, Illinois

Parents: Jeff Gale



Kinzey is involved in FFA and livestock. She has attended the FFA state and National conventions. She is also on the FFA livestock

judging team. Kinzey enjoys camping and being around children.

Kinzey has been involved with Old Threshers at the Log Village where she helps with the mules.

Kinzey would like to be a part of the Miss Sweet 16 because she thinks it would be an awesome experience. She has always dreamed of being a Sweet 16 ever since she was little. Kinzey has been coming to Old Threshers since she was

very little. She would like to give the children the same experience that she had when she was younger. She would also like to give back to Old Threshers for giving her the best time. She hopes with this experience she can give back to the community and break out of her shell and comfort zone.

Charissa Wissmann

Milford, Nebraska

Parents: Loren and Gloria Wissmann



Charissa enjoys playing sports, traveling, and doing pretty much anything with her siblings. In the past year, she has enjoyed the opportunity to serve families

as a nanny and babysitter.

Charissa's family has been singing on the grounds since before she was born, so performing has been the main part of her Old Threshers experience.

Charissa has always admired the role of Miss Sweet 16 and considered it to be an incredible platform to represent the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion and the Old Threshers Foundation. It would be a great honor to serve in this capacity.

Taylor Moore

Washington

Parents: Todd and Jennifer Moore



Taylor is active in track and field, Washington County 4-H Horse and Pony Club, Washington County FFA, riding and driving horses, and showing at the

Washington County Fair. Taylor enjoys ice fishing and traveling.

Taylor has been involved in helping

SWEET 16 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

set up in the horse barns and infield along with tearing down at the end of the week. She also helps care for the horses and cleans up after them. Taylor helps in the infield by helping with the hay stacker exhibit, and crowd management during the horse demonstrations. She also helps with the threshing machine by forking the wheat bundles onto the threshing machine platform. Taylor and her team of horses take part in the Cavalcade of Power. In winter, she helps with the horse-drawn wagons during the Festival of Lights.

Ever since Taylor was a little girl, she has always wished to be a part of the Miss Sweet 16, being Miss Sweet 16 would be an amazing opportunity to extend her volunteer work at Midwest Old Threshers. She loves to help people and set a good example. Taylor hopes she can inspire younger generations to volunteer, give back to the community, and maybe inspire other girls to become Miss Sweet 16 candidates. She believes it is an amazing opportunity to help show others the way of hour past.

Emma Lamp

Letts, Iowa

Parents: Russell and Heather Lamp



Emma is involved in many activities throughout her high school. These activities include band, marching band, color guard, winter guard, basketball, golf, FFA, and has been

on the student council. One of her main interests is agriculture. After high school she plans to go to college to continue her education in agriculture.

Emma has been coming to Midwest Old Threshers ever since she was born. Her family owns a 20hp Gaar Scott steam engine they operate yearly during the show. She has volunteered at the carousel as well as helping each year with organizing and setting up the Steam

Engine Games. One can also find Emma helping haul many steam engines in for the show and take them back home.

Ever since Emma was little, she has always seen the girls in the pretty dresses walking around, doing different activities, and helping Old Threshers. When going to the show, she would always look up to them and has always wanted to compete ever since. She wants to be one of the people the children can look up to carry on the tradition and be a part of the show.

Alexa Fuller

Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Nick and Jessica Fuller
Andrea and Bruce Hudson



Alexa has participated in the Mt Pleasant band, color guard and basketball. She has volunteered for many years at the Fellowship Cup, MPCHS

music activities, Daddy Daughter Dance, and the North Pole Express for the Midwest Central Railroad. Alexa also enjoys reading.

Alexa's family has gone to Old Threshers since she was a young child. Alexa has been involved in the Harvest Parade and the Cavalcade of Power. She has also performed with the Mount Pleasant Marching band in front of the Grandstand on Thursdays and Mondays during the Reunion.

Alexa has looked up to the Sweet 16 girls since childhood. She is excited to have the opportunity to participate finally. She enjoys talking with new people and hopes to help make their Old Threshers memorable through her hours of volunteering on the grounds.

Morgan Bolkema

Bussey, Iowa

Parents: Jodie and Scott Van Essen



Morgan has been involved in FFA where she currently serves as treasurer. She also participates in football, cheerleading, track, dance, and drama club. Her hobbies

include volunteering at the Marion County Humane Society and community fundraisers, fishing, camping and horseback riding, showing livestock and thrift shopping. Her interests include animals, children, and anything outdoors.

Morgan has been enjoying Old Threshers since birth. At a very young age, she rode on her Grandpa Harris' tractor in the parades with her dad. The last two years she has volunteered in Tractor Headquarters. Every year she likes to attend concerts and dance in the dance barn.

Volunteering is a big part of who Morgan is and she understands that volunteering is a big part of Old Threshers. She loves meeting new people and directing people to where they would like to go. She remembers when she was younger looking up to the Miss Sweet 16 candidates and she looked forward to being that role model for younger generations. She would also enjoy all the events that a Sweet 16 does throughout the year

Kaylee Knerr

Brighton, Iowa

Parents: Stephanie Ineichen
Michael Knerr



Kaylee has many interests, including band/music, football, wrestling, arts and entertainment,

SWEET 16 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

reading, and scrapbooking. Kaylee is also a cheerleader at WACO High School.

Kaylee has been to Old Threshers as a guest but not a volunteer yet. She comes to enjoy the museums, food, concerts, and time with other people.

Kaylee is trying to become more involved in her community and is looking to be more engaged with the events instead of just going and watching.

Elizabeth Braulick

San Antonio, Texas

Parents: Todd and Jennifer Braulick



Elizabeth is involved in varsity basketball, school ambassador, volunteers for Children's Association for Maximum

Potential (Camp C.A.M.P.) a camp serving individuals with disabilities, co-founder of my "friends of camp C.A.M.P." Antonian High School Chapter, Apache Minds Mental Health Awareness Club and MU Alpha Theta Math Honors Society.

Since Elizabeth lives in Texas, she hasn't had the opportunity to travel to Old Threshers every year to volunteer. As a child though, she visited the Reunion with her family and remembers seeing the Sweet 16 girls and hoped that one day she would be able to volunteer at Old Threshers in that way when she was 16!

Elizabeth has grown up with an appreciation of her own family's heritage and farming roots. If she was to be chosen as Miss Sweet 16, it would be an honor and privilege to represent an organization that celebrates all farming families.

Cheyenne VanDyne

Nichols, Iowa

Parents: Toni Klikno



Cheyenne has been involved in 4-H for the past 6 years where she shows livestock and is currently the vice-president of her club.

Cheyenne runs a rabbitry where she is raising breed show rabbits for the last two years. Cheyenne enjoys studying animal nutrition along with animal husbandry and welding.

Cheyenne has volunteered on the ground train for the past four years, which she really enjoys because she is able to meet and talk to new people. She has also volunteered at the Trolley Barn where she helps load the trolleys when they are busy. Cheyenne also exhibited a tractor for the first time last year.

Cheyenne would like to be the next Sweet 16 because it is something she has wanted to do since she was little. She believes it would give her a chance to be a role model and have more opportunities to help the community.

Macy Jones

Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Arin and Brian Jones



Macy plays volleyball for the Mt. Pleasant Panthers and loves cheering the Panthers from the student section as often as possible. In her

free time, she enjoys swimming, reading, camping and kayaking. She volunteers with the Child Abuse Prevention Council and at an area animal shelter.

Macy has been involved at Old

Threshers by volunteering in the past at the First United Methodist Church food tent. She has also participated in the Harvest Day Parade by either marching with the band or preparing floats. She has camped on the grounds when she was little and gotten behind the scenes at the Don Carlson Memorial Horse Pull.

Macy has attended Old Threshers every year of her life – even when she didn't live in the area and has always looked forward to coming back! Her dad and his siblings have great childhood stories of spending time camping with their grandparents and using their lifetime train passes every year. Macy thinks it's cool to see the whole community come together to make Old Threshers work and has especially looked up to the girls in the Sweet 16 contest as they have helped around the grounds. She would love to continue the family tradition of special experiences at Old Threshers!

Leah Weaver

Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Parents: Amy and John Weaver



Leah's interests include creating art, being on MPTV – Mount Pleasant High School Video Team, reading, playing guitar, writing, any kind of music, acting in

plays/musicals, hanging with friends, playing scrabble with family, working on photography, and singing with the choir. During Old Threshers, Leah has helped with setting up and serving at the Prairie Gem Church. Leah has also completed Trolley School.

Since she can remember, Leah has been coming to Midwest Old Threshers with family. She has always wanted to be a part of it and help as well as meet new people and possibly make new friends. Macy loves helping people out and being a part of something bigger. She would like to make her grandma along with her deceased grandpa proud.

DANCE BARN HOLDS DECADES OF MEMORIES

Jessica Howard

Mount Pleasant, Iowa

This is not just a slab of concrete as so many would think. This is a dance floor that my Grandparents danced with my momma and her siblings; a dance floor that my Great Aunt May called square dances for years on; a dance floor that my momma called so many square dances; a dance floor where I now call square dances; a dance floor that my momma, aunts, and uncles taught my cousins and I how to dance and square dance on; a dance floor where my babies have learned to dance on or play in the dirt; a dance floor where so many have learned the dances of two step, waltz, quick step, and square dance on; a dance floor that that in all its history has only not been used one year; a dance floor where friends and family alike gather for four wonderful nights of true dancing; a dance floor that I truly wish I could see my momma out their once again on.

It has been 6 years since my momma has last stepped foot on this dance floor and every year about this time it hits me hard that another year has come and gone that she won't step out on this dance floor. Don't get me wrong I will be out here every night calling and dancing as she would want me to be, but man does it hurt.

Square Dance lessons begin nightly at 7pm in the Dance Barn. Look for #16 on the Old Threshers Grounds Map.



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

All proceeds from BINGO are invested in the Foundation's endowment. \$200 blackout jackpots at 2:30pm Thursday-Sunday & \$500 blackout jackpots at 4:30pm Thursday-Sunday

SEPTEMBER 14-15-16, 2023

THE MIDWEST AND GREAT NORTHERN

PRINTERS FAIR

PRINTERS HALL - OLD THRESHERS
MT PLEASANT, IOWA



SEPT
14
15
16
2023

Midwest & Great Northern
PRINTERS FAIR

at Printers' Hall in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
on the Midwest Old Threshers Grounds.

Free Admission. Opens Daily 8am.
Swap Meet: Saturday 8am-Noon

Purchase a VIP PASS for Friday Only!
This pass allows supervised access to all equipment plus one-on-one instruction. Hand feed the 14-ton 00 Miehle press, cast your name on the Ludlow, make your own paper, and more!! Pass is \$50.
Purchase online at oldthreshers.org/other-events/printers-fair

MCRR VOLUNTEERS WORKING TO GET READY FOR OT

*Lauren & Kendall Osier
Ankeny, Iowa*

While the Midwest Central Railroad only has a little over half a month of operating days per year, it takes the other 11 and a half to make sure the equipment is ready for operation. A lot of time and effort has to go into the maintenance of equipment that is, on average, over 100 years old.

During the months leading up to our operating season, we host at least one official volunteer work weekend on the second Saturday of every month, though it is common for us to have additional work weekends every month. This volunteer time is spent primarily working on our rolling stock.

The last several months we have been working diligently to complete several key projects. First, Engine No. 6's firebrick



was torn out and redone, as it was starting to deteriorate. It was also noticed that the ashpan needed some attention, so we took the opportunity to repair the ashpan while the brick was out. No. 6's fireman's side injector was starting to show signs of wear, so a volunteer

took it off the engine, cleaned, and rebuilt it, which consisted of lapping in the various valve seats, and remachining them where necessary. It was also noticed last year that No. 6's air compressor needed attention.

It was decided that it would be more fitting for No. 6 to have a single-stage air compressor than the large cross-compound, so we installed an 11" Westinghouse air pump that our CEO Matt Crull rebuilt a few years ago.



Next, since we are temporarily down to one steam locomotive while we work on surveying No. 9 for its 15-year inspection and rebuilding No. 2, it was decided rewiring No. D-14 would be a good idea. A couple of volunteers that did the wiring on No. D-9 took on this project, and recently wrapped it up.

One major project started on this year was the new frame build for

Coach No. 303. This coach was taken out of service recently, as some defects were noticed while inspecting the car. When the new frame is done, Coach No. 303 will return to service, safe and reliable for many years to come. Different trucks are also being



rebuilt for this coach, in order to standardize our 300 series of coaches to streamline future maintenance.



WHAT IS IT? WHERE IS IT?

Can you tell what these things are? And if so, where can one find them during the Old Threshers Reunion?
Answers are at the bottom of page 16.

A



B



C



D



E



F



OBITUARIES

Clair McBride

Clair Bell McBride, 81, a resident of Farmington, Iowa, passed away, June 6, at the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington.

Clair was born on June 20, 1941, in Keokuk, the son of Clair A. and Bertha Belle (Cochenour) McBride. On May 12, 1961, he married Marlene Townsend at First Baptist Church in Farmington.

Clair was a graduate of Kahoka High School in Kahoka, Missouri. He worked at DuPont in Fort Madison for twenty years. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Farmington where he served as a trustee. Clair served as a volunteer fireman for the Farmington Fire Department for thirty-four years and an EMT for thirty-one years.

Clair thoroughly enjoyed volunteering at Midwest Old Threshers in Mt. Pleasant where he had served as Campground Director. He never knew a stranger and would always talk to anyone he met regarding any topic. Clair enjoyed making wood projects in his shop for family and friends.

Those left to honor his memory include his wife: Marlene; children: Shelia (Christopher) Bell and Joe McBride, both of Farmington; grandchildren: Rachel (Scott) Brown of Bettendorf and Adam (Sarah) Bell of Muscatine; great-grandchildren: Benjamin and Bindi Brown; sister: Nancie Holmes of Kahoka, Missouri; brother-in-law: David Townsend of Farmington. Also surviving are many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; mother and father-in-law: John and Beulah Townsend; sister: Betty Jean "Jeannie" DeWitt; brothers-in-law: Larry Holmes and Ron DeWitt; and a sister-in-law: Glenda Townsend.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church in Farmington.

Leland McWilliams

Leland L. "Lee" McWilliams, 76, of Mt. Pleasant, died Thursday, August 3, 2023 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Leland Laverne "Lee" McWilliams was born June 17, 1947 in Fairfield, Iowa. He was the son of Gerald Laverne and Mildred Irene (Tilford) McWilliams. Lee graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School in 1965 and then attended barber school in Moline, IL. On August 7, 1966 at the Stockport Methodist Church, Stockport, IA, Lee was united in marriage to Alice Louise Donald. To this union 2 children, Terry and Tracy were born. The couple later divorced. Lee then married Karen Wright. The couple later divorced. ON March 19, 1994 in Mt. Pleasant, Lee was united in marriage to Linda Kay Rukgarber Kinney. Linda preceded in death on December 21, 2010 in Iowa City.

Lee began his barber career at the former Roth Barber shop, which later became King's Barber Shop. Lee then began a long career as a meat cutter, first at a grocery store in Mt. Pleasant's downtown area. He then joined the staff of the Hy-Vee Food Store in Mt. Pleasant in the Meat Department. Lee was with Hy-

Vee for 35 years until his retirement in 2007.

Lee was a member of the First United Methodist Church, the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge #1003, and the Mt. Pleasant Golf and Country Club. He served in the US Army Reserves. Lee loved playing pool and played in pool leagues. He enjoyed playing cards, primarily cribbage, NASCAR, country music and dancing. Lee was a devoted fan of the St. Louis Cardinals, attending many games in his lifetime with his family. Lee also volunteered at Midwest Old Threshers.

Those thankful for sharing in Lee's life include 2 children and their spouses – Terry (Cyndi) McWilliams of Mt. Pleasant and Tracy (John) Dingman of St. Paul, IA; 4 stepchildren – Rhonda (Paul) Kinney-Longworth of Ann Arbor, MI, Tom (Sonja) Kinney of Houston, TX, Angie (Kirby) Booton of Mt. Pleasant and Paula (Steve) Cox of Mt. Pleasant; a brother, Gary (Connie) McWilliams of Oroville, CA; 6 grandchildren – Emily, Abby, Alexa, Bri, Nathan and Rachel, and several step grandchildren.

His parents, wife Linda and a sister, Marlene Oster precede Lee in death.

OLD THRESHERS REUNION
Aug. 31 - Sept. 4, 2023 * Mount Pleasant, Iowa

2023 Calendar of Events

August 30—Harvest Day Parade

August 31-September 4—2023 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion

September 13-16—Printers' Fair

October 5-7, 12-14, 19-21, 26-28—Thrashers House of Terror

October 13-14, 20-21, 27-28—Haunted Rails

November 11—Old Threshers Annual Meeting | Foundation Annual Meeting

November 18-19—Walk-thru Nights Festival of Lights

November 22-December 31—Festival of Lights

November 23-24—Office Closed for Thanksgiving

December 2-3, 9-10, 16-17—North Pole Express

December 21-January 2—Office Closed

Midwest Old Threshers

MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

FREE WITH REUNION GATE ADMISSION



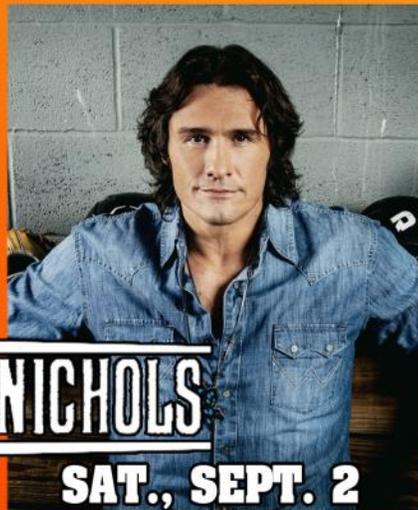
Crystal Doyle

THURS., AUG. 31



EASTON CORBIN

FRI., SEPT. 1



JOE NICHOLS

SAT., SEPT. 2



**DYLAN
SCOTT**

SUN., SEPT. 3

GRANDSTAND OPENS AT 6:30 PM CONCERT STARTS AT 8:00 PM

WHAT IS IT? WHERE IS IT? FROM PAGE 14

A) Bench on the open air trolley 1779. B. Water tower for the MCRR, found in the North Village. C) One of many lathes located at the east end of Museum A in the Wilke Machine Tool exhibit. D) Pulling sled used in the Don Carlson Memorial Horse Pull. E) Sorghum being crushed at the Sorghum Mill just outside Museum B on the east end. F) These are the fuel bunkers of Old Threshers' 110hp Case traction steam engine.