

# Threshers Chaff

## Midwest Old Threshers Association

### Mount Pleasant, Iowa

Volume 44, Volume 3

Winter 2018

### LARRY ANDERSON RETIRES FROM OT AFTER THREE DECADES



Larry Anderson is surrounded by well-wishers at his retirement party in December.

After more than 30 years at Midwest Old Threshers, Larry Anderson has retired.

Old Threshers Staff, volunteers and board members gathered for a surprise retirement party in December.

Larry headed up the back shop taking care of maintenance and restoration projects during his tenure at OT. His handiwork can be seen throughout Museum B in many of the exhibits and restored artifacts.



Larry Anderson paints the wheels of the antique fire equipment found in Museum B in this photo from the OT archives.

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### FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS A YEAR-ROUND PROJECT

Taking advantage of the warm, spring weather in May, volunteers Linda Enearl and Larry Brenizer set up shop inside Museum B, next to Printers' Hall. The 2018 Festival of Lights is more than 6 months away, but there was much to be done. They were working on replacing the lightbulbs in the large Peace on Earth display. Assisting them is Rusty McCray from North Pole Productions. The Massachusetts-based company supplies many of the displays used in the OT Campground. Others owned by Old Threshers are fixed and have bulbs replaced at the local prison. When the Festival of Lights started in 2013, there were about 60 displays, this year there are more than 120. The Campground is transformed into a holiday delight as the mile-long route takes visitors past reindeer, a nativity scene, Santa, fountains and the incredible Toy Factory to name a few. There is still time to see the lights. Nightly from 5:30-9pm through New Year's Eve.



Linda Enearl changes lightbulbs in a display for the Mt. Pleasant Festival of Lights.



I'm not sure exactly where 2018 went, but I can say that when we are faced with a problem, such as the worst storm ever to hit our grounds, The Old Threshers family can come together to overcome, and I thank you for that. All of you on the grounds that morning after the storm and the entire community of Mount Pleasant came together that day and took part in a miracle, because by parade time, we were cleaned up and ready to go! THANK YOU!

So for 2019, I wish you all to have 12 months of HAPPINESS, 52 weeks of FUN, 365 days of SUCCESS, 8,760 hours of GOOD HEALTH, 52,600 minutes of GOOD LUCK, 3,153,600 seconds of JOY, and a great 2019 Old Threshers Reunion.

My goal for 2019 is to accomplish the goals of 2018, which I should have done in 2017 because I promised them in 2015 and planned them out in 2014. Those darn New Year's Resolutions.

Resolutions - This year, I will Wake Up and Try to Do My Best. Try, Try, Try.

Dream Big. Live Life Colorfully. Take Time to Relax.

Create Every Day. Have a Positive Attitude.

Choose Happy Every Time Over Grumpy. Stay Weird.

Write Mother Nature Another Letter For Good Weather.

Chase Adventure and Create Change. Do What I Love.

Spend More Time with Family and Friends.

Think Outside the Lines.

BELIEVE I CAN!

Thank you all for making Old Threshers part of your life. On behalf of my family, we hope you had a very Merry Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing all of you again in 2019 at the Reunion, August 29<sup>th</sup>, to September 2.

Tary



## MOTHER NATURE ANNOUNCES HER ARRIVAL TO THE 2018 REUNION

Mother Nature decided to make her presence known just prior to the 2018 Old Threshers Reunion by sending straight-line winds and torrential rain.

Tuesday of Reunion week was a very wet day. The first storm rolled into Mt. Pleasant and Henry County in the early afternoon flooding the track in front of the Grandstand and making the last set-up day a little messy. The second storm arrived about 7 pm. Sheets of rain ushered in powerful winds that made a mess of the grounds, took out trees, flattened tents and took anything that wasn't nailed down for a ride.

With the south side of town without power, flashes of lightning allowed one to see snapshots of the destruction. Wednesday morning the streets of Mt. Pleasant and the Old Threshers grounds looked like a battlefield.

The community pulled together, and by noon on Wednesday, the Harvest Day Parade route was cleared, tents that had been tossed in the wind were put up again. Students from Iowa Wesleyan University walked the grounds and pick up branches and limbs.

The mud was scraped off the track so that the sun could dry the next layer making it possible to hold the Don Carlson Memorial Horse Pull that evening.

To thank the nearly 600 volunteers for their hard work, nine local pizzerias supplied pizza for lunch on Wednesday.

Walmart Distribution Center supplied bottle water.

By Thursday morning everything was as it should be to host the 2018 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion.



**Clockwise from top right: A powerful storm damaged trees throughout the community; Many people worked together to clear the streets for the Harvest Parade. Ms. Violet waves at people along the parade route; Parade participants come in all sizes; The Family Tent did not weather the storm well.**

## VISITORS FILL THE GRANDSTAND TO WATCH THE HORSE PULL



The Don Carlson Memorial Horse Pull was moved from Labor Day to Wednesday night under the lights. The Grandstand was filled and the bleachers lining the track were at capacity.

Thanks to a lot of work from volunteers and members of the community, flooding from the previous night's storm did not affect the horse pull. The mud was scraped off the track early in the day allowing the sun to dry the next layer.



### LENNIS MOORE ART AUCTION BENEFITS THRESHERS FOUNDATION

The family of Lennis Moore recently donated over 300 pieces of his artwork including early Native American work, drawings, wood cuts, illustrations, lithographs and some never before seen prints done with his son, Ben. Along with some of the prints were the hand-carved blocks used to create the print.

With the family’s blessing, a one-time fundraiser was held in November at The Union Block Building in Mt. Pleasant to auction off these pieces.

The auction raised approximately \$23,000 for the Old Threshers Foundation.

Lennis and Paul Anderson would be very proud to see the legacy of his artwork benefitting the Old Threshers Foundation.

Thank you to everyone who attended. Thank you to John Kuhens who emceed, and Lynn Richard and Jeff Hoyer who were the auctioneers.



### CAMPGROUND HOSPITALITY BUILDING NAMED IN HONOR OF HUISINGAS

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on a brisk November morning for the new Campground Registration Building.

Constructed just in time for the 2018 Reunion, the building was named in honor of OT Foundation Executive Director Al Huisinga and his wife, Melinda. The metal structure is climate controlled and features indoor plumbing. Something that will be appreciated by the volunteers who sell tickets during the Mt. Pleasant Festival of Lights in November and December.



At left: Members of the community and OT and Foundation board members gather for a ribbon cutting at the Campground Registration Building. Above: Al Huisinga watches as Melinda Huisinga cuts the ribbon held by DP Wilson, whose generous donation funded the building of the structure, and Bob Myers, director of the campground.

## OLD THRESHERS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNERS FOR 2018



Congratulations to the winners of the 2018 Midwest Old Threshers Photo Contest. 1st Place Amy Mueggenberg with Steam Engine Lighting; 2nd Place Brock Banks with Case 110; 3rd Place Ciara Bennett with Two Kids Holding Hands.

## VOLUNTEERS LOG 45,898 HOURS IN 2018

None of the events organized by Midwest Old Threshers would be possible without the help of volunteers.

In 2018, 1,064 volunteers gave a total of 45,898 hours of their time to the Association.

This time was spent not only during the Reunion but throughout the year. This dedicated group of individuals were involved in everything from School Tours

to Steam School to the Swap Meet to Midwest Haunted Rails and Threshers House of Terror.

Anyone interested in volunteering for Old Threshers should contact the office. There are many opportunities to volunteer. Let the staff find the right one for you!

Call (319) 385-8937 or email [admin@oldthreshers.org](mailto:admin@oldthreshers.org).



# 2019 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion



## Entertainment Announcement March 13<sup>th</sup> - 6pm

## SWEET 16 PROGRAM CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

More than 200 past and present Sweet 16 participants attend the 2018 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion on Sunday for a reception sponsored by The Old Threshers Foundation followed by the crowning of Miss Sweet 16 2018.

Sweet 16 Coordinator Danielle Davidson worked for two years to make this reunion within the Reunion a success. The very first Miss Sweet 16, Bev Bauer, was at the crowning to place the tiara on Lillian Periera, Miss Sweet 16 2018.

Congratulations to 1st Runner up - Allyson Farley, 2nd Runner up—Avery Woods and Miss Volunteer Paige Stater.

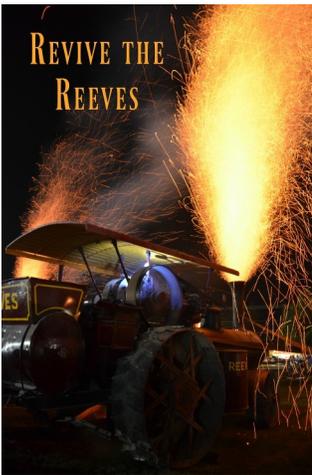


Bev Bauer, the first Miss Sweet 16, crowns Lillian Periera Miss Sweet 16 2018.



The 2018 Miss Sweet 16 participants pose for a photo prior to the Harvest Day Parade.

## REVIVE THE REEVES PROJECT MOVES FORWARD



A group of Steam Area volunteers is working to restore one of Midwest Old Threshers flagship steam engines. The 32hp Reeves is in need of new gears. Years of working the tough soil of the Northern Plains has taken its toll. Once the queen of OT pulling competitions, she was sidelined in fear of causing more damage.

At the end of the 2018 Reunion, the engine was moved to storage where it could be worked on. It was stripped of its gears in early November. The gears were washed and loaded on a trailer for the trip to Anderson Industries in Webster, South Dakota. They will be used to make castings for new gears. The process will take about six months.



Steam Area volunteers work to take the gears off of the 32hp Reeves and ready them for transport to South Dakota.

## 2018 VOLUNTEER AWARDS



**Front Row (L to R): Mark Weirather, Robb Bell, Kelly Hosette, Lauri Buckert, Andrew Ficke, John Unternaehner, Brett Miles, Shirley Gorrell, Paul Gorrell, Timothy Hill, Dallas Kyle, Gerald Bristle. Back Row: John Daly, Tom Lane, Robyn Lane, Sue Frame, Bob Frame, Dave Brown, Wayne Kennedy, Larry Putney, Linda Enearl, Rich Garrels, Carolyn Sidebottom, Chuck Sidebottom.**

### MARK WEIRATHER

Mark was born and raised in Keokuk. He and his wife Bev have 4 children and 9 grandchildren. He is a graduate of Keokuk High School and attended diesel school in Des Moines. Mark started coming to Old Threshers in 1976, showing gas engines, then a Farmall F20. He eventually downsized to garden tractors. He started helping in the tractor area a few years ago and also helps with shelling corn and parking tractors.

### ROBB BELL

Robb was born and raised in Hamilton, Illinois and is married to Jessica Bell. They have 2 daughters. He is a retired Chief of Police and High School baseball coach. Mark has been working in Tractorland helping with parade traffic, tractor numbers, tractor pulls, and entertainment bleacher set-up and tear-down. He has also helped with the corn sheller demo for 9 years.

### KELLY HOSETTE

Kelly is from Charlotte, IA. She and her husband, Eric, have one child. She works for the Clinton National Bank in Clinton, IA. She works at Tractorland at Tractor Headquarters registering and putting information into the database for the daily Cavalcade of Power. She has been a volunteer for the last 9 years.

### LAURI BUCKERT

Lauri was born in St. Paul, MN and raised

in Prescott, IA, moving to Mt. Pleasant in 1991. She and her husband, Alan, have three children. She first attended Old Threshers in 1993 and started volunteering shortly thereafter. Lauri has volunteered in the tractor area – mostly in the headquarters building registering tractors. She recently started helping in the cash office with reconciling receipts during the Reunion.

### ANDREW FICKE

Andrew is from Milford, Nebraska. Andrew is following in his grandfather and father's footsteps by volunteering in the Stationary Steam Powerhouse. He has been there for 18 years. Andrew was an apprentice in the Wilke Machine Shop at a very young age. He is now a professional machinist.

### JOHN UNTERNAEHER

John was born and raised in Mt. Pleasant and has lived in the Wayland area all of his life except for three years while serving in the United States Army. Their family has not missed a Reunion since 1967 except for their son who served our country for two years in Iraq. He has been volunteering at Old Threshers for many years and has been furnishing corn for demonstrations since 1974. He also exhibits tractors and horses. John helps explain some of the horse demonstrations to visitors.

### BRETT MILES

Brett was born and raised in Wayland and lives on his great-grandparents farm with his wife. They have two daughters. He has been a Farrier for over 15 years. He has been attending Old Threshers for 53 years. His parents and grand-parents began bringing him the year he was born. He has worked in the Church Tents in Junior High and High School and has been helping in the Steam Area for 13 years after taking Steam Class. Brett has exhibited horses for 20 years. He has also given College Zoology Class barn tours and given farrier demonstrations for many years.

### PAUL and SHIRLEY GORRELL

Paul and Shirley are from Burlington, IA, They have 5 children. For 58 years Paul and his family have been showing many items such as engines, tractors, cars, boats and cycles. He has also used his antique car to transport people to the Volunteer Award Ceremony. Paul and Shirley have enjoyed helping and watching the growth of Old Threshers and seeing the families participate each year.

### TIMOTHY HILL

Tim was born and raised in Mt. Pleasant. He and his wife, Tina, have 5 children and 6 grandchildren. He first attended Old Threshers in 1966 and has attended 47 Reunions. He has volunteered at the Ticket Booth, as a Crossing Guard, painted

## 2018 VOLUNTEER AWARDS CONTINUED

the windmill in North Village, worked in the Camper Store, prepped and painted the Trolley Depot and is a Trolley volunteer.

### DALLAS KYLE

Dallas was born in 1978 in Mt. Pleasant, IA. He is a high school graduate and has a College Degree in Autobody. He has volunteered at the Midwest Electric Railway and Midwest Central Railroad for 36 years.

### GERALD BRISTLE

Gerald of Rock Falls, IL, was born in Sterling, IL and raised in Morrison, IL. He was born and raised on the farm and served in the Service from 1960-1965. After returning from the service he worked for the Rock Falls Fire Department. He served as Road Commissioner from 1994-2011 and repaired fire trucks. He brought his 1911 IHC Auto Wagon to the Reunion in 1996 and has been here every year since.

### JOHN DALY

John of Millington, IL was born and raised in Burlington, IA. He and his wife Amy have three children. He is a member of the Southeast Iowa Antique Car Club. This will be his 54<sup>th</sup> Reunion. He started volunteering in the Antique Car area in 1976 at 11 years old, answering questions on his dad's car. He has volunteered to haul 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary couples and volunteer award winners in the Antique cars since he could legally drive. John gives talks on the Model T Ford, Sears Motorbuggy and general walking tours of the Antique Car display. He has also worked many years on the Model T Ford assembly crew and was on the team that had the best time of 9 minutes and 15 seconds to assemble the car and drive it away.

### TOM and ROBYN LANE

Tom and Robyn are from Maquoketa, IA, they have 3 daughters. For twenty years Tom has served as "Father Tom" with North Village Gang/Old Threshers Smokin' Gunslingers. Robyn attended her first Old Threshers in 1998 and has been performing as a saloon girl in the Golden Slipper Saloon since 2000.

### ROBERT and SUE FRAME

Bob and Sue are from of Ainsworth, IA They have four sons. Bob has volunteered at the Reunion since 2008, mowing, driving tractors for the ground train in the campground and parking campers. He has even cleaned an occasional toilet!! Sue has volunteered since 2008 in the Campground Hospitality Building. She enjoys helping her husband park campers and meeting and making new friends.

### DAVID BROWN

David is from Mt. Pleasant. He and his wife, Elaine, have two daughters and three grandchildren. He attended one of the last one room schools in Henry County and served his country in the United States Navy. Dave has been a Log Village volunteer approximately 36 years. Dave remembers working short order and carrying trays in the church food tent in the 50s, serving tenderloins and french fries and all the sawdust on the tent floors. He is very amazed and pleased about the growth of the Old Thresher's Reunion.

### WAYNE KENNEDY

Wayne lives in Danville, IA, He has one son. He is a 1968 graduate of Burlington High School and was a tool and diemaker for 42 years at Murray Iron Works in Burlington, IA. Dave has been a volunteer at Old Threshers for 67 years, he has done many restoration projects for Old Threshers including steam engines, parts for the Carousel and tractors. Wayne served 14 years on the Board of Directors. He has built and restored several steam engines and scale models for his personal collection.

### LARRY PUTNEY

Larry is from New London, IA. He and his wife, Connie, have been married for 59 years, they have one daughter. He is a high school graduate and retired from the University of Iowa Athletic Department. Larry has been volunteering at Old Threshers for 8 years doing back shop work and mowing the grounds and campgrounds and driving people nuts!

### LINDA ENEARL

Linda lives in Mt. Pleasant. She and her

husband, Brian, have two children. This is her 8<sup>th</sup> year working as a volunteer at the Methodist Church Concession Stand at Old Threshers. She has also volunteered every year at the Festival of Lights, changing bulbs and decorating the camper house and Santa's house and at the entrance gate. Linda has also volunteered putting lights on the steam engine in the town square. During the Reunion she has volunteered in the Foundation Room and at the gates and has worked school tours for two years.

### RICHARD GARRELS

Richard was born and raised in Mt. Pleasant, IA. He and his wife Elizabeth have two children and 5 grandchildren, Rich was instrumental as a member of the Steering committee who started the Festival of Lights in 2013. He has personally helped turn the light displays on and off each night during the Festival. The displays have doubled since the beginning, going from 60 to 120 displays. He has been attending Old Threshers since the late 1950s, washing dishes for the Methodist Church when the food area was under the grandstand, later serving as Chairman for that committee.

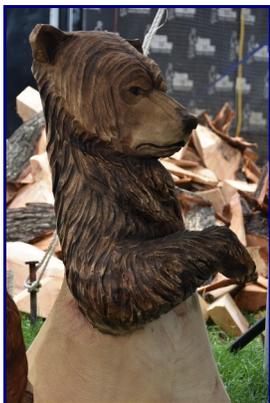
### CHARLES and CAROLYN SIDEBOTTOM

Charles and Carolyn are from of Plymouth, MN. Chuck has attended the Old Threshers Reunion since 1968, missing only those years while on active duty with the US Navy. He began by volunteering at the Souvenir/Information booth. He later began assisting his father-in-law, Thomas Padley, at headquarters in 1983. He continues to work there. Carolyn has attended all of the Reunions. She has washed dishes at the Food Tent, played in the "Fire Truck Band" and the City Band. She was also a member of the High School Marching Band. She has worked for SE Iowa Antique Car Club as a costumed interpreter, and currently works at Headquarters. She gives quilting workshops at Colfax School and Chautauqua programs on quilting at the Theatre Museum. She is the author of three editions of THE ELUSIVE '54, THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO OLD THRESHERS BUTTON COLLECTING and many articles on button collecting for Threshers Chaff.

# 2018 MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS REUNION



# 2018 MIDWEST OLD THRESHERS REUNION



## FOUR GENERATIONS OF HELPHREYS ATTEND OT REUNION

Wendell and Dorothy Jean Hephrey of Winfield, Iowa, lead a 4-generation team of family members who all participate in the Old Threshers Reunion.

In the early 1980s, Wendell took ownership of a 1936 John Deere A that was used on a sawmill. It needed some work. The motor was stuck, the rims were rusted out. It needed a total restoration. The family surrounded the showpiece for a photo during the 2018 Reunion with Wendell at the wheel.

The Hephreys are a family of farmers and collectors. Other tractors in their fleet include a '29

GP, '35 B, '36 WC AC, '62 4010. '33 Massey Harris and a few project tractors.

Wendell and Dorothy have been attending the OT Reunions since the beginning in 1950. They enjoy having the opportunity to exhibit their tractors and JD planter as well as reconnect with old friends. Camping with the family is an added pleasure.

Together with children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, the Hephreys look forward to the 2019 Reunion and having John Deere as the featured antique tractor. Their collection will fit in nicely.



Front L-R: Karsyn Jean Black, Katy Black, Dorothy Jean Hephrey, Kathy Hephrey, Klinton Garrett, Michael Black, Kurtis Hephrey. Back L-R: Karen Hephrey Garrett, Wendell Hephrey, Madden Black, Mark Garrett

## HOUSE OF TERROR AND HAUNTED RAILS CELEBRATE ANOTHER GOOD YEAR



The Midwest Haunted Rails had 9,687 riders in 2018. Thrashers House of Terror had 6,293 people decide they needed a good scare in October.

There were no tornadoes like in 2017. The weather cooperated for the most part with only a couple of wet nights.



## OLD THRESHERS FOUNDATION TO FUND \$115,000 IN PROJECTS IN 2019

The Foundation office will have a new location soon. Executive Director Alan Husinga will be moving his desk into the room once occupied by the Bussey Doll Exhibit. Remodeling of the space has already begun.

The Old Threshers Foundation-funded projects for 2019 include remodeling Restroom #1 in the Campground, building a restroom in Museum B, additional lighting throughout the grounds, remodeling the Foundation office and funding smaller, operational support projects.



A Financial Support Organization for Midwest Old Threshers

## FEATURED FOR 2019



### Steam Engine

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



### Antique Tractor

1951 AR John Deere  
Owned by: Ken & Marlene Perkins  
Bennett, IA



### Gas Engine

1941 Type E John Deere  
Owned by: Steve & Sandra Alt  
West Liberty, IA

### Antique Truck

1959 Mack H67  
Owned by: Howard & Glenda Dobbins  
Durant, IA



### Antique Car

1923 Ford Soft Top 3 Door  
Model T  
Owned by: Marvin Johanson  
Mount Pleasant, IA



### Lawn & Garden Tractor

1974 14 H.P. John Deere 140 H-3  
Owned by: Branden Landess  
Mount Pleasant, IA

## O B I T U A R I E S

**Leon Melsha**

Leon "Tunnie" Melsha, 87, of Cedar Rapids, passed away August 27, 2018, at his home surrounded by his family. Burial will be at a later date in Czech Cemetery.

Tunnie is survived by his wife, Diane (Hauskins)Melsha of Cedar Rapids; two children Jeffery D Melsha of Cedar Rapids and Ronald "Pub" Melsha of Springville; two grandchildren Joe Melsha of Cedar Rapids and Sarah Melsha of Springville; as well as a faithful pal "Macey".

Leon was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Sr and Hazel Melsha, his siblings Robert D and Kenny, and son David.

Leon Gerald Melsha was born July 25, 1931 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa to parents, Robert Sr and Hazel Melsha. He started working with his father at Refrigeration Equipment Company at 5 years old. He enjoyed growing up on Ellis Boulevard with all his friends. Leon graduated from Roosevelt High School, and attended the University of Iowa engineering school, and was drafted in the Army in 1955. Leon married Diane Hauskins in Cedar Rapids, and started a family. Leon worked in industrial refrigeration and boiler works all his life. He loved boating, steam engines, traveling, and processing meat. Leon spent many happy times at his cabin in Bellevue, with family and friends, and cold beer. The family would like to thank all the caregivers, and friends, who provided for Tunnie in his last chapter. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association.

**Donald Eugene Garrett**

Donald Eugene Garrett, 85, of rural Douds, passed away October 16, at the Good Samaritan Society in Ottumwa. Burial was in the lowaville Cemetery near Selma. Memorial contributions in Don's honor may be directed to the lowaville Cemetery. Friends may sign the online guestbook at [www.cranstonfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.cranstonfamilyfuneralhome.com).

Donald Eugene Garrett was born on

February 9, 1933 near "Turkey Scratch" in rural Jefferson County to Leo and Hazel Crow Garrett. He grew up on the family farm where he learned the value of hard work and developed an interest in horses. Don started his schooling in a one room country school and completed his education in Selma, graduating with the class of 1951.

Shortly after graduation Don married the love of his life, Lois Ann Reisch. They became the loving parents to three children; Diana, Dennis, and Tony. Don supported the family by working at Morrells, Douds Stone and the Rock Island Railroad, as well as trucking for Frank Caves and Ben Shinn. He was also a lifelong farmer.

Don was known for many things, such as his kindness and work ethic, but most of all he was known as a great horseman. He and his team were involved in many events, including plowing with horses and driving a six-horse hitch through the Milwaukee Circus Parade. He was also a member of the Country Magazine- Reminisce Hitch Ride across America and a loyal exhibitor at the Midwest Old Threshers reunion. Don and his team were two-time World Percheron Congress Farm Team Champions and were inducted into the Draft Horse Hall of Fame at the Iowa State Fair. Throughout the years Don became well known for skill with horses and it led to many great friendships that would last a lifetime. Don's love for horses was second only to his love for his family. He cherished their time spent together and will be deeply missed by his family and the many who called him friend.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, his loving wife, Lois (d. 2014) and three siblings, Phyllis McIntosh, Maynard "Bo" Garrett, and Leo Jr. Garrett.

Left to share his story are his children, Diana (Gale) Swan of Libertyville, IA, Dennis Garrett of Batavia, IA and Tony (Cari) Garrett of Floris, IA; four siblings, Pat (Don) Ludwig of

Webster City, IA, Lillian (Stan) Curtis of Mt. Pleasant, IA, Phillip (Cathy) Garrett of Bloomfield, IA, and Billy Garrett of Burlington, IA; one brother-in-law, Floyd McIntosh; seven grandsons, seven great grandsons, and five great granddaughters, as well as many extended family and a host of friends.

**Don "Duck" Lowe**

Don "Duck" Lowe, age 81, of Pinckneyville, IL, passed away October 22, in Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis, MO.

Duck was born on July 22, 1937 in Decatur, IL, a son to Carrie Olive Lowe. On July 31, 1954, he married Nancy Martin in Decatur, IL and she survives. He had retired as a supervisor from Illinois Central Railroad and still currently worked as a railroad consultant for RailPros Field Services. He was a member of St. Bruno Catholic Church, Pinckneyville, IL and of the American Thresherman's Association where he had also formerly served as a board member. Duck enjoyed working on tractors, cars, engines, carpentry, woodworking and working on houses. He was very inventive and could and would do anything for anybody! But his wife, children and grandchildren were foremost in his heart!

Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Nancy Lowe of Pinckneyville, IL; three children, Debbie Jeffries (significant other, Keith Kirksey) of Winterset, IA, Donnie (Dee) Lowe of Pinckneyville, IL and Brian (Stacy) Lowe of Pinckneyville, IL; seven grandchildren, Liz, Ben, Eric, Joshua, Nathan, Brittany and Brayden; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Brian Tracy Heaver; and his sister, Marsha Lynn Peters.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

**Donald Wayne Hardin**

Donald Wayne Hardin, 85, of Keokuk, passed away October 23, at Montebello Healthcare in Hamilton, IL.

Donald was born on March 4, 1933 in

## OT PARTICIPATED IN MT. PLEASANT'S FIRST HOLIDAY PARADE



OT Foundation board member Greg Kinney pushed through the cold representing the Foundation on a red tractor during Mt. Pleasant's first Holiday Parade; Melinda Huisinga and Linda Enearl, representing the Festival of Lights on their green tractor, won Best Community Entry; Old Threshers board member Paul Bishop and his team of horses pulled a trolley with lights and sound through downtown Mt. Pleasant winning Best in Show.

## JACOB NELSON MEMORIAL PRINTS STILL AVAILABLE

Printmaker and Printers' Hall volunteer Ann Klingensmith created a woodcut print in honor of Jacob Nelson's 1917 50hp Case, the featured steam engine for 2018. The print features the same silhouetted image as the 2018 souvenir button, also designed by Ann. Behind the engine are clouds and blue sky, and a hint of the pink of a sunset. There are still copies of the limited edition print available for \$50 each. Proceeds from the sale of these prints go to Jacob's memorial fund. If you are interested in purchasing one, call the office at 319-385-8937.



## OBITUARIES

Continued from page 13

Keokuk to Warren Hardin and Edith Jingst Hardin of Keokuk. He was united in marriage to Aletta Deiling on August 8, 1969, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Keokuk. She survives.

Donald has been a lifelong resident of Keokuk where he graduated from High School in 1951. He served as a Corporal in the United States Army 430th Engineer Const. BN in the Korean War. Following his service, Donald attended a Diesel Mechanic school in Chicago where he completed his technology training. Returning to Keokuk upon completion, Donald opened a diesel mechanic

business and was able to operate successfully for 55 years. He was an active member of the Trinity United Methodist Church in Keokuk where he served on many committees and also served as an usher for many years. He was involved in the Iowa Firefighter Association and was one of the original 3 members of the Jackson Township Association. Donald was very involved with the Western Illinois Threshers Association, helping out in Hamilton and also with the Old Threshers Reunion in Mt. Pleasant.

Donald was very knowledgeable when it came to family history. Donald

never knew a stranger, loved visiting with everyone and was always willing to lend a helping hand to neighbors and friends.

Donald is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Aletta Hardin, of Keokuk; many cousins including Barb Grimpe of Keokuk; and lots of friends.

Donald was preceded in death by his parents and one brother in infancy, Wilbert Hardin.

Burial, with military rites, was at Keokuk National Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Trinity United Methodist Church or to Jackson Township Fire Department.

Aug. 29 - Sept. 2, 2019

**OLD THRESHERS REUNION**

**Mount Pleasant, Iowa**